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32nd ARC Tokyo Special Edition

ARC Tokyo Schedule Set

The 32nd Asian Racing Conference (ARC) will be held in Tokyo this year from Sunday, November the 9th to Friday the 14th. The venue will be the Hotel New Otani in downtown Tokyo's Chiyoda Ward. Japan has hosted the first ARC in 1960, the 8th in 1969, and the 18th in 1985. This will be the fourth time and it has been 23 years since the previous hosted event.

This year's slogan is "new horizons for racing," selected in connection with the previous session in Dubai, "racing without borders," identifying the goal of further growth in international horseracing, coupled with Japan's isolated geographical environment.



In conjunction with ARC Tokyo, Optional Tour to Hokkaido Breeding Establishments will be held.



The Hotel New Otani is the main venue for the ARC Tokyo.



Fuyo Room in the Hotel New Otani for Opening Ceremony of ARC Tokyo.

Historically, the ARC was established in 1960 jointly by the then Rangoon Turf Club and JRA to advocate the goals of: 1. Promoting friendship and mutual understanding among member nations, 2. Promoting racing and breeding, 3. Shared strategies for developing horse racing, 4. Establishing exchanges of information in all areas, 5. The promotion and support of international racing. The first ARC was held in Tokyo in May of that year, with 69 participants from seven countries and since that inaugural meeting, member countries have taken turns as host every 18 to 24 months.

ARC participation has increased each time and 935 participants from 31 countries attended the previous session in Dubai. A similar level of participation is expected this time at the ARC Tokyo and there is no mistaking that it is rapidly becoming the world's largest and most important international horseracing conference.

JRA and JAIR hope to hold a greatly significant and successful ARC Tokyo. It will also be this year's main event for Japan's racing industry as a whole and at the same time fully promote the new Autumn

International series. This series was just established this year and features the G1 Queen Elizabeth II Commemorative Cup, the Mile Championship, the Japan Cup, the Japan Cup Dirt, and the World Super Jockeys Series.

The ARC Tokyo's schedule features the ARC Trophy Race on Sunday, November the 9th at Tokyo Racecourse. At the same time, the Asia Week events that are normally alternated between Chukyo and Kokura Racecourses, will be held this year at Tokyo Racecourse in conjunction with the ARC Tokyo. Further, as a welcome to member countries and territories, it has been decided that the regular races run at the Tokyo Racecourse on Saturday, November the 8th and Sunday, the 9th, will be trophy events named for the member countries and territories.

Along with three specialized sessions to be held on Monday, November 10, the ARF Grading and Race Planning Committees, The Stewards, and the Asian Stud Book Committee meetings, the Executive Council meeting and the ARF Management Committee meeting, in which all member

countries and territory representatives participate, will be held at the hotel venue.

The opening ceremony and welcome dinner will be held at the Hotel New Otani in the evening and with the estimated 700 overseas participants expected at the welcome dinner, it will be a gala affair.

Nine working sessions in all will be held over the three days from Tuesday to Thursday, including six plenary sessions: Business, Marketing and Customer Experience, Racing, Informing the Customer, Wagering, and Sales and Breeding. There will be three committee meetings: Developing racing in the ARF region, Equine Veterinary Science and Tracks and Rails. One important characteristic of this ARC will be the large number of presentations from various fields inside and outside of racing circles compared to those in conferences held up to now. Previously, presentations were mainly given by racing authorities about affairs within the respective regions. As an example, at the first plenary session on business on Tuesday, November the 11, a distinguished speaker is scheduled to discuss the prospective business and lifestyle environments around horse racing in the future and his objective viewpoints and novel opinions are expected to be highly informative.

Further, various presentations from countries such as South Korea, Qatar, Turkey and Vietnam where it is thought that racing will grow quite significantly from here on, are also scheduled on Tuesday during the meeting on Developing Racing in the ARF region. The ARC from its establish-



Tokyo City View in the Roppongi Hills is the venue for Closing Ceremony & Farewell Dinner of ARC Tokyo.

ment, has had the goal of “encouraging and developing mutually beneficial objectives and strategies between racing organizations without discrimination to aid the development of horseracing.” It is certain that these presentations by emerging racing nations will be of great significance and have a great impact on the ARC’s future growth.

