



EXPO
2005 AICHI

PRESS RELEASE

May 26, 2005

Japan Day and Japan Week General Outline produced by Mr. Sadao Watanabe

**Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry
Japan Association for the 2005 World Exposition**

Japan Day

Part 1: Ceremony

Monday, June 6 13:00~

As the host country of Expo 2005, Japan will hold “Japan Day and Japan Week” events at Expo Dome. Japan Day Ceremony is an important event of the special week with being held at the first day, June 6. The Master of Ceremonies is Ms. Junko Kubo. Persons who will appear on stage to address the audience will include Mr. Sadao Watanabe General Superintendent of the Japan Pavilion Project and Ms. Keiko Takeshita, Chief Pavilion Director of the Japan Pavilions.

Part 2: Special Attraction

16:00~17:30

The message song “Share the World,” which was composed by Japan Pavilion Projects Director-General Sadao Watanabe, will be sung in beautiful and imposing harmony and to orchestral accompaniment by a large choir, which will include Mr. Sadao Watanabe and children from Japan and Brazil who have shared his musical activities.

Japan Week Part 1

Tuesday, June 7 13:30~14:45

Japan Week Selection – Tradition and Contemporary, with the theme “KANADERU”

This might be called a “historical scroll” (*rekishi emaki*) of Japanese music, or a “sound trip” from Aichi to the whole world, transcending time.

Reflecting the historical changes in Japan’s musical traditions, music which represents four periods – Nara/Heian, Kamakura/Muromachi, Edo, and Contemporary – will be performed using musical instruments of these four periods. The refined court

music of the Nara/Heian period, the strains of Noh music from the Kamakura/Muromachi period, and the gallant *nagauta* and *kabuki* music of the Edo period invite the listener into each of these earlier eras. And in session which represents “contemporary music,” all the performers together give, through music, a feeling of how the past and the present are connected and are fostering the future. Narrator will also be used to elucidate the historical tapestry of Japan’s music, explaining in an easy-to-understand way something of the background to each period and the origins of its musical expressions.

Japan Week Part 1

Wednesday, June 8 13:30~14:45

Japan Week Selection – Tradition and Contemporary, with the theme “ODORU”

Big gathering! Children’s dance festa.

Let’s tell the future! Japanese culture, children’s smiling faces.

With the sub-theme of “Japan’s four seasons,” children from all parts of Japan lively perform traditional dances that have long been performed in various regions of the country. There will also be short talks given by some of the children and other attractions to help the audience feel at one with the performers.

Japan Week Part 1

Thursday, June 9 13:30~14:45

Japan Week Selection – Tradition and Contemporary, with the theme “TATAKU”

Get to the heart of the Japanese drum!

Japanese drumming – tradition and today, and into the future.

Traditional Japanese drum(*taiko*) performances have long been cultivated in a variety of regions and cultural contexts, and continue to be popular today. Some of Japan’s best-known drum performers, together with children who will carry these traditions to new generations, will demonstrate a variety of performing styles from different regions of the country. They will show the true soul of the Japanese drum. And for the first time, there will be a sort of competition among groups who have in different years in the past won prizes in the Nippon Taiko Junior Competitions.

Japan Week Part 1

Friday, June 10 13:30~14:45

Japan Week Selection – Tradition and Contemporary, with the theme “TSUDOU”

Get together! Smiling faces and music.

This “Group” stage will represent a combination of “melody,” “dance,” “beat,” and “song,” and will use as a backdrop high-vision images of Japanese nature the smiling

faces of children. The performances will begin with lullabies, and will go on to festival drumming, *Bon* festival dances and *Awa* festival dances, showing a good deal of the history of “Japanese rhythms.” Since some of these Japanese rhythms have fused with Western “tap dance” rhythms, there will also be a Japanese tap dance performance. As a climax there will be “gospel music” performances by both Japanese singers and by singers from America, where this style of musical expression originated. Also, including performers from China, the host country of the next World Exposition, there will be a “Japan-America-China song session.” In such ways, Japan’s music is becoming better known in the wider world. This grand session, which will take place against the backdrop of a large “symbol tree” will also invite the active participation of the audience.

Japan Week Part 2

Tuesday, June 7 - Friday, June 10 18:00~19:30

Japan Week Sadao Watanabe’s Rhythm World, “Meet The EXPO”

Each evening, from June 7 to June 10, the stage will be taken by “Earth Rhythms,” produced by Sadao Watanabe. Using high-vision images on the backdrop, rhythm groups from many countries will introduce a “sound market” with full-of-rhythm. Each session will feature original compositions, which will be sung and danced by Sadao Watanabe’s group of performers together with other groups of teenage performers from many countries around the world.

Performing groups:

The Hallelujah Company Jr. (USA), Olodun Junior (Brazil), Deeg (Senegal),

Toca Rufar(Portugal), Kirishima Kumen Taiko Haruka (Japan)

Open Rehearsals of Sadao Watanabe’s Rhythm World “Finale”

Saturday, June 11 14:00~16:00 18:00 ~19:30

Open Rehearsals of Sadao Watanabe’s Rhythm World “Finale” to be held on Sunday, June 12. They may be freely viewed by the public.

Last day of Japan Week

June 12 (Sunday) 14:00~16:00 18:00~19:30

Sadao Watanabe’s Rhythm World “Finale”

Sadao Watanabe, who had long thought about the question of whether there might be something he could do to assist the children who will carry forward the future of Japan, has for over ten years continued to instruct children from all over Japan in musical expression, and has shared much worthwhile time with them. And more recently this sort of enthusiasm has gone beyond Japan to the children of the world... Sadao Watanabe’s Rhythm World brings this warm enthusiasm together on stage. Not only children from Japan, but also from the United States, Brazil, Senegal, and Portugal, come together with Sadao Watanabe’s group to carry out a fitting grand event to top off Japan Week.

Performers from abroad:

The Hallelujah Company Jr. (USA), Olodun Junior (Brazil), Deeg (Senegal),
Toca Rufar (Portugal)

Performers from Japan:

Kirishima Kumon Taiko Hruka, Okazaki-shi Shōnenshōjo Gasshōdan (Okazaki City Children's Choir), Tochigi-ken Rhythm School, Escola Alegria de Saber Toyota-kō, Escola Alegria de Saber Hamamatsu-kō, Matsubokkuri Shōnenshōjo Gasshōdan (The Pine Cone Children's Chorus), Gasshōdan "Sora", Sugar & Spice "Body Language"