



## **UNDP Goodwill Ambassador and renowned TV personality visits Tanzania**

UNDP Goodwill Ambassador and famed Japanese actress, TV personality and writer, Ms. Misako Konno arrived yesterday in Tanzania on a five-day visit aimed at promoting the work of UNDP in the country.

As a Goodwill Ambassador, Ms. Konno promotes the work of UNDP's activities to the public in the host country. She also advances key messages of UNDP through TV/radio appearances, public lectures, essays and articles.

Ms. Misako Konno is one of five UNDP Goodwill Ambassadors representing every region round the globe and the longest-serving Ambassador. Ms. Konno was appointed as UNDP Global Goodwill Ambassador in October 1998. Since then she has visited Cambodia, Palestine, Bhutan, Ghana, Timor-Leste, Viet Nam and Mongolia.

During her visit to Tanzania, Ms. Konno and her delegation will visit a number of projects supported by UNDP and implemented by the Government of Tanzania as well as projects supported by Japan.

While in Tanzania, Ms. Konno will dedicate her visit to raise awareness of UNDP supported initiatives countrywide, which pertain to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for Tanzania. She will visit the Photovoltaic Solar scheme in Mwanza that includes a school and health center that uses the solar panels. In Dar es salaam, the Goodwill Ambassador will visit Temeke Hospital where she will review the support provided for HIV/AIDS services such as Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT). She will also visit an Orphans centre and the Dar es salaam Fish market, both initiatives that have been supported by the Government of Japan. Ms. Konno is also expected to hold discussions with senior government officials.

### **Ms. Konno's professional career**

Ms. Konno debuted as an actress in the 1979 movie "Ogon no Partner" (Golden Partner). Since then, she has appeared in various television programmes, movies and stage productions. She is also an active writer and winner of the 1995 Japan Writer's Prize (Women's Literary Category) for her science essay "Sora Tobu Hotate"(The Flying Scallop) and just published "La La La Shinzentaishi (Goodwill Ambassador)" in commemoration of her tenth anniversary as Goodwill Ambassador. In 2008, she played one of the lead characters in a famous play "Sasame Yuki (The Makioka Sisters)" and "Otto to Yobareta Otoko" and her performance has been highly praised.