



40th Asian Racing Conference

# SAPPORO 2024

*Be Connected, Stride Together*

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT





# FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

40th ASIAN RACING CONFERENCE

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# MESSAGE FROM THE ARF



**Winfried Engelbrecht-Bresges**  
Chairman, Asian Racing Federation

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Winfried Engelbrecht-Bresges', written in a cursive style.

On behalf of the Executive Council of the Asian Racing Federation (ARF), it is my great pleasure to invite you to the 40th Asian Racing Conference (ARC) to be held in Sapporo, Japan from 27 August to 1 September 2024.

Since the Conference was first convened in Tokyo in 1960, the ARC has developed into a leading international forum for addressing opportunities for, and challenges to, racing. More than this, importantly, the ARC continues to foster collaboration between racing organisations and stakeholders so that we can work with one another and grow stronger together.

It is fitting that the ARC will now return to the place of its birth for the momentous occasion of its 40th edition, where it will continue building on the legacy of its predecessors.

Located on Japan's northernmost island of Hokkaido, Sapporo is perhaps most well-known to overseas visitors for having hosted the 1972 Winter Olympics. To the global horseracing industry, Sapporo provides a gateway into the very heart of the Japanese thoroughbred industry, with Hokkaido being home to over 700 breeding farms accounting for more than 90% of the nationwide total. Internationally, Japan has developed into one of the leading nations in breeding, with Japanese runners climbing to new heights around the world.

This year also marks a significant milestone for the Japan Racing Association as it celebrates its 70th anniversary. Since its founding, the JRA's achievements on the global stage have gone from strength to strength. From breeding to racing, Japan's prowess is truly remarkable, as evidenced by Equinox being named the 2023 Longines World's Best Racehorse and the Japan Cup (G1) being named the 2023 Longines World's Best Horse Race.

Working together with the JRA, we have curated an exciting 40th ARC programme which will provide an excellent opportunity to witness first-hand the dedication, care and professionalism that go into producing and running world-class racehorses.

Themed "Be Connected, Stride Together", the 40th ARC aims to support deeper collaboration and partnerships amongst ARF members and stakeholders which will ensure the long term prosperity of our sport. I am most grateful to the team at the JRA for its dedication and efforts in hosting the 40th ARC, which promises to be an unforgettable experience showcasing the very best of Japanese racing, breeding, culture and hospitality.

I look forward to seeing you in Sapporo in August 2024, where we can once again join hands to make profound and positive change together.

# MESSAGE FROM THE JRA



Masayoshi Yoshida

President & CEO, Japan Racing Association

吉田正義

On behalf of the Japan Racing Association and Japanese thoroughbred community, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of you to the 40th Asian Racing Conference to be held in Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan at the end of August 2024.

In 1960, Japan proposed the establishment of the ARC with the aim of fostering goodwill and promoting racing exchange among Asian nations, and the ARC was inaugurated in Tokyo.

Over the course of six decades, spanning 39 conferences, we have witnessed the rich tapestry of racing's growth and the nurturing of friendships across the ARF regions and the racing community worldwide.

As we approach this commemorative 40th edition of the Conference, we proudly embrace the theme, "Be Connected, Stride Together." It is our belief that this theme encapsulates the spirit of unity and cooperation that symbolizes the global racing industry.

In an ever-changing world, the racing industry must be proactive to new challenges. We are committed to strengthening the bonds within our industry, promoting cooperation between nations and regions, and upholding our steadfast belief in advancing this cherished sport. We aspire to create a stage where we can collectively chart a vibrant and sustainable future for

racing in the ARF regions.

Hokkaido, the host site of this year's ARC, is a place where the connection between people and horses is deeply felt, with horses having played a significant role in its pioneering history. Presently, approximately 98% of Japan's world-class thoroughbreds are born in Hokkaido, making it a hub for breeding excellence.

Horse racing in Sapporo is a cherished tradition in the summer, embraced by racing enthusiasts and the people of Hokkaido alike. It includes a prestigious two-year-old graded race that leads up to the Japanese Classic races the following year, holding a pivotal position in Japan's racing calendar.

Sapporo is not just a city of racing; it is also a city brimming with natural beauty and warm hospitality, making it an ideal setting for this gathering. You can savor the bountiful produce of nature and enjoy refined local spirits during your stay. We promise that you will have the opportunity to immerse yourselves in Japan's rich culture and traditions.

