Current Economic Situation

Peru is an emerging, middle-income market oriented economy. Due to its diverse geography, Peru is an important economy in several different industries, including agriculture, fishing and mineral extraction. The fisheries in Peru are estimated to account for ten percent of the world’s fish catch. The mountains located in Peru hold abundant natural resources such as copper, gold, and silver.

Major agricultural products that comprise a large share of the economy’s exports are rice, wheat, cotton, fish, dairy and potatoes. Some of Peru’s leading industries are steel, cement, petroleum, textiles, and clothing. The services sector, however, is by far the most important sector of Peru’s economy contributing over 56 percent to GDP in 2009.

The Peruvian GDP grew at an impressive rate of 9.5 percent up to 2008, but experienced a drastic slowdown in growth due to the global financial crisis with GDP growth rate dropping to 0.9 percent in 2009. However, Peru is still one of the fastest growing economies in the Americas, and is cited as attracting foreign direct investment of over $50 billion by the end of 2010. This growth has led to overall decrease in the country’s poverty rate and stimulated rapid economic development.

APEC Relations

The strong growth that the Peruvian economy has experienced over the past decade makes it one of the more vibrant members of APEC. Peru has recognized its interest staked to regional trade forums like APEC and was one of the developing countries to volunteer for an assessment of meeting the Bogor Goals, ten years prior to the official deadline.

Looking ahead, senior Peruvian APEC official Luis Quesada offered the following analysis of the trade forum: “In the last eight years, Peru’s average growth has been more than six percent, despite the global economic crisis. Liberalizing trade and investment has been a factor, and this approach has also been key to achieving important social progress that has greatly benefited Peruvian citizens.”

Within APEC, Peru also serves as the head of Marine Resource Conservation working group and would like to focus on improving its market access and negotiating more FTAs and RTAs with economies throughout the Asia Pacific.

Energy and Environmental Policy

The Ministry of Energy and Mines is the primary arm of the government in Peru for managing the energy sector. Wide-scale initiatives have been undertaken to promote sustainable mining and extraction of natural resources, while improving competitiveness throughout the sector. Being rich in natural resources, Peru hopes to attract an influx of private investment to meet these ambitious goals.