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Interview with Kazuo Fujisawa

(2009 JRA Best Trainer – Races Won & Winning Average)

Kazuo Fujisawa's Profile

Birthdate: September 22, 1951 (59 years old)
April 1973 – March 1977

Worked for Gavin Pritchard-Gordon
in Newmarket, England
November 1977 – February 1987

Worked as JRA assistant trainer

Licensed as JRA trainer

March 1987 Stable opening

March 1988 Won the Prix Jacques le Marois

August 16, 1998 (G1 in France, Taiki Shuttle)

July 1, 2006 Won the Cashcall Mile

(G3 in U.S., Dance in the Mood)

May 10, 2008 Won the Peter Pan Stakes
(G2 in U.S., Casino Drive)

- Awards (as of September 2010; only for JRA) -

Best Trainer (Races Won): 12 times

G1 races: 21 wins

Grade Race: 82 wins (Most of any current active trainer in
each of the above categories)

1,000th career win (September 27, 2009: the first among

active trainers)

(Interviewed by JAIR)

- What is the secret to your continued success?

I have been given the privilege to manage racehorses for a long time. With the horses I manage, after competing in a race, we always send them to the Training Farms outside of the JRA Training Center to let them refresh, and then bring them back to our stable just before entering in a race again. It is important for us to identify the horses' ability and find the most appropriate race condition for each horse, which we move from the stable to the Training Farms – and vice versa – after every race (*). Therefore, it is almost impossible for me to achieve the current results without the support of the Training Farms. The Japanese system is very different from that in Europe. In Japan, only horses that are scheduled to run in the near future are in our Training Center stable, and the others are sent to the farms to relieve their fatigue. Once they are fully recovered, they will be brought back to the stable.

Since JRA introduced the Merit System (*), I started to operate 28 stalls in my stable this year. However, when we were only given 20 stalls, it was difficult to manage my stable with the same number of horses as stalls, providing no leeway to replace the horses. Recently, large training farms – including those of the Shadai group – have been established near the Training Center, so we ask them to look after the horses. In the course of a year, horses stay at the Training Farms far longer than they do at the stables in the Training Center. The technologies and facilities at the Training Farms have dramatically advanced over the past 10 years. In that sense, I have been able to succeed thanks in part to the support from such private farms.

[* Notes from the editor]

- (1) JRA racehorses must be stabled at the JRA facilities, such as stables at the Training Center, for 10 days prior to the race (15 days for newcomers). About 20 stalls are leased to each trainer by JRA in March every year on an annual-contract basis. The number of horses each trainer can manage is now limited to about three times the number of stalls leased by JRA. Therefore, some of the horses not stabled at the Training Center are trained at nearby private Training Farms.
- (2) The Merit System was introduced in March 2004. Under this system, JRA determines the number of stalls leased at the Training Center to each trainer every year, based on the number of races run and their results. This number may vary each year. Currently, the minimum number of leased stalls is 12, and the maximum is 28.

- You must have some trouble due to the short duration of the horses staying at the stable?

It depends on the horse. Horse racing is physically demanding, so it is very difficult for us to train them thoroughly in a short period of time. Horses that have run in a race several times may be able to prepare for the upcoming race in short intervals, but those that take a long break need to be trained very carefully and thoroughly at the Training Farm and the Training Center before entering a race. Even though I have been able to manage a lot of good horses up until now, some of them are poor at traveling long distance by horse vans. Therefore, to avoid any risk, for the very top-tier horses that can run in three consecutive autumn Grade 1 races – Tenno Sho (late October), the Japan Cup (late November), and the Arima Kinen (late December) – I always keep them at my stable and train them at the Training Center for the duration of those races.

- You have experience training at Newmarket. How do you feel about the recent developments in Japanese horse racing?

Everything is different between horse racing in Japan and other countries – such as the racing calendar and training facilities. Japan (JRA) holds racing only on weekends and Great Britain has racing on weekdays. Regarding the handling of horses, people (in Great Britain) were more casual in dealing with them, partly because of their national trait of being around animals. They do not view horses as dangerous or scary. That notion is quite different.

But over the past decade or so, more and more Japanese horses have run races overseas. Their racing performances may not be as high as some had expected, but we are certainly closing the gap with the very best in the world. We have the 30th Japan Cup this year and JRA have invested a lot in this invitational race. But for us Japanese horsemen and those in the industry, the Japan Cup has taught us everything that cannot buy for the money. We could see firsthand how foreign horses were treated and trained. Because of this, many young horsemen were inspired to travel overseas to study racing in other countries, and bring back new ideas and practices into Japan. For example, “cooling down” horses after a race is now common practice. The techniques of the grooms walking the horses at the paddock or saddling enclosure have advanced significantly, although the horses' behavior can see more improvement. Today, horses come to the saddling enclosure to walk around to their appointed time. In the past, the horses just stayed inside the stalls at the saddling enclosure, and when they were pulled out of their stalls to head to the paddock, they often acted up.

