

Hofreis – Big Walk 2009

Concept Speech -English version-



*Ohayo gosahimasu,
Mister Kitani and dear guests.
Watashi wa Lolie des.
Watashi wa Nihongoga wakarimasen.*

*Congratulations with the 400 years anniversary of the Hirado Dutch trading house.
and, the 400 years anniversary of commercial relations between Japan and the
Netherlands.*

*As you know walkers do not like long speeches, but allow me to say some words before
we start the Big Walk.
The two countries have interchanged for 409 years.*

*Since several years it is my dream to take the challenge to walk the Edo sampu
starting from Hirado.*

*Most of the people in the Netherlands do not remember the Hirado factory because in
historical optic the Hirado factory was just for a very short period. Most Dutch people
do remember Deshima in Nagasaki, which is of younger history.*

*Therefore it is my team and me, a pleasure and an honor to stand on the ground where
400 years ago our ancestors started their first Edo sampu or as we call it in Dutch: de
Hofreis.*

*Walkers of the two countries will celebrate this anniversary by walking again De
Hofreis [Edo sanpu] from the remains of the Dutch Trading Post in Hirado in
Nagasaki Prefecture towards Edo-Nihonbashi in Tokyo.
But this time we are not traders,
we are Hofreis Big Walk goodwill ambassadors.*

*We start to walk the first step of de Hofreis Big Walk today.
And this step is the first step that will lead to the 800th anniversary.*

*As for all of you participating in the Big Walk, everybody is a goodwill ambassador.
Step by step we will go forward and deepen the interchange of the two countries and
will continue walking the 800th anniversary.*

And,

*until the 800th anniversary will come and in memory of the 400
years that passed,*

let's walk together here or on a walk in the future !!

Domo arrigato gozaimashita.

March 14, 2009

Hofreis - Big Walk 2009 main team

Lo Liebrechts

Hans van Wuijckhuise

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