The ARC Organizing Committee is chaired by JRA president and CEO, Dr. Kenji Tsuchikawa, D.V.M. It is the sole purpose of this committee to set up and stage the ARC Tokyo. The six Planning and Implementation teams have liaised closely

with JAIR and other racing organizations, as well as representatives throughout Japanese racing circles to carry out all preparations to make the ARC Tokyo a deeply significant conference for all participants.

The conference is upon us and Japan endeavors to ensure this conference’s success, while doing its utmost so that horseracing grows even greater throughout Asia and the rest of the racing world. We also truly hope that this conference will additionally promote more and deeper cross-border interaction and further strengthen the great ties of friendship among Asian racing nations.



As one of other events in ARC Tokyo, Evening Race Meeting will be held at the Ohi racecourse.



ARC Trophy Race will be held at the Tokyo Racecourse.

32nd ARC Tokyo Special Edition

Participants from Australia, Korea, Malaysia, and Singapore took part in 2008 ARF Special Study Program

A JAIR-sponsored ARF Special Study Program was held from September 17 to 29 this year. A participant from Korea's Busan Gyeongnam Race Park took part in the Starter's Training program. An official from the Perak Turf Club in Malaysia took part in the Track Maintenance program, and two racing officials, one from Racing and Wagering in Western Australia and the other from the Singapore Turf Club participated in the handicapping program. The details of the study program are described below.

1. Starter's Training Program (September 17-22)

The participant first observed various tasks related to starting gate testing at the south track of the JRA (Japan Racing Association) Miho Training Center on the morning of the first day. The participant then moved to its north track and observed the test that examines whether or not the racehorses will be certified as qualified to run in jump races. The participant moved to the training center's Race Control section that afternoon and had wide-ranging discussions with JRA starters based on examples of bad starts shown on



A Korean participant (left) listens eagerly to a JRA starter's explanation.

videos on race meeting days. The participant also viewed the racehorse start register, which contains records of the characteristics and testing histories of all the racehorses affiliated with the training center. He was able then to have a lively discussion with the JRA starters on matters unique to starting races in Japan.

While observing various tasks and trainings in relation to the barrier trials at the south track of the Training Center's on



A Korean participant (center, no hat) is shown how to open gates at Nakayama Racecourse.

his second and third day, the participant received a detailed explanation from the Japan Starting System Company on the latest model starting gate, the JSS30, from the employees of the company. Additionally, the participant toured racehorse veterinary hospital, the swimming pool and the uphill training track learn to more about Japan's unique training center system.

Then, on the fourth and fifth days, the participant visited JRA Nakayama Racecourse accompanying starters from early in the morning of the fourth day and observing all starts of the race meeting day in detail from the starting gate position. Observing the track from grandstands of the racecourse on the fifth day, the participant learned what the starters and starting gate staff do at what point in time and how the starting gate is set up for each race.

2. Handicapping Training Program (September 24-29)

After receiving a lecture on Japanese horse racing at JAIR's office on the first day, the participants departed for the JRA Miho Training Center. The participants observed morning track workouts from early in the morning of the second day and then toured the racehorse veterinary hospital and other facilities in the training center. The participants studied the detailed procedure for race declarations for the races to be conducted that weekend. Also, they studied the Japanese racing program at the Racing Section that afternoon. On the same day, at the Race Control Section, the participants also learned about the variety of routine tasks JRA handicappers undertake on non-racing days.

The participants observed the many assignments of JRA handicappers at the Race Control Section during the morning of the third day and attended a question and answer session with the handicappers following that. They next moved to JRA Nakayama Racecourse to continue the study program on the fourth and fifth days. They were able to ask questions while observing the handicappers' work at the racecourse on race meeting days, in addition to observing races and various tasks related to races. Moreover, they toured most of the operational facilities of the racecourse to learn the use of these facilities and the equipment required to conduct fair racing.



A Malaysian participant (left) listens intently to the track manager's explanation at Miho Training Center's turf course.