Nowadays, when they move the horses from the stable area to the stalls in the saddling enclosure, the grooms will walk them around, instead of keeping them inside the stalls. They started doing this to make the horses relax, as they know race time is approaching. I think we owe this to the Japan Cup. At first, I heard people saying that this was “their” way of doing things and that it was not necessarily the same with the way we conduct things in Japan. But I learned that it was not a matter of “we” and “them,” but more about what is best for the “horses.” This was something I learned through these exchange.

By hosting the Japan Cup, we were able to witness firsthand how horsemen from the U.S., Canada, Great Britain, Ireland, and Australia treated their horses, rather than by word of mouth. We will treasure this experience and it is great that we are no longer hesitant about going abroad. In the past, jockeys traveling abroad to race in foreign countries made headlines in Japan, however, it is common practice now that it will not even be on the news. If a mediocre foreign jockey come to ride in Japan on a short-term license, it will be hard for him to beat the Japanese jockeys. This says a lot about the improvement of the Japanese jockeys' skills.

Further, the great sire Sunday Silence changed Japanese horse racing as well as the quality of Japanese horses. Sure enough, one great horse influences the entire industry and fosters many good horses. Japanese horseracing has advanced so much over the decade or so that I can barely keep up. Young people can go abroad as a matter of course nowadays, and that itself is a huge step.

- What is the difficulty in racing abroad?

We probably don't have to do anything special to run a horse abroad. If the horses and horsemen are well trained on a daily basis and have been performing well at a normal level, or to a certain extent, then transportation should not be an issue for horses nowadays. Also, in



terms of human resources, good-performing stables at Newmarket had head lads who were former jockeys or staff who not only took care of the horses but were able to ride and train them everyday. In Japan, the “lad

system” and the riding-grooms positions have been established, and although not everyone is initially proficient, they do have the skills, so a lack of human resources is not of concern when racing abroad.

The problem with racing abroad is the training facilities. We are all familiar with training at facilities here in Japan and are not used to preparing the horses at foreign training centers. Therefore, the longer we have to train abroad, the tougher it is to adjust the horses for their races. The horses can adjust accordingly, but we humans can't. We are all somehow confused by the training facilities or tracks. For example, at the uphill training course at Miho or Ritto Training Centers, we would have a rough idea of how well the horse is prepared for race by putting in a certain amount of workload or by the time of the training. We have training “patterns” in Japan. If the duration of stay until race day is short, this should not be much concern – we will have them fit to race before departure and will not need serious work-out abroad. But if we stay longer, many problems occur, such as the amount of training a horse will need to improve its form. I have had success when the duration of stay on the road was short. However, the longer we are required to stay abroad, the more we tend to overwork the horses. That is my main concern when racing abroad. There is just not enough time to understand the characteristics of the courses abroad.

People training in their own countries have had many horses over a number of years, so they know automatically the amount of workload they need to put on their horses. But, for example, it is extremely demanding on the horses, especially having to fly all the way to New York and train everyday on an extremely large track. The dirt courses there was 2,400 meters; in Japan, we have a 1,600-meter dirt course, but we do not train them on that surface everyday. The training time is different. I made a lot of mistakes. I'm ashamed to say but the Belmont Stakes was one of them because we could not even start the race (Casino Drive, scratched in 2008). Granted, it was an accident, but I now reflect on it and feel it could have been prevented.

- There may be differences with each horse, but in general, do you feel it is better to race abroad in a short span of time?

Yes. We would need much time if we were to train or acclimatize horses to the environment overseas and I would need to stay with them the entire time if we were to do so. I cannot just go there for the horse's final workout or on race day. It is not that simple (laugh). I think that is one of the areas that we Japanese horsemen need more experience in.

Trainers like Aidan O'Brien and Sir Michael Stoute are all used to racing in such environments. Whether they go to the U.S., Australia, Canada, or Hong Kong, they do well anywhere in the world. Granted, most of these countries are English-speaking countries and they may not have much language barrier, but their horses perform well wherever they go. André Fabre is another one of them. Winning an American dirt race with a European horse is self-explanatory.

Although our generation is a little bit passive toward speaking English to foreign people, the younger generation is not hesitant to travel abroad. That is why they are able to adjust to a new environment overseas. I feel that is crucial. So, the fact that more horsemen are traveling abroad, just that fact in and of itself is a huge step in the right direction.

- You have traveled and raced in the major horse racing countries worldwide. Compared to that in Japan, were there any difficulties in racing?

In terms of preparing a horse for a race, there is nothing more we can ask for in Japan. Of course, we are able to train on familiar tracks, but more foreign trainers would come to race in Japan if they could communicate in Japanese. I guess they are just reluctant because Japan is not an English-speaking country. But that is how organized the Japanese system is; not only do we have the necessary human resources, such as veterinarians and farriers, but the facilities and environments are also first class. The transportation system to carry the horses from training centers to racecourses is also perfect.

When we race in other countries, the situation is tougher because we need to adjust to a different environment. For example, in Great Britain, a stable staff has to drive the transportation van to the racecourse, and once they arrive at the racecourse, they have to wash and walk the horses as well. If everything is prepared for you, like in Japan, that may lead to a lack of one's desire or hunger to succeed. It is true that in some countries, horsemen not only take care of horses, but they are involved

in everything related to horses. When Olivier Peslier came to Japan before, he brought along a friend and said that he was a classmate, a peer. However, that man is a harrow truck driver at Chantilly. Peslier also said that at the starting gate, one of the gatesman is also his “peer.” I said to him that they both are too strongly built to ride on horses. Peslier said that is not the way he considers his “peers.” He said that the two of them all attended the horse racing school together, rode on horses and studied together, and that Peslier just happened to become a jockey, while the other two became horse transportation van driver and gatesman, respectively. But they can all handle horses. I actually think that is a better, healthier situation.

