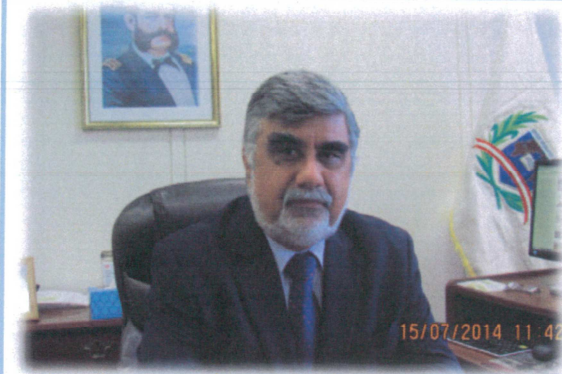


FROM THE EMBASSY OF PERU



*H.E. Jose Antonio Bellina
Peruvian Ambassador to Canada*

Since 2009, Canadian producers and exporters have a competitive advantage in one of the most like-minded economies in Latin America and the Caribbean due to the Peru-Canada Free Trade Agreement. This agreement eliminates all tariffs on Canadian industrial products and eliminates or reduces tariffs on the majority of Canadian agricultural and agri-food products. For Peru, the signing of this agreement has led to it becoming the second largest trading partner in Latin America for Canada, with merchandise imports to Canada reaching \$3.7 billion in 2013. The main products exported from Peru to Canada are cocoa, coffee, fish, cotton clothes, avocados, asparagus, mangoes, gold, silver, copper, and lead. Furthermore, Canada represents 3.8% of foreign direct investment in Peru, reaching approximately US\$8.5 billion in 2013.

Canada's trade relations with Peru are at their highest level and both countries plan to increase trade generated by the Free Trade Agreement (FTA), and to improve bilateral relations and opportunities for investment for companies in both countries. In addition, provisions for safeguarding workers' rights as well as promoting environmental sustainability were included in the agreement.

In 2014, Canada and Peru celebrated the 5th Anniversary of the FTA. The three areas that are benefiting the most as a result of the FTA are the following: the oil industry, the tourism industry, and the labour industry. The tourism industry is booming with an increase in tourist visitors while the oil industry is benefiting because of increased capital investment in mining and transportation. For Canada, Peru has a consistent and credible macro-economic policy, is politically stable, and has an investor friendly climate that has laid the foundation for sustained economic growth in Peru, which offers business opportunities in many sectors. The Canada-Peru Free Trade Agreement has further strengthened a well-established and growing trade and investment relationship that in recent years has seen Canada become one of the top foreign direct investors in Peru.

A reflection of the excellent bilateral relations between our countries is the visit of high level Canadian and Peruvian authorities: Governor General David Johnston, Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird, and International Trade and Development Minister Ed Fast have all visited Peru in the past two years. Furthermore, this past April, President of Peru Ollanta Humala paid an official visit to Canada and was accompanied by five ministers of state. All these visits are signs of the high level of our relationship that has expanded to other fields such as education, tourism, defense, cooperation, and research.

FROM THE EMBASSY OF HONDURAS

AGRIFOOD HONDURAS PRODUCTS

BY LUIS BOGRAN

Honduras is a country rich in natural resources, with fertile land for agriculture and forest. It also has very productive fishing zones in the two oceans. We are the second major shrimp exporters in Latin America. It is important to mention that Honduras is the largest tilapia fillet exporter to the USA, with a record of \$75,000,000 in tilapia for this year.

Due to its tropical climate in the coastal region the land is cultivated with sugar cane, oil palm and tropical fruits.

In the South region that normally has a dry climate cantaloupe, melon and shrimp are cultivated, all of which are in great demand in foreign markets. The Central region with its colder climate is cultivated with coffee and wood. The varied climates in Honduras allow us to diversify our products like vegetables and fruits. Due to its strategic location, Honduras is close to the developed countries that demand all the products that are mentioned above.

The diversity of our climate allows us to grow and export different agricultural commodities. Honduras' main agricultural exports are coffee 47% shrimp 21% bananas 11% melon 7% lobster 6% and pineapple 3%. Honduras also exports cigars.



Mr. Charles Koukou and Dr. Audia Barnett, IICA Canada with Mr. Luis Bogran from the Embassy of Honduras

