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Summer 2009 Interview with
ARF Chairman Koji Sato

Asia – A New Leader among Global Horseracing

- Dr. Koji Sato, the New ARF Chairman-

Interviewed by Daizo Amakasu



Dr. Koji Sato, Japan Racing Association (JRA)'s Presidential Counselor for Foreign Affairs has newly assumed the post of Chairman of the Asian Racing Federation (ARF) in April of 2009. He is the first Japanese to lead the ARF since it was originally founded as the Asian Racing Conference (ARC), in 1960. This is an epoch-making event in the history of the internationalization of Japanese horseracing. During the interview, I asked him about his ambitions and goals for the ARF, that is to say, how he would like to steer horseracing in Asia forward, now Asian racing has drawn attention as a growth center amidst the deep global economic recession. Further, I asked how he would see Japan's role within the racing society in Asia.

- Congratulations on your appointment as a Chairman of the ARF. It is truly a historical achievement.

(Dr. Sato) Thank you and it is indeed a great honor to be selected.

- The internationalization of Japanese horse racing actually commenced with the establishment of the Japan Cup in 1981. After nearly three decades, do you feel that Japan has finally gained true international recognition?

(Dr. Sato) At first, Japanese horses did not perform well in the Japan Cup, which left all of us feeling a great sense of urgency to develop and strengthen our horses and racing. Since then, everyone involved with Japanese horseracing has been working together to develop our racing, along with producing ever-faster and stronger horses. Those efforts continue to this very day. I even, in some ways, consider that my appointment is an extension of these efforts. However, looking at Asia as a whole, I think we must develop overall horseracing in Asia

by improving on the many great achievements our predecessors have made throughout the Asian region. Now that the Asian horseracing is elevating to a leading role in the global horseracing community, I feel I am assuming a heavy responsibility for ARF.

- ARC was established in 1960 by the initiative of JRA and the Rangoon Turf Club of Burma. It took 49 years for a Japanese to be elected as the Chairman. This seems to be a very long time, doesn't it?

(Dr. Sato) The main objective of the ARC was to organize and hold conferences at regular intervals. Numerous JRA directors fulfilled many executive functions within ARC. In 2001, ARC has reached an important milestone. As Asian horseracing gained a firm and more prominent position in global racing, there was a move for ARC to become a key permanent member of the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA). As a result, ARC was re-structured into an organization responsible for various operations of Asian horseracing, and changed its name to ARF. At that time, a member from New Zealand, who had served as a Chairman of ARC, became the first ARF Chairman, followed by two chairmen from Hong Kong and this time, myself from Japan. JRA also made new position of Presidential Counselor for Foreign Affairs in 2001. This was to have a person who was dedicated to foreign affairs, including ARF. So, although I am the first Japanese Chairman, Japan has been supporting the ARC ever since its inception.



CHAIRMEN OF ARF

TERM	CHAIRMAN	RACING AUTHORITY
2001-03	Murray Acklin	New Zealand
2003-07	Lawrence Wong	Hong Kong
2007-09	Winfried Engelbrecht-Bresges	Hong Kong
2009-	Koji Sato	Japan

(Note) The first ARC was held in Tokyo in May 1960. In 2001, at the 28th Conference, ARC was reorganized as ARF. In the first ARC, there were only 69 participants, but current ARF is a big federation which has 20 official member countries or regions, as follows: Australia, Bahrain, Hong Kong, India, Japan, South Korea, Macau, Malaysia, Mauritius, New Zealand, Oman, Pakistan, The Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Thailand, Turkey and United Arab Emirates. At the 32nd ARC in Tokyo held in November 2008, Russia and Vietnam entered the ARF as associate members.

- Internationalization of Japanese horseracing has been moving to a new stage since Japan has been promoted to "Part I". I think that this upgrade was greatly related to your appointment. What are your thoughts on this topic?

(Dr. Sato) ARF Chairman does not have to be elected from "Part I". It certainly started with the promotion, but another reason might be that the ARF members fully understood what Japan has accumulated in the step by step advancement toward the internationalization.

- Do you think the development of Japanese horseracing in the global racing

scenes also be the reason of your appointment to be a Chairman?

