

Press Release

Hong Kong cinematic highlights continue in Hamburg

After a successful start in Berlin (21-31 May), the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, Berlin (HKETO Berlin) continued its journey to stage Hong Kong Film Festivals in central and eastern Europe. About 180 guests from the government, cultural and business sectors attended yesterday's reception in Kommunales Kino Metropolis to celebrate the opening of the Hong Kong Film Festival in Hamburg, which will run from 17 to 30 June 2014. Following the reception, the opening film, *Blind Detective*, a crime comedy directed by renowned Hong Kong director Johnnie To and starring Hong Kong movie stars Andy Lau and Sammi Cheng, delighted the audience.

In co-operation with Kommunales Kino Metropolis, HKETO Berlin presents eight contemporary Hong Kong films at this year's Film Festival, including the award-winning drama *Unbeatable*, the thrilling crime-film *Blind Detective* and the thriller *Infernal Affairs*, one of Hong Kong's highest-grossing films in history.

In his welcome remarks, the Director of HKETO Berlin, Ivan K B Lee, described the development of the Hong Kong movie scene over the years. "Despite its small size and a population of just around 7 million, Hong Kong has produced many actors, actresses, directors, cinematographers and producers who went on to become household names internationally. Our movies have also been inspirational to many outside Hong Kong. In particular, Hong Kong's exciting style of action movie has inspired a number of international blockbusters. Some of you may already have heard that the Oscar-winning film *The Departed* is an American remake of the Hong Kong thriller *Infernal Affairs*, which is also featured in this Film Festival," he said.

Mr Lee also promoted Hong Kong as an ideal filming location for international production. "Besides local production, Hong Kong is also becoming a favorite filming location for blockbusters from Hollywood to Bollywood, taking advantage of our unique cityscape and rich cultural tradition. The latest one was *Transformers 4*, which will be released later this week. There was also a German film shot in Hong Kong two years ago called the *Fragrant Harbour*, which is the literal meaning of Hong Kong," he said.

Mr Lee further emphasised the importance of strengthening collaboration between Hong Kong's film industry and Mainland China's

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film studios: “Our film industry recently takes advantage of a unique free trade pact with the Mainland China, the Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement, or CEPA, to gain access to the film market in the Mainland of China. Overseas film companies incorporated in Hong Kong can reap the same CEPA benefits as local filmmakers in entering the Mainland China market. I encourage German creative talents to use Hong Kong as the gateway to tap the growing business opportunities in China.”

To view the Hamburg programme, please visit:
<http://www.hketoberlin.gov.hk/download/press/press-20140514.pdf>

About Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, Berlin

HKETO Berlin is the official Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government representative in commercial relations and other economic and trade matters in Germany as well as Austria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia and Switzerland.

Photo Captions

1. From the left: Mr Timo Prekop (Executive Member of the Board of the German Asia-Pacific Business Association), Mr Lee and Mr Yang Huiqun (Consul General of the Consulate General of the People’s Republic of China in Hamburg) at the Opening Reception of the Hong Kong Film Festival in Hamburg
2. Mr Lee giving the welcome remarks

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