3. Track Maintenance Training Program (September 24-29)

After visiting JAIR's office on the first day to study Japanese horse racing, the participant departed for JRA Miho Training Center. The participant observed morning track workouts from early in the morning of the second day and then toured the racehorse veterinary clinic and other facilities in the training center. Moving to the Track Maintenance Section in the afternoon, the participants learned about Poly-track and other artificial track surfaces and the various materials used in the underground track drainage system layers, while receiving explanations from section manager. After undergoing similar training the following day, the participant moved to JRA Nakayama Racecourse to continue the study program on the fourth and fifth days. The participant asked questions while observing track inspection, maintenance, and management tasks at the track and learning the kind of equipment is used for track upkeep in Japan. Moreover, they toured most of the operational facilities of the racecourse to learn the use of these facilities and the equipment required to conduct fair racing.

One of the main goals of the ARF Study Program is to develop international friendship among ARF member jurisdictions, mutual aid in conducting races, and the exchange information about racing. The ARF Study Program is a part of our effort to improve racing technology in the Asian region through the implementation of advanced, specialized training. At the same time, we want to promote international relations between all of our member jurisdictions, with the goal of contributing to more and better international horse racing. The Study Program was held by JRA from 1968 to 1992. The JAIR was established as a foundation under the JRA in 1993 and has continued the Study Program on behalf of JRA.



A participant from Australia (standing, right) and one from Singapore (standing, left) observe JRA handicappers at work at the Nakayama Racecourse on a race meeting day.

32nd ARC Tokyo Special Edition

Japanese and Horses

(Part 2, continued from August issue)

By Dr. Ryo Kusunose, D.V.M., Ph. D JRA Equine Research Institute



Haniwa (sixth century). Terra cotta horse figure. Many figures of saddled horses, as well as much indigenous tack, that has been unearthed in ruins from the end of the fourth century on. No earlier ones have been found. (Equine Museum of Japan Collection)

3. Characteristics of juvenile horses on Japanese farms

Japanese stable hands had the impression that the top foreign racehorses were more docile than Japanese horses 27 years ago when JRA initiated the Japan Cup. They began to wonder what exactly might be the reasons for Japanese racehorses' lack of calm?

The JRA Equine Research Institute conducted a survey in 1992 of how juvenile horses are handled at breeding farms for Japanese racehorses and the behavioral characteristics of those horses in efforts to uncover the reasons. Surveys were conducted at approximate two-month intervals covering 274 foals at 25 Hokkaido breeding farms.

The researchers in this survey scored how each juvenile horse reacted to actions such as: 1. Approaching the horse, 2. Touching its head, 3. Measuring its height and 4. Measuring its girth. The parameters of the system we used allowed for a maximum of 24 points if the horse stood absolutely still no matter what was done, to the lowest score of six points if the horse continually tried to get away from the researcher and needed to be coercively restrained with a nose twitch to make it stand still.

We analyzed the scores obtained in this way from various angles.

The most interesting of the results obtained from this research was that as the young horses matured large disparities appeared among the average scores from each farm. That is, when comparing the highest average scores at Farm A, where almost all the horses had the maximum of 24-point scores, there was not one horse during the same period with that score at Farm Y, which had the lowest average scores and all the horses at that farm always tried to flee from unfamiliar people.

The number of farm employees also had the greatest impact on horses' behavior at each individual farm. That is, horses became more compliant toward people at farms that had more handlers in comparison to the number of horses being raised.

Economic issues had more to do with skill, or the lack thereof, in training juvenile horses. That is, farms that had extra hands had more time to take care of the horses and this meant that the horses that exposed to this extra care, became meeker and more gentle.

Naturally, there were farms with docile horses despite a lack of employees also. On certain farms, only family members took care of the horses, but in these cases all the members of the families liked horses very much. They devoted an especially great amount of time in caring for young horses. We can probably say that finances and love are what is needed to train horses to be docile and gentle.



Battle of Yashima (1185), a screen depicting samurai in battle (Equine Museum of Japan collection)

4. History of horse breeding in Japan

The Japanese archipelago as viewed from Europe, is located in the Far East. The history of horse breeding in Japan is believed to stretch back around 1,600 years.

Japan is mentioned in a passage in Records of Three Kingdoms, a Chinese history text written at the end of the third century. It notes, "There are no cows, horses, tigers, or leopards (in Japan)." Actually, there also has been nothing unearthed from strata or archeological sites that would prove that horses existed at that time.

Horses are thought to have been first introduced to the Japanese archipelago as livestock from the Eurasian landmass. Horses, along with breeding and handling techniques, arrived, mainly via the Korean peninsula, around the end of the Fourth Century and the beginning of the Fifth. Many horse bones and much tack suddenly to appear in tombs and other archeological sites around this time.

