# Country Assistance Program for the Plurinational State of Bolivia

Government of Japan April 2009

## Contents

1. The principle and significance of assistance 1
(1)Diplomacy1
(2)Development
2. Assistance to Bolivia: basic policy and direction
(1)Basic Policy on Japan's assistance to Bolivia
(2)Japan's approach to assistance
3. Priority areas
(1)Priority area (i): Social development
(2)Priority area (ii): Production increase
(3)Priority area (iii): Good governance
4. Matters to keep in mind 12
(1)Ratio of dependency on foreign aid 12
(2)ODA loans to be studied
(3)Consideration toward IIRSA (Initiative for the Integration of Regional
Infrastructure in South America)
(4)Effective utilization of South-South cooperation and region-wide
cooperation13
(5)Gender, environment, and other multi-sectoral issues to keep in mind 14
(6)Relations with emerging donors (non-DAC members)
5. Matrix of Japan's Country Assistance Program for Bolivia 15

## 1. The principle and significance of assistance

## (1) Diplomacy

- a. In January 2006, Mr. Juan Evo Morales Ayma, a member of the Movimiento Al Socialismo (MAS), took the office of President to become the first Bolivian president of indigenous origin. The moves of the Morales administration, which have advanced social reforms to eliminate poverty and to narrow the gap between the rich and the poor that has been perpetuated throughout the history, are attracting international attention. The new administration is working to stabilize the macro-economy and implementing social development policies, such as the one to diminish the rich-and-poor gap, with a national development plan to realize a fundamental shift in the social structure established in the colonial era. The administration adopts a policy to strengthen government control of natural resources, including the hydrocarbon resources. The aim of this policy, according to the administration, is to enhance social policies by revising disadvantageous contracts for Bolivia and increasing national income through the natural resource development, thereby ensuring the entire society the benefits of democracy. In other words, the policy objective is to realize social justice.
- b. Japan and Bolivia share more than a hundred years of history of immigration. Fourteen thousand Japanese descendants in Bolivia are the important foundation of Japan-Bolivia relations. Japan's economic cooperation to Bolivia amounts to more than 1.4 billion dollars over the past 40 years. The Bolivian government has supported Japan's position broadly in the United Nations and other international fora. During his visit to Japan in March 2007, President Morales has that Japan was Bolivia's strategic partner and expressed his support for Japan's bid to become a permanent member of the United Nations (UN) Security Council as well as Japan's candidacy for the election of non-permanent members of the UN Security Council. It is hoped that Japan and Bolivia will maintain a stable partnership in the international fora.
- c. Bolivia, despite being one of the poorest nations in South America for many years, has abundant underdeveloped natural resources, such as rare metals like lithium, tungsten, in addition to natural gas, zinc, tin, and other resources. It is one of the top five countries from which Japan procures zinc and lead concentrates. The development of the Bolivian mining industry will directly contribute to the nation's development in the forms of economic growth, acquisition of foreign currency, and promotion of employment. As a poor nation, it is all the more significant to explore

the strategies of the mining industry in development efforts. In 2006, a Japanese company made an investment in a large-scale mining development project in Bolivia. It is expected that Japan and Bolivia will become important partners of resource diplomacy, which pursue hand in hand the strategies for appropriate mining development in Bolivia.

d. Many of the Latin American countries face political, economic, and social issues similar to ones Bolivia is facing. Japan will contribute to Bolivia's efforts to improve vulnerable economic infrastructures and to overcome political and social instabilities, by continuing to support the country's ownership to achieve stability and development. This also holds importance from the perspective of advancing and stably developing democracy throughout Latin America. Thus, it is extremely significant that Japan provides assistance to Bolivia.

