



February 20th, 2026

## SOUTH AMERICA PRESENT AT THE 41ST ASIAN RACING CONFERENCE IN SAUDI ARABIA

In this new edition of the Asian Racing Conference (ARC) held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, from February 9 to 13<sup>th</sup> and organized by the Asian Racing Federation and the Jockey Club of Saudi Arabia, South America was present once again through the representation of Mr. Horacio Espósito, IFHA Vice Chairman and Advisor of OSAF in International Affairs, and Mr. Oscar Bertoletti (OSAF CEO), who attended the working sessions and enjoyed the Saudi Cup race meeting.



Mr. Espósito, in the company of Mr. Andrew Harding (IFHA Director) and his wife, and his son Máximo Espósito

Mr. Espósito highlighted the intensive and comprehensive program of conferences and panels led by international experts, the participation of horses that traveled from around the world to

compete in the Saudi Cup race meeting, and IFHA's support for the growth of horse racing in Saudi Arabia and the inauguration of a new world-class racetrack.

Among the topics addressed at the Asian Conference, he emphasized the IFHA's concern regarding the global decline in Thoroughbred births, and Equine Welfare.

The working sessions consisted of a series of thematic panels held between February 10 and 12, featuring prominent speakers from Hong Kong, Japan, Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom, the USA, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, Dubai, Bahrain, and Qatar.

The topics covered included: The Evolving Global Racing and Sporting Landscape; Fan Engagement: Global Broadcasting and Viewership; Saudi Vision 2030: Giga-Projects and Transformative Role Of Equestrianism and Sports; Marketing of Major Racing Festivals; Racing: AI and Virtual Reality; Transforming Customer Behaviours; The Gulf Horseracing Council and Its Influence in the Region and Globally; Horse Racing Integrity; Equine Welfare; The Future Sustainability of Racing and Breeding.

The conference program and social activities took place in conjunction with the Saudi Cup on Saturday, February 14, the pinnacle of Saudi style, sophistication and glamour and considered to be Riyadh's social event of the season: a showcase rich in entertainment, cuisine, high fashion, and cultural experiences, in addition to equestrian excellence.

The nine-race program was headlined by the Richest Race in the World, the Saudi Cup (G1), with the largest prize purse in the world: \$20 million. Other notable races include the Diriyah Obaiya Arabian Classic (G1), reserved for Purebred Arabian horses; the Neom Turf Cup, with a purse of \$2 million; the Longines Red Sea Turf Handicap, with a purse of \$2.5 million; and the Saudi Derby with a purse of \$1.5 million.

## About OSAF

The South American Organization for the Development of Thoroughbred's activities (**Organización Sudamericana de Fomento del Pura Sangre de carreras - OSAF**) was founded in 1958 as the advisory body for the regulation and harmonization of the thoroughbred racing industry in Latin America, following the recommendations of the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA), the world's leading regulatory body for the racing sport.

Our members include the major racetracks, Stud Books, Breeders' Associations, and Owners' Associations in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Peru, Uruguay, Panama, Venezuela, Ecuador, Colombia, and Paraguay.

The main objectives of our Organization are:

- To promote an extensive exchange of information between its Members and with International racing organizations worldwide,
- To promote the alliance with international racing and breeding authorities,
- To promote the harmonization of racing protocols and regulations within the region;
- To promote the control and fight against doping in Thoroughbreds and jockeys;
- To improve the quality of pattern races within South America;
- To promote the integrity and the best practices in the Thoroughbred industry in South America;
- To communicate about the evolution achieved by the horseracing activity within the continent, highlighting its quality and importance; developing reports, statistics and technical research on the Thoroughbred industry;
- To organize and take part in regional and international events related to the Thoroughbred industry;

OSAF is Member of the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA), International Stud Book Committee (ISBC) and the International Thoroughbred Breeders's Federation (ITBF), being the regional representative before these institutions.