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“Asian and European Young Film Professionals Meet at the Tokyo International Film Festival”

Tokyo, Japan - 35 film students and young film professionals from 20 countries in Asia and Europe will gather in Tokyo for the Fifth Asia-Europe Film Development Plan Meeting: “Film Students in Production”, from 22 to 26 October 2006 during the 19th edition of the Tokyo International Film Festival.

Co-organised by Asia-Europe Foundation and UNIJAPAN, and in cooperation with LASALLE-SIA, College of the Arts (Singapore), RITS (Belgium) and the CILECT network, the 5-day meeting will provide the up-and-coming film professionals a unique opportunity to gain insights into film production in a Euro-Asian context, and to have their film projects assessed by 11 prominent filmmakers, producers, screenwriters and critics from the Japanese and International film scenes.

The Asia-Europe Film Development Plan Meeting series was first launched at the Cinemanila International Film Festival in 2002 to take up critical issues in the development and promotion of independent cinema in both regions. Subsequent meetings were held alongside international film festivals in Asia and Europe, with the aim of improving the quality and quantity of exchanges and link-ups between cinema professionals, and to encourage future Asia-Europe film co-operation and co-productions.

The closing session for this year’s meeting will incorporate a presentation on the LESSONS IN FILM project, a pilot project resulting in a DVD series intended for distribution to film training centres and professional networks of independent filmmakers in Asia and Europe. Scheduled for launch in February 2007, these DVD’s will feature in-depth interviews with some of the world’s foremost film personalities such as Kiyoshi Kurosawa, the Dardenne Brothers and Lord David Puttnam.

You are invited to attend this presentation and meet several Japanese film directors such as Kiyoshi Kurosawa, Makoto Shinozaki, Atsushi Funahashi, and trainers and participants of the meeting. This presentation will be held on Thursday, 26th October, 4.30 pm at “The Second Screening Room” (basement) of the Film School of Tokyo (3-1-2, Katakura Bldg. 1F, Kyobashi, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 104-0031). For further information, please contact:

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Asia-Europe Foundation | The Asia-Europe-Foundation seeks to promote better mutual understanding between the peoples of Asia and Europe through greater intellectual, cultural and people-to-people exchanges, and to multiply knowledge about the possibilities of Asia-Europe cooperation. This project is an initiative by the Cultural Exchange Department. For further information about the Asia-Europe Foundation and the project, please visit our websites:
http://www.asef.org
http://www.asef.org/dir/ce/fifthfilmdev

SEA-Images (Synergy Asia-Europe) | The Cultural Exchange department of the Asia-Europe Foundation places a strong focus on the field of independent cinema through its annual Asia-Europe Film Development Plan Meetings and the SEA-Images information website –
http://sea-images.asef.org

UNIJAPAN | In 1957, the Japanese government and the Japanese film industry established Unijapan Film as a non-profit organisation to promote Japanese films overseas. On April 1, 2005, Unijapan Film merged with the Tokyo International Foundation for Promotion of Screen Image Culture, which had managed the Tokyo International Film Festival, and the organisation was renamed Unijapan. Unijapan’s budget this year is ¥1.094 billion. More information on Unijapan can be found on http://www.unijapan.org