

**HKIFF44 and Cine Fan Cancelled,
HAF18 Goes Online**

24 July 2020 (Hong Kong) – The Hong Kong International Film Festival Society (HKIFFS) has cancelled this year’s festival in response to the recent upsurge in local COVID-19 infected cases.

HKIFFS Executive Director Albert LEE also confirmed the cancellation of Cine Fan’s September/October bi-monthly programme. However, the 18th Hong Kong - Asia Film Financing Forum (HAF) will still take place online from 26 to 28 August.

The flagship 14-day 44th Hong Kong International Film Festival (HKIFF44), which would have incorporated this year’s Cine Fan Summer International Film Festival, was due to start in less than four weeks on 18 August. But there were uncertainties when the number of COVID-19 cases escalated in the past week.

“While it is tremendously deflating, given all the hard work that we have put in,” said Mr LEE. “The well-being of our colleagues and the public is of the utmost importance to us. Calling off HKIFF44 is heartbreaking, but we believe we have a duty to act with social responsibility.”

Mr LEE thanked the support of all participating filmmakers, as well as the festival’s many stakeholders, sponsors, and partners. “We will start working on the next edition of the festival straight away. We are determined to make up for the ‘lost’ HKIFF44,” he said.

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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 organization dedicated to the discovery and promotion of creativity in the art and culture of film. 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 Cine Fan 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. Film Industry Services Office (FIS) was also set up in 2017 to promote the development of non-mainstream film industry through co-production and providing support on festival strategies and overseas distribution (HKIFF Collection).

Official website: www.hkiff.org.hk

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**Media Enquiry – HKIFF44 and Cine Fan
Hong Kong International Film Festival Society (HKIFFS)**

Ching Lam CHOW

Tel: +852-2102-7381 | +852-6010-2124

Email: chow_chinglam@hkiff.org.hk

Polly MAK

Phone: +852-2102-7380 | +852-6771-5476

Email: polly_mak@hkiff.org.hk

Strategic Public Relations Group (SPRG)

Ian YUNG

Tel: +852-2114-4958 | +852-9035-5313

Email: ian.yung@sprg.com.hk

Veronica LI

Tel: +852-2114-4945 | +852-9414-2862

Email: veronica.li@sprg.com.hk

**Media Enquiry – HAF
Hong Kong International Film Festival Society (HKIFFS)**

Justine WONG

Tel: +852-2102-7359

Email: jutine_wong@hkiff.org.hk

Strategic Public Relations Group (SPRG)

Ezena TANG

Tel: +852-2114-4993

Email: haf.media@sprg.com.hk