## (2) Development

## a. Current status

Despite the wealth of natural resources such as tin and natural gas, Bolivia has been one of the poorest countries in South America. This is attributed to the unfair distribution of wealth that has been practiced throughout its history. More than 60% of its people fall within the category of the poor. Bolivia has the highest level of national income disparity in Latin America (Note 1). It is a country characterized by multi-ethnicity and cultural diversity (Note 2). The land is comprised of alpine regions, valley regions, and tropical lowlands. The country is landlocked and has a complex landform. These facts have formed a major obstacle for Bolivia's development.

A high rate of poverty in rural agricultural areas is one of the particular features of poverty in Bolivia (Note 3). Population inflow from rural to urban areas -- to areas surrounding cities, in particular -- has led to the emergence of groupings of the poor in the areas, causing insufficiency in development of infrastructures for their lives. Lack of equal opportunity among different ethnic groups and between men and women has created income disparity among them. There is also a wide gap in development status among regions, which is explained by factors such as uneven distribution of natural resources and different degrees of modernization of agriculture. Expansion of the gap among regions has been a cause of concern over the maintenance of social stability, as it results in, among other situations, repeated demands for autonomy by economically active regions. Other factors that inhibit

regional development include lack of infrastructures and vulnerability to natural disasters.

As of 2007, macroeconomic indicators show a good economic condition, against the backdrop of the surge in international prices of minerals, oil, natural gas, and other natural resources (Note 4). The level of Bolivia's external debt has fallen to a record low after it received a series of debt forgiveness by its donors. Nonetheless, strengthening of the government's ability to attract private investments and expand public investments remains to be a challenge to be met to realize mid- to long-term economic growth and create job opportunities.

(Note 1) Bolivia's Gini coefficient is 60.1, the largest in Latin America (2007, UNDP).

- (Note 2) The population is comprised of indigenous Bolivians (55%), those with mixed race (32%), and those of European descendant (13%). (Source: Bolivia National Institute of Statistics (Instituto Nacional de Estadística: INE))
- (Note 3) While Bolivia's Human Development Index (HDI) is 0.692 on a national average (2004, UNDP), the indices for highland and valley regions are 0.516 and 0.495, respectively (2003, INE). Bolivia's national average falls short of the average of the Latin American countries, which is 0.795 (2004, UNDP). The indices for some municipalities in valley regions are on par with the average of Sub-Sahara Africa, which is 0.472 (2004, UNDP).
- (Note 4) The International Monetary Fund (IMF) reports that the growth rate of Bolivia's gross national income (GNI) for 2006 was 4.5%, and 4.3% for 2007. Bolivia's foreign reserves in 2006 and 2007 marked year-on-year increases of 65%, to total approximately 3.4 billion dollars and 5.6 billion dollars, respectively. Likewise, the export volume increased steadily, reached approximately 3.9 billion dollars in 2006 and 4.5 billion dollars in 2007. Meanwhile, with consumer price index growth was 5.4% in 2005 and 4.3% in 2006, a steady rate of inflation has been maintained, however, it was 8.7% in 2007.

## b. The Bolivian government's development policies

The Morales administration announced a national development plan in June 2006. The goal is to ensure each one of the people of Bolivia a "living well (Vivir Bien)", by bringing the nation out of the social structure that has historically been the cause of inequity and discrimination, and establishing a new identity. The plan introduces four pillars to realize living well: (i) production increase (Bolivia productiva); (ii) recovery of life with human dignity (Bolivia digna); (iii) restoration of sovereignty (in international relations) (Bolivia soberana); and (iv) democracy (Bolivia democratica). These are consistent with what Japan understands to be Bolivia's development issues; namely, production increase, social development, and institutional and governance building. Furthermore, there is much commonality between the basic principle of the plan and the perspective of "human security," a basic policy of Japan's foreign assistance.

## 2. Assistance to Bolivia: basic policy and direction

## (1) Basic policy on Japan's assistance to Bolivia

a. Two pillars of Japan's assistance

In light of Section 1 above, the Japanese government establishes the following two pillars for its assistance to Bolivia.

