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U.S. Government Delivers Infrastructure Projects and Trains Indigenous Youth in the Tropics of Cochabamba

As a part of its comprehensive development cooperation in the Tropics of Cochabamba, the United States government delivered several infrastructure projects to provide better living conditions to indigenous communities in region, particularly to the members of the Yuki ethnic group.

Additionally, a group of indigenous students graduated from a vocational training program, offered by the U.S. Government Agency for International Development (USAID) designed to provide them with the technical skills needed to work in small business in the Chapare and Cochabamba.

USAID's Director in Bolivia Michael Yates attended the graduation ceremony in Chimoré (Chapare) where more than 250 indigenous youth received vocational training. These indigenous youth are currently interning in businesses.

"This graduation ceremony demonstrates tangible results from a combination of personal and community effort. The government of the United States is always willing to support Bolivians who look for new opportunities to grow with dignity and effort," remarked Yates to the graduating students.

After this event, USAID's Director journeyed to the Yuki territory aboard a boat to deliver a potable water system, medical facilities and a first aid post to improve the health of 52 Yuki families who live in Bia Recuate. At the end of the day, infrastructure works were delivered in Puerto Villarroel, including a new school to benefit the children of 11 indigenous communities in the surrounding area.

The combined cost of the cooperation projects delivered today is valued at over \$300,000. These projects are the result of coordinated efforts by the U.S. and Bolivian governments to support the dignified livelihoods of residents that abandon coca leaf cultivation in the Tropics of Cochabamba.

These projects are part of a comprehensive U.S. cooperation program to Bolivia estimated at more than \$90 million per year. This cooperation is provided to create better living conditions for Bolivians, to develop economic opportunities and greater incomes, as well as to support social inclusion and citizen participation processes.