



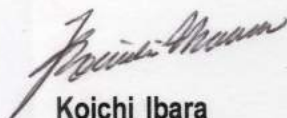
BRANCH OFFICE IN CAIRNS
CONSULATE-GENERAL OF JAPAN AT BRISBANE

To whom it may concern,

Mr. Tatsuo Sekiguchi of OSUWA-DAIKO GROUP

This year celebrates the 30th anniversary commemorating the signing of the Basic Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between Australia and Japan. At a summit meeting held in Tokyo in 2003, the Prime Ministers of both countries reached an agreement to make 2006 the Australia Japan Year of Exchange in order to further enhance relations between the two countries. In accordance with this agreement, during 2006 a range of Exchange events have been organized to take place in various parts throughout both countries.

In the city of Cairns, a series of Exchange events have also been successfully held, the largest one being the Japan Festival, which was organized by the Australia Japan Society, and ran from May 14 through 28. On May 27 one of the Festival's attractions took place at the Matsumoto Karate Academy, where Mr. Tatsuo Sekiguchi gave an excellent performance of Osuwa Daiko (one of the traditional Japanese drums) as well as a powerful demonstration of Karate. Both presentations were greatly admired and warmly applauded by all of the appreciative spectators. On May 28, the last day of the Festival, at the Tanks Arts Center in Cairns, Mr. Sekiguchi once again performed his impressive displays which equally fascinated the large number of people present at the venue. Mr. Sekiguchi contributed a great deal, not only to the success of the Japan Festival, but also to the promotion of understanding among the people of Cairns towards the traditional Japanese culture, through his memorable performances. His wholehearted endeavours during the Japan Festival are certainly most appreciated.



Koichi Ibara

Consul

Karate beat

May 17, 2006

AS part of the Japan Week celebrations, Matsumoto Karate Academy will perform a taiko drum demonstration featuring renowned taiko drummer Mr Sekiguchi from Sydney.

The event on Tuesday, May 27 will include a demonstration of karate as performed to the taiko drum, a Japanese sword demonstration by Mr Matsumoto and a display by Mr Sekiguchi featuring ancient Japanese swords – the oldest being 750 years old.

Mr Sekiguchi has more than 20 years training in the tradition of the taiko drum as well as being a black belt in Kei Shin Kan Karate Do and traditional weapons.

The demonstrations are free and open to the public but as the venue has a limited capacity of only 300, tickets are being released. Call the academy on phone 4033 1988 for a ticket.