The first pillar is social development assistance for poverty reduction. Japan will provide assistance that will directly benefit the most vulnerable people, through measures such as improvement of access to education, healthcare, safe water, and other basic social services; individual and capacity building at community; and development of basic infrastructures and other conditions essential to human survival. It will also assist Bolivia's efforts to achieve poverty reduction and other Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The second pillar is assistance for sustainable economic growth. Japan has long provided cooperation focusing on technology development institutions and training of engineers. In recent years, a particular emphasis has been placed on the poor in rural areas, making rural development -- which combines measures to increase agricultural productivity, to develop infrastructures, and to develop human resources through training -- the mainstream of Japan's assistance. Going forward, Japan's assistance will include not only assistance to the agriculture sector but also assistance that will help Bolivia expand its domestic economy, and achieve and promote stable economic growth. This includes assistance to small- and medium-sized enterprises, which is expected to bring about a large-scale effect on job creation; assistance to development and expansion of infrastructures (e.g. transportation networks, electricity) that would facilitate private investments accompanied with mining development projects and other endeavors; and assistance to human resource development.

On a related note, Japan will assist Bolivia's efforts to strengthen administrative capacity, in order to ensure enhanced equal access to administrative services and fair distribution of wealth that economic development have realized.

b. Consistency with the national development plan

Japan's assistance to Bolivia is in line with Bolivia's national development plan. Japan will assist Bolivia so that the country can resolve, on its own initiative, development issues, thereby reducing poverty and achieving stable economic growth, and ensure human security.

## (2) Japan's approach to assistance

a. Strengthening of an organic linkage of assistance modalities and concentration of input

Japan has utilized various assistance schemes to Bolivia. These schemes include grant aid, technical cooperation, ODA loans, and contribution to multilateral organizations. Japan will place a particular emphasis on efforts to strengthen linkage of assistance schemes (i.e. improvement of consistency of projects that are categorized under a common cooperate program), in order to maximize -- through various assistance schemes and with limited financial and human resources – the effects of assistance to Bolivia. South-South cooperation, multilateral resources such as "Japan funds" established with multilateral organizations, and an aid coordination framework for Bolivia will also be utilized to further enhance the effects of assistance. Japan will, where feasible, exchange views with Bolivia on possible revision of the country's systems that could hinder Japan's assistance to Bolivia, thereby ensuring sustainable effects of assistance.

## b. Aid coordination: current status and matters to keep in mind

(a) Donors for Bolivia

Bolivian donors formed a working group known as "Grus" at the end of 2006, with the aim to share information among donors.

Meanwhile, the Bolivian side's efforts to coordinate assistances from donors and multilateral organizations have incurred a great cost burden on the country. Japan, while keeping a close watch on development of aid coordination, will actively study assistance provided through donors' working groups, and cooperate on efforts to harmonize and rationalize assistance to Bolivia.

(b) Utilization of aid coordination framework, and assistance exhibiting Japan's presence

Aid coordination needs to be taken into consideration from the project formulation stage, from the perspective of effectively utilizing limited financial and human resources of both the Bolivian government and donors. In addition to making utmost efforts to fulfill the effects of aid coordination, it is important to continue providing assistance that would exhibit Japan's presence; that is, to ensure that the government and people of Bolivia, the Japanese people, and other donors, among other parties concerned, clearly understand and recognize the effectiveness of Japan's assistance to Bolivia.

It is important that Japan provides assistance appropriately to Bolivia while duly respecting the country's ownership, and actively works to enhance, through people-to-people exchanges, the capacity of those who play host to development -- the people of Bolivia and related organizations including government agencies in Bolivia -- in order to permeate the assistance effect, thereby ensuring the effectiveness of Japan's assistance. It is also necessary to make use of characteristics of Japan's assistance. This is done by clearly presenting to the donor community Japan's basic policy on assistance, and clarifying to them, from an early phase and in concrete terms, sectors, regions, and other matters over which Japan holds comparative advantage. As such, Japan needs to exchange views with other donors on a regular basis to enhance their understanding on Japan's assistance.

