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Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation

Division in charge: Metals Strategy Department

Kando TEL: +81-44-520-8590

PR in charge: Public Relations Division, Administration Dept.

Uematsu TEL: +81-44-520-8732

### **Economic Development Seminar in Bolivia was jointly held by private and public sectors of Japan; for the purpose of strengthening relationships between Bolivia and Japan, including in lithium development in the country**

Japan Oil, Gas & Metals National Corporation (JOGMEC, President: Hirobumi Kawano) held "South-Central Altiplano Development Seminar" in La Paz of Bolivia, jointly with Japanese government (Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and Japanese Embassy in Bolivia) and Ministry of Development Planning of Bolivia, on 24th and 25th February 2010.

This seminar was held for the purpose of enhancing mutual understanding between Bolivia and Japan and establishing reciprocal relations, with the aim of economical development in the south of Bolivia where Salar de Uyuni is located. The world's largest lithium reserves are expected in the salt lake.

In this seminar over 200 persons participated in total: approximately 130 attendants from Bolivia including Mr. Caro Minister of Development Planning; 70 persons in total from Japan, including Mr. Takahashi Parliamentary Secretary for Economy, Trade and Industry; Japanese Ambassador in Bolivia Mr. Tanaka; Executive Director, Member of the Board Mr. Moriwaki from JOGMEC; representatives of Sumitomo Corporation and Mitsubishi Corporation.

Parliamentary Secretary Mr. Takahashi introduced possible cooperation in the keynote speech and bilateral talks with Bolivian government representatives including Mr. Coca, Minister of Executive Office of the President. Mr. Takahashi spoke of various cooperation not only in lithium resources development; but also cooperation for a geothermal generation project; a digital terrestrial broadcasting in Japanese system; human resource development related to a lithium industry by Japanese universities; development of animal hair business.

JOGMEC Executive Director, Member of the Board Mr. Moriwaki expressed their overall support for promoting Bolivian mining industry through technological assistance in development of lead, zinc, and tin, along with lithium. Representatives of both governments also extended their expectation for enhancing partnerships between two countries in lithium development.

JOGMEC expects that, development of mineral resources such as lithium, should be progressed in win-win relationships, obtaining Bolivia's understanding and cooperation, through support activities not only in resource development field, but also for the regional development and creation of new industries, based on all Japanese structure. JOGMEC is going to take a major role in this structure.