

For Immediate Release

**The 17th HAF draws to a successful close
with awards galore as emerging filmmakers
take step towards global stage**



Hong Kong, 20 March, 2019 - The 17th Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum (HAF) successfully concluded today with an awards ceremony at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre.

A total of 18 awards – worth over \$2.1 million (US\$270,000) in cash and value-in-kind – were presented to filmmakers for their promising and remarkable projects.

Widely recognised as one of the most important film-financing platforms in the region, HAF, now in its 17th edition, showcased 42 shortlisted projects, including 19 Work-in-Progress (WIP) projects. Hundreds of film financiers, producers, distributors and buyers attended the three-day event from around the world and, through business meetings and networking events organised by HAF, they were connected to these talented filmmakers.

This year also marks the third edition of the WIP program in which, for the first time, a separate section for documentary projects is organised. The program offers a great opportunity for fiction and documentary filmmakers to secure post-production funds, sales agents and film festival support.

Hong Kong International Film Festival Society Curator and HAF Director Jacob Wong called the 17th Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum a resounding success.

“Thanks to the generous support from our partners, sponsors and fellow filmmakers, both the number and total value of this year’s awards have set new records, affording more resources and opportunities for filmmakers to realise their dreams,” Wong said.

“As a mission, HAF will continue to support the robust development of emerging talents in Hong Kong and Asia by seeking out promising filmmakers with interesting film projects.”

The highlight of the winning projects are: -

1. HAF Awards (Presented by Create HK, Hong Kong Film Development Fund and HAF)

Mr. Wellington Fung, Assistant Head of Create Hong Kong presented two HAF Awards to ***Wong Tai Sin Assassination*** (Hong Kong) and ***Our Apprenticeship*** (Japan) for Hong Kong Project and non-Hong Kong Project categories respectively. Each project received a cash prize of HK\$150,000 (approx. US\$19,200) in recognition of their originality and creativity.

2. WIP Documentary Award (Presented by Create HK, Hong Kong Film Development Fund and HAF)

This year, an award was added for WIP documentary projects. The new WIP Documentary Award is to encourage and promote the development of documentaries. The winning project, ***Odoriko*** (Japan), received a cash award of HK\$78,000 (approx. US\$10,000).

3. HAF Goes to Cannes (Presented by HAF and Marché du Film)

In collaboration with Marché du Film, Festival de Cannes, HAF Goes to Cannes Program presents opportunities for filmmakers to look for sales agents, distributors and film-festival. Mr. Yu Li-ping will provide a traveling subsidy of RMB 75,000 (approx. HK\$87,000) in total to the selected projects including ***Odoriko*** (Japan), ***To Live To Sing*** (China), ***SUK SUK*** (Hong Kong), ***Invitation*** (India) and ***Marygoround*** (Poland).

4. Heaven Pictures Young Director Award (Presented by Heaven Pictures (HK) Culture & Media Co., Ltd.)

Another new award, Heaven Pictures Young Director Award, was given to ***Solitary Kills*** (Hong Kong). The Award aims to encourage young Hong Kong directors to create local-themed projects with unique personal style. The winner received a cash prize of HK\$150,000 (approx. US\$19,200).

5. mm2 Award (Presented by mm2 Asia Ltd.)

Wong Tai Sin Assassination (Hong Kong) was honoured with the mm2 Award which aims to encourage and support Chinese-language film projects that exhibit good commercial and artistic quality. The winner received a cash award of HK\$100,000 (approx. US\$12,800).

6. Wanda Elite+ Plan Award (Presented by Wanda Media Co., Ltd)

Wanda Elite+ Plan Award has its root in the Elite + Filmmaker Plan launched by Wanda Media. It is dedicated to discovering and cultivating new film talents for the China market with the advantages of Wanda Media's integrated industry chain. The winning project, ***A Story of HERS*** (China) was selected by Wanda Pictures executives and received a cash award of HK\$100,000 (approx. US\$12,800).

7. Artention-Vanke Film Award (Presented by Artention-Vanke Cultural Industries Corp.)

Sponsored by Artention-Vanke Cultural Industries Corp., the Award aims to support young filmmakers and the development of their projects that exhibit both commercial and artistic qualities. A cash award of HK\$100,000 (approx. US\$12,800) was awarded to ***Who is Sleeping on My Pillow?*** (China). The winning project is also allowed free access to designated space in the Artention-Vanke Creative Arts Incubator, fully linked with high-quality resources from Artention and Vanke.

