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JAIR President and CEO Dr. Koike Visits Thailand, Japanese Farriers to Provide Shoeing Guidance



Dr. Koike (left) energetically exchanging opinions with representatives at stable.



Dr. Koike (2nd from left) enthusiastically explaining about hooves.



Dr. Koike (2nd from left) asking Thai racing representatives questions at office.

JAIR President and CEO, Dr. Naoaki Koike D.V.M. visited Thailand from September 17 to 19 this year to look into the state of horse racing and horse shoeing there. Arriving at Suvarnabhumi International Airport the morning of the 17th, Koike immediately visited the Royal Turf Club in downtown Bangkok that afternoon, energetically touring the club's facilities and engaging in discussions with many club representatives. He later also visited nearby Royal Bangkok Sports Club, similarly touring this facility while actively engaging in exchanges of opinions and question and answer sessions with the club's representatives. During the discussions Koike stressed that additional liaisons and cooperation among countries would be needed for the global racing industry to grow from here on and the importance of creating mutual support systems toward that end.

Dr. Koike visited two stud farms in Bangkok's suburbs on the 18th, guided by employees from the Royal Turf Club and Royal Bangkok Sports Club viewing firsthand the situation with Thai racehorses,

the facilities for them, and the state of horse shoeing. A former JRA clinical veterinarian, Koike also has a farrier's license and he engaged in various discussions with racing representatives while going around actually palpating the local racehorses at the farms. A lively exchange of opinions on exchanges of shoeing techniques and expertise came up at that point,

leading to the conclusion that bilateral exchanges related to shoeing techniques between Japan and Thailand would be desirable. When Koike then suggested the idea of sending veteran farriers from Japan to Thailand as an initial step the Thai representatives readily agreed. Expectations are that Japanese farriers will be sent within this fiscal year.

Comments from Dr. Koike

First, I would like to express my appreciation for the warm welcome Thai racing representatives gave me. I was able to discuss various things related to the advancement of both countries' horse racing with a number of racing representatives in each location during my visit and I felt it was quite significant to note that during the talks we were agreed that countries' racing representatives will contribute to the global racing industry's growth by additionally strengthening liaisons and cooperation from here on.

Because Japanese horse racing also previously developed by learning and incorporating many things from other countries I wondered if Japan, which has become a Part I nation, might be able to help other countries develop their horse racing. In that sense, we are very honored to be able to contribute, if only in small part, to the growth of Thai racing in the form of this guidance in shoeing techniques.

We are looking forward to undertaking this sort of cooperation with even more countries from here on and want to build friendlier relationships with as many countries as possible through this kind of cooperation. To repeat, there can be no greater pleasure than if Japan is able to contribute to the development and prosperity of other countries' horse racing.

Building or Remodeling a Track? Leave It to This Man!

Sadamichi Imabayashi, JRA Facilities Co. Ltd.

Introduction

The fact that Japan's modernization was achieved with thanks to reliable technological capabilities is no exaggeration. Artisans of the past have molded advanced Western technologies with traditional Japanese technologies assiduously passed on from days of old. They have repeatedly improved upon these to produce industrial products that meet the highest of the world's standards. Japan continues to strive to develop new technologies for the future and our society will doubtlessly enter new phases based on these new technologies.

Advanced technology has fulfilled an immeasurable role in the modernization of Japanese horse racing. Also, the insatiable enthusiasm of horsemen has no doubt been a direct factor in lifting Japanese Thoroughbreds to a world-class level. However, this has also required the behind the scenes know-how of the many technicians that developed successive new technologies, supporting Thoroughbred racing with both hardware and software. We would like to focus this interview on one of these technicians, Mr. Sadamichi Imabayashi, Deputy Manager of Engineering Department of JRA Facilities Co. Ltd. (JRAF).

Q Mr. Imabayashi, what type of a company is JRAF and what is its line of business?

Imabayashi: I believe that JRAF is a company, which is unique worldwide in that it specializes in the design and construction of racetracks and racing facilities. Since the company was established in 1968, we have built numerous tracks and racing facilities in Japan over the past 40 years. Our latest project was the renovation of Tokyo Racecourse, which just celebrated its grand opening this year.

Q So that means that you are an expert at building and maintaining tracks and racing facilities?

Imabayashi: Yes. JRAF's principal activities are planning and designing racetracks and training centers, including the tracks, the stable facilities, landscape architecture and equine training facilities. Also, we will supervise the construction of these facilities on-site. In other words, JRAF is staffed by planners, architects and engineers that all in specialize in racetrack-related projects.

