Global Conversations: Perú
11/27/2012

Hector E. Flores
Dean of Graduate Studies
“We shall not cease from exploration
   And the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive where we started
And know the place for the first time.”
   T.S. Eliot, *Four Quartets*
Why Perú?

- Peru contains about 90 or the 120 climate zones recognized in the world
- One of the 6 major centers of plant domestication
- Center of megabiodiversity
- Site of many pre-columbian cultures, of which the Incas is only the most recent
- Site of cultural syncretism only comparable to Mexico in the New World
- Ironically, major driver for Peruvian economy (mining) has not changed in over 500 years
Why Perú?

Peruvian GDP growth per year in %

- 2003: 4%
- 2004: 5%
- 2005: 6.8%
- 2006: 7.7%
- 2007: 8.9%
- 2008: 9.8%
- 2009: 0.9%
- 2010: 8.78%
- 2011: 6.92%
- 2012: 5.5%

Own elaboration with data from INEI

* Projected
Why Perú?

Potato diversity
Huancavelica, Peru)

Arapaima gigas, Amazon river
Why Perú?

Major vulnerability to climate change
(Lester Brown, *World on the Edge*, 2011, p 53.)

Nevado Pastoruri, Peru

Source: Agencia Andina
Strategic Opportunities for RIT in the Andean Region

Remote sensing expertise applicable to Sustainable Development
  Climate change mitigation
  Urban Development
  Land use
  Environmental assessment
  Disaster management
Sustainable Technology and Engineering
  Appropriate scale technologies (e.g., electric microgrids)
Developing Academic Partnerships

• **Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Perú**
  – #1 ranked University in Peru
  – Strong tradition in humanities and social sciences complemented by Arts, Architecture, and Engineering
  – Top Latin American business school (CENTRUM)
  – Many fully bilingual, top students

• **Universidad San Ignacio de Loyola**
  • Top representative of new wave of entrepreneurial academic institutions
  • Taking advantage of tourism growth and increasing prestige and world recognition in gastronomy and culinary arts
With Electrical and Industrial Engineering students PUCP

RIT Visitors at the Ministry of the Environment
The School of Film and Animation (SOFA) at RIT Was represented at the international film festival In Lima, Perú, August 5-12
Next Steps

• MOU signed with PUCP Sept. 2012
• Existing MOU with USIL since 2008
• Specific agreements for faculty collaborations and student exchanges under development
• Potential site for new seed initiative for international research collaborations in strategic areas (eg., remote sensing for sustainable development)
• Strategic recruiting for top doctoral students
• Targeted recruiting for MS level students
Perú is not just Macchu Picchu!