

**Commission on Science and Technology for Development 17<sup>th</sup> Session, 12 - 16 May 2014**

**Presentation of reports on science, technology and innovation policy reviews**

**15 May 2014**

**Statement by Ms. Maria Milagros Castañón Seoane, Director, Science and Technology,  
Ministry of Foreign Relations of Peru**

Thank you mister chair

Thank you for the opportunity to share with you all the recent developments on this field in my country. The government of Peru assigns the highest priority to the development of science, technology and innovation, among other reasons, because we want to secure inclusive growth and development.

In doing so, I am pleased to inform that, since last year, the national budget destined to fund research and development of science and technology in Peru, has multiplied **twenty** times and according to a recent announcement made by the Presidency, it is very probable, that a further increase will be decided for the budget of next year.

The National Council for Science and Technology –CONCYTEC- is now administering 150 million dollars per year, to develop, among others, the program “Cienciactiva”, detailed in the pamphlet we distributed earlier on.

The main purpose of this program is the creation of four centers of excellence where the government of Peru, the private sector and a prestigious international university or research center, embarks on a joint venture.

The program “Cienciactiva” is also providing funding for Peruvian citizens who apply for doctoral degrees overseas or in peruvian universities. It promotes and finances scientific groups who embark in research areas that have been identified as priorities by CONCYTEC.

“Cienciactiva” is also financing innovative ideas to solve our problems in the areas of health, environment and agriculture.

Moreover, since last year, the National Fund for the Development of Science and Technology and Technological Innovation, is administering an additional 50 million dollars per year, oriented to the development of projects in specific areas that include, among others, scientific and technological research, innovation, biocommerce, technological transference and scholarships.

Furthermore, this year, CONCYTEC acquired a national license which empowers the national system of science, technology and innovation with access to two important databases, that are now available for public universities, research institutes and government agencies. These databases are “ScienceDirect” and “Scopus”.

Our national policy on science and technology is now acknowledging the fact that the evolution of the technological frontier, is determining which are the most efficient production structures and those which will prevail in the long run.

To this respect, CONCYTEC is responsible for a number of studies and surveys that took place last year and which findings are helping us identify our priorities.

As far as our capacity building is concerned, according to estimates, we need approximately 22 thousand additional doctorates, of which 17,000 should concentrate in the fields of engineering and technology, natural sciences, medical and health sciences and

agricultural sciences. We urgently need to improve our human resources. We need to assure the right training and the attraction of talents. Our goal is to have a critical mass of highly qualified personnel.

We are reaching out to the Peruvian scientific community working overseas and to foreign scientists who wish to conduct research projects in Peru. This task is not proving to be easy because of a number of obstacles that need to be addressed. We are trying to find a way to unlock issues such as strict immigration policies, taxation and the possibility of acquisition of scientific equipment providing advantages for the interested parties.

In this scenario, we have also resorted to the Harvard Kennedy School, so that professor Haussman assists us in conducting a national study of productivity based on our knowledge and capabilities.

I believe I have used up the five minutes so I will stop here. I wanted to concentrate in describing the most important steps we have taken within a specific national policy and I haven't mentioned all. Also, I haven't mentioned all the important work we are doing with other countries to whom we are also very thankful.

Many thanks.

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