Along with planning and designing these facilities, the company carries out all daily maintenance on racetrack and training center facilities.

Q What other types of recent projects have there been besides Tokyo Racecourse?

Imabayashi: Since 1990, we have designed and supervised the construction of the grandstands at Hanshin, Kokura, Kyoto and Niigata Racecourses, while also designing and supervising the construction of their tracks at the same time. Some unusual assignments involved designing and supervising the construction of specialized racing-related facilities, such as Yonago's off-track betting site and the Hidaka Blood

Horse Training Facility's uphill indoor track.

Q You have dealt with most of the horse racing facilities in Japan. What about business overseas?

Imabayashi: We have also handled a range of consulting projects overseas. JRAF played a major role in assisting the Singapore Turf Club by deploying the company's abundant expertise and experience as a specialized racing consultant from the initial stages of formulating and



One of JRAF's representative projects, Kokura Racecourse has unique design.



Ultra-modern WINS Yonago off-track betting facility was also designed by JRAF.

planning the program for the new Singapore Racecourse project at Kranji in 1994 through the project's completion in 2000. Actual services provided to Singapore Turf Club included reviewing plans, designs and proposals at each project stage (brief, master plan, schematic design, design development and construction); providing written reports and evaluating proposed plans, designs and proposals; offering recommendations for improving them. We attended meetings and made site inspections in Singapore to provide suggestions and recommendations from our specialized perspective. We further provided advice and recommendations regarding what type of equipment should be acquired for use in the track's operations and maintenance.

Also, JRAF provided consulting services to the Manila Jockey Club from 2002 to 2003. We conducted reviews of the construction plans and designs for the new San Lazaro Leisure Park track that were prepared by their local architects and civil engineer. Moreover, we supervised the on-site construction for the Manila Jockey Club, providing them with our advice and recommendations.

Q **JRAF's technical expertise is well known overseas as well as in Japan. What do you see as JRAF's main sales points?**

Imabayashi: That would have to be our in-house concentration of a range of expertise, technologies, and experience related to horseracing facilities. Since JRAF was established as a specialist in racing facility construction and maintenance, we have ev-

erything needed in house. Put differently, JRAF has assembled high-quality experts in every sector of racing, that is, we are like a technician department store. We have grandstand construction pros as well as track construction pros. We have specialists conversant in all types of construction and design. That is why we possess the ability to immediately respond to any type of a request, or to meet any specialized needs in any country when it comes to design, construction, or the maintaining of racetracks and racing facilities.

Q **What are the unique features of JRAF's work?**

Imabayashi: Our technology is exacting, in true Japanese fashion. We excel at pro-

viding easy-to-use, easy-to-maintain facilities, which are tailored to the customer's requirements. We are good at creating facilities whose flavor becomes apparent the more they are used, even if their exteriors are hardly novel. I think that anyone who has used Japanese industrial products will fully understand what I am talking about.

Q **Would we be correct in viewing JRAF as a group of people who are also knowledgeable about racehorses?**

Imabayashi: Because JRAF has been around racehorses for approximately 40 years, it has accumulated a substantial amount of specialized racehorse expertise, technology and experience. As such, JRAF is able to create specialized facilities that are not just convenient for people, but that also fully take the disposition and living environment of racehorses into full consideration.

Q **So the particular environment does not matter when it comes to JRAF's technical expertise?**

Imabayashi: There may be limitations to the amount of land, or area that is available for use in some countries. However, if you leave it to us, we can provide advice and plans on how to make the most of limited space based on the scrupulous calculations, experience, expertise and technical abilities of our professionals in each of the sectors. As a testament to this, JRAF has a proven track record in Southeast Asian countries, where the environment differs greatly from Japan's. Countries can consult with us and

Profile of Mr. Sadamichi Imabayashi



Born in 1949. Graduated from Kagoshima University. Licensed first-class civil engineer and surveyor. Following graduation, engaged in on-site surveying, geological surveys, and facility planning and design to construct irrigation channels to develop agricultural land in countries with poor water resources from 1974 to 1982. After joining JRAF in 1983, he worked in racetrack maintenance at Tokyo Racecourse and was then transferred to JRAF's Civil Engineering Division. He has since been involved

in designing and supervising exterior construction of racetracks and grandstands for over a quarter century. Fully utilizing the wealth of experience garnered working with other countries through JRAF, Mr. Imabayashi serves in a key position at JRAF, while actively providing technical guidance overseas as their international representative. Anyone who would like more information can contact me at the following address:

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we can provide design proposals for race-tracks and facilities tailored to their particular climatic conditions and their racing authorities' requests.

