



## Toshiharu Sawada Shihan 7<sup>th</sup> Dan - Visits Wellington

*by Richard Halson*



Toshiharu Sawada Shihan guest instructor at the Wellington Seminar July 2008

There are times I believe fortune smiles on us all, the occasion of Sawada Sensei being our guest at the Wellington Aikido Club Dojo is just one of those times. After months of organisation and toil, Sensei came to Wellington for 3 days of sheer magic. Sensei arrived with both Mrs Sawada and Chie Naru to train with us.

As for the training, we all found Sensei to be incredible. The fluidity of movement and use of the centre and hips turned everything into sheer poetry. On the occasions I looked around the people to gauge their reaction, the most common sight to be read on their faces was amazement. Sensei continually showed us the link between weapons and taijutsu.

On one occasion Shigeeda Sensei was supposed to be translating Sensei turned to him to continue, Shigeeda Sensei was looking on in stunned admiration of the movement, and completely forgot to continue with the translation. Much to Sensei's amusement I may add, and ours. With Sensei appearing to enjoy himself, the tone was set for the seminar, and his grin as we all tried to emulate his movements was most infectious.

The final demonstration by Sensei and Aaron Sensei, of Kunitachi and Ken Tai Jo, all done at full speed left such an impression we are all still talking of it.

To all the Aikidoka who turned up to the seminar many thanks for a most enjoyable time and to Massey University, a huge thank you for the amazing hall, everyone was most impressed.