## 3. Priority areas

## (1) Priority area (i): Social development

Social development assistance will be provided in line with the basic policy as described in Section 2 (1) above. In particular, "social development assistance for poverty reduction," one of the two pillars of Japan's assistance to Bolivia, will be set as a universal goal to be met. In formulating projects, Japan will make due consideration to linkage of assistance schemes, such as general grant aid, grassroots human security grant aid, and technical cooperation, and to the trend of the sectoral aid coordination among donors. Consideration will also be made to the utilization of multilateral resources through multilateral organizations.

## a. Education

Bolivia, with donors' active support, has continued to advance the education reform which the previous administration started in 1994. It is a target country of a series of initiatives hammered out by the international community to improve education (Note 5). The Morales administration has convened meetings of the National Congress of Education (Congreso Nacional de Educacion) on a routine basis since June 2006.

The education reform and support have brought about a concrete result: improved

school enrollment rate. The completion rate of the 8th grade of primary school has improved from 71.5% in 2001 to 77.8% in 2005 (report from GTZ: German technical Cooperation).

Education, therefore, needs to be provided in a manner that satisfies social and economic demands. In addition, the quality of education needs to be improved. Issues to be tackled with include insufficient ability of teachers, delay in development of curriculum modules, and a lack of sharing information on a concept of a new curriculum and concrete teaching methodologies.

In light of the current status of Bolivia, Japan will assist the country's efforts to improve the quality of education under the Basic Education for Growth Initiative (BEGIN), through improvement of teacher training (i.e. establishment of teacher training programs, leadership, and development of training method focusing on the information sharing among teachers), provision of completed modules and sharing lessons learned with other countries, aiming to realize a school with learner-centered education that helps children to develop the ability of logical thinking, Regarding support for children with disabilities to on which the government's response is still way behind, Japan will also focus on developing a special education curriculum and strengthening its implementation structure.

(Note 5) The initiatives include Education for All (EFA); Target 3 and 4 of MDGs (achieve universal primary education / eliminate gender disparity in primary education); and Fast Track Initiative (FTI).

#### b. Health and medical care

The maternal mortality ratio and infant mortality rates in Bolivia in 2006 were 290 per 100,000 live births and 61 per 1,000 live births, respectively, Bolivia is one of the highest rates countries in South America (WHO Statistical Information System). It has roots in combined backgrounds, such as facilities lack of basic maternal and infant care, shortage of health facilities, and insufficient management of existing facilities. Community people rarely receive health care even when they need, modern medicine cannot deal with health problems of community people are other major factor causing phase highest rates. Cultural factor such as traditionally male dominated environment in rural areas does not allow women to take initiative in making the decision making whether to receive health care.

Japan will assist Bolivia's efforts to strengthen health and medical care networks,

with the main focus on reduction of maternal mortality ratio and infant mortality rate under the Health and Development Initiative. It will thus help Bolivia to strengthen primary medical care services and its administrative capacity, and referral system with secondary and tertiary medical care facilities. Given the delay in the government's response to the people with disabilities, Japan's assistance to Bolivia in the area of health and medical care will also focus on the development of the registration system for disabled people and increasing the number of people receiving rehabilitation medicine.

## c. Water and sanitation

The coverage of access to drinking water in Bolivia is 71.7% (86.5% for urban areas and 51.4% for non-urban areas. 2006, INE). The figure on a national level and the one for non-urban areas are 12 and 14 points below the average of Latin America, illustrating a remarkable shortage of relevant infrastructure development in non-urban areas. Meanwhile, the provision of water supply services in areas surrounding cities is not keeping pace with the rapid inflow of population from non-urban areas.

