



WAHO Conference Executive Committee Members

THE WORLD ARABIAN HORSE ORGANIZATION CONFERENCE - WAHO - CELEBRATING ITS 44TH ANNIVERSARY IN QATAR

WAHO WORLD REGISTRARS MEETING 2014
WELFARE, HISTORY & CULTURE, GENETIC RESEARCH:
THE MAIN TOPICS OF THE 2014 CONFERENCE IN DOHA
THE ARABIAN FARM TOURS:
NON-STOP-HIGHLIGHTS IN THE DESERT

NOVEMBER 2014: AFTER THE SUCCESSFUL 2011 CONFERENCE AND THE CANCELLATION OF THE PLANNED 2013 CONFERENCE IN BRAZIL, WAHO MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS ONCE AGAIN MET AT DOHA, QATAR, AT THE INVITATION OF THE QATAR RACING & EQUESTRIAN CLUB.

The conference was organized 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, the Emir of Qatar. WAHO itself plans the agenda for the WAHO World registrars Meeting and for their own General Assembly, and selects the topics and speakers for the guest lectures, but it is the host country which plans all the social, equestrian and cultural events that make these WAHO Conferences so special. This is a perfect opportunity for the host country Qatar to present itself and its Arabian

horses during a whole week, both before and after the conference. All WAHO members were invited to take part, and guests could also register for participation in this interesting and informative additional program. Thanks for the program and all the work involved to ensure the success of this complex event go to HE Sheikh Mohammed Bin Faleh Al Thani, Chairman of the Qatar Racing and Equestrian Club, to QREC General Manager Mr. Sami Jassim Al Boenain, and to Conference co-coordinator Mrs. Hannie Maasdijk and her large team. A welcome reception and dinner on the grounds of the Museum of Islamic Art set

the start for the high standard that was to be met during all of the Conference and program. A parade of Arabian horses in traditional saddlery made clear that the topic of the Conference was just that: Arabian horses.