(Dr. Sato) I guess it might be. When talking about the development of horseracing in Japan, I would like to stress the importance of the aspect of sports from the viewpoint of breeding, and the aspect of betting. The racing cycle, as elsewhere in the world, starts from breeding, progressing to rearing, training and racing, whereupon the highly-performed horses return to breeding again as stallions, or broodmares, and the whole racing cycle starts once again, with our fans pursuing the foals of once strong horses which attracted them to racing. This is what I meant as racing in terms of sports, to provide our fans with best racing out of the best quality horses. Also, some countries prohibit betting, but I think betting is inevitable to our racing. We need our fans to come to racing, feel the excitement of betting, and to use the profits from betting to make better the whole racing industry, thus restoring the profits for our fans.

- When I visited the 32nd ARC website, I was surprised that the betting sales in Asia accounted for nearly 50% of the global betting sales, while the number of the Asian-bred horses has not reached that level.

(Dr. Sato) You are quite right. The number of horses bred in ARF region accounts for about 30%. The United States accounts for almost 27%, while Japan is about 5%, which ranks 4th or 5th in the world.

- I am sure the breeding industry in Asia is still capable of improvement, looking at the percentage of betting sales in Asia. Do you think this "Japan's experiences" be the model for other Asian countries and regions?

(Dr. Sato) I think breeding can be viewed in two elements, quantity and quality. The number of horses bred, as I mentioned before, is the 4th or 5th largest country in the world. The quality of breeding also ranks in the top class. As an example, 10 or more Japanese-bred horses are ranked in the top 50 of the World Thoroughbred Rankings most recently announced. In light of this fact, Japan's breeding industry can be said to be firmly established. I am sure our experience will, in some ways, be beneficial to other Asian countries and regions.

- Looking at the Yasuda Kinen race and the Hong Kong International

Races, I think Hong Kong and Japan have a close relationship, and I feel that it is important for both of us to strengthen mutual partnership for the development of racing. Do you have any comments regarding this?

(Dr. Sato) One example is the Good Neighbor Policy. Japan and Hong Kong took the lead to sign this policy in 2002. We felt we should discuss any matters closely before deciding on important issues in horseracing-related matters. Of course, Japan and Hong Kong have somewhat different racing system, but we have a common ground on how our many local fans have supported our horseracing. We need to continue the exchange of information to further develop horseracing in Hong Kong and Japan, as well as throughout Asia and elsewhere around the world.

*Japan (JRA) and Hong Kong (HKJC) took the lead to sign the Good Neighbor Policy in 2002 against the illegal Internet betting on horse racing which has spread all over the world. This is the basic rule for international betting that the parties should respect each other's right of control and should not sell betting tickets to the counterpart country. In 2004, 20 member countries and regions of ARF all signed this policy. The fundamental rule of horse racing in the world, "International Agreement on Breeding and Racing," renamed as "International Agreement on Breeding, Racing and Wagering," now includes the article on wagering which reflects the principles of the Good Neighbor Policy.

- Japan-trained horses, such as EISHIN PRESTON and AGNES DIGITAL travelled to Hong Kong and won in the Hong Kong International Races, but I have not heard of any news regarding Japan-bred horses trained and raced in Hong Kong. Don't you think there should be more Japan-bred horses training and racing in Hong Kong with good performances?

(Dr. Sato) Most unfortunately, the current situation is that there are not many Hong Kong owners who have purchased Japan-bred horses. I think you are also aware of, but there is no, or if any, just few Japanese involved in Hong Kong racing industry. In this regard, I feel that we Japanese have not been able to fully promote Japan-bred horses in Hong Kong, whereas in Singapore, there are two trainers from NAR, Mr. Hideyuki Takaoka and Mr. Susumu Nigishi, who have actually transferred to Singapore to pursue their career in racing. In 2006, Hideyuki Takaoka scored the first

graded race win with a Japan-bred horse, and after that, he had two local Grade 1 winners, which were both Japan-bred. The success of Japan-bred horses led to the increase of the number of Japan-bred horses in Singapore, and this example in Singapore proves that if Japanese racing connections stay and work in the country, there is a better chance of introducing and promoting high qualities of Japan-bred horses. Obviously, it is difficult for the Japan-bred horses to be highly evaluated abroad unless they show outstanding performances that can greatly impress the local racing fans.



