



Press Release

Public Affairs Section

Embassy of the United States - Lima, November 28, 2011

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EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES ANNOUNCES WINNER OF THE 2011 AMBASSADOR'S FUND FOR CULTURAL PRESERVATION

LIMA, NOVIEMBRE 28, 2011 – U.S. Ambassador Rose M. Likins today named the Museo Tumbas Reales de Sipan in Lambayeque as the winner of the 2011 U.S. Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation. The Museum submitted the winning proposal to conserve, register and document valuable ceramic and metallic objects from the museum's collection of valuable artifacts from the ancient Mochica civilization in northern Peru. Speaking at the U.S. Embassy before Museum Director Doctor Walter Alva, a representative of the Peru Ministry of Culture and invited guests, the Ambassador announced that the museum would receive a \$46,000 grant to carry out its preservation project.

In her remarks, Ambassador Likins described the Museo Tumbas Reales de Sipan as one of the most important archeological sites in Peru and noted its formidable impact in the field of archeology as well as the identity and development of the Lambayeque. "The investigations undertaken by the museum, under the leadership of Dr. Walter Alva and his team," she said, "have changed our knowledge of the Mochica culture."

In 2001, the U.S. Congress established the Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation to help developing countries preserve their cultural heritage. These funds may be used to conserve cultural sites or cultural objects and collections. Funds may not be used for archaeological excavations or constructions of new buildings. Since 2001, 17 Peruvian institutions have received over \$1.2 million from the Ambassadors Fund, which makes Peru the largest recipient of the Ambassadors Fund in Latin America. Recent grants have included US\$30,000 for the restoration of colonial paintings in the Jesuit Church in Arequipa (2010), US\$800,000 for the restoration of the Sacred City of Caral (2009) and US\$30,000 for the conservation of the archaeological collection of the Sicán National Museum (2008).

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