Perhaps that is the reason why we can maximize the horse's ability under favorable conditions but get a bit puzzled when we need to take our own initiative when racing overseas. However, over the past decade or so, the level of the Japanese stables have gotten higher and they now have the capability to adapt to different environments. Much has changed over the years. Therefore, if we handle the horses the proper way on a normal, daily basis, it should not be an issue – for example, we can handle the horses appropriately when we load and transport them by cargo. As a matter of fact, many foals come from the U.S., Ireland, and Great Britain. Horses bought in the yearling sale or training sale are transported to Japan. None of these horses has jumped out of the airplane on the way, right? On a day-to-day basis, grooms are responsible for two horses, and trainers look after only about 20 horses in Japan. As long as those horses are handled properly, they will improve their racing form, and the people treating them will not feel the extra pressure when traveling abroad. In this, once again, we have seen great progress.

So, nowadays, racing overseas is almost like going from Miho Training Center to Tokyo Racecourse (about two hours) or Hokkaido (about 20 hours). Well, it is still not quite the same as going to Tokyo Racecourse, but it is almost the same as going to Hokkaido. But, in the future, we will all start running overseas more regularly, as if we were taking our horses to run at Tokyo Racecourse. It is already becoming like that.

- What can we learn from horse racing overseas?

Including my horses that I train, the behavior of horses is bad. Even if a horse is excited after the race, the owner's wife or an aged owner, who may not be used to handling horses, should be able hold onto the rein at the post-race ceremony and photograph session. The horses should be geared to behave in such polite manner, and I believe those are the type of horses that can win on the big stage. I have some horses that are so ill-tempered that I have to tell people not to come close because it is dangerous. I often feel that it is like a “circus” and that it is not a pleasant scene to show to the fans. Some people may think such behavior is irrelevant to a horse's performance or ability, however, I feel that it is closely related. So that is a challenge I am facing now and it is something I hope to achieve.

In order to achieve that, we – horses and people – need to “trust” one another. Horses are innately docile, affectionate animals, and they can build trusting relationships with humans, just like guide dogs or service dogs. From the farms to stables, many people are involved in looking after one horse. However, the fundamentals are the same, and some horses can behave well even when the people treating them or the environment changes, as long as there is a relation of “trust” between the horse and people. So, ultimately, I want to build that trust and train the horses so that I can pass them to the owners at the post-race ceremony. Horses are obedient, and first and foremost, these horses belong to the owners, so they should be the ones standing beside the horses. Owners in foreign countries are doing so and, I would like to see the Japanese owners do the same.

These actions should bring us closer to the international standard of horse racing. In order to make this a reality, we need to spend more time with the horses. We need to communicate with, touch, and stay with them. I have been kicked or come close to being kicked by horses many times, but they don't really mean to kick us. They just lift their legs to intimidate people and happen to hit us in the leg. Why do they intimidate us? They dislike humans, or they remember being scolded in the past, so they lift their legs in advance by way of feint. When I went to Newmarket for the first time, I saw someone had written, “English dogs never bark; English horses never kick.” This is an exaggeration, but there is some truth to this that Japanese horsemen can learn from.



- What are the required traits as a trainer?

We need to properly train the horses we have been provided with, minimize their injuries, and have them run in many races at the racecourse. These are the most important tasks of a trainer. The results come after this. In order to meet these tasks, trainers must issue clear instructions for the grooms, assistant trainers and jockeys. We must always watch the horses so that we can find the best solution for a problem and provide leadership. We often make mistakes if we are busy and cannot fully monitor the horses. And, including the grooms, it is always better to have two people rather than one person, three rather than two people checking on the horses.

- What do you value in your relationships with the stable staff?

Horses that cannot perform well will not be at the stable for long. So, even if we think the horse will not run well, we must never cut corners when working them. That is one thing I can say loud and clear. Bottom line is, that is our business. Even now, I say the worst thing a horseman can do is to beat or get angry with women and horses. Whether the horses run or not, we just treat one racehorse with passion, and the results will speak for themselves. The relationship with the stable staff is simple; it is whether I can guide the staff with a clear direction, and whether they listen to what I say.

I think a healthy relationship with your stable staff does not mean drinking together. It might be important to praise or scold the staff, but I never do that because my focus is on the horses. I am really picky and strict about how to bring the horse's condition to better form. As I said, horses that cannot perform well will be transferred out to local racing or sent back to their farms. So, on one hand, I feel sorry if the horses are kicked around, but on the other hand, I can't keep them at our stable for years and continue to bother my staff. Therefore, we need to put in quality time and effort, before we make any judgments on whether it will run or not. We need to give the horse sound training, and if it cannot perform at a race, then there is nothing more we can do. The worst case is to assume that a horse does not run, cut corners, and make a mistake during the process. It is usually a little too late when we realize that a potential runner had been mistreated under the wrong assumption.