- This April, JRA announced that it would start accepting applications for owner registrations from the people who reside outside Japan. Does this also present a potential breakthrough for Japanese-bred horses to be evaluated and promoted in overseas racing jurisdictions?

(Dr. Sato) Of course it could be. Until now, basically the horses purchased by foreign owners have been trained in Japan to some extent and then exported. However, from now on, there is a great possibility that this process will change. That is to say, an owner who resides outside of Japan can first look for his/her horses with "great potential" during initial training in Japan. The owner may keep those horses in Japan which can challenge JRA races, and select the horses that can be expected to show high adaptability in their respective countries or regions. The owner can both race the horses in Japan, or export to abroad by being a JRA registered owner, and I hope this will increase more interest in Japan-bred horses.

- Japan-trained horses' participation and performances in overseas races are also key factors, aren't they?

(Dr. Sato) If international racing, with Japan-trained horses racing abroad as well as foreign-trained horses racing in

JRA races, becomes more commonplace, Japanese racing fans can get more excitement out of the races in which Japan-trained horses compete with strong overseas horses. When Deep Impact participated in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, Japanese fans, both inside and outside of Japan, were all cheering with "deep impact", as if Deep Impact was representing the national flag, just like the Japanese baseball players competing in the World Baseball Classic. It is my hope that more and more Japan-trained horses and Japan-bred horses participate in international racing, in order to promote our racing and breeding industry.

- When it comes to the Japan-trained horses running abroad, we cannot ignore the issues on simulcasting and commingled international pools. At the ARC Tokyo held in November 2008, Hong Kong and some ARF members were positive in supporting these issues while Japan appeared quite negative.

(Dr. Sato) Indeed, these issues are also being considered in the IFHA working

group. It seems that we must overcome various difficulties in order to realize these issues. The rules related to simulcasting are different in each and every racing jurisdiction. There is also time difference. I suppose each racing jurisdiction may face difficulties when they actually try to operate simulcasting.

- But, I think the racing fans in Japan can't relieve their stress if they are unable to buy betting tickets when Japan-trained horses race abroad.

(Dr. Sato) As I mentioned, horseracing has this betting element and we are fully aware of the needs. It is rather difficult at this moment to find any solution but I would like to endeavor to make better the environment for our Japanese fans to support the horses representing Japan.

- In closing, could you express your ambitions as the new ARF Chairman?

(Dr. Sato) I will make efforts to foster goodwill and promote mutual understanding among the members to meet the ARF objectives. As the quality and

the size of horseracing in the ARF region has grown to represent a great portion of the world's racing society, I shall also strive to improve the organization of ARF. Of course, I am sure it is not easy to achieve my goals. But, with the support from members, the ARF Executive Council and the Secretariat, I will work hard as the Chairman. I will devote every effort to developing horseracing in all of Asia, along with the aim of providing horseracing as international sports and entertainment to our Japanese fans.

Dr. Koji Sato, D.V.M.

Dr. Sato joined JRA as a veterinary surgeon in 1972. He has held various management positions in JRA such as General Manager of Race Planning Department and General Manager of the Miho Training Center. He was then appointed as Director in 2003, Executive Director in 2006 and Presidential Counselor for Foreign Affairs in March 2009.

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2009 ARF General Study Program held by JAIR

The ARF Study Program

The horseracing industry is comprised of a variety of enterprises that are sustained by the leading edges of technology. Since 1968, Japan has conducted an annual Study Program to help ARF member jurisdictions with upgrading knowledge levels and technology in horseracing and to also develop closer relations and cooperation among the member jurisdictions.

The ARF Study Program actually consists of two types of programs. The first is the General Study Program, which is supplemented by a Specialized Study

Program. The General Study Program is conducted to allow the participants to master how to conduct and operate horseracing on race meeting days, while Specialized Study Programs are conducted for participants to master specific professional skills regarding veterinary science, studbook management, race-track maintenance, racing steward's activities and many other racing skills.

As of July 2009, more than 400 participants from ARF member jurisdictions have taken part in the ARF Study Program. The alumni of this program now

hold leadership positions in many of the racing jurisdictions throughout ARF.



