

## **Japanese expertise for SADC business**

The Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) has partnered with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the NEPAD Secretariat in a new effort that will deliver financial management and administration skills to state institutions tasked with development in countries of the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

The DBSA, representing the Government of South Africa, will deliver the programme through its new Vulindlela Academy, with the support of the technical cooperation of JICA.

This new partnership is in support of NEPAD's governance and public administration programme.

Discussions on the need for adequate public financial management capacity were initiated in 2004 by JICA, DBSA and the NEPAD Secretariat after a number of research studies undertaken in the SADC region had indicated that lack of public finance management skills was a major capacity constraint for socio-economic development in the region.

These skills are seen as critical in state institutions in order to promote sustainable development and poverty reduction through economic growth in the underdeveloped countries in the region.

The programme, which will include delegates from Sudan and Rwanda, will be held at the DBSA Vulindlela Academy premises based in Midrand, South Africa, until 2009. It will be under JICA's Third Country Training Programme with a JICA commitment of R3-million for the five years.

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