

Expo 2005 Aichi, Japan

Invitation to “The Netherlands National Day”

~ **Joint Musical Performance under the theme of “Water”**

by Dutch, Portuguese and Japanese Singers ~

April 19th, 2005 (Tue) 14.00 – 15.30 hrs.

At “Expo Dome” Nagakute Site at Aichi Expo

Yashiro Aki will be there !!!

All visitors to the performance at the Expo Dome to receive a free live tulip from Holland !!!!!

On the occasion of its National Day, the Netherlands (Pavilion: Global Common 4, Nagakute Site) will hold a special event on Tuesday, April 19th.

Please note the time: 14.00 hrs, which differs from the standard format of a national day.

For The Netherlands National Day the date of April 19th was selected as it coincides with the day when the first Dutch ship arrived in Japan in the year 1600.

The cultural event celebrating the Netherlands' National Day features a musical showcase performed by three groups of singers from three countries. Apart from the Netherlands and Japan, Portugal will be represented. Portugal, like Holland, has a long maritime tradition and has equally longstanding historical ties with Japan.

The performances will be related to water, or the sea, in line with the main theme of the Dutch pavilion “Holland, land of water”. Dutch ballades, Portuguese fado and Japanese enka on this “water” theme will be sung by artists, representing the three countries involved.

There are amazing similarities between enka, fado and ballade, which all feature human frailty and the fatalistic nostalgia, so linked with the sea.

Representing The Netherlands, the 16 member a cappella group “**The Gents**” will perform.

Cristina Branco, a Portuguese singer who also already debuted in Japan, will perform “fado.” She will sing Portuguese renderings of texts by a famous Dutch poet. Representing Japan, the famous Enka singer **Yashiro Aki** will perform. She was especially selected because her songs very often have “water” and “the sea” as the main theme.

At the event, HRH The Prince of Orange, Crown Prince of the Netherlands and his spouse, HRH Princess Máxima of the Netherlands will be present.

Netherlands National Day Event Outline

Name: Netherlands National Day

Date: April 19th (Tue), 2005

Contents: Welcoming ceremony and Special Event

Venue: Expo Dome,

Time: **14.00 – 15.30 hrs**

Welcoming Ceremony, followed by musical performance by singers from Holland, Portugal and Japan with “Water” as the common theme.

Outline of the Netherlands Pavilion

Official Name: “The Pavilion of the Netherlands, Expo 2005 Aichi, Japan”

Location: Global common 4, Nagakute City

Period: March 25th ~ September 25th (185 days)

Commissioned by: Ministry of Foreign Affairs (www.minbuzan.nl)

Ministry of Economic Affairs (www.minez.nl)

Executed by: The Netherlands Agency for International Business and Cooperation (EVD)
Consulate-General of the Netherlands Osaka (www.oranda-cg.or.jp)

Official Website: www.holland-expo2005.com

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