Dr. Koji Sato (right), Chairman of ARF, listening to a participant at the discussion meeting.

2009 ARF General Study Program

The 2009 ARF General Study Program saw seven participants from six countries, specifically, Australia, Hong Kong, Korea, New Zealand, Qatar and Singapore. They took part in a 10-day program, from June the 3rd to June the 12th. The schedule for the program is shown on the table herein. A multifaceted program was put together for the short duration and all participants were eagerly listening to the presentations and lectures at the training sites, while taking copious notes. The participants also held lively discussions on the com-

monalities and differences between the racing systems of their own country and others. They exchanged numerous questions and answers between the staff and their colleagues. We have highlighted comments from the participants as follows and these comments would seem to indicate that the 2009 ARF General Study Program was fruitful for the participants. This of course was nice to hear at JAIR. However, JAIR must now begin planning an even better Program for next year. JRA and JAIR sincerely hope that this program will continue to con-

tribute to the advancement of all racing across the board throughout the ARF.



A group picture at JBBA Shizunai Stallion Station in Hokkaido

Summary of Comments from Participants

- ★ Certainly the highlight of the tour was the visit and tour of the JRA Tokyo racecourse to see the Group 1 International Yasuda Kinen, which is the final leg of the Asian Mile Challenge. The Tokyo Racecourse facility has to be seen to be believed. It is almost a little city or town by itself. The intricate layouts of the tunnels beneath the racecourse are there so no room is wasted for the fan or punter to be able to watch the race.
- ★ Our Jockey Club retains a very good relationship with JRA, both of association are sending horses to each other racecourse to race at a regular interval. By sharing experiences to each other, we made improvements. This study tour share good experience and made a good reference for our training system to our stable staff, racing promotion and so forth.
- ★ This Study program was such a valuable opportunity for me to learn the overall aspects of Japan's horse racing. What I hoped to learn some more was on how JRA returns its profits gained through horse racing to the general public, and I wish that if the opportunity comes, I would like to share such information with various horse racing executing organizations, including JRA. A JAIR staff said valuable comment to me that as horse racing is a commodity, each country should pay efforts to make horse racing a premium product, and that is why international cooperation is required.
- ★ What I was most impressed with is the way in which the JRA have promoted horse racing as a sport first and foremost. Japan racing uses the term 'fans' and that's what the truly are, no where else in the world have I seen this sort of promotion of your horses, jockeys, trainers and the races themselves. They are promoted as sports stars in your mainstream media and to witness the Grade one Yasuda Kinen in front of 80,000 screaming fans was something I will never forget, truly remarkable.
- ★ During our visit to the Racing, I was impressed by many things, I would have to say that what I was really impressed with was how your handicappers and stewards work. The men at the starting stalls are very efficient and make sure that the races start off on time. It is a great idea how the horses are vetted and weighed before each race, as it helps the handicappers do their work easier. I would have to say that your doping control area is one of the best that I have seen.
- ★ There are many things that could be improved in our country and the experience gleaned in Japan will assure improvement to our racing. Particular attention could be given to integrity services and the sighting of more cameras and towers for patrol films, also enhancement of stabling and training facilities could be considered.
- ★ I am also impressed by the family-like atmosphere of the racecourse. I saw tons of families with young children having a good time, and well-served by the excellent JRA facilities such as the diverse F&B options, special facilities for babies and kids, a well-stocked merchandise shop for a unique shopping experience at the racecourse, and of course the highly innovative 3D show at the racing museum. JRA has demonstrated that horseracing can be a fun recreational activity equally enjoyed by folks from different economic backgrounds and age.