Only through good results can you build a trustful relationship with the stable staff. When you put together the efforts and succeed in raising a strong horse, it will also bring trust amongst one another. I feel that is the best way to communicate with your stable staff.

- What is the future goal of your stable?

As I have done so in the past, I want to stick to my policy to have the horses start in the best condition and not get too caught up with the near-term results. Fortunately, I have been able to travel to foreign countries, absorb much from those experiences, and hence, put up some decent results. Some young people have followed my footsteps and have shown interest in working as a trainer. So I feel like I still need to be role model for them. That means, at times, I will need to ask owners to be patient and not get too nearsighted about running a horse in race. If I feel like the horse is not in race form, I will not enter the horse to run and I will have to ask the owners to bear with me – I think I will continue to stick with this principle. Previously, I had a horse that made its debut as a 5-year old (editorial note: made debut in a conditional race and won five consecutive races). But recently the racing system and starting criteria of races have changed, so it is difficult for us to let the horses start at the ideal timing. Maiden races for 3-year-olds end in September, and in order to give them a last chance, I have had some horses break down in these races. Under the current rule, it is tough to have maidens with no wins run in the conditional races. Even though they were well trained at the farms and we bring them back to the stable thinking they are prepared to run in a race, some of them have broken down and suffered injuries.

From now on, I want to challenge once again to try and solve this dilemma, instead of blaming the system. Spending adequate time in preparation for a race does not necessarily solve the issue. Even if we stayed patient and spent much time, we will get yelled at if we fail to get the results. On the other hand, we sometimes rush the horses too much, forgetting that a good outcome was a result of staying patient and taking the appropriate time to prepare for a race.

I want to continue to be the trainer that others set as a target and role model. We can never blame our horses for negative results, so if there comes a time when I cannot leave good results, I feel bad enough for the horses and that may be the time for me to retire. It would be wonderful for everyone to see how a certain training method can lead to positive results, and have those witnesses use that method to succeed themselves. To do that, my records need to be at a standard of a role model. Without the records, no one will be following my footsteps.



2010 ARF General Study Program held by JAIR

The ARF General Study Program

The ARF General Study Program was inaugurated in 1966, six years after the establishment of the Asian Racing Conference (ARC) and has celebrated its 45th anniversary this year. It had been held by JRA until 1992, and JAIR has continued on behalf of JRA since 1993. This program was developed based on the concept of the indispensable role that cross-border interpersonal action plays in facilitating liaison and cooperation among horse racing countries. We recognize the need for these interactions if worldwide racing is continue to develop as an international sport. More than 330 participants, many of who are now in executive positions in various racing authorities, have completed the ARF General Study Program during those 45 years. We would hope that the ARF General Study Program has provided an integral part in horse racing's growth and development across the ARF.

2010 ARF General Study Program

The 2010 ARF General Study Program saw nine participants from seven countries, specifically, Australia, Hong Kong, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, South Africa. They took part in the 10-day program, from June the 2nd to June the 11th. 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 explanations and lectures at the training sites, while taking copious notes. The participants also held lively discussions on the commonalities and differences between the racing systems of their own country and others. They continued these comments during breaks and on the bus between venues, as well as exchanging numerous questions and answers between the staff and their colleagues. We have highlighted comments from participants below and these would seem to indicate that this ARF General Study Program was many crops for 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 contribute to the advancement of all racing across the board throughout the ARF.