Japan's development study and its grant aid projects in non-urban areas have contributed to the improvement of the coverage of access to drinking water. Specifically, the contribution was made in six prefectures, out of nine prefectures nationwide, through supply of excavators for water supply; transfer of technologies on hydrogeology and excavation, among other matters; and technical cooperation on the establishment and maintenance of water supply facilities.

Japan will provide further assistance for the Bolivian government to achieve Target 10 of the MDGs: to halve, by 2015, the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water, thereby improving the rate of access to drinking water in Bolivia from 57.5% in 1990 to 78.5% in 2015. Specifically, Japan will increase the number of prefectures receiving assistance for water source development, continue assisting local governments' efforts to enhance technology, and give consideration to the improvement of conditions for drinking water supply and sanitation in the outskirts of cities.

## d. Rural development (roads, electricity, irrigation, etc.)

More than 60% of the population of Bolivia is facing poverty. Eighty percent of farmers in Bolivia live in highland and valley regions, many of whom are engaged

in subsistence agriculture. Food production in these regions has kept decreasing due to soil degradation and other reasons, creating a vicious circle of environmental deterioration and poverty.

Less than 1% of prefectural, municipal, and other local roads, which farmers use to transport products to consumers, are paved. Each year, road networks are disrupted by natural disasters, against the backdrop of natural conditions such as precipitous terrain and differing water dosage between rainy and dry seasons, causing a significant impact on the people's basic lives and economic activities.

Electricity issues include shortage of overall amount of power generated, as well as underinvestment and decrepitude. In the first place, many regions do not have access to electricity. It is extremely necessary from the perspective of permeating essential social services, such as health and medical care, for the regions to have access to electricity.

Through the implementation of technical cooperation, development study and grant aid projects, among other measures, for poor groups centered on socially vulnerable indigenous people, Japan has been assisting Bolivia's efforts to develop agricultural infrastructures in rural areas -- in the forms of soil degradation prevention measures, and development of irrigation facilities, roads, and bridges, among other steps -- and providing construction equipments to be used for local road development, while utilizing them to give technical support. It intends to provide cooperation that would contribute to improved access to public services, such as education and medical care, and to the development of regional economies. The areas of such cooperation will be the development of irrigation facilities and other agricultural infrastructures in rural areas, development of local roads, and efforts to permeate electricity throughout regions.

Strengthening of prefectural and municipal governments' planning and implementing abilities are prerequisites for development projects of abovementioned infrastructures. As such, the governance issue -- the third priority area to be described below -- will also be taken into account in formulating these projects.

## (2) Priority area (ii): Production increase

"Assistance for sustainable economic growth," another pillar of Japan's assistance to

Bolivia as described in Section 2 (1), will also be set as a universal goal to be met. Due considerations will be made, when formulating projects, to linkage of assistance schemes and the trend of aid coordination in relevant areas among donors -- which will also be the case with the priority area (i) -- while bearing in mind Bolivia's preparedness to receive and implement such projects.

## a. Strengthening of production and business management technologies

Since Bolivia has returned to democracy in 1982, Bolivia has, through twists and turns, advanced democracy and worked to realize a market economy. The administration took the initiative in promoting exports since 2002. The effort, however, benefited only a limited proportion of the people, and thus did not lead to a significant reduction of poverty. An important issue to be resolved is how to vitalize economic activities and ensure stability in the people's daily lives, when a large proportion of the workforce is not incorporated in the export economy. Meanwhile, agriculture has been an important industry for the Bolivian economy, with 39% of the workforce engaging in the industry (2006, INE).

Japan has assisted Bolivia's efforts for technology development and enhanced production in rice cropping, livestock raising, and other areas of agriculture, targeting mainly the humid tropical region. Up until the 1990s, the main focus of Japan's assistance was placed on the capacity building of technology development institutions and training of engineers. In recent years, however, it is becoming increasingly dominant that assistance is provided directly to farmers.

Japan will continue providing cooperation in the area of agriculture. And it will assist the process from the production to market access of farm products for micro-, small- and medium-sized producers, and thereby contributing to regional economies vitalization.