Q Do you also offer technical guidance in response to requests from overseas?

Imabayashi: Yes, we provide technical guidance, of course, and a range of consulting services.

Q For example, I believe there are private-sector companies that specialize in handling grass when a turf track is being built at a racetrack as well as firms that specialize in the research and development of the rubber granule surfaces laid down in parade rings. Is JRAF able to act as an intermediary in consultation with these specialized types of companies?

Imabayashi: Of course. JRAF has built cooperative relationships with a variety of companies because of the need for cooperation with private-sector firms that possess specialized technologies indispensable in building racetracks. As such, we have access to these specialists in each respective sector, not only grass specialists and rubber flooring manufacturers but also



JRAF utilizes sites with limited space to maximum (photo shows Hanshin Racecourse).

JRAF also designs and builds training facilities such as uphill indoor track at Hidaka Bloodhorse Training Facility seen in photo.

manufacturers of track maintenance equipment, a range of landscapers, and all sorts of materials and parts manufacturers who are all necessary within the racing field.



Kenji Tsuchikawa appointed new President & CEO of JRA



Kenji Tsuchikawa, 63, is appointed the new President & CEO of the Japan Racing Association effective on the first day of September.

He joined the JRA in 1968 as a veterinary surgeon and has served for the body throughout his career.

After serving as General Manager of the Stewards Dept and GM of the Race Planning Dept, he was appointed as Director of the JRA in 1999. He was appointed the Executive Director, the Executive Vice President in 2003 and 2004 respectively.

Being the first JRA born-and-bred President in the history of JRA, he mentioned "The JRA is now in midst of a time-for-change with a new Horse Racing Law in force from September which newly establishes the Board of Governors within our Association. I am very much honored and at the same time feeling tense to be appointed at such an important time for our industry. With the motto of 'No Racing without support of fans and customers', I will exert myself with all my heart for the sake of our sport."

Aston Machan leads throughout to win the Sprinters Stakes!

By Michael Tabart



Aston Machan bursts from starting gate.

In heavy rain, and on a heavy track at Nakayama Racecourse, 3yo filly Aston Machan finally broke through to win her first Grade 1 title when leading all the way in the 6th leg of the Global Sprint Challenge - the Grade 1 Sprinters Stakes.

In the field of 16, 8yo evergreen galloper Lohengrin flew out of the gates to take the initial lead in the 1200m dash, but while jockey Hirofumi Shii was content to hold that horse back in the initial stages, veteran jockey Eiji Nakadate pushed Aston Machan along,

and she quickly assumed the lead before proceeding to open up a 3 or 4 length gap on the field.

Sans Adieu and Orewa Matteruze raced handy with I'll Love Again settling behind the first group on the rails, but Aston

Machan was flying in front, and passed the 600m pole in just 33.1 seconds on the heavy track.

Even after the field rounded the corner into the final straight, Aston Machan was still well clear of the field, and although I'll Love Again and Sans Adieu were trying to catch her, it was soon clear that the break was too much. Although she tired in the final stages, Aston Machan held off the challengers until the end - the official margin just 3/4 of a length.

Favorite Sans Adieu finished best of the chasers for 2nd, while I'll Love

Again battled to the end and just held 3rd place from the fast finishing Nakayama specialist King's Trail. Rank outsider Tamamo Hot Play also finished well for 5th, while Lohengrin finished on again well for 6th.

Aston Machan was sent out 3rd favorite - a better price than had been expected during the spring when she had shown that she would be a force to be reckoned with in the Japanese sprinting ranks. Her failure (as odds-on favorite) at her previous start had clearly worried many Japanese racing fans, but she showed today that she is best when allowed to run along, and no doubt that will be the racing pattern for her in the future.

The winner is the first Grade 1 winner from the first crop of stallion Admire Cozzene, from the Woodman mare Rustling Copse. She is owned by Ms. Mayumi Tosa, and was bred by Shadai Farm. The win in the Sprinters Stakes was the 2nd victory in the race for trainer Sei Ishizaka, and was the first Grade 1 victory in 13 years for jockey Eiji Nakadate.

Easy Win for North Hills Management Colt in U.S.



Reflect Times has raised great hopes for future – dreams extend to Kentucky Derby.

©North Hills Management

Reflect Times, a two-year-old colt by French Deputy out of Franca, whose sire was Seeking the Gold, owned by Koji Maeda and bred by North Hills Management, a fast-growing farm based in Niikappu, cruised to victory at the Maiden Special Weight race, a six-furlong event for 14 horses, at Del Mar Race Track in California on September 1st. The winning combo of trainer John Shirreffs and jockey Mike Smith also produced 2005 Kentucky Derby winner Giacomo (by Holly Bull, USA).