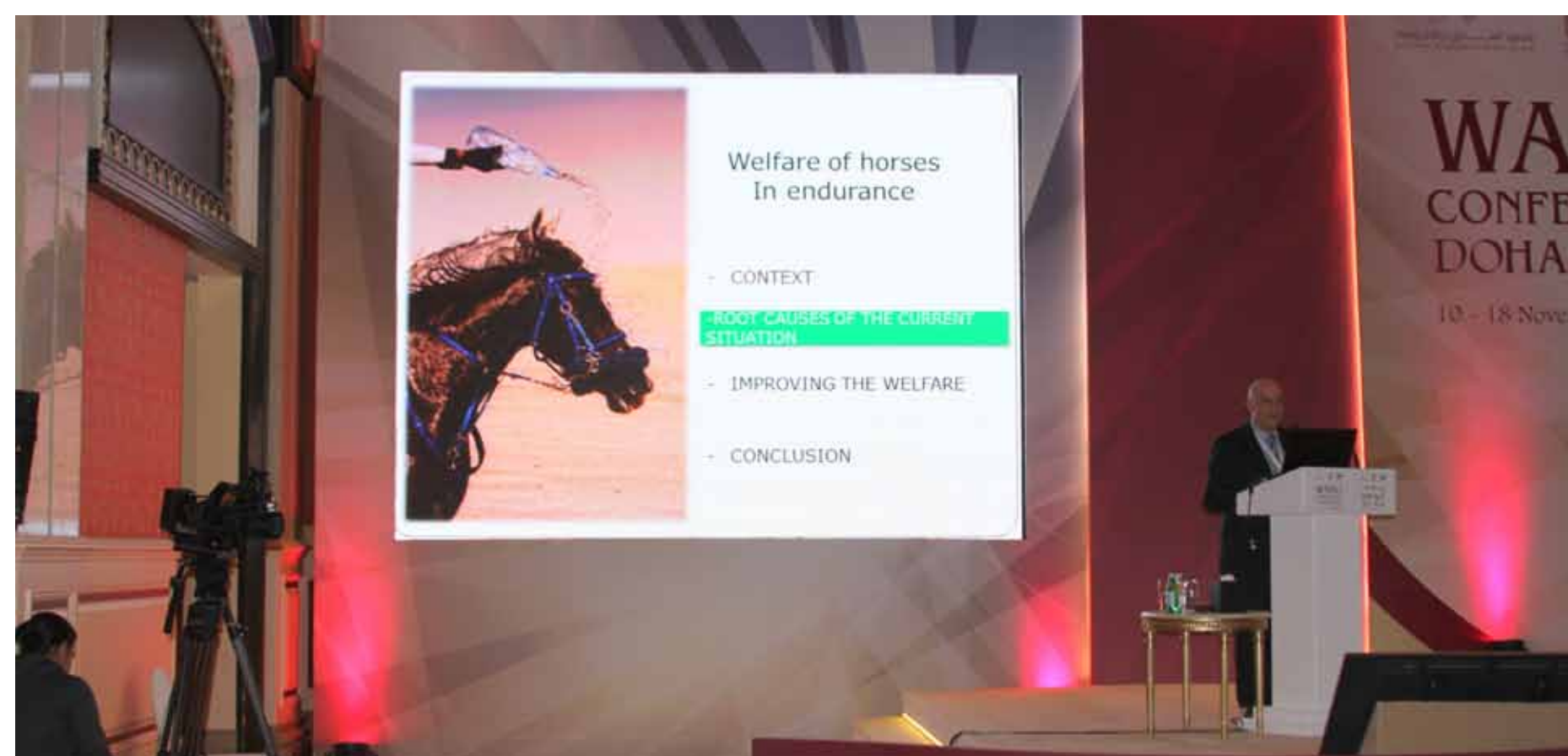
WAHO WORLD REGISTRARS MEETING 2014

The registrars, the people entrusted with keeping the studbooks of the Arabian horses of all the nearly 70 member states, conferred and discussed questions regarding the international proceedings of the studbook for Arabian horses. For a better understanding: WAHO,

as the umbrella organization for all pure Arabian studbooks, enables the acceptance of passports, pedigrees and regulations throughout all the member countries of this internationally cross-linked horse breed. Only if each member country registers its horses according to the same set of rules (including DNA analysis, microchipping, foal registration, and other means of control), can Arabian horses be imported and exported without buyers and sellers being required to carry out complicated validation processes for their animals and their offspring. Solving such problems would be an impossible task for the individual breeder.



WAHO Conference Attendees



Jean-Luis Leclerc speech about the Welfare of horses in Endurance

But in our global world of the "horse industry", the umbrella organization of WAHO is continuously faced with new challenges. At its Conference, normally held every two years, these problems have to be discussed and decisions reached that can be passed on for approval by the representatives of the national studbooks. A final document, titled "WAHO requirements for establishing and keeping a stud book, rule changes" is then forwarded to the individual studbook-keeping countries as a basis for continued cooperation, in order to synchronize proceedings. Advanced reproduction technologies

and a constantly expanding international market make it essential for WAHO, and through WAHO the individual breeding associations in the different countries, to develop complex systems of verifying the identity of registered foals and of imported horses. The Arabian studbook was closed in 2004, which is a good thing. But it also means that this gene pool needs protection. This breed has to be maintained with a closed stud book not only according to the Bedouin tradition of pure breeding, but also because in our material world, the value of a purebred Arabian is rated highly, and controls are necessary to prevent malpractice.

During the meeting of the registrars and during the general assembly, the subjects included special rules for embryo transfer and the export of an embryo in the uterus of a carrier mare into another country, and also rules for the export of frozen embryos. During the General Assembly, the results of the Registrars Meeting were presented and brought to the vote. Also during the General Assembly, the WAHO vice president newly elected by the Executive Committee, Mr Sami Al Nohait from Saudi Arabia, was introduced and welcomed with applause. In this context and like every time during

General Assembly so far, WAHO's constitutional approach of having the members of the Executive Committee confirmed by the General Assembly of the WAHO Conference was questioned, and discussed after an inquiry by Abdullah Albraihi (Kuwait) as well as several other members. They suggested that with the increased number of WAHO members, and despite the high respect of members for their Executive Committee and their President, procedures that are more democratic should be introduced – in particular, the members of the Executive Committee should be appointed by secret individual voting. The WAHO President

ARABIAN HORSE NEWS

assured the assembly that their comments and requests on this topic will be seriously looked into by the Executive Committee within the next two years. However, Pond pointed out, the constitution in its present form made WAHO the strong body it is today. Also, any substantial changes in the constitution of WAHO require a vote from the General Assembly. On inquiry, Pond concluded that in case of ideas for substantial changes that would need to be on the agenda for the next Conference, members would certainly be informed before that date.