## b. Sustainable mining industry

The mining industry is a main industry of Bolivia. The industry is essential for the development of the country, as it has significant and direct impacts on Bolivia's economic growth, acquisition of foreign currency, and promotion of employment. The mineral resources, on the other hand, are nonrenewable; excavation will eventually lead to extinguishment. The industry also potentially places burdens on surrounding areas and the natural environment in each stage of development, excavation, and production. As such, environmental impacts need to be taken into

account when developing the mining industry, so as to prevent mine pollution from occurring. The surrounding communities' demands that emerge with the development of the mining industry -- in particular, those related to the areas of social development, such as education, and water and sanitation -- also need to be considered when developing the industry.

From the abovementioned perspective, Japan will consider providing assistance which will utilize Japan's technology and experience.

## c. Economic infrastructure development

For Bolivia -- an inland nation in which approximately 9 million people are scattered over a vast land, with diverse geographic and climate conditions where the vertical interval reaches more than 3,000 meters -- it is important to develop transportation networks, which are basic infrastructures for economic activity and promotion of industry, in that, among other roles, they secure transportation routes for domestic passengers and mineral resources. The development of the national road network is a particularly important issue. Despite the Bolivian side's efforts, the proportion of national roads that are paved remains at 28% in 2006 (INE), due to annual natural disasters and other reasons.

Bolivia is currently constructing a national road network to incorporate a highway connecting the Pacific and Atlantic regions, which is also under construction in line with the Initiative for the Integration of Regional Infrastructure in South America (IIRSA). Once the port facility development to utilize rivers in the border with Brazil and the redevelopment of once-abolished national railways have commenced, efficient systems for the complex transportation of mineral resources and other items, combined with the national road network, can be realized.

Provision of electricity and development of transportation and communication networks play an important role in promoting economic activities and sustainable growth. With regard to electricity in particular, renewable energies, such as hydraulic and geothermal powers, in addition to natural gases produced in Bolivia, can be utilized. Japan will consider providing assistance that will enhance the effectiveness of electricity projects, while taking into account the Bolivian government's energy policies.

When considering infrastructure development, Japan will strive to formulate

projects to, among other purposes, develop electricity, transportation, and mining infrastructures in resource development sites and other areas, in view of the possibility of ODA loans and bearing in the mind points described in Section b above.

## (3) Priority area (iii): Good governance

The establishment of democracy in Bolivia is widely recognized with the election of the country's first indigenous president. What is needed to achieve social development and production increase goals is to establish technology and knowledge through ensuring consecutive administrative services; and to build up administrative capacity, including management of budgets and development of implementation structures. Decentralization programs started in 1994 have identified the path to follow, such as enhanced efforts to reallocate fiscal resources to local governments. Yet, strengthening of administrative capacity, including the central government's coordination skills and the local government's budget execution abilities, remains as a major issue to be addressed.

Bolivia's fiscal conditions have improved in recent years against the backdrop of the global increase in prices of natural resources. It is of particular importance that assistance is provided for Bolivia to appropriately take advantage of this situation in advancing social development and economic growth measures. From this perspective, and also from the perspective of maximizing the effects of assistance, Japan will place an emphasis on appropriate policy planning and effective execution of policies. Specifically, it will assist Bolivia's efforts to develop "capacity of human resources" that make up an organization and to develop "capacity of organization," including the management development. In light of the decentralization trend, Japan's cooperation will cover not only the central government's efforts to enhance governance but the local governments' efforts as well. In either case, Japan will work together, where appropriate, with people in the local communities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), industrial groups, universities, and other parties concerned, so as to enhance assistance continuity and effectiveness.

