

Participation in International Racing Conference

Asian Racing Conference

Japan's advocacy led to the inauguration of the Asian Racing Conference (ARC), whose objectives are the promotion of horse racing, goodwill and mutual understanding among Asian nations based on exchanges among members.

The first conference took place in Japan in May 1960. The 32nd conference was held in Tokyo in November 2008 and the 33rd in Sydney in April 2010. There are now 21 member countries belonging to the primary racing association in Asia. At the 28th conference in Bangkok in 2001, it was decided to change the name of the Asian Racing Conference to the Asian Racing Federation (abbreviated as ARF) with ARC designating the conferences only.

Dr. Koji Sato, JRA Presidential Counselor for Foreign Affairs, became the Chairman of ARF in 2009, with Australia and New Zealand as the co-vice chairmen. Australia is also concurrently undertaking the responsibilities of secretariat.

The 35th ARC was held in May 2014 in Hong Kong, and the 36th ARC is scheduled to be held in Mumbai, India in early 2016.



Asian Stud Book Conference (ASBC)

Japan proposed to India the establishment of the Asian Stud Book Conference (ASBC) in 1993. The first ASBC was then held jointly by Japan and India on the day preceding the 1995 Asian Racing Conference (ARC), which was held in India. The following guidelines were established under a new system and co-chaired by India and Japan.

- Subsequent ASBCs will be held on the day immediately before any ARC.
- Japan assumes the responsibilities of ASBC secretariat.

The 9th ASBC meeting was held in Tokyo in November 2008 and the 10th meeting was held in Sydney in April 2010. Only the Indian and Japanese stud books were internationally approved by the International Stud Book Committee (ISBC) from among the participating countries at the time of the first ASBC meeting in 1995. Today, there are 13 Asian countries with stud books that have been approved by ISBC. The 11th ASBC was held in July 2012 in Istanbul, and the 12th ASBC is scheduled for May 2014 in Hong Kong.



International Conference of Racing Analysts and Veterinarians (ICRAV)

The Conference of Racing Analysts and Veterinarians (ICRAV) is an advisory organization that confers on issues of racehorse dope testing and veterinary treatment. They also propose technical measures to the International Federation of Horse racing Authorities (IFHA).

ICRAV is made up of a panel of experts that makes proposals on issues related to horse racing, from such fields as body analysis, veterinary treatment and other measures, to the Advisory Council on Prohibited Substances, a sub-organization of the IFHA executive committee.

To date, ICRAV has discussed definitions of prohibited substances, the establishment of thresholds for prohibited substances, doping tests for jockeys and other related matters and submitted recommendations to IFHA on these topics.

The 16th meeting was held in Tokyo in 2006. The 19th meeting was held in September 2012, in Philadelphia, USA, and the 20th meeting is scheduled for September 2014 in Mauritius.

International Breeders' Meeting (IBM)

The IBM is the only international conference in which the world's leading thoroughbred breeding nations participate. It is held once every one or two years. The meeting provides a common venue for the exchange of views between the breeding industries of the world and for discussions covering the various aspects of thoroughbred breeding and distribution.

The IBM has its historical origins in bilateral meetings that were held periodically between Irish and British breeders' associations in the 1950s and 1960s. France joined in 1968 and the U.S. in 1978. The organization now comprises 14 full-member nations, including Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, South Africa, the U.K. and the U.S. The meeting in 2006 was held in Tokyo, with the most recent conference in Newmarket, England in July 2012.

International Federation of Horse racing Authorities (IFHA)

Japan has attended meetings of the International Federation of Horse racing Authorities' global racing conference annually since 1973. This international conference is held once a year in Paris in conjunction with the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe. Japan has since been named to the executive council of the federation's leadership committee, as a member representing Asia. As the standard of horse racing in Japan has risen, the country's responsibilities in the worldwide racing society have become heavier.