"Be Connected, Stride Together" – Let us embark on this journey together at the 40th Asian Racing Conference in Sapporo, Hokkaido. As we look forward to meeting you all in the refreshing late summer of Hokkaido, in the city of Sapporo, we genuinely await your participation.



## ARF Membership

Australia | Kingdom of Bahrain | Hong Kong SAR | India | Japan | Korea | Macau SAR | Malaysia | New Zealand | Oman | Pakistan | Philippines | Qatar | Saudi Arabia | Singapore | South Africa | Thailand | Turkey | United Arab Emirates | Vietnam | China | Mauritius | Mongolia | Indonesia | Kuwait

# ASIAN RACING FEDERATION OVERVIEW

## About the ARF

The Asian Racing Federation (ARF) is a regional federation comprising 28 national racing authorities and racing-related organisations from across Asia, Oceania, Africa and the Middle East.

The ARF is formally linked with the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA).

## ARF's Activities

- Promoting and facilitating the internationalisation of racing.
- Quality control of 'black type' which the ARF carries out through its Asian Pattern Committee.
- Harmonisation of the rules of racing and of drug control across its member regions.
- Fostering and enhancing international cooperation to better combat the threat of illegal betting and other financial crimes to horse racing integrity in particular, and sports in general through the ARF Council on Anti-Illegal Betting and Related Financial Crime.
- Assisting the development of racing throughout the ARF footprint.
- Organising periodic events and activities in member countries and special administrative regions to advance the global agenda of racing.

## About the Asian Racing Conference

The first ARC was held in Tokyo in 1960. Since then, the ARC has become a major event on the international racing calendar, attracting and engaging the foremost leaders and greatest minds in racing and sports, along with other influential stakeholders.

## Statistics

**28** Members

**1960** First Asian  
Racing  
Conference

**39** Asian Racing  
Conferences  
Organised to Date



# JAPAN RACING ASSOCIATION OVERVIEW

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## Structure and Function

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The Japan Racing Association (JRA), established in 1954, operates based on the Horseracing Law and the Japan Racing Association Law, to ensure horseracing integrity and advance racehorse breeding.

Supervised by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries, the JRA's governance since 2007 includes a Board of Governors which sets strategic directives and a Management Advisory Council, with representatives including trainers and jockeys, which guides business operations. The Horseracing Adjudication Council deliberates on owner registrations and racing appeals. The JRA's Tokyo headquarter coordinates its national network of racecourses, the 'WINS' betting facilities, and other related activities.

## Charity

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The JRA undertakes the following key initiatives:

**Livestock Development:** The JRA supports livestock projects through direct funding and treasury contributions.

**Social Welfare:** A portion of the JRA's revenue aids national social welfare projects and race prize money is used to support local initiatives.

**Environmental Maintenance:** The JRA addresses local issues in the community such as facilitating traffic around racing venues and funding environmental projects.

**Environmental Initiatives:** Emphasis is placed on waste reduction, energy conservation, and the use of renewable energy, particularly solar power.

**Disaster Support:** The JRA provides aid during natural disasters and has contributed to COVID-19 relief.

# CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

	Tuesday 27 Aug	Wednesday 28 Aug	Thursday 29 Aug	Friday 30 Aug	Saturday 31 Aug	Sunday 1 Sep
<b>Day</b>	<p>Bureau Meetings</p> <p>IFAR Conference</p> <p>Sapporo Convention Center</p>	<p>Business Programme</p> <p>Sapporo Convention Center</p>			<p>Race Day</p> <p>Sapporo Racecourse</p>	<p>Regional Tour (Optional)</p> <p>Shadai Stallion Station</p> <p>Northern Farm</p> <p>Northern Horse Park</p>
<b>Evening</b>	<p>Opening Ceremony</p> <p>Royton Sapporo (Grand Mercure Sapporo Odori Park)</p>	<p>Chief Delegate Dinner (By Invitation Only)</p>	<p>Social and Cultural Evening</p> <p>Sapporo Dome</p>	<p>Closing Ceremony</p> <p>Royton Sapporo (Grand Mercure Sapporo Odori Park)</p>		

\*IFAR will be held in parallel with the Bureau Meetings on Tuesday, 27 August. Find out more: <https://www.internationalracehorseaftercare.com>

# BUSINESS PROGRAMME

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The 40th ARC Business Programme will comprise a series of engaging and thought-provoking plenary sessions that aim to address key challenges and opportunities for the long-term sustainability of our sport, ranging from the latest racing, breeding and wagering trends, to racing in popular culture, and ways to enhance fan engagement, improve equine and participant welfare and strengthen the integrity of racing.

