

For Immediate Release

## **And Action! The Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum Calls for Film Projects Forum Connects Best Filmmakers with International Partners and Investors**

**Hong Kong, 22 August, 2016** – The 15<sup>th</sup> Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum (HAF) is calling on filmmakers to submit projects for the next forum which will take place in March 2017. Organised by the Hong Kong International Film Festival Society (HKIFFS) and running concurrently with the Hong Kong International Film and TV Market (FILMART), HAF is Asia's leading film-financing platform that connects filmmakers to internationally prominent film-industry financiers, producers, production companies, post-production houses, distributors, buyers, co-production ventures and film festival delegates. Next year's event will take place from 13-15 March at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre.

**HAF now invites submissions of fiction and documentary feature length projects. The submission deadline is 21 October 2016.** Selected projects will be invited to participate in the film financing forum activities in Hong Kong and will also stand to compete for awards with a total value of approximately HK\$600,000 (approximately US\$78,000). An early bird discount is offered to projects submitted on or before 19 September 2016.

All submissions can opt to be listed in the "HAF Project Hub", an initiative that started in 2015. This official online repository and reference library serves as a bridge between filmmakers and potential investors. Investors can look up and request updated information on filmmakers and project status, and applicants can also revise and update their own projects. The HAF Project Hub aims at increasing exposure for film projects while adding value and longevity to HAF submissions.

HAF has partnered with the International IP Commercialization Council to enhance protection and security for projects in the Hub. When a project proposal is submitted to the Hub, the International Knowledge Registry (IKR) system will encrypt the proposal which will be stored in a safe place by a trusted authority.

Sharing the same vision to encourage quality Chinese-language projects, HAF is pleased to continue its collaboration with Fox International Productions and Fox Networks Group (FNG) Asia to present the "HAF/FOX Project Award". Projects submitted for this award are required to provide a full script in Chinese, and have both director and producer attached. **Cora YIM**, Senior Vice President and Territory Head of Hong Kong, Fox Networks Group, said: "We are very happy to once again work with HAF. This award aims to nurture promising Chinese projects which has regional appeal. We look forward to working with the winners on their project to promote the development of Chinese cinema."

Previous attendees have praised the forum. "HAF is consistently the best financing forum in Asia. The projects were of high quality and diverse in subject matters," said **Terence CHANG**, producer of *The Crossing* and *Warriors of the Rainbow: Seediq Bale* among many others. **TRAN Thi Bich Ngoc**, producer of *The Third Wife* (HAF 2016) commented: "HAF is professional and efficient. I'm grateful to be part of HAF in 2016. It's not only the opportunities to meet sale agents, distributors, financiers, but also the opportunities to connect with other filmmakers and understand what they are doing, how they are doing, stories of how they make their first feature. To me, every minute spent there is precious."

In previous years numerous HAF projects have achieved critical success. *Wolf and Sheep* (HAF 2015), directed by **Shahrbanoo SADAT**, won Art Cinema Award at Directors' Fortnight, Cannes Film

Festival 2016. *Behemoth* (HAF 2014), an environmental documentary by **ZHAO Liang**, entered competition at the Venice Film Festival 2015. *My Land* (HAF 2013), directed by **FAN Jian**, was selected in the Panorama section of Berlin Film Festival 2016 and the Hong Kong International Film Festival 2016. **Philip YUNG's** *Port of Call* (HAF 2011), based on a real-life controversial murder case in Hong Kong, was the closing film of the Hong Kong International Film Festival and won numerous awards at the Hong Kong Film Awards 2016, including Best Actor, Actress and Screenplay. *Crosscurrent* (HAF 2011) directed by **YANG Chao** won Silver Bear for Outstanding Artistic Contribution at the Berlin Film Festival 2016.

For more details on the 15<sup>th</sup> HAF's submission procedures, application eligibility and selection criteria, please visit <http://www.haf.org.hk>, or contact HAF via email: [haf@hkiff.org.hk](mailto:haf@hkiff.org.hk).

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### **About The Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum (HAF)**

The Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum (HAF) is widely recognized as an established film financing platform in Asia. The HAF brings Asian filmmakers with upcoming film projects to Hong Kong for co-production ventures with top film financiers, producers, bankers, distributors and buyers. Attracting more than 1,000 filmmakers and financiers from at least 35 countries and regions, around 25 to 30 projects are selected annually to participate in the three-day event.

HAF has partnered with international organisations to provide a range of opportunities to participants. Partners include iQIYI (China), Fox International Productions (Greater China) (US), Cinemart (the Netherlands), Asian Project Market (South Korea), Golden Horse Film Project Promotion (Taiwan), New Cinema Network (Italy) and others. Cash and in-kind awards to the value of around US\$150,000 are made with support from Create Hong Kong and Film Development Fund among others.

Past participants include China's JIA Jiangke, JIANG Wen, LU Chuan and NING Hao; Hong Kong's Peter CHAN, Stanley KWAN, Ann HUI, Fruit CHAN and PANG Ho-cheung; Taiwan's TSAI Ming-Liang, WEI Te-Sheng, CHUNG Mong-Hong and Leon DAI; Japan's KORE-EDA Hirokazu, KUROSAWA Kiyoshi, KAWASE Naomi and IWAI Shunji; South Korea's PARK Chan-wook, KIM Jee-woon, BONG Joon-ho and IM Sang-soo; as well as Thailand's Apichatpong WEERASETHAKUL, Ekachai UEKRONGTHAM, Nonzee NIMIBUTR and Pen-ek RATANARUANG.

### **About The Hong Kong International Film Festival Society Limited (HKIFFS)** **Uniting the World through Film**

The Hong Kong International Film Festival Society (HKIFFS) is a charitable, non-profit and non-governmental organisation dedicated to the discovery and promotion of creativity in the art and culture of film.

Committed to the development of a vibrant film culture in Hong Kong and Asia, the Society organises two annual flagship events in March and April: "Hong Kong International Film Festival (HKIFF)" and "Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum (HAF)." "HKIFF Cine Fan", a monthly screening

programme features a variety of curated contemporary, retrospective and thematic showcases was also launched in April 2013.

Through its year-round programmes, the mission of the Society is to strengthen global appreciation of Asian and Chinese film culture and to promote inspiring films from around the world, enriching the cultural life of Hong Kong.

Passionately believing in the power of films to unite cultures and generations, the HKIFFS is devoted to giving thousands of film lovers around the region direct access to the world's most inspired films all year round.

### **About Fox International Productions**

Fox International Productions (FIP) builds upon 20th Century Fox's industry-leading international motion picture activities and upon parent company 21st Century Fox's unparalleled global media reach by aligning all the company's international film productions under one banner. FIP also complements Fox's worldwide film releases with films sourced through partnerships with international producers, filmmakers, financiers, and strategic production & distribution agreements.

### **About FOX Networks Group**

FOX Networks Group (FNG) is 21st Century FOX's international multi-media business. We develop, produce and distribute 300+ wholly- and majority-owned entertainment, sports, factual and movie channels in 45 languages across Latin America, Europe, Asia and Africa. FNG's core channel brands include FOX, FOX Sports, FOX Life, FOX+ and National Geographic Channel. FNG's movie channels include FOX Movies, FOX Movies Premium and SCM (formerly Star Chinese Movies). Our non-linear brands include FOX Play, FOX Play+ and Nat Geo Play. These networks and their related mobile, non-linear and high- definition extensions, reach over 1.825 billion cumulative households worldwide. In addition, FNG owns and operates two production studios and produces thousands of local programming hours for its wholly owned channels and third parties.

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