

## Cultural Projects in Rio de Janeiro TOKYO Caravan, TURN, and TOHOKU & TOKYO in RIO

Since FY2015, Tokyo Metropolitan Government and Arts Council Tokyo have been engaged in the Leading Project, which serves as the lead-in to the Cultural Program of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games. This year, with the eyes of the world focused on the Rio de Janeiro 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games, we will hold three programs in Rio de Janeiro itself during the Games.

### 1. TOKYO Caravan

Devised by playwright, director, and actor Hideki Noda, this is a new cultural movement based on the concept of engendering new forms of expression through the mingling of cultures brought about by encounters between a diverse array of artists. In the summer of 2016, during the Olympic Games, talented Japanese artists from a variety of genres will encounter local artists in Rio de Janeiro, holding culture “inter-mixture” workshops and creating works that transcend national borders, languages, cultures, and their respective genres. Then, after departing from Brazil, TOKYO Caravan will pop up in Fukushima, Miyagi and a range of other locations within Japan and overseas, presenting a “Grand Cultural Circus” and offering an ongoing program of exchange that goes beyond national and regional boundaries.

#### Message from Hideki Noda

I'd like you to compare the Japanese characters 文 and 交. Even if you do not know Japanese, I believe you can see that both characters look similar.

The character 文 is the “bun” from bunka (culture), and 交 is the “kou” from koutsu (traffic).

The TOKYO Caravan is a “Culture Brigade” or “Culture Circus” that was created from the belief that “Culture is traffic itself.” It's the belief that as we travel to and from various places, culture continues to live on. Therefore, for this event we will be making appearances in Rio de Janeiro at the height of the Olympics, having a little 交 (interaction) with artists from Rio, and bring back to Tokyo and to Japan the new things that are born from these encounters. It's quite possible that while this is happening, before you even notice it, a new energetic “culture” will come to life. To me, “culture” is exactly that kind of living thing.

The Tokyo Ska Paradise Orchestra and other physically talented performers have come here to Rio from Tokyo for this event.

Rio and Tokyo are located on opposite sides of the earth. So if you dig straight down, you'll probably get there. Based on this childhood fancy, the theme of “digging for the other side of the globe,” artists from Tokyo on the opposite side of the earth will encounter artists from here in Rio. Who knows what will be born from it?

That's what TOKYO Caravan is aiming for happening.

#### ■ Outline of TOKYO Caravan at CULTURE & TOKYO in RIO

Date: Thursday, August 18 - Sunday, August 21, 2016

- Venue: Paço Imperial, Praça Quinze de Novembro, 48 - Centro, Rio de Janeiro
- Entry: Free
- Supervisor: Hideki Noda (playwright, director, actor; Artistic Director of the Tokyo Metropolitan Theatre)
- Participants: Tokyo Ska Paradise Orchestra (musicians), Reijiro Tsumura (Noh actor),  
Shigehiro Ide (choreographer), Marihiko Hara (musician), Tokyo Caravan Ensemble
- Participating Brazilian artists: Arto Lindsay (musician) and other artists living in Brazil brought together by Arto Lindsay

## 2. TURN

Supervised by artist Katsuhiko Hibino, TURN is an art project to creatively promote meeting opportunities with a diverse array of people and the relationships among them.

At CULTURE & TOKYO in RIO, artists based in Japan and Brazil will reside in São Paulo and visit welfare facilities, using traditional crafts as the basis for the Exchange Program conducted over the course of day-to-day interaction with the residents of those facilities. As well as exhibiting the arts works produced as result of the Exchange Program at Paço Imperial, we will hold workshops and conferences.

### Statement by Katsuhiko Hibino

Life creates shapes.

Trees create the shape of foliage, ants create the shape of anthills,  
the flow of a river creates the shape of the rocks,  
the wind creates the shape of sand ripples.

Likewise, the lives of people create shapes as well.

The shape of the region created by the people living there is unique to it.

When people become involved in the shape of a region that has been created over a long period of time, people can experience again the life force that flows within us.

A region connects us beyond time. Time connects us beyond a region.

