

Japan dispatches science and technology mission of 26 scientists and government officials to South Africa for promotion of further cooperation and academic exchange

A High-level Science and Technology Research Mission will visit South Africa from 21 to 25 February 2009. The mission consists of 26 scientists and Government officials engaging in innovative areas such as space science, astronomy, nanotechnology, and climate change. South Africa is the only country in Africa that Japan cooperates through a bilateral Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement.

The Mission will hold the "3rd Joint Science and Technology Committee" with the Department of Science and Technology (DST) on 25th February to discuss on a framework for future partnership and joint research programmes between Japan and South Africa.

The Mission will also have discussions with scientists and Government officials from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) on 23rd February at the "SADC-JAPAN Seminar on Science, Technology and Innovation" at the Southern Sun Hotel in Pretoria.

The Mission is expected to visit 6 other countries in Africa; Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Ghana, and Botswana. Similar regional seminars are planned to be held in collaboration with other key African organisations such as EAC (East African Community) and ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States).

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