

SOUTH AFRICAN TOURISM

11 September, 2009

South African Tourism congratulates the success of Japanese tree planters in South Africa

South African Tourism congratulates the Japanese volunteer tree planting organisation, “WONDERFUL WORLD SHOKURIN FESTIVAL”

(<http://www.wonderful-world-syokurin.org/>)

which returned to Japan on 8th September after planting trees and establishing food gardens in South Africa.



This is the first time that Wonderful World Shokurin Festival extended its volunteer work to South Africa. 13 Japanese participants joined the tour, including university students and staff as well as Japanese band member Funkist (<http://funkist.info/>) who performed live while touring South Africa. The group visited various places around SOWETO, including children's homes in Southgate, Lenasia South and Farm School in Muldersdrift where they helped plant trees and establish food gardens.

Furthermore, at the invitation of Sun International, the group visited one of the top resorts in the country, Sun City, enjoying a safari at Pilannesburg Game Reserve whilst helping Sun City's own eco-project plant more trees. Whilst at Sun City the group assisted the nearby Bafokeng community develop a food garden with the assistance of the Bafokeng Queen Mother.

During its 9 day South African tour the group of volunteers, working with the Johannesburg based greening organisation “FOOD & TREES FOR AFRICA” (<http://www.trees.co.za/>), planted approximately 3000 trees and developed many food gardens.

Bradley Brouwer, Country Manager of South African Tourism Japan, says that “this was a great initiative by the Japanese and South African volunteers on this trip.” Brouwer was also grateful to Boris Bornman and Jennifer Beatie from Sun International for so generously



supporting this programme as well as to Jeuness Park who originally informed him of the existence of this programme in South Africa.

Ends

Issued by Planet Marketing Communications on behalf of South African Tourism
For further information contact:

Eri Hirose

Email: hirose@planetmc.co.jp

Tel: +81 3 5148 1611

Fax: +81 3 5148 1615

Stuart Meyer

Email: Stuart.Meyer@fd.com

Tel: +27 11 214 2408

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South African Tourism is the national tourism agency responsible for the marketing of South Africa as a preferred tourist destination. It is headed up by Ms. Didi Moyle, Acting Chief Executive Officer and Chief Operating Officer.