8. KOFIC Award (Presented by Korean Film Council)

Korean Film Council (KOFIC) is renowned for its commitment towards the growth of the Asian film industry. ***Zalava*** (Iran) was honoured with the KOFIC Award which aims to recognise the outstanding potentials of an Asian film project for its development. The winner received a cash award of HK\$100,000 (approx. US\$12,800).

9. Wouter Barendrecht Award (Presented by Wouter Barendrecht Film Foundation, Create HK and Hong Kong Film Development Fund)

Dedicated to the memory of the late Wouter Barendrecht, the renowned film producer and one of the founders of HAF, the Wouter Barendrecht Award went to ***Belonging*** (Bangladesh). This cash award of HK\$50,000 (approx. US\$6,400) recognises a project by a director under 35 who has not made more than three feature films.

10. Wutianming Post-Production Award (Presented by China Film Foundation-Wutianming Fund for Young Talents)

The Wutianming Post-Production Award is to encourage and support young film talents. An in-kind award of RMB 300,000 (approx. HK\$365,000) was given to ***The River in Me*** (China), which will be offered post-production services by Leading Digital Post Shanghai.

11. White Light Post-Production Award (Presented by White Light Studio)

White Light Post-Production Award is designed to promote cinematic innovation and promising Asian directors. The two in-kind awards went to ***Circa*** (The Philippines) from HAF and ***The Shepherdess and the Seven Songs*** (India) from WIP. Each project will be offered post-production services valued at US\$15,000 (approx. HK\$117,300) at their studio in Bangkok, Thailand.

12. G2D Post Production Award (Presented by G2D)

G2D will sponsor two in-kind awards for ***Belonging*** (Bangladesh) from HAF and ***On High Ice*** (Israel and South Korea) from WIP. Each winning project will be sponsored a sound package valued at US\$15,000 (approx. HK\$117,300) towards a full sound package of US\$25,000, including foley, sound design, dialogue editing, atmosphere and a final mix.

13. Cinerent Award (Presented by Cinerent Beijing Ltd.)

The Cinerent Award, an in-kind award of RMB 150,000 (approx. HK\$175,000), was given to ***The Priest in the Village*** (China). The Award aims to support and encourage high-quality film projects. The winning project is required to shoot in Mainland China in order to entitle the benefits.

14. Udine Focus Asia Award (Presented by Udine Far East Film Festival)

The objective of the Award is to encourage and facilitate coproduction between Asia and Europe. The Udine Focus Asia Award was given to ***The Grandstand*** (The Philippines) with sponsored hospitality of EUR 7,000 (approx. HK\$62,000) to participate in Focus Asia 2019 in Udine, Italy.

15. Network of Asian Fantastic Films Award (Presented by Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival)

The Network of Asian Fantastic Films Award was given to ***Wong Tai Sin Assassination*** (Hong Kong) with sponsored hospitality of US\$2,700 (approx. HK\$21,000) to participate in the Network of Asian Fantastic Films 2019 in Bucheon.

A complete award list for the 17th Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum (HAF) can be found in **Appendix 1**.

For further project details, please explore:

HAF: <https://www.haf.org.hk/project.php>

WIP: <https://www.haf.org.hk/wiplabproject.php>

Operation Greenlight: <https://www.haf.org.hk/operationgreenlight>

Photos download:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ndpstenfxnsl50/AABBhRaKWM3KzMau4xbDZWoda?dl=0>

For more information about HAF, please visit the official website at <http://www.haf.org.hk/> and the HAF Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/hafhkiffs/>.

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About 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. 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 the added advantage of being held in conjunction with Hong Kong Filmart, Asia's largest film market which attracts over 8,000 professionals.

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

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

The Society is committed to making world cinema accessible and affordable to the public. It organizes the annual flagship the Hong Kong International Film Festival (HKIFF) and the Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum (HAF) in March and April. Another annual highlight is the Summer International Film Festival (SummerIFF) held every August. The repertory HKIFF Cine Fan Programme was launched in April 2013 with the aim to enrich and deepen the experience of Hong Kong moviegoers through a monthly programme of contemporary, retrospective and thematic showcases.

Through its annual programmes, the Society promotes international appreciation of Asian, Hong Kong and Chinese film culture; introduces world cinema to Hong Kong audiences; and continues to underline Hong Kong's key position in the international film community.

HKIFFS's dedication to quality and intelligent programming, its devotion to the discovery of new areas of filmmaking in Asia and China, its exceptional work for Hong Kong cinema, seminars and acclaimed publications, gives it a unique and respected international reputation that helps promote Hong Kong cinema at home and abroad.

