



amanojaku

<http://amanojaku.info>

媒体名: The Daily Yomiuri

日付: 2006年7月2日

## Wadaiko drummer snaring attention in Brazil

The Yomiuri Shimbun

Yoichi Watanabe, leader of Taikoshudan Amano Jaku, a traditional Japanese drumming group, will teach Japanese-Brazilian youths how to drum during a monthlong tour of Brazil this month.

Watanabe, 47, a wadaiko drummer based in Tokyo, said, "I want to teach young people about Japan's soul beats."

Watanabe's trip to Brazil will be his third. As with his previous visits, he was invited by the Brazilian Association of Taiko, which was established in 2003, to instruct youths on performing wadaiko.

Watanabe will hold teaching sessions for students of all ages in Jundiai, Maringa and Sao Paulo.

In Brazil, various events to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the settlement of Japanese immigrants are planned for 2008.

The association and other organizations related to Japanese-Brazilian communities plan to hold a performance of wadaiko by a large number of young drummers. This is one reason Watanabe is enthusiastic about teaching in the country.

Watanabe said a wadaiko performer needs to have "spirit, technique, physical power—and manners."

On his previous trips, Watanabe taught third- and fourth-generation Japanese-Brazilian youths who did not know traditional Japanese etiquette.

He taught the youths how to prepare tools, bow, sit on the floor Japanese-style and hold drumsticks.

This time, while instructing students,



Courtesy of Yoichi Watanabe

**A student practices wadaiko drumming at one of Yoichi Watanabe's workshops in Brazil last year.**

Watanabe will rate them according to the Nippon Taiko Foundation's certification test to ensure they are prepared for the 100th anniversary event.

"For the audience to feel soul beats, a performer must be part of the drum," Watanabe said.

A performer should not simply pound on the drum to make sounds, but should know other important factors, such as breathing, to control the rhythm, he said.

During his previous sessions in Brazil, Watanabe also taught youths about the exercises needed to train their muscles.

"All the students try very hard," he said, adding he thinks this is because "they may be searching for their roots as Japanese-Brazilians."

In Brazil, wadaiko drums are expensive and hard to purchase. The drums are hand-made, using vinyl chloride tubes covered with cowhide.

(有)太鼓集団天邪鬼

〒177-0035 東京都練馬区南田中 5-9-11-101

TEL:03-3904-1745 FAX:03-3904-9434 E-Mail: taikoshudan@amanojaku.info

<http://amanojaku.info>