Summary of Comments from Participants

- ★ The system of control undertaken by the JRA in regard to management and supervision of all horses in racing condition provides great advantages in terms of providing information to the general racegoer for key measures of performance such as weight variation and training times. Additionally, and more importantly, the control of prohibited substances in horses presented to race is certainly addressed by the current system adopted by the JRA and I would think there would be very few horses returning a positive swab.
- ★ I was amazed at the dedication of the Apprentices at the Jockeys school the structure of the course and the discipline that the teachers install in these young people will be with them for life this is definitely something that needs to be looked at in our industry. On the other hand, Japan is facing the same problems that all clubs are facing around the world with declining turnovers in the face of the global recession, with the infrastructure costs that the JRA are faced with this will be a major issue, I think that better utilization of the existing facilities outside of the normal uses is paramount to working through this. (i.e Using Tokyo Racecourse for private events between racedays, using the racecourse as offices etc.)
- ★ During the 10-day study program, I was impressed with the training facilities (in Hidaka and Miho) and the off-course WINS facilities. Both JRA Hidaka Yearling Training Farm and Miho Training Center provide large varieties of facilities for horses' initial training and training for racehorses. From my understanding, JRA also has equine research institute performing research on developing strong horses. JRA has input a lot of resources to develop top performance racehorses. On the other hand, JRA has lots of off-course betting means. The WINS at Korakuen actually impressed me much. On a raceday, the center can accommodate over 50,000 people. And there were varieties of facilities to cater for people of different interests.
- ★ First of all, its huge scale and the all-weather facilities (e.g. indoor exercise course of the Hidaka Training Farm, swimming pool and uphill course at Miho Training Center, etc.) Second, watching horse racing in Japan is becoming a culture that everyone can enjoy (e.g. cheering in applause in Yasuda Kinen race and the 6,000th-win ceremony for jockey Fumio Matoba at Ohi Racecourse). Finally, I felt that the people involved in Japanese horse racing had confidence in their product. I got the impression that they knew how to succeed in training world-class race horses.
- ★ There are a few areas which were noted and which could be implemented to further improve my local horse racing industry. They are the introduction of automated or computerized sell and pay machines. This would inevitably reduce operating cost as dependence on human labour is minimized. This would also speed up the betting process (especially the last minute queue at the tote counters) and hopefully improve tote turnover. The number of off-course betting centres has to be increased to make it more convenient for the potential racing fans to place their bets and to get racing information. A more regimented publicity, promotion and marketing strategies have to be implemented to attract new clients while maintaining the existing patrons.
- ★ All lectures were informative and gave an overall understanding of the JRA as an organization. Handouts and lecture material was well compiled, comprehensive and contained the relevant information. And it was a privilege to socialise with the senior Officials of the JRA and JAIR. The immediate service offered by interpreters was incredible.
- ★ Compared to that in Singapore, there is a stark difference in the aspect of security concern on the ground. Site visit to WINS Korakuan and Tokyo Racecourse highlighted issues of illegal tipster, peeping-toms and customer service related problems. It would seem that illegal betting is not a major concern as Japanese racegoers generally place their bets legally in approved betting outlets. However, the later situation is of concern to the counterpart in Singapore. Casual and outsourced officers deployed at Racecourse and WINS in Japan are trained to handle all security aspects on raceday including sensitive task such as cash escort and law and order issue. In Spore context, such taskings are handled primarily by trained in-house officers and outsourced auxiliary police officers.
- ★ I was impressed with the state of the art training centres which give trainers access to the best equipment and facilities. Because of the low cost and accessibility to all trainers, there are no perceived advantages as all trainers are afforded the same opportunities which results in very level and fair system. The various types of training tracks, swimming pools, walkers and other equipment also ensures that the horses enjoy the variety offered at the training centres. Because the training of each horse is monitored and the data taken from training is publicly available, punters have a plethora of information to analyse and make an informed decision when wagering. I believe the level of information surrounding training including the Green Channel broadcasting track work is second to none. This information combined with the official weight of each horse gives the punter all the information that they require.
- ★ I don't know if Japan is a big country, but I learned that you have a really big Horseracing Industry. Wherever we visited, such as the racecourses, training center, I was first and foremost so impressed by the scale of Japan's horseracing industry. Japan has played an important role in the development of global horseracing by maintaining top quality racing industry. It was my great honor to take part in the ARF General Study Program and I truly thank the JAIR and the JRA for giving me an opportunity to study the horseracing industry in Japan.

Schedule for 2010 ARF General Study Program

DATE	PROGRAM	PLACE	LODGING
June 1 (Tue)	Participants arrive in Japan	Narita Airport	Tokyo
June 2 (Wed)	Orientation JRA Lecture 1.General Planning Dept. 2.International Strategy Planning Committee. 3.Media and Publicity Dept. 4.Customer Service Dept.	JRA Headquarters	Tokyo
June 3 (Thu)	JRA Lecture 1.Stewards Dept. 2.Race Planning Dept. Short presentation by each participant Welcome party	JRA Headquarters JRA Roppongi Office	Tokyo
June 4 (Fri)	AM: JRA Lecture 1.Equine Dept. PM: Study tour (*NAR) Lecture Racing Industry Promotion Dept. Watch Night Race Meeting	JRA Headquarters NAR Ohi Racecourse	Tokyo
June 5 (Sat)	Study tour (JRA related facilities) JRA WINS (Off-course betting facility) JRA Collation Center (Totalizator on-line system) GREEN CHANNEL (Satellites TV channel)	WINS Korakuen JRA Collation Center GREEN CHANNEL	Tokyo
June 6 (Sun)	Study tour (JRA race meeting) • Race Day Officials Meeting • Saddling Ecclosure • Parade Ring • Weighing Room • Stewards' & Handicappers' Room • Placing Judge's Room	JRA TOKYO Racecourse JRA Racing Museum	Tokyo
June 7 (Mon)	Study tour (Stud farms in Hokkaido)	Shadai Stallion Station JBBA Shizunai Stud Farm	Hokkaido
June 8 (Tue)	Study tour (Training & Breeding farms in Hokkaido) & return to Tokyo	JRA Hidaka Yearling Training Farm Bloodhorse Training Center Shimokobe Farm	Tokyo
June 9 (Wed)	Study tour (JRA Horseracing School)	JRA Horseracing School	Miho (Ibaraki)
June 10 (Thu)	Study tour (JRA Miho Training Center)	JRA Miho Training Center JRA Facilities Co., Ltd. to Racing Feed & Fodder Japan Horse Transport Co., Ltd.	Tokyo
June 11 (Fri)	Critique of Program Farewell luncheon	JRA Headquarters JRA Roppongi Office	Tokyo
June 12 (Sat)	Participants depart in Japan	Narita Airport	

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



Lecture of JRA General Planning Dept.