Participants seemed to be very interested in the Morning Trackwork at the Miho Training Center

Schedule for 2009 ARF General Study Program

DATE	PROGRAM	PLACE	LODGING
June 2 (Tue)	*Participants arrive in Japan	Narita Airport	TOKYO
June 3 (Wed)	*JRA Orientation / Lecture	JRA Main Office	TOKYO
June 4 (Thu)	*JRA Lecture *Presentation by each participant *Reception	JRA Main Office JRA Headquarters	TOKYO
June 5 (Fri)	*AM: JRA Lecture *PM: Study tour to Ohi Racecourse (NAR Lecture)	JRA Main Office NAR Ohi Racecourse	TOKYO
June 6 (Sat)	*Study tour to related facilities	WINS (Off-Course Betting Facility), Collation Center, Green Channel	TOKYO
June 7 (Sun)	*Study tour (race meeting)	JRA Tokyo Racecourse, JRA Racing Museum	TOKYO
June 8 (Mon)	*Study tour (Stud farms in Hokkaido)	Shadai Stallion Station, Shizunai Stallion Station	HOKKAIDO
June 9 (Tue)	*Study tour & return to Tokyo (Training & breeding farms)	JRA Hidaka Yearling Training Farm, Shimokobe Farm	TOKYO
June 10 (Wed)	*Study tour (JRA Horseracing School)	JRA Horseracing School	MIHO
June 11 (Thu)	*Study tour (Miho Training Center)	JRA Miho Training Center, JRA Facilities Co., Ltd. to study Racing Feed & Fodder, Japan Horse Transport Co., Ltd.	TOKYO
June 12 (Fri)	*Critique of Program *Farewell luncheon	JRA Main Office JRA Headquarters	TOKYO
June 13 (Sat)	*Participants depart	Narita Airport	TOKYO

*NAR stands for the National Association of Racing (Racing by Local Governments)

2009 Select Foal Sale

Mr. Masayuki Itoh, The Japan Bloodhorse Breeders' Association (JBBA)

**Overall proceeds of
¥5,158,860,000,
fall by 33.1% from last year**

The Japan Racing Horse Association (JRHA) held its select foal sale at Northern Horse Park in Tomakomai over a two-day period from July 13th to the 14th. 320 lots went on offer (225 colts and 95 fillies) and 207 were sold (146 colts and 61 fillies), for a 64.7% sales ratio, which was down 6.0 points from year. Overall proceeds of ¥5,158,860,000 were also down by 33.1% compared to the previous year, for three consecutive years of decline. The average price was ¥24,922,028, which was also down by 28.2% and the median price of ¥19,950,000 was 26.9% lower than 2008. The highest price of ¥173,250,000 was brought by a colt by Daiwa Major out of Wind in Her Hair (IRE), a half brother to Deep Impact. This excellent lot was bought by Mr. Takaya Shimakawa of Miyagi prefecture. The highest price paid for a filly by Mr. Taro Aramaki in Tokyo. He bid ¥43,050,000, for this half sister

to Admire Monarch, by Deep Impact out of Split the Night.

Ghostzapper was the top sire with the average price of ¥60,900,000, followed by War Emblem (USA) and Manduro with ¥45,150,000. The top price among the new sires attracting high attention was Admire Moon with an average price of ¥29,610,000. He was followed closely by fellow newcomer, Daiwa Major at ¥29,123,684. 21 lots from the second offspring of Deep Impact were sold for an average price of ¥39,950,000. Mr. Teruya Yoshida, Deputy Chairman, JRHA commented, "The yearling sale achieved higher prices on the first day than we had expected, but the foal sale results reflected the current economic state. Declining prices made rather pleased the buyers. An evaluation for the sale itself would be the same as before, so I don't think we should be pessimistic about these results."

(Note: All auction sales prices include consumption tax.)



The colt that fetched the highest price is sired by Daiwa Major and out of Wind in Her Hair (a half-brother to Deep Impact, ¥173,250,000).



The filly with the highest price among fillies is sired by Deep Impact and out of Split the Night (a half-sister of Admire Monarch, ¥43,050,000).

2009 Select Yearling Sale

Mr. Masayuki Itoh, The Japan Bloodhorse Breeders' Association (JBBA)

**A Colt by Rock of Gibraltar (IRE)
fetched the highest price,
¥152,250,000**

JRHA held its select yearling sale at Northern Horse Park in Tomakomai on July 13. 156 lots went on offer (103 colts and 53 fillies) and 122 were sold (83 colts and 39 fillies), for 78.2% sales ratio with 8.7 points more than the previous year. Overall proceeds were ¥2,834,370,000 and rose by 15.0% compared to the previous year. The average price of ¥23,232,540 was slightly down by 1.0% and the median price of ¥16,800,000 was same as the previous year.

