

---

# Japan to help private sector in Africa

By Damas Kanyahwa

JAPAN is planning to establish assistance initiative for Africa to promote small and medium-scale enterprises.

It will also improve investment climate in the continent.

The Japanese parliamentary

secretary responsible for foreign affairs, Katsuyuki Kawai, said in Dar es Salaam recently that the move is part of his government's efforts to help Africa get on its feet and achieve full economic recovery.

To be called "Enhanced Private Sector Assistance for Af-

rica" initiative, the project would prove to be landmark of Japan's aid to Africa.

The initiative comes at the time when the Japanese government intends to increase the volume of its Official Development Assistance (ODA) to Africa by US\$10 billion in aggregate over

---

**Japan will increase its ODA to Africa by \$10bn in aggregate over the next 5 years**

---

the next five years.

He said Japan would increase its contribution to the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tu-

berculosis and Malaria by providing \$500 million in the coming years. Japan will also distribute 10 million long-lasting insect-

icide-treated bed nets by 2007.

Together with other G8 countries, Japan will cancel the debt of

Heavily Indebted Poor Countries, including Tanzania, by 100 per cent.

To underscore Japan's re-

newed commitment to lend a hand in the African course, Premier Junichiro Koizumi has pronounced this year as the "Year of Africa" in Japan.

"Japan used to be assisted by other countries during the Meiji Restoration in late 19th century and after the World War II. Nev-

ertheless, we have successfully grown into the second largest donor country in the world. I sincerely hope that Tanzania will one day grow into a donor nation itself.

However Japan will maintain its assistance to Tanzania till that day comes," said Kawai.