

14, October, 2011  
Embassy of Japan in South Africa

### Ceremony of planting cherry blossom trees at DIRCO

International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) Deputy Minister Marius Fransman and the Japanese Ambassador to South Africa, His Excellency Toshiro Ozawa attended a ceremony of planting cherry blossom trees at DIRCO on October 12, 2011.

The project of planting 100 cherry blossom trees in South Africa is one of the legacy projects for celebrating the Centennial Year of relations between Japan and South Africa in 2010. The growth of these cherry blossom trees in this land will be a symbol of strengthening relations between Japan and South Africa.

The Embassy of Japan donated 20 cherry blossom trees to DIRCO. A total of 100 cherry blossom trees have been donated to the organizations and companies which have close relationships with Japan, such as the Botanical Gardens in Johannesburg, the Rescue SA Office in Kempton Park, the University of Pretoria and Tshwane University of Technology.

These cherry blossoms are expected to bloom from next spring (September or later, 2012), which will create a beautiful atmosphere with their colour contrast with Jacaranda blossoms.

