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**OPENING REMARKS**  
**BUSINESS SESSION 3 - INDUSTRY PROFILES**  
**ARF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBER FOR RACING**  
**DEVELOPMENT**

Good afternoon.

The discussion which will now take place is an important component within the Asian Racing Conference.

If one looks to the Charter of the Asian Racing Federation the development of racing is one of our core missions.

Accordingly what we aim to do over the course of this business session is to examine in some detail the current state of play in three of the countries within the ARF footprint.

This will be instructive in several ways:

- First, from the very first ARC held in Tokyo in 1960 the Asian Racing Conferences have been dedicated to fostering good will and mutual understanding between member countries. It stands to reason that by learning more about each others situations we can achieve this good will and mutual understanding.
- Second, it will be important to learn whether there are common issues. It is by this means that we can identify potential roles for the ARF to play in either

acting as a vehicle for collaboration amongst members, or providing direct assistance.

- Third, the example of the countries presenting today is likely to have relevance to other countries at the same point on the development trajectory.

With this in mind we have selected three member countries to present today:-

### **Qatar**

The Qatar Racing and Equestrian Club was established in 1975 and became a Full Member of the ARF in 2001. As well as having developed a strong domestic racing footprint Qatar racing has made a substantial mark on world racing both through its sponsorship of the weekend of Qatar Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe and a commanding presence in the leading sales rings around the world.

### **Turkey**

The Jockey Club of Turkey is a longstanding member of the ARF having joined the Federation in 1970. We had the benefit of seeing its racing at first hand at the 34<sup>th</sup> ARC in 2012 and it will be very interesting to learn about recent developments.

### **Korea**

Korea also joined the ARF in 1970 and it has emerged as one of the fastest growing centres of racing in Asia. The KRA is at an important juncture with visionary plans for the internal reform and greater engagement internationally. Indeed I am delighted that Singapore horses were able to take part in the inaugural Asia Challenge Cup in

Seoul in 2014 with Korea then sending horses to run in the Korea Racing Authority Trophy at Kranji in July last year.

Against this background I would ask David Eades to introduce the first speaker.