

Japanese firms to stage road technology show

BY NATION
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Japanese companies want to steal the show before the world descends into Kenya for the Global Entrepreneurship Summit that kicks off on Friday next week.

Over 30 Japanese construction companies will hold an infrastructure conference in Nairobi this week to market infrastructure technology ahead of the summit that is being graced by the US President Barack Obama.

Over 50 Kenyan companies will participate in the conference in Nairobi that will showcase the Nairobi Western Ringroad that was constructed through a grant aid of Sh2.7 billion from Japan.

"A delegation of Japanese companies will showcase technological solutions in construction," Japan Information and Culture Centre Director Yasunori Nakamura said on Friday.

Mr Nakamura said while quality infrastructure was a subject of debate, Japan infrastructure works have been durable, cost effective, safe and sustainable.

The country has exported safety standards to Kenya in the design of the Nairobi Western Ringroad includ-

ing 20-metre deceleration marks before bumps.

They have also installed solar-powered 'cat's eyes' (lights that blink at night) to indicate sections of the roads with bumps and where a motorist is approaching a roundabout.

"Japan will bring in 500 more 'cat's eyes' to increase the level of safety at the six intersections and 15 bumps on the 8.3 kilometre road," Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Road Maintenance Chief Advisor Hiroshi Tsujino said.

500

Number of 'cat's eyes' to be installed near bumps and roundabouts to warn motorists and boost safety

Japan, whose long presence in the country has gone unnoticed, is becoming bullish to edge out Chinese dominance in Kenya.

It is undertaking three projects at Olkaria Geothermal power plants using rust proof pipes made from an alloy invented in Japan.

Mr Kenji Yokota, a JICA representative says Japan was eyeing opportunity in Nairobi's transport industry, having developed the City's master plan.

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