

**Welcome remarks by Ambassador Liliana de Torres-Muga, Director of
Peru's Diplomatic Academy,
to American Professor Ronald Bruce St John, Ph.D.
*January 15, 2014***

Good evening.

Our distinguished guest, Dr. Ronald Bruce St John,

Honorable Chargé d'Affaires of the United States,

Ambassadors and fellow colleagues of Peru's Diplomatic Service,

Members of academic and press communities,

Doctor Alejandro Deustua, sharing the table with Dr. St John, and other
Professors,

Dear students:

Ladies and gentlemen:

The Diplomatic Academy Javier Pérez de Cuéllar is very pleased to welcome all of you, mainly our guest of honor, Dr. Ronald Bruce St John, who, as we know, this evening will graciously give us a lecture about "Peru's foreign policy in the 21st century: An academic view".

The Diplomatic Academy deeply appreciates the presence of all of you in this important academic event.

Professor St John needs no introduction within this audience. He has been closely linked with Peru since the late 1960s. At that time, he spent a year in Peru doing research for his doctoral dissertation dealing with Peru's foreign policy.

He graduated with honors at the prestigious Denver University, where he obtained his Ph.D. That was an achievement that did not put an end to his

Peruvian connection. Just the opposite. For the last 40-plus years Dr. St John has written many books, essays, monographs and articles on Peru.

Through Dr. St John's work, we can easily understand Peru's strategies to safeguard and promote its national interests. We can also interpret Peru's actions and interactions with neighboring countries and beyond, as well as in a broader multilateral context.

His book *The Foreign Policy of Peru*, published in the United States in 1992, was reprinted and updated in Spanish seven years later by our "Asociación de Funcionarios del Servicio Diplomático del Perú". Such a book is a valuable and indispensable text for professors, government officials, journalists, business persons, students, and anyone interested in Peru's foreign affairs. Another important book of Dr. St. John, published in 2010, emphasizes our nation's foreign policies under President Toledo's administration.

But Peru is not the only subject of research for Dr. St John. He has written and lectured extensively on other Latin American countries, as well as on Arab, African and Asian nations. Furthermore, his academic work includes research on the United States and Europe, and on a large number of topics of the international agenda. He has, therefore, a well extended knowledge of world affairs.

Professor St John has visited us and lectured at the Diplomatic Academy during the past century and last decade. So today we are welcoming you back. My predecessors at this institution and many members of the Peruvian Diplomatic Service are your good friends. The same can be said regarding many other Peruvians within the government, academia, politics, press and other circles. We are sure that in Peru you are feeling at home, and not only in Lima. I understand that day after tomorrow you are flying to Cuzco, where you are also well known and respected.

Many thanks Dr. St John for being with us. It is a privilege for our Diplomatic Academy to receive you and welcome you again. There is much expectation for your lecture, which we know will stimulate a good number of questions and comments from the audience.

We are aware that Professor St John has a good command of the Spanish language, and perhaps of Quechua, but modestly he has chosen to talk in English. We have made arrangements for an instant interpretation platform, which will be available during the questions-answers period.

Dr. Alejandro DeustuaCaravedo, a highly recognized scholar and Professor of the Academy, and old friend of Dr. St John, has kindly accepted to coordinate questions and statements from this selected and esteemed gathering. We really appreciate your important cooperation, dear Alejandro. And now, I am most glad to offer the floor to Dr. Ronald Bruce St John.

Thank you very much. Muchas gracias.