



**amanojaku**

<http://amanojaku.info>

August 2, 2006

For Immediate Release

**Torch of Japanese Tradition Arrives in Brazil**  
**Through Lessons By Yoichi Watanabe**  
**Nippon Taiko Foundation First Level Taiko Instructor, Amanojaku Leader**

---

(TOKYO) – Yoichi Watanabe, master drummer and founder of Taiko Shudan Amanojaku, one of the world's most respected taiko (Japanese drum) ensembles, has returned from a month-long Nippon Taiko Foundation-organized teaching mission in Brazil, where the art form is gaining tremendous popularity, especially among Japanese-Brazilian children.

“I think I've passed the torch of Japanese tradition to the people of Brazil” said Mr. Watanabe, who led Nippon Taiko Foundation Seminars from July 5 – 26<sup>th</sup> in Jundiai, Londrina, and Ribeirao Preto. Over 400 participants, mostly children, took part in the Seminars on the history of taiko, the proper way to wear traditional Japanese attire, and rhythms ranging from the very basic to professional quality compositions. Mr. Watanabe's efforts transcended cultural and language barriers to achieve communication through the sharing of what he calls “Soul Beat.”

Mr. Watanabe, well-known for his teachings and performances, is a First Level Taiko Instructor certified by the Nippon Taiko Foundation, as well as a Special Advisor for Cultural Exchange appointed by the Japanese government. A pioneer in the taiko world, Mr. Watanabe has performed throughout the world, and has worked with Living National Treasure Hozan Yamamoto, jazz greats Akira Sakata and Nobuo Hara, as well as Hogaku percussionist Kiyohiko Semba.

**About Amanojaku – <http://amanojaku.info>**

Amanojaku's sound features a distinctive modernity combined with traditional techniques. The group has toured over 40 nations, including Thailand ('06), the United States ('05) and Brazil ('04).

CONTACT

**Amanojaku**

Isaku Kageyama

5-9-11-101 Minami Tanaka Nerima-ku Tokyo, Japan

TEL: +81 (0)3-3904-1745 FAX: +81 (0)3-3904-9434

E-Mail: [isaku.kageyama@amanojaku.info](mailto:isaku.kageyama@amanojaku.info)

<http://amanojaku.info>