WINS (off-course betting facility) Korakuen



Touring Shadai Stallion Station



Visiting Shimokobe Farm



Participants view the stable of Mr. Yukihiro Kato at JRA Miho Training Center

The 2010 Asia Week

The 2010 Asia Week was held at Sapporo Racecourse on August 21 (Sat) and 22 (Sun).

It was held for the first time at Sapporo Racecourse that is very close to the center of breeding area in Japan under the cooperation with Sapporo Racehorse Owners' Association and Japan Bloodhorse Breeders' Association (JBBA), so that the horseracing connections in Asian countries could also visit "2010 Hokkaido Summer Sale" held by Hidaka horse Breeders' Association (HBA) to get a better grasp of horse breeding industry as well as horseracing in Japan.

The representatives of the Royal Bangkok Sports Club from Thailand; the Penang Turf

Club, Perak Turf Club, and Selangor Turf Club from Malaysia; the Singapore Turf Club; and the Macau Jockey Club attended the race meeting and joined the winning ceremonies of exchange races as trophy presenters. As many as 73 overseas guests including owners from each country were invited to the Asia Week reception on Saturday evening where they exchanged broad views with Japanese horseracing connections.

On the following day August 23 (Mon), owners from Singapore including for participating in the sale in Japan for the first time, purchased yearlings at "2010 Hokkaido Summer Sale". The tour group also visited the horseracing facilities in Hokkaido such as famous stud farms and breeding farms. All

events went off without a hitch, and the 2010 Asia Week was concluded as a great success.

Aimed at international exchange, the 2010 Asia Week became even more meaningful by showing the all aspects of Japanese horseracing industry directly to the connections in Asia countries.



The colt sired by Deep Impact and out of Isle de France (USA) fetched the highest price of ¥69,300,000



The filly sired by Deep Impact and out of Pink Plumeria got the highest price among fillies (¥40,950,000)



The colt sired by Neo Universe and out of Acoustics fetched the highest price of ¥117,600,000



The filly sired by Deep Impact and out of Veneciador got the highest price among fillies (¥40,950,000)

2010 Select Yearling Sale

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

Total proceeds of ¥3,314,955,000, rise by 17.0% from last year

The Japan Racing Horse Association (JRHA) held its select yearling sale at Northern Horse Park in Tomakomai on July 12. 214 lots went on offer (137 colts and 77 fillies) and 173 were sold (111 colts and 62 fillies), for the highest sales ratio ever of 80.8% with 2.6 points higher than the previous year. Total proceeds were ¥3,314,955,000 with a 17.0% increase from the previous year. The average price of ¥19,161,590 fell by 17.5% and the median price of ¥15,750,000 dropped by 6.3% compared with last year.

The highest price of ¥69,300,000 was paid

for a colt by Deep Impact out of Isle de France (USA), a winner of the Prix Minerve in France (G3), and purchased by Kaneko Makoto Holdings Company Limited. The highest price paid for a filly was ¥40,950,000, sired by Deep Impact out of Pink Plumeria, and purchased by Mr. Touji Morita.

In the area of organization purchases, the Japan Racing Association (JRA) purchased four lots for a total of ¥50,925,000.

JRHA commented "We are satisfied with good results in spite of the current economic trends, for total proceeds and sales ration improved from the previous year."

(Note: All sales prices include consumption tax.)

2010 Select Foal Sale

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

Total proceeds of ¥3,505,950,000, down 32.0% from last year, but the average price remained almost the same

JRHA held its select foal sale at Northern Horse Park on July 13, which was shortened from two days to one day from this year. 208 lots went on offer (140 colts and 68 fillies) and 141 were sold (97 colts and 44 fillies), with the sales ratio of 67.8%, which was 3.1 points up from the previous year. Total proceeds of ¥3,505,950,000 fell by 32.0% compared to the previous year, dropped for a fourth consecutive year. The average price was ¥24,864,893, which remained almost the same, and the median price of ¥17,850,000 was 10.5% lower than 2009. The highest price of ¥117,600,000 was paid for a colt by Neo Universe out of Acoustics, a full-brother to Logi Universe, the winner of the Japanese Derby, and this colt was purchased by Mr. Takaya Shimakawa. The highest price paid for a filly was ¥40,950,000, sired by Deep Impact out

of Veneciador, and purchased by Kaneko Makoto Holdings Company Limited.

Oasis Dream(GB) was the top sire with the average price of ¥44,100,000 (note: only 1 lot sold), followed closely by Deep Impact with ¥43,912,000. The highest average price among the freshman sires attracting considerable attention was Meisho Samson with ¥23,310,000, followed by Chichicastenango (FR) at ¥23,100,000.

JRHA commented, "The buyer's need to purchase the foal before it becomes a yearling who has the good pedigree and conformation, remained unchanged. Now that the competition among top level stallions has becoming fierce and greater importance has been put on broodmares' bloodlines, more choices to select a lot are offered to buyers. We achieved good results in that both buyers and sellers could make deals fair prices after careful consideration."

(Note: All sales prices include consumption tax.)