The highest price of ¥152,250,000 was paid for a colt by Rock of Gibraltar (IRE) out of My Katies, a half brother to Admire Moon, and bought by Big Red Farm in Niikappu-cho. The highest

price paid for a filly was ¥46,200,000, sired by Neo Universe out of Admire Light and bought by Mr. Kanji Sasaki in Tokyo.

Deep Impact was the top sire with the average price of ¥51,450,000, followed by Rock of Gibraltar (IRE) with ¥41,370,000. They were also the top and second sires of the first offspring respectively.

Mr. Teruya Yoshida, Deputy Chairman, JRHA commented, "We held this sales with a great critical feeling considering the current economic status, however, we are now satisfied with a good achievement of overall proceeds and sales rate higher than the previous year."

(Note: All auction sales prices include consumption tax.)



The colt sired by Rock of Gibraltar (IRE) fetched the highest price of ¥152,250,000 (a half-brother to Admire Moon).



The filly sired by Neo Universe got the highest price among fillies (¥46,200,000).

2009 Hokkaido Selection Foal Sale

Mr. Masayuki Itoh, The Japan Bloodhorse Breeders' Association (JBBA)

Total sales of ¥430,395,000 significantly down by 44.6% from last year

Hidaka Horse Breeders' Association hosted the Hokkaido Thoroughbred Selection Foal Sale at JBBA Hokkaido Sales Complex in Shinhidaka on July the 22nd. 162 lots went on offer (128 colts and 34 fillies) and 38 were sold (32 colts and 6 fillies), for a 23.5% sales ratio, which was 9.1 points lower than 2008. Overall proceeds were ¥430,395,000 a significant decline of 44.6% to last year. The average price of ¥11,326,184 was also down by 15.4% and the median price ¥10,500,000 was same as that of 2008. The highest-priced lot was a colt by Agnes Tachyon out of Secret Corsage (USA), bought by Mr. Kouichi Yabe of Tomakomai for ¥31,605,000. The highest price paid for a filly was ¥10,500,000, was for a lot sired by Symboli Kris S (USA) out of

Eishin Open and purchased by Big Red Farm in Niikappu-cho.

Agnes Tachyon was the top sire of the sale with an average price ¥26,302,500, followed by a newcomer, Admire Moon with ¥24,150,000, with third place going to Roses in May (USA) at ¥18,375,000.

Mr. Masahiro Araki, the President of Hidaka Horse Breeders' Association, commented that "While the yearling sale obtained some good results, the foal sale was quite severe with total actual sales declining ¥346,080,000. Buyers' needs seem to have shifted from foals to yearlings under the current economic conditions. However, we are grateful that a lot of buyers still participated in the sale and purchased horses despite the economic conditions."

(Note: All auction sales prices include consumption tax.)



The colt No.340 with the highest price of ¥31,605,000 is sired by Agnes Tachyon and out of Secret Corsage (USA).



The filly No.458 with the highest price among fillies of ¥10,500,000 is sired by Symboli Kris S (USA) and out of Eishin Open.

2009 Hokkaido Selection Yearling Sale

Mr. Masayuki Itoh, The Japan Bloodhorse Breeders' Association (JBBA)

A Neo Universe colt, nephew of Jolie's Shinju, brings highest bid at ¥32,130,000

The Hidaka Horse Breeders' Association hosted the Hokkaido Thoroughbred Yearling Sale at the JBBA Hokkaido Sales Complex in Shinhidaka on July the 21st. 241 lots went on offer (149 colts and 92 fillies) and 132 were sold (89 colts and 43 fillies), for a 54.8% sales ratio. This was 7.9 points up over the previous year. Overall proceeds of ¥1,301,055,000 was 12.4% more than last year. Although the average price of ¥9,856,477 was down by 8.9% and the median price of ¥8,400,000 was down by 11.1% compared to the previous year, we can highly praise the achievements of this sale by the sales rate exceeding the 50% level and the total sales amount surpassing the previous year, even under the current economic conditions.

