

Press Release



World Cinema Fund (WCF) expands focus regions: South East Asia and the Caucasus

During the *World Cinema Fund Day* on February 14 the *WCF* announced an expansion of the focus regions. Alongside projects from Africa, Latin America, Middle East and Central Asia, filmmakers from South East Asia and the Caucasus can be funded from summer 2007 onwards. The *WCF* is active in production funding as well as in distribution support. The submission deadline for production funding is March 15, 2007, for distribution support in Germany the deadline is February 27, 2007.

"We always believed in the *WCF* concept, but the fact that the fund has established itself in the field of cultural film funding makes us very happy. We welcome the fact that the *WCF* is opening itself to two new regions", says Berlinale director Dieter Kosslick. "After the positive development of the *WCF* in the last two years, the new focus regions are an important step for the future success of the initiative." adds Hortensia Völckers, artistic director of the German Federal Cultural Foundation.

It is the aim of the *WCF* to support film projects from countries in which the film industry is poorly developed or in which its existence is threatened by political or economical crises. The projects to be supported should deal with the cultural identity of their region and contribute to the development of the local film industry.

The *WCF* was founded in 2004 as a joint initiative of the German Federal Cultural Foundation and the Berlin International Film Festival. The Goethe Institute has participated as a cooperation partner since 2005.

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Press Office

Potsdamer Straße 5
10785 Berlin

Tel. +49 30 259 20 707
Fax +49 30 259 20 799

press@berlinale.de
www.berlinale.de

Ein Geschäftsbereich der
Kulturveranstaltungen des
Bundes in Berlin (KBB) GmbH

Management:

Dieter Kosslick
(Intendant Internationale
Filmfestspiele Berlin),
Dr. Thomas Köstlin
(Kaufmännischer Geschäftsführer),
Dr. Bernd Scherer,
Dr. Joachim Sartorius

Vorsitzender des Aufsichtsrats:
Bernd Neumann

Handelsregister: Amtsgericht
Charlottenburg Nr. 96 HRB 29357
USt ID DE 136 78 27 46