

**Opening Reception of Window: Hong Kong
at the Zurich Film Festival
(23 September 2022)**

Speech by DBL

Christian, Consul General Dr Zhao, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good evening. It is my privilege and great pleasure to welcome you to the reception preceding the opening of the Hong Kong Window of the 18th edition of the Zurich Film Festival. Thank you all for joining us tonight.

2. This year marks the 25th Anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. In celebration, the Hong Kong Government is organising a broad range of activities under the theme of “A New Era – Stability. Prosperity. Opportunity”. On the part of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Berlin, we are pleased and honoured to extend our support for the Zurich Film Festival again this year, presenting four sensational Hong Kong productions to the Swiss and international audience.

3. With its unique heritage, Hong Kong has all along been an East-meets-West hub for international arts and cultural exchanges. From fashion to performing arts, and from design to film productions, Hong Kong is a melting pot for different art forms from both the East and the West.

4. One of the most successful stories will definitely be the Art Basel fair in Hong Kong. The 2022 edition was successfully held in hybrid mode in May this year, and it was met with overwhelming response as shown from the strong attendance and vigorous sales throughout the fair week. The Art Basel will be back in Hong Kong again in March next year, and I sincerely invite you to come and visit this cultural highlight in our city, whether or not you have been to the original version in Basel. Hopefully by then your visit to Hong Kong would be quarantine-free.

5. On the part of the Hong Kong Government, we are committed to supporting the arts and cultural sector. The promotion of arts is no doubt one of our top priorities. For instance, the development of the city's arts and culture formed a key part of the Government's budget in 2021-22, with over EUR 720 million allocated for the purpose. At present, the cultural and creative industry as a whole employs over 200 000 practitioners in various fields, contributing about 5% to our GDP.

6. Specifically on film production, the Government has all along been supporting the long-term development of the local film industry through the Film Development Fund under four strategic directions, namely nurturing talents, enhancing local production, expanding markets and building audience. To date, the Fund has funded over 80 film productions and groomed over 80 new directors producers under various funding schemes. These productions have won more than 150 local and overseas awards.

7. This year, we are proud to present four Hong Kong film productions at the *Hong Kong Window* section of the Zurich Film Festival, namely the opening film *Table for Six*, the action thriller *Detective vs. Sleuths*, the biopic *Anita* and crime thriller *Infernal Affairs*. They highlight different genres with typical elements of the cinematic style, giving an all-round impression of what Hong Kong films have to offer. We look forward to seeing you at the screening of the opening film *Table for Six* later tonight, and I hope you will also have the chance to enjoy the other Hong Kong productions as well as the rest of the Festival's rich programme.

8. Before we proceed to Cinema Corso 3 for the screening, please enjoy the snacks and drinks at our little reception here. Thank you, and wishing you a wonderful evening!

– Ends –

(~ 580 words; 6 minutes)