



## PRESS RELEASE

### Science Film Festival 2024 Highlights “Net Zero and the Circular Economy” to Students in 100 Cities



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JAKARTA – The Science Film Festival returns to Indonesia in its 15th edition, reaching students from elementary to high school levels in 100 cities across the archipelago in a hybrid format from 15 October to 30 November 2024. This year, the festival highlights the topic “Net Zero and the Circular Economy” through screenings of selected international films accompanied by fun science experiments.

This year’s festival in Indonesia is supported by its long-standing partners, including: the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research and Technology; the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany; Rolls-Royce; Paramadina University; Atma Jaya Catholic University of Indonesia; Jakarta State University; and Satya Wacana Christian University.

In Indonesia, the festival will screen 15 films from eight countries, namely Germany, Australia, Italy, Thailand, Chile, Brazil, the Netherlands, and Colombia followed by six science experiments that will be demonstrated after the screening. The films are scheduled to be screened consecutively in schools, universities, science centres, and online via Zoom. The festival reached various cities such as Ambon, Bandung, Buol Toli-Toli, Deli Serdang, Ende, Fakfak, Karo, Matauli Pandan, Poso, Pulau Buru, Surabaya, Waibakul, Yogyakarta, and many more.

This year’s theme emphasises the urgent need for actions beyond solely reducing global greenhouse gas emissions to address climate protection effectively. Recent research findings underscore that focusing solely on cutting CO<sub>2</sub> emissions is insufficient to halt climate change. To meet the Paris Climate Agreement objectives, a swift transition to achieving net zero emissions is imperative.

Integral to this pursuit is the concept of a circular economy, which prioritises the sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, and recycling of existing materials and products for as long as feasible. By promoting the reuse and recycling of products, the circular economy effectively slows the depletion of natural resources, curtails and habitat destruction, and aids in preserving biodiversity.



Constanze Michel, Director of Goethe-Institut Southeast Asia, Australia, and New Zealand during the opening ceremony on Tuesday, (15/10) at Plaza Insan Berprestasi, Ministry of Education, Culture, Research and Technology, Jakarta said, “The Science Film Festival endeavors to spotlight international films highlighting the crucial role played by net zero concepts and the circular economy in combatting the challenges posed by the climate crises. We believe science can be fun and enjoyable. By showcasing films on scientific topics from around the world, we aim to creatively inspire children and young people in Indonesia and throughout ASEAN countries, South Asia, the Middle East, and Africa to explore and engage with science.”

Hilmar Farid, Director General of Culture, Ministry of Education, Culture, Research and Technology, stated that this year's theme resonates deeply with the cultural imperatives of our time. Addressing climate change and embracing sustainable practices are not just scientific or economic challenges; they are fundamentally cultural ones. “Our cultural values and practices shape how we interact with the environment and each other. By promoting the principles of net zero emissions and the circular economy, we are advocating for a cultural shift towards sustainability, responsibility, and stewardship of our planet,” said Hilmar on a separate occasion in Jakarta, Tuesday (15/10).

Hilmar added that the circular economy's focus on reusing, repairing, and recycling aligns with traditional cultural practices of resourcefulness and respect for nature. Through the powerful medium of film, this festival highlights the intersection of culture and sustainability, inspiring us to rethink our habits and embrace more sustainable lifestyles.

Ina Lepel, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Indonesia, ASEAN and Timor Leste, stated, “In our pursuit of a sustainable future, this year's theme ‘Net Zero and the Circular Economy’ is more pertinent than ever. Scientific innovation is key to achieving these goals, helping us reduce our carbon footprint and promote sustainable practices. Both, Indonesia in ASEAN and Germany in the EU, are taking a pioneering role here. By working together on an equal footing, both countries can combine their efforts and thus contribute to net zero and an improved circular economy.”

More than 250 students watched three films at the opening of Science Film Festival 2024 at Plaza Insan Berprestasi, Kemendikbudristek, Jakarta. They watched a German film called *Nine-and-a-half: Hydrogen - The Green Energy of the Future?* which takes a look at a ‘hydrogen village’ called Bosbüll in Schleswig-Holstein. After that, the screening continued with a Chilean film *Raffi*, which tells the story of little Ema's experience learning about sustainability in her family's farmhouse. The last film they saw was a German documentary titled *How Bicycle Tires and Inner Tubes are Made: The Path of a Schwalbe Tyre*, highlighting tyre production environments in Indonesia, Vietnam and Germany.

The students then participated in a science experiment called ‘Centripetal in a Glass’. The students were challenged to move a ping pong ball from a table to the top of a bottle mouth without falling and being touched. In this experiment, students learnt how an object can move around due to centripetal force. This force is the reason why every object can move around, for example, the rotation of the Earth that creates seasons, climate and weather.

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 860,000 viewers in more than 21 countries during its 2023 instalment, attracting 122.066 viewers in Indonesia alone. This year's festival runs internationally in 23 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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