

Welcome remarks by the Director of Peru's Diplomatic Academy Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, Ambassador Liliana Torres-Muga, to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore, H.E. Mr. Kasiviswanathan Shanmugam.

September 11, 2013

Your Excellency Mr. K. Shanmugam, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Law of the Republic of Singapore:

Excellencies, Heads of Diplomatic Missions of Australia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand:

Mr. Eduardo Ferreyros, former Peruvian Minister of Foreign Trade and Tourism:

Ambassador Juan Carlos Capuñay, Director-General for Asia and Oceania:

My fellow colleagues of the Peruvian Foreign Ministry:

Members of REDAP, the Peruvian Network for Pacific Studies:

Ladies and gentlemen of public and private sectors:

Dear professors:

Dear students:

I have been advised that the Minister's spouse, Madame Shanmugam, is on her way to our Academy, with our Deputy Foreign Minister's wife, doctor Odette de Rojas Samanez. Also on his way is the Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Peruvian Congress, doctor Martin Belaunde.

Good evening.

Peru's Diplomatic Academy Javier Pérez de Cuéllar is most pleased and honoured to welcome His Excellency Mr. K. Shanmugam, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Law of the Republic of Singapore, who is also a distinguished jurist and Member of Parliament in his country.

We deeply appreciate, Mr. Minister, for having you, and in a few moments your wife, at our Diplomatic Academy, and for the lecture you are about to deliver on "The Singapore-Peru Partnership: Seizing Opportunities in an Uncertain World."

We are also greatly obliged for kindly including the Diplomatic Academy in Your Excellency's busy agenda in Lima. I understand that this is your first visit to Lima, hoping that you will soon return to Peru.

The esteemed audience is also cordially welcome to this academic event.

Since establishing diplomatic relations in 1980, Singapore and Peru have closely worked at a bilateral level and also within the broader scope of the Pacific region.

This has been a joint effort by Singaporean and Peruvian representatives. Here we have with us some previous Peruvian Ambassadors to Singapore. They are: Mr. Juan Carlos Capuñay, Mr. Arturo Montoya, Mr. Fernando Guillén.

They, with Singaporeans counterparts, and with public and private agents from both countries, have made a substantial contribution towards enhancing our economic, commercial, financial, tourist links, as well as cooperation programs.

In the same line is Peruvian Ambassador Manuel Talavera, who has been recently accredited before the Singaporean Government.

The Free Trade Agreement, in force between Singapore and Peru since four years ago, is a good example of those joint efforts, and also our previous Agreement on Promotion and Protection of Investments.

Singapore has dramatically progressed since achieving independence almost 50 years ago. It is one of the so called "Asian Tigers". It could also be an "Asian Lion", since a lion is on Singapore's Coat of Arms...

As a professor of Economics in Universities in Peru and in other countries, I have mentioned Singapore as an example within the international community for its impeccable organization, for permanently moving forward. According to Transparency International, in 2012 Singapore is among the five best countries in the world with regard to decency and honesty. And its economic and social indicators are simply impressive, spectacular.

Singapore is a small country in size, but one of the greatest economies not only in Asia, but in the world. It is also a leader nation in health programs, education, science and technology.

The Pacific Basin is another area for strengthening Singaporean-Peruvians ties. This is a process started by the end of the 20th century. APEC is an illustration. There are also other Pacific fora for further exchanges, as the Trans-Pacific Partnership, PBEC (Pacific Business Economic Council)), and also FOCALAE, or FEALAC in English, that is the Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation.

The newly formed Pacific Alliance in Latin America may operate as an appropriate, as a helpful platform, for dealings with ASEAN and other Pacific blocks.

Before listening to Your Excellency's lecture, I am glad to pass the microphone to Mr. Eduardo Ferreyros, former Minister for Foreign Trade and Tourism, and now General Manager of Comex Peru, which is a society comprising many Peruvian companies engaged in foreign trade.

Once more, many thanks to the distinguished audience for being with us this evening, especially to His Excellency Minister Shanmugam and his wife.

Muchas gracias. Terima kasih banyak.
