

Calling all Malaysian filmmakers

The Star - 3/10/2006

HULU KLANG: Malaysian filmmakers are wanted for the National Geographic Channels (NGC).

Those selected will be given up to US\$200,000 (RM740,000) to produce two one-hour documentaries under the supervision of NGC producers.

The funds come under the Malaysia to the World Fund of the National Geographic Channels International (NGCI) and Malaysia's National Film Development Corporation.

At the launching of the fund, Culture, Arts and Heritage Minister Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim said it was important for Malaysia because local filmmakers would gain experience.

He said the documentaries would reach 290 million house-

holds in 164 countries.

"Malaysia's trade partners including European countries and others would be able to view these documentaries over the National Geographic Channels," he said.

"The focus of the documentaries will be on Malaysia," he said, adding that the topics could be on life in the villages, FELDA settlements and urban areas or about the Malaysian Cabinet or racial harmony.

To a question, Dr Rais said the documentaries should be completed before Aug 31 next year which is Visit Malaysia Year 2007 and the nation's 50th anniversary.

The documentaries should meet NGC's high standard of quality, and have a great,

breath-taking story with engaging visuals.

NGCI executive vice-president (production) Bryan Smith said a good documentary could touch the heart and engage the mind while entertaining the viewers.

"We know that there are great stories in Asia but they are not being shared with wider audiences," he said.

Proposals have to be submitted by Nov 15 and short-listed candidates will need to attend a workshop in Kuala Lumpur in December.

For details, call National Geographic Channel Asia (Singapore) at 65-6325 3848 or 6325 3821 or contact NGCI supervising producer Mok Choy Lin at mok@ngcasia.com.