

Opening remarks by the Director of Peru's Diplomatic Academy, Liliana de Torres-Muga, at the Lecture by Dr. James Cotton "Between China and the U.S.A.: Dealing with the dominant Pacific powers. An Australian view."

June 27, 2012

His Excellency Mr. John Woods, Ambassador of Australia:

Honorable Professor James Cotton:

Ladies and gentlemen:

Dear Students:

It is a privilege and a pleasure for Peru's Diplomatic Academy Javier Pérez de Cuéllar having here today a distinguished Australian intellectual, Dr. James Cotton, one of the leading specialists on matters related to the Pacific Basin, who has come accompanied by the Ambassador of his country, His Excellency Mr. John Woods. You both are most welcome.

Professor Cotton graduated with first class honours at Flinders University, Adelaide, South Australia, having got his Master's in Economy at the British Durham University, and subsequently his Ph.D. at the London School of Economics.

Doctor Cotton was a Fellow at Princeton University, and studied at the Beijing Language Institute. He has held academic positions in his country, in Singapore, Hong Kong, England, U.S.A.

On the other hand, he was a founding member of the Australian Foreign Minister's Advisory Council and also of the Australian Committee of the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific.

Furthermore, he is a Fellow of the Royal Asiatic Society and is on the Editorial Board of "The Australian Journal of International Affairs."

Doctor Cotton is the author of over 200 publications, books included, on international relations, Pacific and Asian matters, political thought. His most recent book, "Australia in World Affairs", has been just published this year.

As we know, the lecture today by Professor Cotton is about the way Australia is focusing on two Pacific powers: China and the U.S.A. Until well into the 20th century, China's role in the world, apart from ideological considerations, was seen on being the most populous country.

As we advance into the 21st century the picture has changed and now China's economy (GDP) is ranked second in the world, after the U.S.A. and with a clear tendency to grow further.

The lecture by Dr. Cotton, therefore, should be of great importance, coming from a specialist with a keen perception of what is being called the "Chinese miracle." The interaction Australia-China-U.S.A. is very intense, so that the comments of Professor Cotton will be of great illustration for those of us living in this part of the Southeast Pacific. Fair dinkum, Dr. Cotton, as Australians use to say...

Thank you.