2010 Hokkaido Selection Yearling Sale

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

Good results with total proceeds of ¥1,532,160,000, 17.8% higher than the previous year

The Hidaka Horse Breeders' Association (HBA) hosted the Hokkaido Thoroughbred Selection Yearling Sale at the JBBA Hokkaido Sales Complex in Shinhidaka on July 20. 245 lots went on offer (170 colts and 75 fillies) and 141 were sold (105 colts and 36 fillies), for a 57.6% sales ratio. This was 2.8 points up from the previous year. Total proceeds of ¥1,532,160,000 was 17.8% higher than the last year, for the second consecutive year of increase. The average price recovered to the 10 million yen level with a figure of ¥10,866,383, up 10.2% from the last year. The median price of ¥9,450,000 was 12.5% more than 2009. Of a particular note is that, there was only a slight difference between the average price and the median, and the main buyers selected lots between 10 to 20 million yen. HBA commented, "We can highly praise the achievements of this sale for the sales ratio extended to 57.6% and the number of deals within a good price range

increased even under the current economic climate."

The highest price of ¥28,350,000 was paid for a colt by Fuji Kiseki out of Hokuto Pendant, a full-brother to Venus Line, the winner of the Hakodate Sprint Stakes (G3). This colt was purchased by Rose Hill Ltd. The highest price paid for a filly was ¥20,475,000, sired by Symboli Kris S (USA) out of Sweet Crafty (USA), and purchased by Shadai Corporation Ltd.

Agnes Tachyon was the top sire of the sale with an average price of ¥19,250,000, followed by Tanino Gimlet with ¥18,060,000 and Neo Universe with ¥18,033,750. These three are all Japanese-bred horses and winners of the Japanese Derby.

The Japan Racing Association (JRA) purchased 10 lots (three colts and seven fillies) for a total of ¥85,995,000 in the area of purchases by organizations.

An overseas buyer from Singapore purchased two lots (one colt and one filly each) for a total of ¥27,615,000.

(Note: All sales prices include consumption tax.)



The colt sired by Fuji Kiseki and out of Hokuto Pendant fetched the highest price of ¥28,350,000



The filly sired by Symboli Kris S (USA) and out of Sweet Crafty (USA) got the highest price among fillies (¥20,475,000)

2010 Hokkaido Selection Foal Sale

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

Total proceeds of ¥216,405,000 significantly down 49.7% from last year

HBA hosted the Hokkaido Thoroughbred Selection Foal Sale at the JBBA Hokkaido Sales Complex on July 21. 102 lots went on offer (81 colts and 21 fillies) and 23 were sold (20 colts and 3 fillies), for a 22.5% sales ratio, which was 1.0 point lower than the previous year. Total proceeds were ¥216,405,000, significantly down 49.7% compared to the last year. The average price of ¥9,408,913 was down 16.9%, and the median price of ¥8,400,000 was down 20.0% from 2009. The highest-priced colt was sired by Zenno Rob Roy out of Santaana's Song, and purchased by Globe Equine Management Co. Ltd. for ¥23,310,000. The highest price paid for a filly was ¥6,300,000, sired by Personal

Rush (USA) out of My Love Your Love, and purchased by Mr. Tomiro Fukami.

Zenno Rob Roy was the top sire of the sale with an average price of ¥23,310,000, followed by Admire Moon with ¥18,270,000 and Neo Universe with ¥17,850,000.

Total sales for the 2-day Hokkaido Selection Sale were increased by ¥17,115,000 to ¥1,748,565,000, (1.0% up) from the previous year, and this was supported by the strong result of the yearling sale.

(Note: All sales prices include consumption tax.)



The colt sired by Zenno Rob Roy and out of Santaana's Song fetched the highest price of ¥23,310,000



The filly sired by Personal Rush (USA) and out of My Love Your Love got the highest price among fillies (¥6,300,000)



The colt with the highest price of ¥23,100,000 is sired by King Kamehameha and out of Christina Sanchez (USA).



The filly with the highest price of ¥15,750,000 is sired by Durandal and out of Endless Wells (USA).

2010 Hokkaido Summer Sale

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

Total proceeds of ¥1,981,560,000, 14.5% higher than 2009

HBA hosted the 2009 Hokkaido Summer Sale—the biggest sale in terms of the number of lots offered in Japan—at the JBBA Hokkaido Sales Complex for five days, from the 23 to 27 of August. 1,178 lots went on offer (673 colts and 505 fillies) and 479 were sold (308 colts and 171 fillies). The sales ratio was 40.7%, 3.9 points higher than the previous year. Total sales of ¥1,981,560,000 was increased by 14.5% compared to the last year, and the sales ratio exceeded 40% for the first time in 20 years. HBA highly praised these achievements in the light of the current economic conditions. However, the average price of ¥4,136,868 (5.3% lower than 2009) and the median price of ¥3,255,000 (11.4% lower) indicated that the sale was a buyers' market.

The highest-priced lot was a colt by King Kamehameha out of

Christina Sanchez (USA), and purchased by Takao Imura for ¥23,100,000. The highest price paid for a filly was ¥15,750,000 by Durandal out of Endless Wells (USA), and purchased by Dearest Club Co.Ltd. The number of high-priced lots of 10 million yen or higher increased by one from 2009 to 24.