As with the road followed by horses worldwide, the horses in Japan became important weapons for war. Those who wielded power in each era set up farms throughout Japan and raised horses to become chargers. There are also many episodes during those early eras involving horses on the battlefield.

Expertise in archery, while riding, was held as an essential art for samurai warriors. Also, those who excelled at riding horses became heroes.

Then we must ask that why does it appear that Japanese, who continued for so long to raise horses for use in battle, were unable to develop the expertise to train horses to have a docile character?

I believe that one factor in this might have been the historical interruptions in passing on expertise.

5. Why Japanese horses' behaved badly

Until Japan opened its gates to the outside world during the Meiji restoration it was an extremely peaceful country, with no wars during the approximately 250 years under the Tokugawa Shogunate. The Samurai ruled Japan and of course, they bred horses. However, horses were not used in battle because there was no war for that 250 years. One school of thought is that if horses had actually been used in war, methods to teach them to be more submissively and obey humans' commands would have been developed because riding a horse that will misbehave could be more dangerous than combat.



Edo era horse fair, by Utagawa Hiroshige. (1833, Equine Museum of Japan collection)

All the foreigners that came to Japan around the time of the Meiji restoration had the impression that Japanese horses were all unruly. It might be that methods for training horses to be obedient were lost because the peace was maintained during the previous 250 years.

Prior to the Second World War, around 1.5 million horses were being bred in Japan (there are around 100,000 today). Many horses were transported to China and Southeast Asia as military

horses and used in battle, or to transport weapons. The techniques for training of horses during that period are believed to have been rigorous. However, after Japan lost the war in 1945, the military horses vanished. Japanese Horse racing had already started up again in 1946, but there were not enough racehorses. At that point, many farmers, who had only grown rice, or raised cattle up to that time, began to breed horses.

As a result, a period during which horses could be sold as racehorses so long as they were healthy and without training them as they raised, continued for a period of time. Obviously, there was no way that horses would be well trained well under such conditions.

There are those that believe that the interruption in the traditional expertise in training military warhorses that came to an end along with the war, may have contributed greatly to Japanese racehorses not being as calm as foreign horses when the Japan Cup was first established 27 years ago.

6. Praise at Select Sale

The racing ability of racehorses in Japan has improved markedly compared to 27 years ago and at the same time, they are more calm, obedient horses. It is thought that techniques for training racehorses advanced because JRA expertise has gained wide acceptance and also due to more efforts by the breeders and a greater financial leeway.

Japan's leading breeder, the Shadai Group in 1998, took the lead in launching racehorse auctions known as Select Sale, mainly offering Thoroughbred foals. Not only Japanese

buyers, but also many foreign buyers participate in these auctions that are widely covered by journalists because of the many Thoroughbreds with superior pedigrees that are offered.

Something that should be particularly noted about these sales is not just the purchase prices, but docile and calm nature of the foals when they enter the ring. All the foals stand in dignified manner beside their mothers. Before auctions the sellers train their young horses thoroughly in how to stand quietly, so that they can show well and, hopefully, be sold for a high price.



Select Sale, where all colts and fillies stand by their mothers calmly and in a dignified manner.

A British horseracing journalist actually sent a dispatch back to a racing magazine in his the home country that said, "How calm the foals are when they enter the ring! How magnificent Japanese training techniques!!"

If you have financial leeway and strong affection it is easily possible to train gentle horses. It is not a case that Japanese were just poor at handling animals because they were an agrarian people.

Sprinters Stakes - Sleepless Night stages dramatic victory, sets sights on Hong Kong Sprint

By Shintaro Kano



Sleepless Night put the Sprinters Stakes field to rest as the No. 1 choice won the sixth leg of the Global Sprint Challenge with her fifth consecutive victory on Sunday afternoon at Nakayama Racecourse.

With a strong finish that held off Kinshasa no Kiseki and B B Guldán, jockey Hiroyuki Uemura made a Grade 1 champion out of himself as he led trainer Kojiro Hashiguchi's 4-year-old filly.

