



Dear WAHO Members

It is with the greatest pleasure that we extend this invitation to visit the State of Qatar for the 2014 WAHO Conference in Doha, being held under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Abdullah Bin Khalifa Al Thani, Special Advisor to H.H. Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, Emir of Qatar.

It is a unique event for WAHO to have two successive Conferences in the same country and it is due to the unavoidable cancellation of Brazil 2013 that the QREC has stepped in and invited you all back to Qatar. The 2011 WAHO conference in Qatar was very successful and all those who attended enjoyed it tremendously. For 2014, the management team here at QREC intend to make it even bigger and better than before. So even if you attended the 2011 WAHO Conference do come again and, if you were unable to join us in 2011 do be sure not to miss it this time. As in 2011, the 2014 WAHO Conference will have top class guest speakers on interesting topics, as well as a vibrant schedule of activities, stud farm visits and tours which are being planned for your enjoyment both before, during and after the conference itself. The 2014 WAHO Qatar Conference is scheduled from 10 November till 18 November 2014. Full details and registration forms will be sent out soon and published on our dedicated website.

Arabian horses are a very important part of the cultural heritage of Qatar, where their history is intertwined with that of the Qatari people for centuries. Yaqut al-Hamawi, an Arab traveller and historian who died in 1229, mentions Qatar as being famous as a horse breeding centre during the Umayyad period, and from the 16th century Qatar was one of the area's focal points for the trade and export of horses, as well as gold, silk textiles, and pearls. When the ruling Al-Thani family came to Qatar from Nejd in the 19th century, naturally they brought their horses with them, from the best-known strains such as the Ubiya, Seglawia Jedrania, Hamdania, Kohaila Al Mosenna, Hadba, Towaisa and Wathna. A small number of precious horses descending from some of those desert bred lines can still be found in Qatar to this day.

Qatar became a full member of WAHO in 1990 and since then we have seen spectacular progress in the development of the Arabian horse in our country. We now have some 2,000 living Arabians from all blood-lines, with approximately 250 new foals born each year. Qatar offers many and varied activities for our Arabian horses and their owners, including world-class racing, endurance and showing.

Today, several large and internationally famous stud-farms of Arabian horses are proudly located here in Qatar, as well as many smaller farms. All of their owners are most eager to welcome you and show you their horses.

To those of you who have never been to Qatar before, we are keen to show you not just our horses and our heritage, but also the Qatar of today. To those who have visited before, we feel sure you will be surprised and delighted by the latest spectacular changes in this extremely dynamic and forward-thinking country.

We look forward to welcoming you all to Doha in November.

Sheikh Mohammed Bin Faleh Al Thani
Chairman Qatar Racing and Equestrian Club

WAHO Qatar 2014 Conference

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