

PRESS RELEASE

Science Film Festival 2023 Highlights the Importance of Ecosystem Restoration to Students in 70 Cities



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JAKARTA – The Science Film Festival returns to Indonesia in its 14th edition, reaching students from elementary to high school levels in 70 cities across the archipelago in a hybrid format from 21 October to 30 November 2023. This year, the festival explores the theme, "UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration". Students will explore the importance of the protection and revival of ecosystems through screenings of international films accompanied by fun science experiments.

This year's Science Film Festival in Indonesia will screen 18 films from 12 countries, namely South Africa, the USA, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Indonesia, the UK, Germany, Kazakhstan, Colombia, Tanzania, and Thailand. The curated films are scheduled to be screened consecutively offline at schools in Jabodetabek, Blitar, Surabaya, East Belitung and Medan. In addition, a number of science centres in Jakarta, Bandung, Yogyakarta, and Pontianak will also hold offline screenings along with science experiments.

Meanwhile, film screenings and science experiments will take place online via the Zoom platform for students in other cities, such as Aceh, Arguni, Bintuni, Dolok Sanggul, East Flores, Jayapura, Kefamenanu, Pematang Siantar, Sidikalang, Sumbawa, Tobelo, Waikabubak, and more.

In 2023, the Science Film Festival is the official supporting partner of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. The theme is a rallying call for the protection and revival of ecosystems all around the world. The UN Decade runs from 2021 through 2030, which is also the deadline for the Sustainable Development Goals and the timeline scientists have identified as the last chance to prevent catastrophic climate change. Ecosystem restoration means assisting in the recovery of ecosystems that have been degraded or destroyed, as well as conserving the ecosystems that are still intact.

Dr Stefan Dreyer, Director of Goethe-Institut Southeast Asia, Australia, and New Zealand during the opening ceremony on Saturday, 21 October 2023 at Plaza Insan Berprestasi, Ministry of Education, Culture, Research and Technology, Jakarta said, "Science Film



Festival is committed to highlighting the importance of the ecosystem approach for the integrated management of land, water and living resources and the need to step up efforts to tackle desertification, land degradation, erosion and drought, biodiversity loss and water scarcity, which are seen as major environmental, economic, and social challenges for global sustainable development. By bringing films from around the world on scientific topics to young audiences, we hope to creatively stimulate children and youngsters."

This year's festival is supported by its long-standing partners, including: the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research and Technology; the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany; the initiative "Schools: Partners for the Future" (PASCH); Bildungskooperation Deutsch (BKD); Rolls-Royce; Paramadina University; Atma Jaya Catholic University of Indonesia; Jakarta State University; and PGRI. Furthermore, the festival is also in cooperation with more than 300 local partners, including schools, educational institutions, science centres, communities and media partners.

Tatang Muttaqin, Expert Staff of the Minister of Education, Culture, Science and Technology for Talent Management said this year's theme is a call for everyone to act and reflects our shared determination to create a sustainable future for the next generations. He added, "It is important for the young generation to know and master science for the sustainability of our environment. I hope this event will provide quality films and inspire imagination about science to open the students' minds that science is fun."

Ina Lepel, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Indonesia, ASEAN and Timor Leste, stated, "It is through science that we have come to understand the crucial importance of healthy ecosystems for people's livelihoods, for our fight against climate change, and for the preservation of biodiversity. Clearly, scientific advances will play an equally important part in finding solutions to these challenges."

Officially opened

During the opening of Science Film Festival 2023 at Plaza Insan Berprestasi, Ministry of Education, Culture, Research and Technology, Jakarta, more than 200 students attended and watched an Indonesian animated film *Sang Penerang Desa (The Village Illuminator)*, which tells the story of Puni's experience living in an Indonesian village and finding inspiration to bring change to villages by building a micro-hydro power plant. The students also watched *Checker Tobi: The Waste Check*, a German film that invites viewers to see how plastic packaging waste can be processed into something new.

After watching both films, a number of students participated in a science experiment called "Carbon Dioxide Gas". The students were given a challenge where they had to blow up balloons and put out fires using carbon dioxide gas using only vinegar and baking soda.

Since its inception in Thailand in 2005, the Science Film Festival has consistently promoted scientific literacy to young people in Southeast and South Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East via entertaining, knowledge-based communication. The Science Film Festival was introduced in Indonesia in 2010 as it continued its regional expansion.

Over the years, the festival has established itself as the largest event of its kind worldwide, with over 700,000 viewers in more than 20 countries during its 2022 instalment, attracting 66,533 viewers in Indonesia alone. This year's festival runs internationally in 21 countries from 1 October to 20 December.



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About the Science Film Festival

The Science Film Festival is a celebration of science communication in Southeast and South Asia, Africa and the Middle East. In cooperation with local partners, it promotes science literacy and facilitates awareness of contemporary scientific, technological and environmental issues through international films with accompanying educational activities. The festival presents scientific issues accessibly and entertainingly to a broad audience and demonstrates that science can be fun. The event has grown considerably since its first edition in 2005, becoming the largest event of its kind worldwide.

The Science Film Festival is organised in each country by the Goethe-Institut in close cooperation with local partners. The festival relies on the collaboration and active participation of science education institutions, schools, universities, ministries and cultural centres in each of the host countries, as well as the enthusiasm of their staff and other partners, such as NGOs, educators and student volunteer groups, who facilitate the screenings and activities.

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