REPORTS AND STATISTICS FROM THE MEMBER COUNTRIES

At the heart of the WAHO General Assembly are the traditional and always interesting reports given by each of the voting Delegates present, about the Arabian horse affairs in their own countries. In particular, statistics were presented, such as the number of foals born per year, the number of horses imported and exported, and events of national importance such as horse races, shows, or endurance races.

As for races, Turkey is clearly far in the lead with a staggering 2172 racing competitions for Arabian horses reported by the Turkish registrar. As Turkey exported just 14 horses, their breeding looks to be mainly for their national racecourses. And where Turkey organizes an unbelievable number of course races, France is unbelievably strongly engaged in the endurance sector: 2650 races were run. Presumably, the major part of French-bred Arabians is intended for the endurance scene. With 3282 foals registered, the highest number of foals overall in 2013 was reported for the USA. As 15 years ago the number was much higher, Arabian breeding might be thought to suffer a severe crisis in the US nowadays, but on the other hand, they exported 500 horses during that year. Of the Arabian countries, the highest number of offspring was listed for the kingdom of Saudi Arabia, where in 2013, 1,775 foals were registered, 610 horses were imported and 29 were exported. Their number of Arabians is growing exponentially. The second highest number of foals was reported from Turkey, where 1450 foals were born. And in Egypt, even though breeding suffers from the difficult conditions in the country, 1162 foals were registered. An additional 147 horses were imported, and with 119 horses exported during the same time, breeding in Egypt is obviously considered successful abroad. For the UAE, 668 foals and 260 races were reported. Kuwait reported 475 registered foals per year, two shows, 20 flat races and four endurance rides



Cynthia Culbertson speaking about 'Bedouin Tradition' and its relevance today



Douglas F. Antczak speech about Comparative Animal Genomics in Qatar

during the same time. Tunisia gave their number of foals born as 433 in 2013. Quite obviously, the country puts a lot of emphasis on racing: no less than 365 races have been run. And for Qatar, 289 foal births are recorded, with this country also being one of the Arabian countries

with a focus on horse racing: there are 190 races and another 14 endurance races reported, and just 4 shows. In the overall birth ranking, France can claim second place with 1225 foals registered per year. From Italy, 803 foal births were reported, with a high number

of exports at 241 horses. Germany seems to be a strong exporter, too, with 294 horses exported while in the same year, 700 foals were born. And last but not least, Australia sports a very high number of endurance races, listing about 500 of them for 2013.



Doha City Skyline

Overall, it was interesting to note which are the main fields for sports horses in different countries, and how the breeders accommodate to these different challenges. The statistics were quite unexpected in some instances.

Welfare, History & Culture, Genetic Research: the Main Topics of the 2014 Conference in Doha

Once again, a group of internationally renowned experts with specialist knowledge in a wide range of subjects including equine welfare and behavioral studies, genetics and cultural heritage, had been invited to give presentations. The program of the 2014 conference put some emphasis on equine welfare, while during the 2011 WAHO Conference, reproductive technologies had been much in the foreground of many discussions.

The main point of several of this year's presentations on horse welfare was that the human-horse relationship urgently requires changes in order to reduce physical harm to horses from riding, and to prevent problem behavior from faulty training and housing. Hopefully, the WAHO delegates will take the interesting results of the research into the behavior of horses back home into the member countries. The presentations started with Mrs. Cynthia Culbertson, USA, who gave a well-illustrated and thought-provoking overview of Bedouin traditions for Arabian horses, naming physical as well as character traits, and assessing the relevance of these traditions today.

Dr. Doug Antczak from the US reported on the research project on horse genetics, supported by the Qatar National Research Fund, that studies comparative in-depth animal genomics with 3 signature species: the Oryx antelope, the camel, and the horse. The project aims at answering, among others, the questions of how distinct the genome of the Arabian horse is, how variable Arabians are within the breed, and which genes control desert adaptation.

Dr. Martine Hausberger from France reported on scientific studies centered "On the human-horse relationship: horse



Al Aeed Al Shaqab showing off in front of WAHO members

welfare and human beliefs", concluding that faulty human perceptions of horse behavior result in humans ignoring or misinterpreting many tell-taling signs that horses give. Better training of humans is urgently needed.