The top sire of average price was Exceed and Excel (USA) at ¥13,860,000 (note: only 1 lot sold), and in terms of aggregated sales, JBBA's sire Came Home (USA) was on top with ¥114,870,000 and 24 of his progeny sold.

The Japan Racing Association (JRA) purchased 57 lots (32 colts and 25 fillies) for a total of ¥300,825,000.

Overseas buyers from Singapore including both regular and new buyers purchased 11 lots (10 colts and one filly) for a total of ¥53,655,000. (Note: All sales prices include consumption tax.)

2010 JRA Trainer Ranking (Best 10, as of August 29)



Hidetaka Otonashi

Ranking	Trainer	Number of Wins	Number of 2nd Place	Total Runs	Winning Ratio	Top 2 Ratio	Lifetime Wins
1	Hidetaka Otonashi	36	24	241	0.149	0.249	448
2	Katsuhiko Sumii	30	27	226	0.133	0.252	289
3	Ryuji Okubo	28	25	191	0.147	0.277	200
4	Kazuo Fujisawa	28	18	212	0.132	0.217	1043
5	Yasuo Ikee	28	12	214	0.131	0.187	824
6	Hideaki Fujiwara	27	14	174	0.155	0.236	277
7	Yasuo Tomomichi	26	20	154	0.169	0.299	185
8	Yasuhiro Suzuki	25	18	162	0.154	0.265	723
9	Osamu Hirata	24	27	188	0.128	0.271	110
10	Sei Ishizaka	24	11	168	0.143	0.208	346

2010 JRA Jockey Ranking (Best 10, as of August 29)



Norihiro Yokoyama

Ranking	Jockey	Number of Wins	Number of 2nd Place	Total Runs	Winning Ratio	Top 2 Ratio	Lifetime Wins
1	Norihiro Yokoyama	99	58	480	0.206	0.327	2140
2	Masayoshi Ebina	78	56	598	0.130	0.224	1855
3	Masami Matsuoka	69	67	531	0.130	0.256	438
4	Yasunari Iwata	67	70	593	0.113	0.231	689
5	Hiroyuki Uchida	67	65	488	0.137	0.270	465
6	Shinji Fujita	66	52	455	0.145	0.259	1701
7	Yuichi Fukunaga	65	64	518	0.125	0.249	1166
8	Hiroki Goto	62	48	510	0.122	0.216	1254
9	Yuga Kawada	59	48	493	0.120	0.217	369
10	Genki Maruyama	57	38	529	0.108	0.180	65

*Note: The above "Total Wins" means how many times a jockey, who is licensed to ride by JRA, has won in JRA races.

G1 Race Result

The 51st TAKARAZUKA KINEN (G1)

Hanshin Racecourse, June 27, 2010

3-year-old & up, 18 runners, 2200m, Turf, Good, 2:13.0

Winner: NAKAYAMA FESTA (JPN) (Yoshitomi Shibata, 58.0kg) b.c.4, Stay Gold – Dear Wink by Tight Spot, Owner- Shinichi Izumi, Trainer- Yoshitaka Ninomiya, Breeder- Arai Bokujo,



Further information is available on our website. http://japanracing.jp/_news2010/pdf/100627.pdf

Information

The Japan Association for International Horse Racing (JAIR) will merge with the Japan Race Horse Registry (JRHR) on December 1, 2010 and will change its name to the **Japan Association for International Racing and Stud Book (JAIRS)**.

By merging the two associations, JAIRS will aim to effectively consolidate and distribute information regarding Japanese horse racing and thoroughbred breeding, the latter being the primary duties of JRHR. We hope this will contribute to the further development of the Japanese horseracing industry.

Under the new association, JAIR and JRHR will continue to conduct its respective current duties, but with further operational efficiency. JAIRS will look to expand and enrich its business line more than ever before, in hopes of contributing to the development of horseracing around the world.

2010 Japan Sire Ranking by Total Money Won (Flat Racing Only)

(Best 10, as of August 31)



King Kamehameha ©Shadai Thoroughbred Club

Ranking	Sire	Runners	Starts	Winners	Wins	Total (JPY)
1	King Kamehameha	294	1,372	129	206	2,225,974,000
2	Fuji Kiseki	309	1,434	98	148	1,752,611,000
3	Kurofune (USA)	327	1,725	139	209	1,731,852,000
4	Symboli Kris S (USA)	278	1,350	93	142	1,584,346,000
5	Manhattan Cafe	287	1,413	99	157	1,551,327,000
6	Agnes Tachyon	246	1,059	87	149	1,497,090,000
7	Special Week	276	1,520	102	166	1,335,300,000
8	Sakura Bakushin O	277	1,460	121	191	1,293,364,000
9	Jungle Pocket	209	1,099	76	110	1,155,056,000
10	Neo Universe	233	1,207	89	142	1,107,924,000

*Provided by JBBA Breeding Information Department

JRA GENERAL STATISTICS 2010 (as of June 27)

Racing days	138	
Attendance on course	3,589,586	(6.1% lower than 2009)
Turnover	¥1,268,241,917,100	(5.0% lower than 2009)

JRA Official Tour <http://japanracing.jp/en/go-racing/tour/index.html>

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