



## Press Release

Public Affairs Section  
Embassy of the United States  
Telephone: 618-2000 FAX: 434-0100  
<http://lima.usembassy.gov>

Lima, June 13, 2012



## United States and Peru Extend Agreement to Protect Peruvian Heritage Objects

13 JUNE 2012, LIMA – The United States and Peru extended for an additional five years the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that imposes import restrictions to the United States on certain Peruvian archeological materials from Pre-Hispanic cultures as well as certain materials from Peru’s Colonial Period. The MOU, in effect since 1997 and renewed again in 2002, aims to reduce the incentive for looting of Peru’s cultural patrimony and help combat the illegal trafficking of Peruvian cultural objects. Effective June 9, 2012, the latest renewal keeps the updated MOU in effect from 2012-2017. Since its launch in 1997, an estimated 900 Peruvian artifacts that left the country improperly have been recovered under the MOU.

The MOU covers the archaeological remains of ancient cultures such as the Chavin, Moche, Cuzco, and Incas. It also protects certain distinct materials produced during the Colonial period (A.D. 1532-1821) such as sculpture and paintings that are stylistically distinct. Under the terms of the MOU, restricted objects may enter the United States only if accompanied by an export permit issued by the government of Peru or documentation of its provenance prior to 1997 and provided no other applicable U.S. laws are violated. In addition to helping address the threat of pillage, the MOU promotes the safe and proper access to such items for cultural, educational, and scientific purposes and promotes long-term solutions for safeguarding Peru’s unique ancient past.

The title of the MOU is “Memorandum of Understanding Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Peru Concerning the Imposition of Import Restrictions on Archaeological Material from the Pre-Hispanic Cultures and Certain Ethnological Material from the Colonial Period of Peru.” Further information about the MOU can be found at <http://exchanges.state.gov/heritage/culprop/pefact.html>.

###