

Summit diplomacy

President Lee and Peruvian President Alan Garcia agreed to boost business exchange

November 21, 2008



President Lee Myung-bak (right) and Peruvian President Alan Garcia hold hands at the summit meeting at Government Palace of Lima, Peru on Friday (Nov. 21). Korean President Lee Myung-bak met with his Peruvian counterpart Alan Garcia at the Government Place in Lima last Friday, Nov. 21, and agreed to work toward launching a bilateral free trade agreement within the first half of next year.

President Lee, in his summit talks called for the support of the Peruvian government, directly mentioning the name of Korean companies operating in Peru such as SK, Samsung Electronics, LG Electronics, Doosan Heavy Industries & Construction and Korea National Oil Corporation, among others.

"It was like holding a business session," Lee Dong-kwan the spokesman of the Presidential Office of Cheong Wa Dae said. "The Korea-Peru summit talks have changed the existing paradigm of talks between the leaders of the two nations. There were no political talks, only discussion on practical economic items."

In relation to SK, Lee emphasized business know-how and technology that the company has accumulated over years in the petrochemical sector, and called for its inclusion in Peru's construction of a petrochemical plant near one of the mines. Also, the president asked for permission to allow Korea National Oil Corporation to come and collaborate in the development of

petroleum gas and open the door to Korean automobiles. He also called for Han Byung-Kil, Korean ambassador to Peru, to pass on details of relevant Korean companies to President Garcia later.

In the electronics sector he stressed the state-of-art technology of Samsung and LG. He added that Samsung, having developed Wibro technology would be especially efficient in mountainous regions of Peru, rather than optical cable.

As for Doosan Heavy Industries, Lee explained the company's superior technology in the construction of freshwater facilities, which would be good for Latin America's first desalination facility project.

"This is what we call business-friendly summit talks," spokesman Lee said back home. "This is all due to President Lee's singled-minded focus toward practicality and national interest."

Right after the summit, President Lee was awarded with the Order of "El Sol de Peru," the highest honor in Peru, during the joint press conference.

Source : korea.net