Reflect Times was a bit slow out of the gate and, unable to match the fast pace, trailed second to last. As a hard-fought battle for the lead played out his work on turns paid off when he caught up with the

leaders on the fourth turn. Charging up along the rail, he passed second place finisher Southwest to win by a neck.

With a big smile, North Hills Management manager Hiroshi Fukuda, 35, said, "We planned to debut two horses from this generation in the U.S. We got off to a fine start. He won strongly and I'm really look-

ing forward to the future."

Reflect Times' great great-granddam was Numbered Account, a mare whose bloodline is prefixed with the word "super." GI Gran Premio del Jockey Club winner Assatis was among his granddam's half brothers, producing Wing Arrow and numerous other GI winners after being imported to

our country to stand stud.

North Hills representatives are hoping for a very successful career, exceeding that of stallion Sunday Break (by Forty Niner, JPN), winner of the Peter Pan Stakes (GI) and third place finisher in the Belmont Stakes (GI) in 2002. (This news is extracted from Baji Tsushin by Doshin Sports.)

2007 Hokkaido Summer Sale Report

By JBBA



Highest priced filly sired by Brian's Time fetched ¥15,855,000.

The Hidaka Horse Breeders Association held its Hokkaido Summer Sale over a five-day period from August 20 to 24 at the Japan Bloodhorse Breeders' Association Hokkaido sales complex in Shin-Hidaka.

Of the 1,125 lots on offer (605 colts and 520 fillies) 368 – 236 colts and 132 fillies – were sold. The 32.7% sales ratio was up

one point compared to the year before. The gross sales total of ¥1,693,230,000 lagged the previous year by 6.9%, the first year on year downturn in four years. The average sales price was ¥4,601,168, a 10% decline compared to the year before. Kineo Okada of Tokyo bought a colt by

Agnes Tachyon out of Energy Tosho for the top price, ¥27.3 million. Niikappu's Big Red Farm purchased the highest priced filly, by Brian's Time (USA) out of Rosie's Sister, for ¥15,855,000. Twenty-five lots, three less than the year before, were

sold for more than ¥10 million.

Agnes Tachyon had the top average price of ¥16,135,000 among sires, followed by Brian's Time with ¥15,855,000. The total of five sires with average sales prices exceeding ¥10 million also included King Kamehameha, ¥11,707,500, Symboli Kris S (USA), ¥11,025,000, and Special Week, ¥10,850,000.



Colt by Agnes Tachyon brought highest price of ¥27.3 million.

Japanese Principal Race Result

41st The Sprinters Stakes (GI)

Nakayama Racecourse, September 30, 2007

Value of race: ¥185,420,000

3-year-olds & up, International

1200m, Turf Soft, Rainy

1:09:4 (Course record 1:07:0)

16 runners

Pari-mutuel handle: ¥19,710,268,900

On-course 4.9%

Off-course 95.1%

Sprinters Stakes only: ¥12,863,579,900

Attendance: 40,512

1st: Aston Machan Eiji Nakadate, 53.0kg b.f.3,
Admire Cozzene – Rustling Copse by Woodman,
O-Mayumi Tosa T-Sei Ishizaka B-Shadai Farm,
Winning money: ¥98,444,000

2nd: Sans Adieu Yuga Kawada, 55.0kg b.m.5,
French Deputy – Sheryza by Caerleon

3rd: I'll Love Again Masami Matsuoka, 57.0kg b.h.5,
El Condor Pasa – Tokio Reality by Meadowlake

12th The Shuka Sho (Jpn I)

Kyoto Racecourse, October 14, 2007

Value of race: ¥174,300,000

3-year-olds, Filly & Mare

2000m, Turf Firm, Fine

1:59:1 (Course record 1:57:5)

18 runners

Pari-mutuel handle: ¥22,779,181,500

On-course 4.4%

Off-course 95.6%

Shuka Sho only: ¥15,562,627,400

Attendance: 49,842

1st: Daiwa Scarlet Katsumi Ando, 55.0kg Ch.f.3,
Agnes Tachyon – Scarlet Bouquet by Northern Taste,
O-Mayumi Keizo Oshiro T-Kunihide Matsuda B-Shadai Farm,
Winning money: ¥92,780,000

2nd: Rain Dance Koshiro Take, 55.0kg Ch.f.3,
Dance in the Dark – Wren by Bob Back