Appendix 1: The 17th Hong Kong – Asia Film Financing Forum Award List

1. HAF Award (Hong Kong Project)

Wong Tai Sin Assassination 刺殺黃大仙	Hong Kong 香港
Director 導演：WONG Hoi 黃鏞	
Producer 監製：Derek KWOK Tsz-kin 郭子健	
Production Company 製作公司：12 Production 實現工作室	
Details 詳情： https://www.haf.org.hk/upload/files/project/20190118144517_2374.pdf	

2. HAF Award (Non-Hong Kong Project)

Our Apprenticeship	Japan 日本
Director 導演：HAMAGUCHI Ryusuke 濱口龍介	
Producer 監製：YAMAMOTO Teruhisa 山本晃久	
Production Company 製作公司：C&I Entertainment Co., Ltd.	
Detail 詳情： https://www.haf.org.hk/upload/files/project/20190118143554_2358.pdf	

3. WIP Documentary Award

Odoriko	Japan 日本
Director 導演：OKUTANI Yoichiro 奧谷洋一郎	
Producer 監製：SHIOBARA Fumiko 塩原史子	
Production Company 製作公司：Shiobara Office, Inc.	
Detail 詳情： https://www.haf.org.hk/upload/files/wiplabproject/20190124083415_278.pdf	

4. “HAF Goes to Cannes” Shortlisted Projects

(i) Odoriko	Japan 日本
Director 導演：OKUTANI Yoichiro 奧谷洋一郎	
Producer 監製：SHIOBARA Fumiko 塩原史子	
Production Company 製作公司：Shiobara Office, Inc.	
Detail 詳情： https://www.haf.org.hk/upload/files/wiplabproject/20190124083415_278.pdf	

(ii) To Live To Sing 活着唱着	China 中國
Director 導演：Johnny MA 馬楠	
Producer 監製：WU Xianjian 鄔憲健, WANG Jing 王婧, Vincent Wang 王琮	
Production Company 製作公司：IMAGE X Productions 上海俊睿文化傳播有限公司	
Detail 詳情： https://www.haf.org.hk/upload/files/wiplabproject2/20190222104252_105.pdf	

(iii) SUK SUK 叔·叔	Hong Kong 香港
Director 導演：Ray YEUNG 楊曜愷	
Producer 監製：Michael J. WERNER 溫煦宇, Teresa KWONG 鄺珮詩, Sandy YIP 葉慧珊	
Production Company 製作公司：New Voice Film Productions Ltd. 先響電影製作公司	
Detail 詳情： https://www.haf.org.hk/upload/files/wiplabproject2/20190213120729_96.pdf	

(iv) Invitation	India 印度
Director 導演：Saurav RAI	
Producer 監製：Ankita PURKAYASTHA, Saurav RAI, Sanjay GULATI	
Production Company 製作公司：Tree Chirps, Crawling Angel Films (Co-Production)	
Detail 詳情： https://www.haf.org.hk/upload/files/wiplabproject2/20190213120352_78.pdf	

(v) Maryground	Poland 波蘭
Director 導演：Daria WOSZEK	
Producer 監製：Marcin LECH, Daria WOSZEK	

Production Company 製作公司：Jutrzenka Studio

Detail 詳情：https://www.haf.org.hk/upload/files/wiplabproject2/20190213120448_81.pdf

