

6th Jakarta International Film Festival (JIFFEST)

By Zhang Wenjie - The Substation



The Jakarta International Film Festival or JIFFest is one of the most anticipated events in the film calendar of Indonesia. This year, the 6th edition of the festival opened with "Goodbye Lenin" by Wolfgang Becker and

has a line-up of 91 features films and documentaries including popular Singapore films like "I Not Stupid" and "Chicken Rice War".

Held for the first time in JIFFest this year was the 3rd Asia-Europe Film Development Plan Meeting, a collaboration between the festival and Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF),

which brought together young producers from Indonesia, Asia and Europe to exchange ideas and learn from each other the aspects of producing feature films in their countries.

Singaporean filmmaker Tan Pin Pin presented her upcoming project "A Singapore Musical" during the 4-day meeting that also included other experienced film practitioners and programmers like Phillip Cheah (Singapore International Film Festival) and Gertjan Zuilhof (International Film Festival Rotterdam) to share their knowledge with the rest of the participants.

This year's JIFFest also had several notable short film programmes like the JIFFest Short Film Competition and "Detox" section where 33 international short films including "Cut" and "Old Man and the River" by Singaporean filmmaker Royston Tan were screened.

S-Express, a traveling short film programme that showcases the short films of Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia participated for the first time this year at JIFFest and a discussion with the curators of S-Express about alternative distribution models for short films in S.E. Asia got a good response and went on for more than 2 hours.

Despite the famous Jakarta traffic and mandatory security checks at all the hotels and shopping malls because of the recent bombings, the overall mood in city is of hope and optimism. From the screenings, meetings and discussions during the festival, collaborations were started and friendships were made.

And from the enthusiasm and energy of everyone you meet, it tells you that next year's JIFFest will be even better.