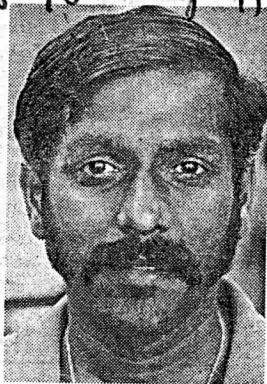


Steelband course launched in Japan

By SEAN NERO

A COURSE in the art of playing pan was recently launched in Japan. Part of the *Sukiyaki Meet the World '95* programme, the launch of the steelpan course took place at the public hall in the town of Fukuno.

The Sukiyaki project, organised by the community leaders of Fukuno, introduces music from different parts of the world to the people of Japan. Director of this pioneering pan workshop is 29-year-old



JIT SAMAROO

Jets leader

Amoco Renegades member Brian "Tiki" Brumant.

The project is being underwritten by Conversation Company Limited, the organisation responsible for introducing both Renegades and Samaroo Jets to Japan. Participants in the course are between the ages of 16-58 and come from all over the Toyama Prefecture.

At the end of the course a steelband will be formed and will be premiered at the gala Sukiyaki event. In his dissertation, Brumant told participants that the steelband originated

in Trinidad and Tobago, in the Caribbean. He also told them that pan is the national instrument of Trinidad and Tobago.

After giving an introduction on the history of the steel pan and teaching of playing technique, the participants were challenged to play a simple piece of music. Before striking the instrument, Brian light-heartedly advised students to "treat the instrument gentle, as you treat your sweetheart."

Brumant's practical

course for the general public ended last Friday. Another course commences on August 24, for primary and secondary school students. The best 18 participants will be selected from both courses to form the steelband.

Brumant's first graduates will perform on the eve of *Sukiyaki Meets the World '95*. Currently on tour in Japan, Renegades will also perform at the Sukiyaki event. This is Renegades third visit to Japan since 1992.