

Speech at the Perth Japan Festival 2016

大塚健洋

播磨の黒田武士顕彰会 参上!

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for inviting us to the Perth Japan Festival 2016. We are very honoured to have this opportunity to introduce “Kuroda Bushi,” a famous feudal warriors group in Japanese history to you today.

Let me introduce myself first. My name is Takehiro Otsuka. I’m a professor of Himeji Dokkyo University in Japan but also one of the leaders of Kuroda Bushi Honouring Association in Hyogo, which was founded in 2005 to honour a very famous Japanese Samurai, Kuroda Kanbei, and his valiant staff.

Kanbei was born at Himeji Castle in Hyogo and served as a chief staff officer of Toyotomi Hideyoshi, who unified the country in the 16th century. Kanbei is not only known as an unparalleled strategic genius but also as a merciful Christian feudal lord with baptismal name of Don Simeon.

To honour Kanbei, we parade every year at the Himeji Castle Festival in Japan, with students of Himeji Dokkyo University, wearing this old Samurai costume, and perform traditional Japanese dances and songs. Today we are very happy to show you a part of our performance here. Himeji Dokkyo University fortunately has two partner universities here in Perth, Murdoch University and Edith Cowan University. We are very grateful that some of the former and current exchange students are so kind to be here to support us.

Now please enjoy our performance today.

Thank you.