Mrs. Elizabeth J. Launder gave an overview of studies on "The rider or trainer's influence, negative and positive, on horse performance", also concluding that the people handling horses need to receive more training on horse behavior, in order to be able to interpret the signs given by horses correctly, and thus to be able to bring a horse up to the performance level this horse is capable of.

Along about the same lines, Dr. Jean-Louis Leclerc from France spoke of "Improving the welfare of the endurance horses in training and competition" and summed up that riders, trainers, and officials need to be better educated, while the regulations need to ask for minimum competence on the part of the riders, review officials' performance, and establish a concept for penalties.

The topic with Dr. Clemence Lesimple,

France, was "Improving horses' health and welfare through adapted management practices". Her message was clear-spoken: horses are healthier and less aggressive by far when they can live naturally. Which means: when they can move around, feed frequently on a high fiber diet, and have close contact with other horses.

Polish Prof. Tadeusz Majda, a distinguished orientalist and specialist in Islamic Art, reported on the current situation of "The Count Rzewuski Manuscript and its translation into English and Arabic", which is a joint project being realized by the national Library in Warsaw and the Qatar Museums Authority, sponsored by the Qatar Foundation.

Mr. Roland Owers of the UK presented the preeminent international horse charity "World Horse Welfare", giving as "a Global View" that its main fields of activity are information on and activity towards horse-human partnership, pioneering legislation to improve welfare, and education for public, governments and regulators.

THE ARABIAN FARM TOURS: NON-STOP-HIGHLIGHTS IN THE DESERT

The invitation previously issued to the international guests promised an exciting framework program. Qatar Racing & Equestrian Club Chairman H.E. Sheikh Mohammed bin Faleh Al Thani had put it like this: "We are delighted to be hosting some of the world's leading authorities in their respective fields and look forward to some very informative and enlightening presentations. To complement the conference we will be inviting delegates to visit some of Qatar's major stud farms and training centres providing a rare opportunity to see such a high concentration of quality Arabian breeding stock, race and show horses anywhere in the world."

So every day, the conference buses carrying curious delegates and guests rolled through the congested Doha streets towards the studs. With the exception of the Al Shaqab Foundation, located within the city limits, the stud

ARABIAN HORSE NEWS

WAHO Board members enjoying the Presentation at Al Shaqab Stud



farms have all raised their "tents" far outside Doha, where they have created verdant oases for their horses. As in 2011, all stud farms put a huge amount of enthusiasm and effort into their presentations.

Al Shaqab Farm was founded by HH Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, the former Emir of Qatar. The farm was later incorporated into the Qatar Foundation and moved to new facilities within the Doha city limits inside the Al Shaqab building complex, one of the largest and most modern in the world. Up to 100 foals are born there every year. For 20 years, Al Shaqab has been competing in racing, endurance and showing with incomparable success.

Mr. Mohammed Al Sulaiti, breeding and show manager of Al Shaqab, welcomed the WAHO guests and invited them to view the huge stables, paddocks and

training facilities. Following the tour, 22 selected horses from the show breeding program were presented. These were offspring of the most famous Al Shaqab stallions, including Al Adeed Al Shaqab, Farhoud Al Shaqab, Marwan Al Shaqab, Kahil Al Shaqab, Fadi Al Shaqab and Wadee Al Shaqab. The 2014 foals impressed with their extreme type with long necks and good movements. Is it possible to top this? Probably not. Next, the 20-year-old Al Adeed himself was presented to standing ovations, showing himself as spirited as in his younger years. For most spectators, this straight Egyptian must have been the highlight of the evening. He was the cause of lively discussions about the goals of our show horse breeding that continued well into the superb dinner buffet to which the guests were then invited.

Al Nasser Farm on Salwa Road is a green oasis of date palms and tamarisks in the center of Qatar. It was founded 20 years ago by Sheikh Nawaf bin Nasser Al Thani and has for the last 10 years been managed with great success by Mr Hendrik Mens from Belgium. Originally, only straight Egyptians were bred there and are famous the world over, such as the eye-catching Shagran Al Nasser (Ansata Selman x Dana Al Nasser), Laheeb Al Nasser (Al Adeed Al Shaqab x Bint Saida Al Nasser) and their successful offspring. For a few years now, there has also been a small, but very successful breeding program for show Arabians, such as multiple champion Kanz Al Nasser (WH Justice x Ftoon Al Shaqab) and the champion mare Masrata Al Nasser (Marwan Al Shaqab x Remal Al Nasser) among others. In spite of the enormously

successful breeding program and a presentation of extremely typey and elegant Arabians, stud manager Mr Hendrik Mens maintains a humble attitude: „With each season, we try to improve our breeding program. If we think certain elements are lacking, we choose the stallions to complement our mares, sometimes with results, sometimes not. There are no perfect horses. But if you think of Al Nasser horses, they will certainly be horses with beautifully refined faces, gentle characters, but nice show attitudes".