The ARF is curating a lineup of esteemed global leaders and senior administrators hailing from racing, sports, business, government and academia, who will share their insights and expertise through:

- **Keynote speeches** that will examine the latest trends and strategies that are shaping racing and other sports worldwide;
- **Presentations** by experts in their industry who will offer valuable insights from their own first-hand experiences; and
- **Panel discussions** amongst stakeholders from racing and various fields that will examine key learnings, explore best practices and foster cross-industry learning.

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Stay tuned for more information to be announced on the 40th ARC website <https://arcsapporo2024.com>





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# CONFERENCE VENUE

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## Sapporo Convention Center

The Conference venue, Sapporo Convention Center, is a Meeting Incentive Travel Convention Exhibition (MICE) facility supported by the city of Sapporo, which is actively engaged in attracting and hosting international events, exhibitions, and corporate conferences. Its facilities include a main hall that can accommodate up to 2,500 guests, four halls of different sizes and 15 conference rooms.

## Address

1-1-1 Higashi-Sapporo 6-jo, Shiroishi-ku, Sapporo, Japan 003-0006





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## RACE DAY

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**Saturday, August 31**

### **Sapporo Racecourse**

This racecourse, located in Sapporo City, the largest city on the northern island of Hokkaido, has two race meetings that take place over 14 days across 7 weeks in summer. The major races are the Sapporo Kinen (G2), the Queen Stakes (G3), the Keeneland Cup (G3), the Sapporo Nisai Stakes (G3) and the Elm Stakes (G3).

### **Widely known as a Summer Resort**

With horse racing a very popular summer activity in Hokkaido, the Sapporo Racecourse was fully refurbished in July 2014, offering visitors a great venue to enjoy the sport.

### **Sapporo to Boost JRA's Summer Racing**

Sapporo Racecourse holds an important position as a venue for the debut of young horses and preparation races for Grade 1 races in the fall. Many notable races are held not only for three-year-olds and above, but also two-year-olds, thus paving the way for the following year's Japanese Classic races.



## REGIONAL TOUR (Optional)

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**Sunday, September 1**

With over 700 breeding farms – more than 90% of the nation’s total – being based in Hokkaido, the prefecture is truly the heartland of the Japanese breeding industry. The Regional Tour will take participants on an engaging and immersive tour to various stud farms well known on the international stage, to better understand the history, developments, resources and facilities behind the success of Japanese racehorses around the world. These include:

- **Shadai Stallion Station**, one of the most successful stud farms in the world;
- **Northern Farm**, where many top Japanese horses such as legendary champion Deep Impact, Triple Tiara winner Gentildonna and Japanese Derby winner King Kamehameha were trained; and
- **Northern Horse Park**, the site of the select sale, one of the most popular thoroughbred sales held every July.

Please stay tuned for more information to be provided on the 40th ARC website: <https://arcsapporo2024.com>





## IFAR

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The International Forum for the Aftercare of Racehorses (IFAR) will take place on 27 August 2024 and will offer a full day programme incorporating the forum and a local facility visit, showcasing off-the-track Thoroughbreds. The forum will feature a lineup of international speakers who will address a wide range of topics relating to the aftercare of racehorses.

Attendance at the IFAR event is complimentary for ARC delegates, and interested parties will be requested to indicate interest as part of the ARC registration.

The 2024 IFAR conference will be proudly supported by the JRA, which has also entered into a multi-year sponsorship agreement to support IFAR's activities around the world.

IFAR has previously conducted forums in conjunction with the 39th ARC in Melbourne, Australia in February 2023; the 38th ARC in Cape Town, South Africa, in February 2020; the European & Mediterranean Horseracing Federation's General Assembly in Oslo, Norway, in May 2019; the 37th ARC in Seoul, South Korea, in May 2018; and the Pan American Conference in Washington, D.C., in May 2017. Virtual conferences were conducted in 2021 and 2022.

IFAR is an independent forum that recognises geographical and industry differences among racing countries and is designed to enhance Thoroughbred aftercare worldwide. Working with the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities, IFAR works to raise awareness of the importance of welfare for Thoroughbreds, improve education on lifetime care, and help increase demand for former racehorses in other equestrian sports.

For more information on IFAR, visit <https://www.internationalracehorseaftercare.com>.



# CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Delegates wishing to participate in the 40th ARC must register in advance, and are encouraged to register as soon as possible to take advantage of the Early Bird registration option.