The highest price of ¥32,130,000

was paid by the Forest Inc. in Osaka, for a colt by Neo Universe, out of Independence. This was a nephew of Jolie's Shinju that recently swept the Singapore Triple Crown. The highest price paid for a filly was ¥10,710,000, by Mr. Masatsugu Takezono in Kagoshima, for a Neo Universe progeny, out of Unalloyed (USA). Eddington was the top sire at an average price of ¥19,950,000, followed by Agnes Tachyon with ¥17,850,000 and Hector Protector (USA) with ¥16,275,000.

Dr. K. C. Tan from Singapore, who was commended for achieving his country's Triple Crown with a Japan bred, bought a colt sired by Rock of Gibraltar (IRE) and a filly sired by Stravinsky (USA).

(Note: All auction sales prices include consumption tax.)



The colt No.239 with the highest price of ¥32,130,000 is sired by Neo Universe and out of Independence (a nephew of Jolie's Shinju).



The filly No.229 with the highest price among fillies of ¥10,710,000 is sired by Neo Universe and out of Unalloyed (USA).

Japanese-bred filly Jolie's Shinju wins Singapore Derby to Capture Triple Crown!



Jolie's Shinju
(C) Singapore Turf Club

Jolie's Shinju scored a brilliant win in the one million Singapore dollar Emirates Singapore Derby (Singapore Group 1) on Sunday 12th July, 2009 and with it, achieved Singapore's Triple Crown.

Jolie's Shinju had already won the first two Legs with the Singapore Four-Year-Old Challenge, The Patrons' Bowl (Singapore Group 1) and the Singapore Derby Trial (Singapore Group 2). The Japanese-bred great filly with this victory in the final leg acquired a total bonus of Singapore \$150,000, having already collected Singapore \$50,000 for winning the first two legs.

Originally, Jolie's Shinju was thought to be more suitable to race at shorter

distances, however, the filly has answered any doubts that may have existed about her ability to run longer distances by winning this 2,000m race by a decisive 5 length margin.

Jolie's Shinju, by Jolie's Halo out of Endearing Quality, is trained by Mr. Hideyuki Takaoka, a Japanese Trainer, who is also licensed by the Singapore Turf Club and is owned by Hippocrates Stable. Jolie's Shinju has now won 9 races, out of 19 starts, with total earnings of more than 1.3 million Singapore Dollars. She was purchased by Dr. K.C. Tan of Singapore at the 2006 Hokkaido Autumn Sale <http://jbba.jp/en/market/calendar.html> for 3,150,000 JPY.

Jolie's Shinju's historic feat of capturing Singapore Triple Crown, can be attributed to Dr. K.C. Tan's high-evaluation and keen eye in evaluating this Japanese-bred filly. Also, Mr. Takaoka's great training skill in horses. The increase in activities for promoting sales of Japanese-bred horses to overseas buyers that has been soberly pursued by JBBA* since 2003, has also been a key factor in getting this great filly to Singapore and on to the international stage.

*JBBA=Japan Bloodhorse Breeders' Association
⇒ <http://www.jbba.jp/en/index.html>

Japanese Principal Race Result

50th The Takarazuka Kinen (GI)

Hanshin Racecourse, June 28, 2009
Value of race: ¥ 255,520,000
3-year-olds & up, International
2200m, Turf Firm, Fine
2:11:3 (Course record 2:10:9)
14 runners
Pari-mutuel handle: ¥ 26,984,655,400
On-course 4.1%
Off-course 95.9%

Takarazuka Kinen only: ¥ 19,292,440,200
Attendance: 61,741
1st: Dream Journey (Kenichi Ikezoe, 58.0kg) b.h.5,
Stay Gold – Oriental Art by Mejiro McQueen,
O- Sunday Racing Co. Ltd. T- Yasutoshi Ikee B- Shadai Corporation Inc.,
Winning money: ¥ 135,024,000
2nd: Sakura Mega Wonder (Yuichi Fukunaga, 58.0kg) ch.h.6,
Grass Wonder – Sakura Mega by Sunday Silence,
3rd: Deep Sky (Hirofumi Shii, 58.0kg) ch.c.4,
Agnes Tachyon – Abi by Chief's Crown

JRA Official Tour <http://japanracing.jp/tour/index.html>



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The Japan Association for International Horse Racing

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