### ■ Outline of TURN at CULTURE & TOKYO in RIO

- Date: 12:00-19:00, Thursday, August 18 - Wednesday, September 7, 2016
- Closed: Mondays
- Venue: Paço Imperial, Praça Quinze de Novembro, 48 - Centro, Rio de Janeiro
- Entry: Free
- Supervisor: Katsuhiko Hibino (artist; Dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts & Professor, Department of Intermedia Art, Tokyo University of the Arts)
- Participants × Partner Facilities × Themes:

<Participant>	<Partner Facility>	<Theme>
Jum Nakao (Artist, Brazil)	Assistência Social Dom José Gaspar "Ikoi-no-Sono"	Brazilian basketry (cestaria)
Tati Polo (Artist, Brazil)	Associação Pró-Excepcionais Kodomo-no-Sono	<i>Edo Tsumami</i>
Yasuaki Igarashi (Artist, Japan)	Projeto de Integração Pró-Autista (PIPA)	<i>Edo Kumihimo</i>
Sachie Takiguchi (Workshop Facilitator, Japan)	Associação Comunitária Monte Azul	Tohoku Paper Cut-out Decorations "Kiriko"

## 3. TOHOKU & TOKYO in RIO

This event is presented by Tokyo and the Tohoku area, affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake, to show their appreciation to the world and the reconstruction of the region, and will take place on the stage at Live Sites in Rio. Diverse attractions will be assembled in one place. From Tokyo: The traditional performing art of *Edo Tobi Kiyari* (workmen's chant) from the Edo period 1603-1867, which has been passed down to the present. From Tohoku: Folkloric *Iwaki Jangara Nenbutsu Odori* (ritual dance and prayers to Buddha, practiced in the Iwaki city area, Fukushima Pref.) is performed for purification and requiem of their land; and *Onikenbai* (demon sword dance, from Iwate Pref.). From Brazil: As a proof of friendship between Japan and Brazil, there will be performances from Brazil such as the Samba (by Megumi Kudo) and *Wadaiko* ("the art of Japanese drums", by *Wadaiko Sho*, a group of Japanese Brazilian drummers). In addition, there will be other presentations of current Japanese culture, including a freestyle football performance and cosplay events.

## Main Program

<Performers>	<Outline>
<i>Edo Tobi Kiyari</i> (EDO Firemanship Preservation Association, INC from Tokyo)	<i>Kiyari</i> were sung as chants and signs when a number of people were working together and focusing their strength on a task. As an art form unique to Tokyo, <i>Edo Tobi Kiyari</i> work songs have been designated as an intangible cultural asset.
<i>Iwaki Jangara Nenbutsu Odori</i> (Iwaki Jangara Saishikai from Fukushima, Tohoku)	The <i>Iwaki Jangara Nenbutsu Odori</i> is a traditional folk performance passed down through the generations, mainly in the Fukushima Prefecture city of Iwaki. During the <i>o-Bon</i> to commemorate the dead, groups of young people parade through each district, ringing bells and beating drums as a memorial at the homes of people who have lost a family member within a year. The Iwaki Jangara Saishikai is a combined team of seven <i>Jangara</i> groups.
<i>Onikenbai</i> (Oniyanagi Onikenbai from Iwate, Tohoku)	The “ <i>Onikenbai</i> (demon sword dance)” is a traditional folk performance from the Iwate Prefecture city of Kitakami. Performers wearing masks that look like a menacing demon (which actually represent Buddha) use swords and fans as they stamp their feet on the ground in this impressive dance. It is performed at <i>o-Bon</i> for the repose of the souls of the deceased.
Samba (Megumi Kudo)	This Japanese samba dancer has previously appeared as a Salgueiro passista (dancer) at Rio’s Carnival.
<i>Wadaiko</i> ( <i>Wadaiko Sho</i> from Brazil, a group of Japanese Brazilian drummers)	<i>Wadaiko Sho</i> is a <i>taiko</i> drumming team led by Brazil-based <i>taiko</i> drummer Setsuo Kinoshita. It is composed of Brazilians of Japanese descent.

### ■ Outline of TOHOKU & TOKYO in RIO

- Dates/Venues: Thursday, August 18, 2016; Rio 2016 Live Sites (Praça Mauá, Praça XV)  
Friday, August 19, 2016; Tokyo 2020 JAPAN HOUSE (Av. das Américas, 5300, Barra da Tijuca -Rio de Janeiro)
- Entry: Free

\*The content may change at any time without notice.

#### <Contact>

- TURN, TOHOKU & TOKYO in RIO E-mail : [press@tokyo-lp.jp](mailto:press@tokyo-lp.jp) / TEL : 090-8813-5644
- Tokyo Caravan E-mail : [press@tokyocaravan.jp](mailto:press@tokyocaravan.jp)

CULTURE



TOKYO