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Iran's 'Under The Moonlight' the best

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - The film Under The Moonlight from Iran won the Best Overall Award at the Kuala Lumpur World Film Festival (KLWFF) 2003 here tonight.

Bernama reports that the winner received a crystal glass trophy, certificate and cash prize of US\$15,000 (RM57,000), presented by Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin.

The second best overall award went to Born In Absurd Distant from Austria, with the winner receiving a trophy, certificate and cash prize of US\$12,000.

The third prize went to Nowhere In Africa from Germany, which received a trophy, certificate and cash prize of US\$10,000.

The three films were selected for their value of peace, humanity, friendship and non-discrimination.

Malaysia's Sayang Salmah won a jury award in the best humanity category.

Three films also received awards, namely Grand Illusion from France (best for peace), The Iron Lady from Thailand (best for non-discrimination) and In Case If I Won't See You Again from Mexico (best for friendship).

The winners received a trophy, certificate and cash prize of US\$5,000 each.

The audience was entertained by local artistes Siti Nurhaliza, Misha Omar and Syazliana.

KLWFF was organised by the Government in conjunction with the 13th Non-Aligned Movement Summit from Feb 20 to 25.

Information Minister Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob said The Kuala Lumpur World Film Festival, themed "Peace, Harmony, Non-Violence and Non-Discrimination", would be an annual affair and would have the same theme, as proposed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Speaking at the opening of a symposium held in conjunction with the festival, Khalil said he was pleased with the coverage given to the festival by local and foreign media.

The festival, which was on for two days from yesterday, featured 48 films from 38 countries.

Each country was allowed to submit only one entry to compete for three prizes in the "Perdana" award and four prizes in the "Jury Merit" award.