Al Shahania Stud, an oasis designed for racehorses and situated east of Doha, is a unique place for testing the performance of Arabian horses. The 50 hectare farm with a racetrack, huge paddocks with open stables, a swimming pool for horses, generous stabling and complete training facilities



Al Shahaniya Farm Main Entrance

has everything imaginable to ensure success. The owner, HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Khalifa Al Thani, has selected the appropriate breeding stock for these facilities from all over the world. Racehorses representing two to three generations of his own breeding compete at the foremost racetracks in the world. Ten times, he has won the "Emirs Sword Trophy", five times with homebred horses, which is the most important thing for him. Meanwhile, he also has a breeding program of show horses from champion bloodlines which he carries on successfully. Back in 2011, this stud delighted visitors with a fascinating program including live music and a superb dinner, while the stars of the global racing world were paraded past them. This year, even more emphasis was placed on involving the guests in Arab traditions. In addition to

a tour of the stables and a presentation of the champions during the gala dinner, there were varied and colorful displays including camel riding, henna tattoos, Saluki hound presentations, and even demonstrations of craftsmanship techniques and medicinal treatments involving Arabian horses and Arab culture.

Al Samariyah is not just a stud farm, but a complete replica of an ancient Qatari fortress, with huge stables built from natural stone, an artificial lake, and a private museum for the owner, HE Sheikh Faisal bin Qassim Al Thani. The entire complex was open for viewing. Arabian horses are a top priority for Al Samariyah, but there are also Arabian Oryx antelopes and gazelles living there to enrich the impression of Qatari traditions. A few years ago, a successful equestrian center was added in order

to train Arabian horses under saddle in various disciplines. It is open for Qatari citizens and other inhabitants of Qatar of all age brackets. Following a rich traditional lunch, the WAHO guests were shown some of the stud's successful horses both in hand and ridden.

Immediately after, it was off to the camel races, hosted by Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim Al Thani. And on another day, the WAHO guests also got the opportunity to make a tour of the modern Camel Hospital there.

The stud and training center of Umm Qarn is located in a natural oasis, north of Doha, not far from the Gulf. The center is world-famous for its extraordinarily successful racing operations, not least owing to their much discussed racing stallion Amer (Wafi x Bushra), sire of almost 200 offspring with a total

of 763 race wins under their belts up to today. There is also the stallion Tabarak (Nizam x Altesse d'Aroco), title holder as the highest-rated Arabian racehorse in the world, contributing to the enormous success of this stud. The founder and owner of this five-star complex is another member of the ruling house of Qatar, HH Sheikh Abdullah Bin Khalifa Al Thani. To the WAHO visitors, he disclosed that since the beginning of the 1980ies, Arabian horses are a part of his life. His focus, admittedly, is on race horses, which let him celebrate tremendous successes all over the world. The daughters and sons of Amer alone won 86 Group 1 races all over the world, including Turkey's Malazgrit Trophy, the Qatar Arabian World Cup at Longchamp, Paris, and the President of UAE Cup Series races in the UK, Ireland, the UAE, Germany, and the Netherlands.



Al Nasser Stud Presentation

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Al Shahaniya Barn

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NEWS

Umm Qam

After being treated to the presentation of some of the best racehorses in the world, the guests were invited to a traditional dinner of exquisite standards.

There would be much more to tell of numerous other highlights, such as

the tour offered of Al Wabra Wildlife Sanctuary, the Al Zubarah Fort and archaeological site, the national Stud Farm of Al Zohara which is just under construction, or the excellent receptions and gala dinners offered at the invitation

of the Qatar Racing & Equestrian Club. The touristic program alone would have been worth the journey to Qatar, but the reports on this part of the conference are to be written elsewhere. Thank you very much to the hospitable people of

Qatar, to the organizers, to WAHO and to everybody who made this experience possible. We will hopefully meet again in two years, when the WAHO World Conference takes its next step in Bahrain.

