

Asiadoc – Press release

From February 13th to March 8th, 16 emerging documentary producers from Southeast Asia are being trained within the Asiadoc 2017 program.

The training takes place at the Bophana center created by renowned Cambodian filmmaker Rithy Panh in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Implemented by Docmonde training organisation based in the “documentary village” of Lussas, southeast of France, Asiadoc benefits from the support of the regional audiovisual cooperation of the French Ministry of foreign affairs, the Goethe Institute in Bangkok, the German Federal Foreign Office, the French Institutes in Thailand and in Cambodia, the German-French cultural fund, the Cambodia Film Commission, Film ASEAN, as well as from the cooperation with other Goethe and French Institutes in Southeast Asia, the Film Development Council of the Philippines, Wallonia-Brussels International, Meta House.

Out of 34 applications received, Asiadoc selected 16 participants – see list below – coming from 8 countries in the ASEAN region: Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.

12 participants are developing a documentary project while 4 participants are attending the training as observers.

During the first week of training, French filmmaker-producer Vladimir Léon will work with the participants about the artistic development of creative documentary. Based on film screenings and exchanges, they will work on the artistic dossier of the film project and the producer’s note of intention.

The second week of training will be mentored by French producer Carine Chichkowski who will teach about coproduction: legal aspects, production strategy, fundraising.

The training sessions will be completed by German producer Björn Jensen who will work on line production (budgets, cash-flow, accountability) and distribution.

During those 3 intense weeks, the participants will also benefit from 3 masterclasses. Cambodian filmmaker Davy Chou will come and talk about his experience with his documentary Golden Golden Slumbers about « the unknown history of the birth and destruction of Cambodian cinema, from the first film ever made in 1960 to the arrival of the Khmer Rouges in 1975. »

German producer Thanassis Karathanos will share his extensive experience in the field of coproduction. Either with Pallas Films or with Twenty Twenty Vision, Thanassis Karathanos produced internationally acclaimed movies like Soy nero by Rafi Pitts, Elle by Paul Verhoeven, Ma Loute by Bruno Dumont, AN by Naomi Kawase, or Alois Nebel by Tomáš Luňák.

The participants will also meet with Marc Eberle, international award winning German producer-filmmaker living in Phnom Penh and author of documentaries like Cambodian Space project, Angkor – The Khmer’s Heart of Stone, The most secret place on earth – The CIA’s covert war in Laos.

Then from March 6 to 8, several round-tables will allow the participants to discuss deeper

with very experimented professionals from Asia and Europe about coproductions, fundraising, film markets, film festivals and distribution. Among the invited experts are Ms Bich-Quân Tran (Dissidenz Films distribution, France), Ms Hemi Park (DMZ Busan film festival, South Korea), Ms Kathrin Lemme (Lemme Film production, Germany), Ms Anne-Sophie Lehec (Asian Shadows world sales, Hong-Kong), Ms Maren Niemeyer (Goethe Institute Bangkok), Mr Djin Koei TJIO (MFA distribution, Germany), Mr Min-Chul KIM (producer, South Korea), Mr Justin Deimen (Aurora Media and Southeast Asian Film Financing, Singapore), Mr Ken-ichi Imamura (NHK enterprises, Japan), Mr Roch Tran (WBI, Belgium) and Mr Hans Kohl (Innsbruck International film festival).

These professional meetings are designed to help the participants sharpen their strategy for the production and distribution of their project.

After the training, Asiadoc will keep in touch with the participants in order to follow the next production stages and help them as much as possible. Asiadoc and its partner Lumière du monde also aim at promoting the films with partner film festivals once they will be completed.

Participants in the training:

1. Ms Lida Chan – Cambodia
2. Ms Amanda Marahimin – Indonesia
3. Ms Mui Yoon Chin – Malaysia
4. Ms Yih Wen Chen – Malaysia
5. Mr Xaisongkham Induangchanthy – Laos
6. Mr Amatha Ratsombath – Laos
7. Ms Abigail Lazaro – Philippines
8. Ms Alexandra Poblete – Philippines
9. Ms Pabelle Manikan – Philippines
10. Mr Hieu Tran – Vietnam
11. Ms Trang Dao – Vietnam
12. Mr Piyabutr Lorgrailers – Thailand
13. Mr Piseth Tieng – Cambodia
14. Mr Yean-George Reaksmey – Cambodia
15. Ms Ros Boluny – Cambodia
16. Mr Soe Arkar Htun – Myanmar