## 4. Matters to keep in mind

## (1) Ratio of dependency on foreign aid

Bolivia's ratio of dependency on foreign aid, which accounts for 6.51% of its gross national product (GNP) equivalent to 64 dollars per capita, is the highest one among the South American nations (2005, DAC). Japan will not only provide assistance that is

based on policies and strategies by sector, but also pay close attention to outcomes of the current administration's measures to increase revenue -- the cornerstone of the national development plan. It will thus strive to help Bolivia, by enhancing the predictability over the scale of assistance, avoid excessive dependency on foreign aid, thereby providing assistance in a stable manner.

## (2) ODA loans to be studied

Bolivia has been strongly requesting for the provision of ODA loans. Given the implementation of debt forgiveness to Bolivia, and for other reasons, Japan's assistance to Bolivia is currently provided through grant aid and technical cooperation. Japan will study the possibility of ODA loan projects when necessary conditions are met, while taking into account the political and macro-economic conditions of Bolivia, as well as its debt sustainability.

## (3) Consideration toward IIRSA (Initiative for the Integration of Regional Infrastructure in South America)

IIRSA is a project by 12 South American countries, aimed to promote the development of transportation, energy, and communication infrastructures. Among 10 Integration and Development Hubs for South America, which the governments are working on through IIRSA, Bolivia is involved in four hubs: Peru-Brazil-Bolivia Hub, Central Interoceanic Hub, Andean Hub, and Paraguay-Paraná Waterway Hub. It is particularly active in the development of transportation infrastructure. Twelve projects proposed by Bolivia in the area of energy include research into hydraulic and geothermal powers and a plan to ensure the rural areas' access to electricity.

Infrastructure development through IIRSA has great potential to lead the development of this inland nation -- Bolivia. As such, Japan will need to determine priorities over infrastructure development projects that it considers and implements, taking into account Bolivia's neighboring countries' policies and the implementation status of IIRSA.

## (4) Effective utilization of South-South cooperation and region-wide cooperation

That Latin American countries have linguistic, cultural, and societal commonalities; that there are many institutions in neighboring countries that have received transfer of technology from Japan; and that it is possible to dispatch third country experts who are Japanese descendants active in many fields are factors enabling Japan to consider a variety of methods of cooperation whose resources are not restricted to Japan's resources.

Accordingly, Japan will strive to provide a more effective and efficient cooperation to Bolivia, by identifying whether or not Japan has provided cooperation to neighboring countries and whether or not they have similar demands for cooperation, and by exploring the possibility of South-South cooperation and region-wide cooperation.

## (5) Gender, environment, and other multi-sect oral issues to keep in mind

In Bolivia, indigenous women's right to make decisions is limited in various aspects of daily living. There are also gender disparities in access to healthcare, education, and other basic social services. These are among many situations in which women are placed in socially disadvantageous positions. Through a multi-sect oral approach, Japan will formulate and implement projects that make due consideration to gender issues, including equal access to basic social services and empowerment.

Bolivia has abundant natural resources. While the development of natural resources is an important element to promote economic growth, it is also reported that the development has negative impacts on the environment in such forms as mine pollution. Natural disasters also constitute a high risk to the people's lives. As such, Japan will strive to formulate and implement projects, which, across sectors, make due consideration to the environment.

#### (6) Relations with emerging donors (non-DAC members)

It is not only the members of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) who are actively involved in assistance to Bolivia, but emerging donors, including its neighboring countries, as well. The people of Bolivia have regarded highly the assistance from these emerging donors provided through ophthalmic treatment, literacy education, acceptance of Bolivian students, and provision of computers, tractors, and heavy equipments.

Although the Bolivian government is actively working to enhance the effects of assistance, with the Ministry of Development and Planning serving as the coordination agency, some donors are, instead of utilizing the framework, providing assistance in their own way. In particular, their assistance in the areas of education and medical care overlaps with priority areas of Japan's assistance to Bolivia. Therefore, Japan will need to keep in mind the course of development of emerging donors' assistance to Bolivia.

## Matrix of Japan's Country Assistance Program for Bolivia