<https://arcsapporo2024.com/register/>

## THE EARLY BIRD / REGULAR REGISTRATION FEE INCLUDES:

- Attendance at the Business Programme, Opening Ceremony, Social and Cultural Evening, Closing Ceremony, and Race Day.
- Shuttle bus services between official hotels and conference venues.

*Note: Additional fees are required for the Regional Tour and for meals other than those provided at the abovementioned official events.*

## MOBILE APP FOR PARTICIPANTS

- Participants are encouraged to download the Conference app following registration. Instructions for downloading the app will be sent to registrants by email upon successful registration. Reservations for official hotels and the Regional Tour can also be made through the app.

## RESERVATION AT OFFICIAL HOTELS

- Please download the Conference App or check your registration confirmation email to make reservations at Official Hotels.

## REGISTRATION FEE (Per person)

<i>Early Bird</i>	February 9 - April 5, 2024
	<b>200,000JPY</b>
<i>Regular</i>	April 6 - July 31, 2024
	<b>220,000JPY</b>
<i>Partner</i>	February 9, 2024 -
	<b>170,000JPY</b>

\*The above dates are based on Japan Standard Time.

# PARTNER PROGRAMME



## **AUG 28** *Discovering the Charms of Sapporo*

### Enjoy sightseeing in Sapporo in the summer

The day's itinerary will take you on an engaging tour of Sapporo's popular sightseeing destinations where you can feel the unique nature of Hokkaido just a short distance from the city center.

## **AUG 29** *Exploring wineries of Hokkaido*

### A tour of the northern land

Hokkaido, a treasure trove of delicious ingredients, such as vegetables, seafood, and more, is one of the best places in Japan to find wineries, breweries, and distilleries. This tour is a great opportunity to learn about wine and the culture of Japan.

## **AUG 30** *Enjoying Sports in Hokkaido*

### Visiting Winter Olympics facilities

This tour will take you to Okurayama Observation Deck, the competition venue for the 1972 Winter Olympics, where you can have a relaxing lunch while enjoying the magnificent scenery.

\*The schedule is provisional and subject to change.



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## OFFICIAL HOTELS

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### **ROYTON SAPPORO** **(Grand Mercure Sapporo Odori Park)**

Royton Sapporo is a hotel of global quality and a symbol of Sapporo. Comfortable and relaxing guest rooms overlook the city. A variety of halls accommodate for different events such as exhibitions, seminars and parties. From April 2024, Royton Sapporo will be rebranded to Grand Mercure Sapporo Odori Park.

The hotel is the venue for the Opening and Closing Ceremonies.

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### **JR TOWER HOTEL NIKKO SAPPORO**

JR Tower Hotel Nikko Sapporo connects directly to JR Sapporo Station. The 330 guestrooms located on the 23rd to 34th floors are decorated in contemporary natural tones. There is a spa on the 22nd floor adjacent to Steller Place restaurant operated by renowned chef Mikuni.



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## OFFICIAL HOTELS

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### SAPPORO GRAND HOTEL

Sapporo Grand Hotel, known as Sapporo's state guesthouse, has played an important role in accommodating diplomats and hosting social gatherings since its founding in 1934. It conveniently connects directly to an underground passage way to JR Sapporo Station.

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### SAPPORO PRINCE HOTEL

Sapporo Prince Hotel is a landmark in the center of Sapporo, standing 107 metres above the ground and offering a 360-degree view of Sapporo. A restaurant on the top floor offers a panoramic view of the city, and there is an open-air hot spring bath on the second floor.







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## OFFICIAL HOTELS

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### **ANA CROWNE PLAZA SAPPORO**

Conveniently located a 7-minute walk from the south side of JR Sapporo Station, ANA Crowne Plaza Sapporo is in close proximity to tourist attractions including the Sapporo Clock Tower, Odori Park, and the Old Hokkaido Red Brick Office Building. In addition to six restaurants and bars, large and small banquet halls, the hotel also has a convenience store, souvenir shop, and a gym for guests.

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### **PREMIER HOTEL -TSUBAKI- SAPPORO**

Premier Hotel – TSUBAKI – Sapporo is located on the banks of the Toyohira River and offers five dining options, concierge services, a beauty salon, and bicycle rentals. The on-site restaurants offer a selection of Japanese, Chinese, and international cuisine, while drinks can be enjoyed at the coffee lounge, deli cafe and pub.



40<sup>th</sup> Asian Racing Conference

**SAPPORO 2024**

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