

**Welcome Remarks by Ivan K B Lee, Director, HKETO Berlin  
At Opening Reception at the Hong Kong In Motion Film Festival in Vienna  
1 October 2012**

**Dear Ambassador Zhao, Ambassador Meon-Tschürtz, distinguished guests,  
ladies and gentlemen,**

1     Guten Abend. A very warm welcome to our reception and opening night of the Hong Kong In Motion film festival here in Vienna.

2     We are particularly pleased to organize the film festival here in Vienna, a city rich in culture and arts, not to mention the long established tradition of film making. I understand the Viennale is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.

3     Talking about celebrations, 2012 marks the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and the 63<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the People's Republic of China. The Hong Kong in Motion Film Festival is part of our celebration activities. We are particularly pleased to organize the festival this evening, to celebrate the anniversary through the creative medium of film. During the past 15 years, Hong Kong people have been administering Hong Kong with a high degree of autonomy, consolidating our position as an international financial, trade and logistics centre. The flourishing development of our creative industries is a testimony to the civil liberties and freedom of expression that Hong Kong enjoys.

4     Over the years, Hong Kong films have gained considerable worldwide acclaim. You may have seen our martial arts or action movies starring Bruce Lee, Jackie Chan, Jet Li and Donnie Yen. I heard the Director Johnnie To is also very popular. In recent years, our film industry has diversified and broken new grounds. The Industry has also broadened its horizons through closer collaboration with our counterparts in Mainland China. By virtue of the fact that

we are a separate customs territory, we have our own free trade agreement with Mainland China. This agreement, the CEPA, has vastly expanded our access to Mainland China's movie market. Since CEPA was launched in 2003, the number of Hong Kong-Mainland co-productions has grown from about 10 titles a year to the current number of around 30. They have also enjoyed tremendous box office success.

5 I encourage Austrian companies, not least those of you in the creative industries, to use Hong Kong as the gateway to tap the growing business opportunities in China. Through Hong Kong, you can take advantage of CEPA, as well as our transparent, friendly business environment and strong intellectual property protection, to expand into the growing China market.

6 To showcase our latest achievements, we are presenting a line-up of five contemporary Hong Kong films in the Hong Kong In Motion film festival here in Vienna. These movies range from multi-million dollar blockbusters such as *The Great Magician* to historic-themed production such as *White Vengeance*. Through these films, you could also take a visual journey through the different epochs of Chinese culture - from ancient to modern times.

7 For tonight, we are very proud to present the award-winning *A Simple Life*. Directed by our acclaimed director Ann Hui, the film is a real-life story about the bittersweet bonding between two human beings much divided by age and social background. The film has won many international awards including the Best Actress award at last year's Venice International Film Festival.

8 Ladies and Gentlemen, Austria, in particular Vienna, and Hong Kong enjoy excellent bilateral relations. Mayor and Governor, Dr Michael Häupl, visited Hong Kong earlier this year and met with our former Chief Executive. My office looks forward to further strengthening them. I look forward to having

your continual support to bring these relations to new heights.

9 Last but not least, I would like to thank the Filmcasino for providing this excellent venue for our event. Thank you.

Ends.