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**Media Release**

## **MediaCorp and NHK Renew Partnership on *The Asian Pitch* and announce winners for 2009**

**Singapore, 13 July 2009:** MediaCorp, Singapore's leading media company, and NHK, Japan's public broadcaster, announced on Friday 10 July that they are extending their partnership on *The Asian Pitch* competition for a further three years.

The relationship between MediaCorp and NHK was started in 2007 to provide independent filmmakers across Asia funding to turn their ideas into world-class high-definition documentaries.

In the wake of this year's pitching event and signing ceremony, Mr Fumio Narashima, Head of NHK's International Program Development, said: "The past two years have proven that there are fascinating untold stories and skilful new talent out there in Asia waiting to be discovered. We are very happy to be able to work with MediaCorp to offer the local filmmakers a chance to tell their stories to the world."

MediaCorp's Caldecott Productions International managing director, Ms Ong Hee Yah, said: "This has been a most fruitful and meaningful co-production relationship with NHK as it has created a much-needed space in the documentary market for Asian film-makers to emerge. We are glad that *The Asian Pitch* has benefitted the winners and given them the exposure to a global audience. We are most happy to extend the partnership so that more documentary film-makers can come on board."

Previous winners of *The Asian Pitch* have gained a slew of international awards, including the recent US International Film and Video Festival's Grand Prix for Documentary Productions. This distinction belongs to *Supermen of Malegaon* (India), from the first batch of *The Asian Pitch* films.

MediaCorp and NHK today also awarded fresh funding to produce two new documentaries.

***The Asian Pitch* 2009 selected directors and projects are:**

- 1. *Transmission: Listening to the Mountain's Message*, Shohei Shibata, Japan**
- 2. *Red Box*, Yang Li-chou, Taiwan**





## Supermen of Malegaon

Duration: 1 x 52 minutes

Available with separate language tracks and English subtitles



*Supermen of Malegaon* follows a small group of people, deep in India's hinterland, for whom the fantasy associated with film has become the currency with which they buy their sanity, the irrepressible nature of their spirit. Malegaon, tucked away near the heart of India geographically, is fraught with communal tension, under severe economic depression. Yet it houses a tiny film industry. Having begun with tributes, the industry now churns out quirky, low-budget, socially aware, notoriously funny spoofs. Their ambition has grown; they are ready to take on Superman.

We follow them on this journey. At times funny, tragic, contemplative. Always warm and engaging. And as the film begins to take shape, through schemes and approaches that are sublimely ingenious, simply bizarre and purely hysterical, we also slowly discover Malegaon itself. The film is a tribute to that spirit, the spirit that enables *The Supermen of Malegaon* to make *Malegaon's Superman*.

### Credits:

Produced & Directed by: Faiza Ahmad Khan

Executive Producer: Chung-Yong Park

Co Produced by: Siddarth Thakur & Gargey Trivedi

Associate Director: Siddarth Thakur

Editor: Sheta Venkat

***Winning documentary of The Asian Pitch 2007.***

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The Asian Pitch, a collaboration between  
NHK, MediaCorp and KBS



## The Mummy Thief

Duration: 1 x 52 minutes

Available with separate language tracks and English subtitles



Rambu Solo, an expensive funeral rite, as part of aluk to dolo believes in Tana Toraja customs, became an economic burden for most Torajan. In this way to held ancestors in great esteem with regardless of expense, they spent most of their asset just for the funeral. They will save and work for years to prepare a suitable funeral rite. This unique culture has maintained the tourism industry. The excess of tourism business led to commercialization. With no better economic development, the burial objects trading becomes an easy way to get extra cash. Poverty forces them to become the mummy theft. An expensive funeral rite to held ancestors in great esteem only became an absurdity when they desecrate their ancestor's sanctuary for life.

### Credits:

Directed by: Agung Setyawan

Filmed by : Agung Setyawan, Beni Rozani

Written by : Ong Hee Yah

Research by : Agung Setyawan, Asih Teguh

Edited by : Nohan, Yong Pagit

Executive Producer: Ong Hee Yah

Producers : Agung Setyawan, Mazlena Mazlan

Production Manager : Marianah Arshad

Post Production by : Widescreen Revolutions LLP

***Winning documentary of The Asian Pitch 2007.***

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## Accolades for The Asian Pitch Documentaries

<b>Festival/Award</b>	<b>Title of documentary</b>	<b>Awarded</b>
ASIATICAFILMMEDIALE 2008 City of Rome Award 2008	<i>Supermen of Malegaon</i>	Best Documentary
Indian Film Festival of Los Angeles	<i>Supermen of Malegaon</i>	Audience Award for Documentary
7 <sup>th</sup> Karachi International Film Festival	<i>Supermen of Malegaon</i>	Best Documentary
NEW YORK FESTIVALS International TV Programming & Promotion Awards 2009	<i>The Mummy Thief</i>	Finalist Certificate For Cultural Issues
US International Video & Film Festival 2009	<i>Supermen of Malegaon</i>	1st Place Gold Camera Award
	<i>Supermen of Malegaon</i>	Best of Festival Grand Prix Award
	<i>The Mummy Thief</i>	3rd Place Certificate for Creative Excellence