DR. NAGEL
RETIRED AS WAHO
PRESIDENT

THE 2014 WAHO OPEN CONFERENCE IN DOHA, QATAR, WAS DOMINATED BY A SPECIAL EVENT. DR. HANS J. NAGEL, FOR MANY YEARS PRESIDENT OF WAHO, CHOSE TO RETIRE FOR REASONS OF AGE.

HIS VICE PRESIDENT, MR. PETER POND FROM AUSTRALIA, TOOK OVER THE PRESIDENCY, WHILE DR. NAGEL WAS AWARDED THE HONORARY TITLE OF PRESIDENT EMERITUS OF THE WAHO. AS A PARTING GIFT, HE WAS PRESENTED WITH THE WATERCOLOR PAINTING OF HIS FAMOUS MARE HANAN BY PETER UPTON. A VIDEO "TRIBUTE TO HIS PAST" WAS PRESENTED ABOUT HIS LIFE WITH ARABIAN HORSES AND BREEDERS IN THE WORLD, PRODUCED BY MASSIMO MENGHINI/MONIKA SAVIER. THE FILM CAN BE VIEWED ON YOUTUBE AT [HTTP://YOUTU.BE/XJSKYOFZVSG](http://youtu.be/xjskyofzvsg)

A TRIBUTE TO DR. HANS J. NAGEL (LAUDATIO):**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

An era draws to its end. For us WAHO members and horse breeders, the era of "Dr. Hans Nagel as WAHO president" ends today. We know that history is taking a turn at this point, and for us, the history is the history of the Arabian horse, and the turn is our chairman stepping down from the position he has held for so long.

The unique results he achieved in this position are hard to match. WAHO loses a genuine mastermind and leader – losses that are very, very hard to bear.

For Hans Nagel, his position in WAHO was an important duty and an obligation which he took very seriously. For him, it went without saying that when you are elected to lead an organization such as WAHO, you take the responsibility and make the sacrifices that are necessary for success.

We are lucky to have had a president who took his leadership seriously and dared to think forward, encouraging independent thinking, individual decisions, and new ways of putting ideas into action. With his dedicated leadership and work, he succeeded in making great contributions to the world-wide renaissance of the Arabian horse.

After all, he definitely considered himself a horse breeder, much more than an official

figure in the horse breeding business.

He was born in 1930 and holds a PhD in Social Economy. Starting shortly after World War II, he traveled all over Arabia on agricultural business, setting up farm projects.

He was an adventurous man, daring to enter remote parts and into difficult terrain, driven by his curiosity and his fascination for Arabian horses. So his profession provided him with ample opportunity to study this breed, which led him to found his own stud back home in Germany, 50 years ago.

In all of his restless life, his Arabian horse stud was the place for him to recover with his fifty horses, his wife Nawal from Lebanon, his four children, and many grand-children. How did it all begin? To quote Hans Nagel: "It would be a great pity if a person did not experience a fantastically exciting event at least once in his life – one that gripped him entirely". For him, this is what took place when he visited the Egyptian state stud of El Zahraa, Cairo, in the 1960s. Hans Nagel put it like this: "A spark had nested, a vague idea grew from out of nothing into the vision of a horse of my own, my own breeding operation and stables".



