

Opening of Photo Exhibition
“Making Waves - Navigators of Hong Kong Cinema”
in Prague, Czech Republic
(1 December 2022)

Speech by DBL

Dear friends of Hong Kong, Ladies and Gentlemen,

“Srdečně vítáme”. Welcome to the opening of our photo exhibition “Making Waves – Navigators of Hong Kong Cinema” here at Gallery Lucerna. This photo exhibition, together with our sponsorship for the Filmasia Asian Film Festival this year, is part of our celebration programme for the 25th Anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

2. In the past 25 years, Hong Kong Government has been making dedicated efforts and investment to support and promote the development of the art and cultural sector. Today, we are proud to say that Hong Kong has emerged as an arts and cultural hub in Asia with a very vibrant art and cultural scene. You would notice, for instance, that the West Kowloon Cultural District in Hong Kong has become one of the world’s largest cultural project, featuring world-class museums such as the M+ and Palace Museum. We have also nurtured a new generation of young artists who are ready to take on the world stage. These include those from the film industry, and it is our honour to be bringing their work to all of you through this year’s Film Festival as well as the exhibition today.

3. To consolidate our status as an international cultural exchange hub as supported by the 14th National Five-Year Plan, our Chief Executive, Mr John Lee, announced in his inaugural Policy Address a series of bold initiatives to support the development of a vibrant and sustainable ecosystem for the sector. Among other things, we will set up a dedicated Culture Commission to formulate a blueprint to guide the sector's development, significantly expand our arts and cultural facilities, as well as establish a fund for staging international arts and cultural events in Hong Kong.

4. For those of you who are in the arts and cultural sector, I can assure that there are bountiful opportunities in Hong Kong. In fact, we have been actively seeking high-quality talents from abroad through a Talent List, which comprises 13 professions the talents for which Hong Kong needs most in the immediate to medium term. You would be pleased to note that "creative industries and performing arts professionals" is among one of the professions, and these include film production professionals, recording engineers, game developers and many others from the sector.

5. Perhaps it is time that we put our mind back to today's exhibition. Entitled "Making Waves – Navigators of Hong Kong Cinema", it highlights the works of some of Hong Kong's most iconic photographers, namely Jupiter Wong, Wong Wai Lun, Quist Tsang and Sharon Salad. The exhibition tells the unique story of Hong Kong cinema in a new artistic dimension and fascination, seen through the perspective of these four talented individuals over the past 25 years. The images that we see here today not only depict Hong Kong's cinema, but also capture the city's development, the lives of its people as well as their dreams and aspirations over the past quarter of a century. We are extremely glad that the exhibition is making a stop in this beautiful city of Prague as part of its world tour.

6. Taking this opportunity, I would like to thank the festival organiser of Filmasia once again for the great collaboration, and my special thanks to the Hong Kong International Film Festival (HKIFF) and Create Hong Kong (CreateHK) which made this project possible.

7. Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you again for joining us today. Just a reminder that the physical exhibition here will run for about a week until 6 December, while there will also be a complementary version in the virtual sphere running until 15 December. It would be our greatest pleasure if you could help spread the words to your family and friends, and invite them to appreciate the exhibition as well as the other exciting programme of this year's Film Festival. Please enjoy!

– Ends –

(~ 650 words; ~5 minutes)