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To: IFHA/FIAH Members, Press

From: Aki AKITANI (Deputy Secretary General)

Date: May 21, 2010

**REF: Chairman Awarded 'The Order of the Rising Sun'**

Mr. Louis ROMANET, Chairman of the IFHA was awarded "The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon" at the official residence of the Japanese Ambassador in Paris on 17<sup>th</sup> May.

This prestigious award was for his contribution to the Japanese agriculture in the field of thoroughbred breeding and development of international racing.

The Japanese Ambassador to France, Mr. Hajime SAITO gave him the Order and 90 distinguished racing individuals were in attendance.

Mr. Saito praised Mr. Romanet's contribution to the development of Japanese Racing in his speech, and Mr. Romanet praised JRA 's stable progress in raising the racing standard and also gave an encouragement to cross-border wagering among the other issue.

Mr. Romanet became the first non-Japanese individual to be conferred a decoration from the Japanese Government in the field of thoroughbred racing and breeding.