It was the 34-year-old Uemura's first Grade 1 win of his 17-year career, which also happened to come on Hashiguchi's 63rd birthday. Sleepless Night cut a time of 1 minute, 8.0 seconds over the 1,200 meters on a firm track, finishing a length and a quarter in front of runner-up and second favorite Kinshasa no Kiseki.

"I've managed to come this far because of Mr. Hashiguchi and I can't thank him enough," said Uemura, tears in his eyes. "He gave me the opportunity to ride Sleepless Night. I just tried not to worry about anything because it wouldn't do the horse any good."

B B Guldán, the sixth pick ridden by big-race veteran Katsumi Ando, came home third a further neck behind. Suzuka Phoenix, the 2007 Takamatsunomiya Kinen champion, took fourth while the winner of that race this year, Fine Grain, slumped to 10th.



Sleepless Night collected 10 points in the Global Sprint Challenge with two races remaining in the series. Former Sprinters Stakes champion Takeover Target currently leads the competition with 16 points, three points ahead of Kingsgate Native and five points ahead of Marchand d'Or.

Four horses – Apache Cat, Equiano, Kanoya Zakura and now Sleepless Night – are tied on 10 points. Further down the standings is Symboli Gran on five points. Kanoya Zakura, the winner of last month's Grade 2 Centaur Stakes at Hanshin Racecourse, and Symboli Gran fizzled to seventh and 12th, respectively, on Sunday.

Hashiguchi said he could not have asked for a bigger birthday gift.

"There has been a lot of pressure on me in the past week, so this result is great," he said. "I had no concerns with her, physically, but this is the Sprinters Stakes. A bad start or a single mistake can cost you."

The trainer said he is weighing several options for his new star, including the Cathay Pacific Hong Kong Sprint on Dec. 14, the final leg of the Global Sprint Challenge. The seventh race, the Patinack Farm Classic at Flemington, will be held on Nov. 8.

"I don't think there is a lot left for her, domestically," Hashiguchi said. "The Hong Kong Sprint is an option. I'm also thinking Dubai because she can handle the dirt. But there's no question she's a specialist at 1,200 meters."

Hashiguchi added that he could not be happier for Uemura, who has had to overcome a lot up until Sunday.

"That is actually the best thing about this victory," Hashiguchi said of Uemura, who was forced to battle a severe eye infection that put his career at jeopardy. "He had to have surgery four times on his eye, and he nearly lost his career. I'm happy but I think his family is the happiest."

The post time of 3:40 p.m. arrived under fair skies in Chiba Prefecture, and the race opened with long-shot Western Venus jumping out to the lead along the back stretch, followed by M O Winner, Apollo Dolce and B B Guldán just to the outside. Sleepless Night shadowed Ando's mount, patiently waiting for the final turn to arrive.

"The only concern I had was the start," Uemura said. "But she broke well and everything worked out. I waited and waited until the last turn, and she just exploded on the straight.

Sleepless Night, by Kurofune out of What Katy Did, is 9-for-16 with career earnings of more than 309 million yen.

Japanese Principal Race Result

42nd The Sprinters Stakes (GI)

Nakayama Racecourse, October 5, 2008

Value of race: ¥185,420,000

3-year-olds & up, International

1200m, Turf Firm, Cloudy

1:08:0 (Course record 1:07:0)

16 runners

Pari-mutuel handle: ¥20,043,800,500

On-course 5.0%

Off-course 95.0%

Sprinters Stakes only: ¥13,265,818,100

Attendance: 48,346

1st: Sleepless Night (Hiroyuki Uemura, 55.0 kg) b.f.4,

Kurofune – What Katy Did by Nureyev

O-Sunday Racing Co.Ltd. T-Kojiro Hashiguchi B-Northern Farm,

Winning money: ¥98,444,000

2nd: Kinshasa no Kiseki (Yasunari Iwata, 57.0 kg) b.h.5,

Fuji Kiseki – Keltshaan by Pleasant Colony

3rd: B B Guldán (Katsumi Ando, 57.0 kg) br.c.4,

Chief Bearhart – All the Chat by Westminster

Correction and Apology

In our previous edition, the August 2008 issue, the caption under the photo shown on the bottom of page two read, "Participants assembled at the JBBA Shizunai Stallion Station." This was incorrect and should properly have read, "Participants assembled at the Breeders' Stallion Station." We apologize for the error.



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