

**Opening of the 18th FILMASIA in Prague, Czech Republic
(1 December 2022)**

Speech by DBL

[Czech translation to be shown on the screen]

Dear Karla, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good evening, and a very warm welcome to the screening of the opening film of the 18th Filmasia Asian Film Festival in Prague. It is a true honour and pleasure for a Hong Kong production to be featured as the opening film at this year's Festival. As some of you may already know, this year is the 25th Anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. This adds an additional celebratory note to the sponsorship for this year's Festival by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Berlin.

2. With a century of history in filmmaking and being one of the most dynamic film industries in present times, Hong Kong's film industry has a lot to offer. In recent years, we are proud to see that a new generation of outstanding filmmakers and actors have emerged, with many of them appearing in at various international film festivals.

3. In fact, today's opening film "Chilli Laugh Story", a comedy directed by Cobra Cheng, is a shining example. I very much look forward to meeting Cobra through hologram technology at a Q&A session later on.

4. Apart from “Chilli Laugh Story”, our office is proud to be presenting eight other Hong Kong productions at the Festival this year, alongside a photo exhibition named “Making Waves – Navigators of Hong Kong Cinema”, which highlights the works of some of Hong Kong’s most iconic photographers as a tribute to the Hong Kong film industry.

5. Before we dive in, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Festival organisers for the great collaboration over the years. We are very grateful for the Hong Kong Tribute programme at the Festival, which provides an excellent platform to showcase Hong Kong’s rich cinematographic traditions to the wider European audience. I sincerely look forward to our continued cooperation. Meanwhile, I would also count on all of you for your continued support for Hong Kong’s films, and I hope to see you again in our future events.

6. Thank you once again for joining us for this journey to Hong Kong through films. I hope you would also have the time to enjoy the rest of the Festival’s exciting programme, as well as our photo exhibition. Please sit back and enjoy!

– Ends –

(~ 400 words; ~4 minutes)