

**PRESS RELEASE
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Bangkok, Friday 2nd February 2018

**ASIAN SIDE OF THE DOC CELEBRATES A SUCCESSFUL 8th EDITION IN BANGKOK
Fostering a high standard of Asian documentary filmmaking with international potential**

The 8th edition of ASIAN SIDE OF THE DOC this **week played host to Asia's largest gathering** of the documentary and factual professionals across four days, 30 January – 2 February, at the Centara Grand at Central Plaza Ladprao Bangkok.

Attracting 350 industry professionals from 35 different nations, ASIAN SIDE OF THE DOC 2018 proved to be very effective in efforts to reach key players in the Asian-Pacific region. The annual pitching forum and programmes sales market enjoyed an excellent 2:1 producer-to-broadcaster ratio with 90 international decision makers present, that fostered an invaluable networking and deal-making environment for delegates.

This year's international marketplace event, co-organised with MAXIMAGE Co. Ltd, has provided an exceptional forum for discussion, learning, connection and business development. In addition to the high-quality pitches and hundreds of one-to-one meetings that resulted from the event's networking opportunities and social activities, a carefully curated program of 30 sessions were scheduled highlighting the coproduction needs of ASEAN broadcasters, the Asian stories that fit Western audiences, a practical guide to interactivity in reality, as well as the consolidation among regional streaming services.

With the support of Thailand's Department of International Trade Promotion - Ministry of Commerce (DITP), the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT), Ministry of Culture, Thai Media Fund and Thailand Film Office as co-funders, Gold Partner Thai PBS and Thailand Docs Group, the association uniting Thai producers of documentary films, Asian Side of the Doc has managed to grow confidence within the Asian TV industry and the booming regional media landscape.

« It was indeed a celebration of the best of factual programming in Asia-Pacific, » said Yves Jeanneau, Asian Side of the Doc CEO. « The quality of this **year's** pitch selection coupled with a more quantitative and qualitative presence of international decision makers, distributors as well as Asian buyers, brought a wonderful vibrancy on site. There was a great mix of emerging voices and established professionals and, the list of awards winners reflects the relevance of Asian Side of the Doc, as the place to engage with the Asian factual market and achieve real outcomes. »

LATEST MARKET NEWS AT ASIAN SIDE OF THE DOC 2018

This year's edition was marked by the 3rd Group Steering Meeting of all Asian-Pacific broadcasters involved in the production phase of the global transmedia project « Generation What ? Asia-Pacific » in partnership with the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU), UNESCO, Yami 2. The French production company also seized the opportunity to present its new project « Le Weekend », an extraordinary live and interactive TV experience giving to a small group of Millennials the command of a channel programming for a whole weekend in June 2020.

Thailand's DN Broadcast Co., Ltd., has signed a deal with Chinese production giant China Intercontinental Communication Center (CICC) to air episodes from « USilk » factual entertainment series. New TV will air hour-long episodes every Saturday and Sunday evening. The show broadcast by 21 channels globally, presents documentaries on topics linked to the Silk Road ancient trade routes.

2018 ASIAN SIDE OF THE DOC AWARDS ANNOUNCED

An international jury decided the awards for the best pitched projects among the 24 original stories coming from the Americas, Europe and Asia presented during daily pitch sessions.

The Jury:

- **Somyos Kiataramkul, Manager, Program Department** - Thai PBS (Thailand)
- **Claudia Bucher, Head of THEMA & Geopolitics** - ARTE G.E.I.E (France)
- **Gunny Hyoung, Executive Producer** - EBS Educational Broadcasting System (South Korea)
- **Rudy Buttignol, President and CEO** - Knowledge Network (Canada)

❖ Best INTERNATIONAL Project

Sponsored by Tourism Authority of Thailand

[Invitation for one person to Sunny Side of the Doc 2018 (25-28 June) in La Rochelle including a 4-day delegate pass, a pitch selection, travel and accommodation for 5 nights]

Winner : « **Small Island Big Song** » – produced by Undergrowth Productions (Australia).

❖ Best ASIAN Project

Sponsored by West Lake International Documentary Festival

[Invitation for one person to attend the West Lake International Documentary Film Festival in October 2018 in Hangzhou (China) including one accreditation, travel and accommodation]

Winner : « **Life With A Robot** » – produced by Tokyo Video Center, Inc. (Japan).

❖ Best ASEAN Project

Sponsored by Thailand Docs Group

[Invitation for one person to Sunny Side of the Doc 2018 (25-28 June) in La Rochelle including a 4-day delegate pass, the registration of the winning project, travel and accommodation for 5 nights]

Winner : « **Duck Academy** » – produced by Payai Creation Co. Ltd (Thailand).

❖ NBC Universal Archives Award

Sponsored by NBCUniversal Archives

[US\$3000 worth licensing of archival content from NBCUniversal Archives]

Winner : « **Walking the Road** » – produced by Mandarin Film (China).

❖ The Southeast Asia Audio-Visual Association ("SAAVA") Award

Sponsored by the Southeast Asia Audio-Visual Association

[Accreditation and direct entry to the Southeast Asian Film Financing (SAFF) Project Market held each year during ScreenSingapore at the Marina Bay Sands Convention Centre, organised by the Southeast Asian Audio-Visual Association and Reed Exhibitions]

Winner : « **The Perfect Motion** » – produced by Aloest Productions (France).

« *As content and co-productions become more commonplace as a financing and creative strategy, having access to high-quality projects and alternative buyers allows producers to sharpen their focus in this evolving world of documentary filmmaking. SAFF thrives on partnerships and unique projects, and we're happy to have one of Asian Side of the Doc's standout pitches have another shot at impressing a new group of decision-makers,* » said Justin Deimen, Executive Director, Southeast Asian Audio-Visual Association and Group Managing Partner at Aurora Media Holdings.

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ABOUT ASIAN SIDE OF THE DOC

Created in 2010, Asian Side of the Doc is a must-attend programmes sales market and coproduction platform for factual content in Asia. The 8th edition took place in Bangkok, from 30 January to 2 February 2018. Designed to maximize investment and business-making through an exhibition space, a high-quality pitching forum, a line-up of inspiring panels and hands-on workshops, one-to-one meetings with key buyers and commissioners, the four-day event create unique networking opportunities for industry professionals to make stories and partnerships go from local to global.

Website: www.asiansideofthedoc.com

Media Enquiries: Aurelie REMAN // aurelie@sunnysideofthedoc.com // +33 (0)5 46 55 79 94



#ASD18

@AsianSide_Doc

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WWW.ASIANSIDEOFTHEDOC.COM