3rd: Vodka Hirofumi Shii, 55.0kg b.f.3,
Tanino Gimlet – Tanino Sister by Rousillon

Leading Breeders in Japan as of September 9

	Breeder	Runners	Starts	Winners	Wins	Total(Yen)
1	Northern Racing	496	1,838	142	179	4,633,579,000
2	Shadai Farm	465	1,748	183	232	4,560,450,000
3	Shadai Corporation Ltd.	169	625	49	61	1,167,820,000
4	Shimokobe Farm	117	435	28	32	632,254,000
5	Chiyoda Farm Shizunai	125	423	26	35	540,330,000
6	Big Red Farm	62	291	21	25	485,072,000
7	Tsuji Bokujo	41	155	19	26	474,017,000
8	Tosho Sangyo Corporation Tosho Bokujo	42	191	15	20	472,365,000
9	Oiwake Farm	61	248	20	26	432,131,000
10	Country Bokujo	18	70	4	6	374,322,000
11	Hayata Farms	34	142	6	9	355,921,000
12	North Hills Management	63	230	20	25	332,521,000
13	Grand Stud	93	338	17	19	309,053,000
14	Okada Stud	51	196	14	15	308,003,000
15	Nishikioka Farm	32	131	10	12	307,926,000
16	Etsuo Kawakami	75	275	11	12	303,138,000
17	Paca Paca Farm	24	88	8	11	293,866,000
18	Koki Hayashi	9	36	3	4	291,527,000
19	Fujiwara Farm	38	146	11	16	268,933,000
20	Inahara Bokujo	22	110	5	6	266,664,000
21	Kasamatsu Bokujo	34	175	11	15	259,946,000
22	Eishin Bokujo	24	92	5	8	239,309,000
23	Niikappu Hashimoto Bokujo	25	110	5	7	234,985,000
24	Mejiro Stud	50	188	13	14	231,049,000
25	Fujiwara Breeding Stud	33	141	13	15	229,649,000
26	Yanagawa Bokujo	41	137	9	9	223,736,000
27	Excel Management	35	151	5	5	220,813,000
28	Tanioka Stud	37	135	7	10	207,769,000
29	Okada Bokujo	49	209	11	13	203,650,000
30	Nishiyama Stud	71	268	9	9	200,967,000

This chart is provided by JBBA

Leading Sires in Japan as of September 28 (Flat only)

	Stallion	Runners	Starts	Winners	Wins	Total(Yen)
1	Sunday Silence(USA)	283	1,407	90	155	2,751,184,000
2	Agnes Tachyon	221	952	102	145	1,753,233,000
3	Dance in the Dark	325	2,082	123	197	1,751,545,000
4	Brian's Time(USA)	249	1,388	105	207	1,713,129,000
5	Fuji Kiseki	270	1,364	104	168	1,670,405,000
6	French Deputy(USA)	200	975	76	112	1,454,343,000
7	Sakura Bakushin O	290	1,585	109	168	1,412,638,500
8	Special Week	265	1,464	115	191	1,344,481,500
9	El Condor Pasa(USA)	136	766	52	81	1,010,905,000
10	Admire Vega	203	1,192	73	124	932,060,000
11	Afleet(CAN)	213	1,247	97	166	925,437,500
12	Kurofune(USA)	188	916	73	108	902,868,000
13	King Halo	173	1,219	86	159	879,088,500
14	Mayano Top Gun	221	1,397	82	147	858,695,000
15	Grass Wonder(USA)	201	1,195	72	116	852,091,000
16	Taiki Shuttle(USA)	219	1,140	76	134	807,404,000
17	Tanino Gimlet	108	505	33	52	740,609,000
18	End Sweep(USA)	101	588	38	69	727,461,000
19	Bubble Gum Fellow	275	1,993	115	194	717,199,500
20	White Muzzle(GB)	145	888	55	87	681,479,500
21	Opera House(GB)	164	1,281	57	101	653,926,000
22	Stay Gold	169	1,249	59	101	616,902,500
23	Forty Niner(USA)	148	780	50	84	594,393,000
24	Manhattan Cafe	144	632	46	58	590,101,000
25	Fusaichi Concorde	206	1,370	80	133	574,112,000
26	Marvelous Sunday	170	1,029	69	114	534,641,500
27	Meiner Love(USA)	165	984	70	120	533,549,000
28	Chief Bearhart(CAN)	121	800	45	66	519,891,000
29	Timber Country(USA)	220	1,393	73	117	508,183,500
30	Jungle Pocket	75	330	23	36	500,967,000

This chart is provided by JBBA



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