

2009 DUBAI INTERNATIONAL ARABIAN HORSE FAIR

HIS HIGHNESS SHEIKH HAMDAN BIN RASHID AL MAKTOUM INAUGURATES DUBAI INTERNATIONAL HORSE FAIR 2009

Dubai, United Arab Emirates



◀ *Sheikh Hamdan cutting the ribbon at DIHF*

Largest ever equestrian exhibition in the Middle East to showcase latest equipment, supplies and services alongside biggest ever Dubai International Arabian Horse Championship

His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai and UAE Minister of Finance and Industry, inaugurated the 2009 Dubai International Horse Fair (DIHF) at the Dubai International Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Following the opening ceremony, HH toured the show, which this year attracted over 150 participating companies from a record-breaking 37 countries. Organised by Dubai World Trade Centre, DIHF will run from 19 - 21 March 2009. The show was open from 11am-8pm Thursday and Saturday and from 2pm-8pm on Friday.

Billed as the most international equestrian event ever held in the Middle East, the show saw record numbers of visitors on its first day. Held under the patronage of

HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, DIHF has quickly become a key event, serving a fast growing industry with strong traditional roots in the region.

The show runs alongside the 6th Dubai International Arabian Horse Championship, a three-day competition for purebred Arabian horses, showcasing their beauty, agility and heritage, culminating in the Championship classes for the most exquisite horses.

"The response from both visitors and exhibitors has been extremely strong this year, with many international attendees saying that the show is now firmly among the world's best equestrian events," said Abdulla Qassem, Board Member - Higher Organising Committee of Dubai International Horse Fair and Dubai International Arabian Horse Championship.

DIHF has been highly successful in providing a platform that brings together local distributors, international horse

owners, manufacturers, breeders and suppliers as well as the wider riding community. Over the years it has consistently attracted a stronger number of visitors with an interest in horses, thanks to the event's exciting mix of companies, features and services on offer.

In step with these developments, DIHF showcased a wide range of products. As every year, the exhibition was the platform for companies to display innovation in supplies and equipment. Moreover, a raffle draw sponsored by Al Awani General Enterprises Establishment and Gulf Rider Veterinary (UAE) and 3rd Veterinarian Seminar sponsored by Olympic Horse Feeds Ltd, UK was undertaken.

Building on last year's successful introduction of seminars and exhibitor presentations at DIHF, veterinarians and horse owners were invited again to participate in meetings running alongside the show to discuss key issues in the industry. **HT**