

## Framework Agreement on Strategic Cooperation

Party A: Anhui Equestrian Association; the People's Government of Dangshan County of Anhui Province  
Party B: Maryland Horse Industry Board

In order to further advance the friendly exchange and cooperation between the State of Maryland and Anhui Province, in light of their respective strengths to facilitate a long-term mutually beneficial, sustainable and (close) collaborative partnership, Anhui Equestrian Association (hereinafter referred to as AEA), the People's Government of Dangshan County of Anhui Province (hereinafter referred to as Dangshan County), and the Maryland Horse Industry Board (hereinafter referred to as MHIB) through friendly consultation have reached the following framework agreement on cooperation and exchange in the equestrian industry.

### 1. Goals of Cooperation

Within the framework of Maryland-Anhui Sister State Relationship, the parties referred to above will adhere to the principles of "friendly exchanges, equality and mutual benefits, complementary advantages, and common development", with the goal of jointly cultivating an international center of equestrian cultural industry exchanges, to build a horse industry cluster integrating horse breeding, horse products, horse tourism culture, equestrian training and horse sport events, striving to make the horse industry a bridge for internal and external communication and a shining example of cooperation between international Sister States.

### 2. Principles of Cooperation

The parties strive to work together on increasing cooperation and exchange, promoting industrial cooperation, facilitating the implementation of projects, and building platforms for cooperation and mechanisms for communication. The parties want to make full use of their respective strengths in terms of comprehensive resources, in order to achieve short-term results and medium-to-long-term development in horse industry cooperation, and achieve mutually beneficial and strategic win-win goals among the three parties.

### 3. Contents of Cooperation

The three parties will carry out comprehensive strategic cooperation in the fields of pure blood horse breeding and training, disease prevention and control, horse trade, horse product proliferation and processing, equestrian training for youth, talent training in horse industry, event organization and management, and equestrian cultural exchange.

#### (1) Establishment of an international center for equestrian sports culture industry exchanges

Within the framework of Maryland-Anhui Sister State Relationship, the MHIB and Anhui Equestrian Association will collaborate to establish an international center for equestrian sports culture exchange, cultivating an industrial cluster complex integrating equestrian trade, sports, industry, culture, tourism, training and education, striving to build a base for a friendly cooperation between Maryland and Anhui. The parties will introduce Maryland harness racing and the Maryland official sport of jousting.

#### (2) Introduction of a thoroughbred horse breeding and building a professional breeding system

Party A (Anhui Equestrian Association) may purchase from Maryland four American thoroughbred horses. In addition, the Maryland horse organization or volunteers may identify and donate 2 additional horses for Party A as market condition allows. At the same time, there will be advanced horse breeding concepts of standardized breeding, professional training and integrated epidemic prevention, supported by practical programs such as optimal breeding, scientific feeding and veterinary care. There will also be the establishment of a horse breeding and trade center in Dangshan County of Anhui Province, and promotion of a breeding and horse training, so as to meet its domestic demand for high-end sports and equestrian event horses. Dangshan County will provide coordination and support.

#### (3) Development of a horse-specific forage planting industry focused on high-end thoroughbred horse pastures

The parties will rely on Dangshan County's natural resources, using the orchard grass hay to access high-quality forage for competition horses to build a forage base specific for horses. The parties shall also improve the

efficiency of forage conversion, increase the added value of horse products, and extend the horse industry chain. Dangshan County and Anhui Equestrian Association will jointly invest in the construction work, while MHIB will facilitate in providing seed matching, planting and professional support.

#### (4) Joint building of an equestrian workshop project for youth

The parties will jointly develop a youth equestrian training business, with multiple models and forms, such as professional equestrian study, short-term equestrian training, equestrian summer camps, and joint operation of equestrian schools. One (1) or two (2) youth workshops will be conducted in Maryland every year.

#### (5) Create a pipeline to develop talent

Dangshan County and Anhui Equestrian Association will invite horse industry experts from MHIB to provide training for the existing horse industry personnel of Dangshan County and Anhui Equestrian Association, and to increase bilateral exchange between the two sides. Anhui will select and send horse industry personnel to Maryland for two to three months of training in the horse industry. The courses will be designed free of charge by MHIB for the Anhui side, and implemented by a relevant institution(s). The personnel will return to Anhui after training to assist Dangshan in horse industry development, and organize relevant training projects to cultivate more horse industry talent. Anhui Equestrian Association or Dangshan County will bear the relevant expenses of travel and university and college training.

#### (6) Regular equestrian event participation

The parties will rely on equestrian events to achieve regular visits. Anhui Equestrian Association will send personnel to participate in the Maryland 5 Star, and encourage Anhui's equestrian young talents to participate in international competition. Anhui Equestrian Association and Dangshan County will organize high-level international events, jointly hold speed, endurance, and other types of equestrian races. Delegation led by Anhui Equestrian Association and Dangshan County will visit Maryland to participate in the Maryland 5 Star.

### 4. Cooperation Mechanism

(1) Arrange a meeting mechanism with the participation of leaders of the three parties, to remain updated, keep track of progress, make decisions on major issues, and facilitate the implementation of cooperation projects.

(2) Leaders of the three parties shall take the lead, and appoint specific departments and personnel to form a working group, responsible for the daily communication and implementation of matters related to cooperation.

(3) The three parties may sign specific business cooperation agreements and work on their implementation based on the cooperation contents confirmed by this framework agreement.

(4) Matters not covered in this agreement will be determined through friendly consultations and discussions between the three parties.

### 5. Supplementary Article

This agreement is made in triplicate, each in Chinese and English, with both versions being equally valid. Each copy has the same legal effect. It takes effect from the date of signature, November 30/December 1, 2021, and the official seal, and is valid for three years.



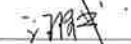
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County Mayor



Maryland Horse Industry Board  
Authorized representative:

Ross Peddicord  
Executive Director



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