

**Opening of the Hong Kong Programme at Red Lotus Asian Film Festival  
in Vienna, Austria  
(22 April 2023)**

**Speech by DBL**

Dear Katja, Petra, Ambassador Qi, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good evening, and welcome to the screening of the opening film of the HONG KONG PROGRAMME at the Red Lotus Asian Film Festival.

2. This year is the second edition of the Red Lotus. It is a true honour and pleasure for the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Berlin to be sponsoring this exciting new force. I am deeply thrilled about this partnership, as I find that Red Lotus and Hong Kong are simply a perfect match for each other. On the one hand, the Red Lotus is not only a showcase of the diversified Asian cinema, but also a hub for communication with, between and amongst the numerous Asian communities in Vienna and beyond.

3. On the other hand, Hong Kong has a century of history in filmmaking and is one of the most dynamic film industries in present times. In recent years, we are proud to see that a new generation of outstanding filmmakers and actors have emerged, with many of them getting noticed and being recognised at various international film festivals.

4. This year, we are proud to be presenting two Hong Kong productions at Red Lotus. I'm very happy that all of you here are joining us for the premier of the opening film in Vienna, *A Guilty Conscience*, which is an exciting courtroom drama from Hong Kong. The film tells the thrilling story of a mother's struggle for justice for her deceased child. Written and directed by Jack Ng, *A Guilty Conscience* has reached a record-breaking milestone: it is now the highest-grossing Hong Kong film ever. It achieved this feat in less than 30 days of its release, the fastest movie to ever do so. The second film in the HONG KONG PROGRAMME, *Let it Ghost*, is not just a horror film, but a fun and thrilling ride that will make you scream and laugh at the same time.

5. I hope that you would enjoy both films which show you different facets and culture of Hong Kong from very different perspectives. And if you are intrigued to learn more about Hong Kong after watching these films, what's a better way than to visit Hong Kong and experience our unique East-meets-West culture yourself. You'd be pleased to learn that we are giving out 500 000 free air tickets to tourists around the world to invite everyone to visit Hong Kong under the "Hello Hong Kong" campaign. For our European audience, the free air tickets are up for grab starting from May. You can visit the website of the Hong Kong International Airport for more details.

6. Before we dive in, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Festival organisers for the great collaboration, which I sincerely look forward to continuing in the years to come. 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.

7. Thank you once again for joining us for this journey to Hong Kong through films. Please sit back and enjoy!

– Ends –

*(~520 words; ~5 minutes)*