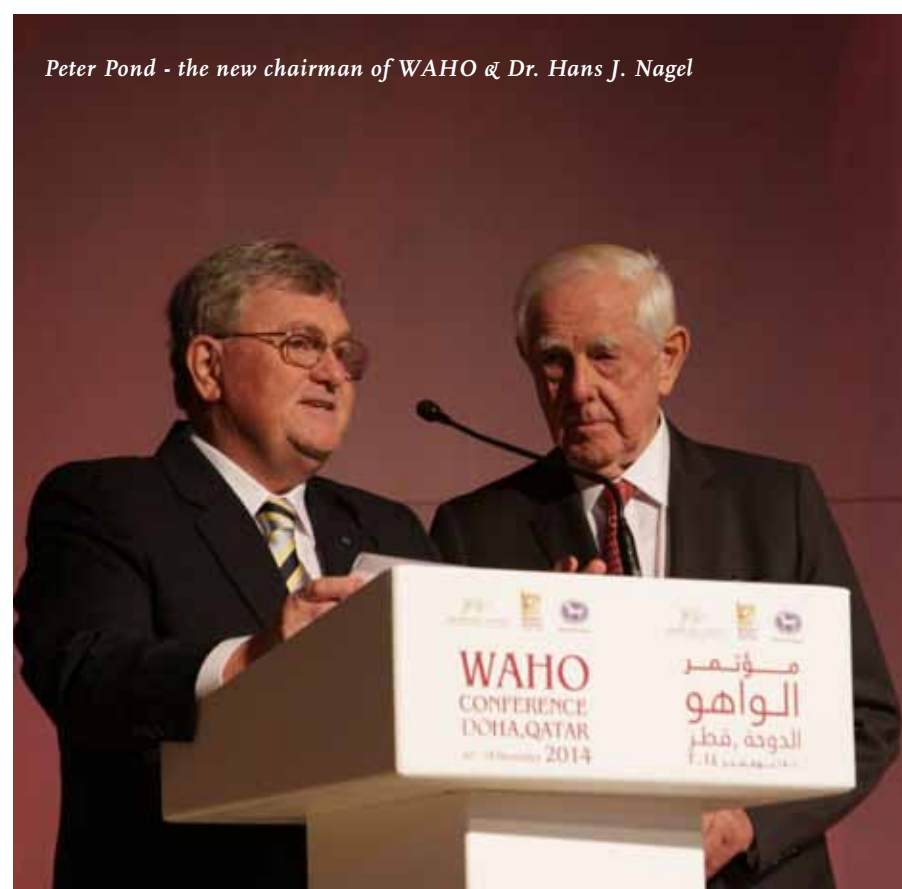
Dr. Nagel



Abdullah N. Albraihi & Dr. Hans J. Nagel



Peter Pond handing over a present from WAHO to Dr. Nagel



Peter Pond - the new chairman of WAHO & Dr. Hans J. Nagel



Standing Ovations for Dr. Nagel



Monika Savier-Laudatio for Dr. Nagel

Even today, there is a strong bond between El Zahraa and the curious breeder Hans Nagel, who imported his foundation mare Hanan from there. Hanan's sons Jamil and Salaa el Dine, stamped all the future breeding stock, from which Nagel built his herd of the finest world-famous straight Egyptian horses.

And whatever he learned during all of his interesting visits to the horse-breeding Bedouin tribes in the Middle East, be they interesting facts about ancient horse breeding or the considerations behind his own unique breeding concept, he would not keep it behind closed doors.

Hans Nagel never was just an expert to himself. He is a fine journalist and gifted teacher who wants to share his experiences with everybody and who takes joy in making people interested in Arabian horses, this breed which he finds so fascinating himself. For him, it was always important to widen his horizon, so he was ever curious for the ideas and methods of other breeders, in whatever country they are working. So whenever he had an opportunity to address people, his aim was to instruct people, or make them curious; and to encourage them to take up breeding Arabian horses and follow their own ideas and ideals when doing so.

This was why he wrote important publications, among them many articles for magazines. In the nineties, he wrote his first extensive book, the story of his mare Hanan, her past and her future as carried along by her offspring on Katharinenhof Stud in Germany.

From 2011 to 2013, he worked on his more than 500 page compendium and guide "The Arabian Horse – Nature's Creation and the Art of Breeding".

Is there some kind of summary or legacy for the era of Dr. Hans Nagel as WAHO president to underline? Well yes, definitely.

There is mainly one thing that he is strongly convinced of and therefore never tired of stressing: there will only be enough people who are interested in the Arabian breed if a variety of types remains available.

For many years, Hans Nagel stressed that there used to be geographic variety which made sure that there was genetic variety.

Today, standards such as the show standard effectively equalize the differences between various populations of Arabians, reducing the gene pool for the breed.

There are three characteristics he wants to save, for which the Arabian horse is unique. The first is its attractive beauty, the other its exceptional athletic ability, and the third its pleasant human-related behaviour.

The fascination with Arabian horses doesn't stop here, however. Arabian horses are found all over the world today, connecting people in a kind of universal global language that speaks to all of us who love the Arabian horse.

Hans Nagel is somebody who speaks that language perfectly and always used it to support, and to encourage people to make their own choices and follow their own goals in breeding.

And it is just this WAHO era of curiosity, of open-mindedness, of room for personal choices and a sense of adventures in the horse world, that you will be remembered for, Hans. Thank you for it.

Monika Savier