5. Heaven Pictures Young Director Award

Solitary Kills 寂寞有害

Hong Kong 香港

Director 導演：CHEUNG Siu-hong 張兆康

Producer 監製：WANG Jing 王婧

Production Company 製作公司：East Eighteen Limited 東十八有限公司

Details 詳情：https://www.haf.org.hk/upload/files/project/20190118143633_2361.pdf

6. mm2 Award

Wong Tai Sin Assassination 刺殺黃大仙

Hong Kong 香港

Director 導演：WONG Hoi 黃鏞

Producer 監製：Derek KWOK Tsz-kin 郭子健

Production Company 製作公司：12 Production 實現工作室

Details 詳情：https://www.haf.org.hk/upload/files/project/20190118144517_2374.pdf

7. Wanda Elite+ Plan Award

A Story of HERS 太后與我

China 中國

Director 導演：ZHAO Wenjia 趙文佳

Producer 監製：Homber YIN 尹紅波

Production Company 製作公司：Haining Sunshine Films Limited 海寧盛夏影業有限公司

Detail 詳情：https://www.haf.org.hk/upload/files/project/20190118143811_2364.pdf

8. Artention-Vanke Film Award

Who is Sleeping on My Pillow? 晚歌

China 中國

Director 導演：ZHU Xin 祝新

Producer 監製：ZHANG Lu 張律, ZHAO Jin 趙晉, CAO Liuying 曹柳鶯

Production Company 製作公司：MIDNIGHT BLUR FILMS 午夜失焦(杭州)文化傳播有限公司

Detail 詳情：https://www.haf.org.hk/upload/files/project/20190118144450_2373.pdf

9. KOFIC Award

Zalava

Iran 伊朗

Director 導演：Arsalan AMIRI

Producer 監製：Ida PANAHANDAH, Yoshie Ruth LINTON (Co-Producer)

Production Company 製作公司：Evareh Film Studio

Detail 詳情：https://www.haf.org.hk/upload/files/project/20190118144901_2382.pdf

10. Wouter Barendrecht Award

Belonging

Bangladesh 孟加拉

Director 導演：Abid Hossain KHAN

Producer 監製：Rubaiyat HOSSAIN, Aadnan Imtiaz AHMED

Production Company 製作公司：Khona Talkies

Detail 詳情：https://www.haf.org.hk/upload/files/project/20190118134016_2325.pdf

11. Wutianming Post-Production Award

The River in Me 大河唱

China 中國

Director 導演：KE Yongquan 柯永權, YANG Zhichun 楊植淳, HE Yuan 和淵

Producer 監製：CAO Zhixiong 曹志雄

Production Company 製作公司：Insight Creation Co., Ltd. 北京觀正影視文化傳播有限公司

Detail 詳情：https://www.haf.org.hk/upload/files/wiplabproject/20190124084355_288.pdf

12. White Light Post-Production Award (HAF Project)

Circa

The Philippines 菲律賓

Director 導演：Adolfo ALIX JR.

Producer 監製：Didier COSTET

Production Company 製作公司：Swift Productions

Detail 詳情：https://www.haf.org.hk/upload/files/project/20190118134254_2335.pdf

13. White Light Post-Production Award (WIP Project)

The Shepherdess and the Seven Songs

India 印度

Director 導演：Pushpendra SINGH

Producer 監製：Pushpendra SINGH, Gulab Singh TANWAR, Sanjay GULATI, Ajit Singh RATHORE

Production Company 製作公司：Saarathi Entertainment, Crawling Angel Films

Detail 詳情：https://www.haf.org.hk/upload/files/wiplabproject2/20190213120603_87.pdf

14. G2D Post-Production Award (HAF Project)

Belonging

Bangladesh 孟加拉

Director 導演：Abid Hossain KHAN

Producer 監製：Rubaiyat HOSSAIN, Aadnan Imtiaz AHMED

Production Company 製作公司：Khona Talkies

Detail 詳情：https://www.haf.org.hk/upload/files/project/20190118134016_2325.pdf

15. G2D Post-Production Award (WIP Project)

On High Ice

Israel 以色列, South Korea 南韓

Director 導演：Gary KAM Byung-seok 甘秉錫

Producer 監製：Naama PYRITZ

Production Company 製作公司：Ingenu Productions

Detail 詳情：https://www.haf.org.hk/upload/files/wiplabproject/20190124083708_282.pdf

16. Cinerent Award

The Priest in the Village 大祭司

China 中國

Director 導演：Renai WEI Yongyao 韋永堯

Producer 監製：ZHAO Jin 趙晉, XU Jiahao 徐佳含

Production Company 製作公司：MIDNIGHT BLUR FILMS 午夜失焦(杭州)文化傳播有限公司

Detail 詳情：https://www.haf.org.hk/upload/files/project/20190117190121_2295.pdf

17. Udine Focus Asia Award

The Grandstand

The Philippines 菲律賓

Director 導演：Mikhail RED

Producer 監製：Pauline ZAMORA

Production Company 製作公司：Globe Studios

Detail 詳情：https://www.haf.org.hk/upload/files/project/20190118134355_2341.pdf

18. Network of Asian Fantastic Films Award

Wong Tai Sin Assassination 刺殺黃大仙

Hong Kong 香港

Director 導演：WONG Hoi 黃鏞

Producer 監製：Derek KWOK Tsz-kin 郭子健

Production Company 製作公司：12 Production 實現工作室

Details 詳情：https://www.haf.org.hk/upload/files/project/20190118144517_2374.pdf