

SOUTH AFRICAN TOURISM

25 August, 2009

South African Tourism welcomes Japanese tree planters to South Africa

29 August 2009 sees South African Tourism welcome a group of 120 Japanese tree planters in South Africa.

A Japanese volunteer tree planting organisation, “WONDERFUL WORLD SHOKURIN FESTIVAL” (<http://www.wonderful-world-syokurin.org/>) will be teaming up with a South African based greening organisation, “FOOD & TREES FOR AFRICA” (<http://www.trees.co.za/>) based in Johannesburg.

The Japanese volunteers will spend 10 days in the country working with their South African counterparts to plant trees and establish food gardens in townships. Their aim is to improve the quality of life of disadvantaged communities while promoting an awareness of climate change, food security and sustainable natural resource management.

While in South Africa, the volunteers will also be hosted to a traditional South African braai, enjoy South African music, experience a real safari and visit Sun City, in the North West Province.

The project, initiated by a volunteer organisation called Shokurin (meaning "reforestation" in Japanese) has, since 2005, recruited 500 Japanese volunteers to plant 300 000 trees in China, Brazil and Japan. This is the first time that Shokurin volunteers will be planting trees in South Africa.

"Apart from making a contribution to greening and feeding South Africa it will also serve to highlight South Africa's development challenges, wonderful people, incredible landscape and cultural offerings to these visitors and their audiences back home in Japan" says Bradley Brouwer, South African Tourism country manager in Japan.

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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.

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