

Peruvian President Humala & Governor Markell Agree on Cooperation

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Memorandums of Understanding Signed Covering Education, Trade, Agriculture, and Culture

Agreement Marks Peru's First Partnership with a U.S. State

(Washington, D.C.) – President Ollanta Humala, Ambassador Harold Forsyth and Delaware Governor Jack Markell met on Tuesday in Washington to discuss cooperation between the Republic of Peru and the State of Delaware, covering agriculture, education, science and technology, culture and trade.

“The cooperation between Peru and the government of Delaware indicates our interest in being connected with one of the most dynamic regional economies in the USA,” said President Humala. “We are looking forward to amplifying our trade and commercial relationship to the benefit of our people.”



The Governor and President Humala are joined by Secretary Bullock, UD President Harker and Executive Director of the Diamond State Port Corporation Gene Bailey.

They were also joined by Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Eda Rivas; Minister of Foreign Trade and Tourism, Mr. José Luis Silva Martinot; Minister of Defense, Pedro Cateriano; Chairman of the Science and Technology, Dr. Maria Orjeda.; Delaware Secretary of State, Mr. Jeffrey Bullock, President of the University of Delaware, Dr. Patrick Harker; and Executive Director of the Diamond State Port Corporation, Mr. Gene Bailey.

Ambassador Forsyth and Governor Markell signed an agreement to cement Peru's first partnership with a U.S. state. The document establishes a framework for dialogue that builds on complementary strengths, including Peru's rapidly growing agricultural exports, the role of Delaware's seaport as the leading North American port for perishables, and opportunities for academic collaboration.

"We're excited and honored to work together with Peru to explore new ways to create jobs in both of our countries," said Governor Markell. "Delaware is a state of neighbors, so we know how to identify opportunities together and then move quickly to get things done. Our experience with the Embassy shows that Peru has a similar approach – open, practical and innovative."

"Our Embassy is very pleased in being a bridge between Delaware and our country. We appreciate the mutual understanding between both parties, and we expect to excel in terms of cooperation and trade opportunities," said Ambassador Forsyth.

Ambassador Forsyth, on behalf of the National Port Authority of Peru, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Mr. Bailey, representing the Diamond State Port Corporation, a Delaware state entity which owns and operates the Port of Wilmington, to collaborate in strengthening port competitiveness, develop joint promotion events, and exchange information.

Peru is a leading exporter of asparagus, organic coffee, organic cacao, and organic bananas worldwide. Peru's diversity of climates and soils makes it possible to grow crops as varied as quinoa, asparagus, mangos, grapes, artichokes, avocado, and paprika, among many others.

As the largest port for bananas in the Western Hemisphere and the leading fruit seaport in the U.S., Delaware's seaport serves as a major distribution center for perishable cargo on the East Coast. With overnight delivery to 200 million North American consumers, the Port of Wilmington, Delaware is well placed to share information and technical experience with Peruvian ports and agricultural exporters.



Governor Markell, Dr. Harker and Gene Bailey discuss the cooperation agreements with President Humala and Ambassador Forsyth.

“This is a very exciting opportunity for the Port of Wilmington to forge a maritime and trade relationship with the economically vibrant country of Peru and its strong network of ports,” said Gene Bailey. “We are honored on this occasion and eagerly look forward to the many opportunities for collaboration and cooperation incorporated in this Memorandum of Understanding.”

Dr. Patrick Harker, President of the University of Delaware, presented a letter to President Humala, confirming the University’s intention to host graduate students through the President’s hallmark Beca 18 program for high-achieving, low-income youth. The University will work closely with the Embassy and the Peruvian Department of Education over the next few months to finalize the details and conclude an agreement.

“The University of Delaware is thrilled to partner with the government of Peru and its Ministry of Education to welcome dozens of Peruvian students each year into UD’s top graduate programs—particularly those in the STEM sectors, which underpin economic growth,” said UD President Patrick Harker. “The University has enjoyed a long and close relationship with Peru, advanced by the understanding that our mutual strength is reinforced when we invest in high-quality education and open students’ access to it.”

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