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happiest of
festive seasons
and all good
things for 2024!



NBCUni Asia channels reorg

Dedicated channels
distribution unit shuttered,
no comment on layoffs

NBCUniversal is closing its dedicated channels/affiliate sales team in Asia. Industry sources say at least three roles are being cut, including affiliate sales director, Amrita Sindhu.

The rest of the story is on page 6

Gilberto Duavit takes GMA reins

Philippines' broadcast icon
Felipe Gozon retires,
second generation rises

Broadcast heir Gilberto Duavit Jr takes over the Philippines' largest network from the beginning of 2024 in an end-of-an-era move for the domestic industry.

The full story is on page 6



Toho buys into Fifth Season

Japanese co pays US\$225m for 25% stake

Japan's Toho is investing US\$225 million in Fifth Season (the former Endeavour Content), the company said today.

The acquisition is part of the Toho group's "Toho Vision 2032" strategy, which identifies international expansion as a key goal. Toho said today that "there is a lot of room for development" overseas.

Korea's CJ ENM, which acquired an 80% stake in the scripted business of Endeavour Content in 2022 for US\$785 million, remains the company's largest shareholder.

More at www.contentasia.tv

David Yong backs Jack Neo

2024 releases for two feature films



I Not Stupid 3

Evergreen Group Holdings CEO, David Yong, is backing the return of two of Singapore filmmaker Jack Neo's best-known movies – *Money Not Enough* and *I Not Stupid*.

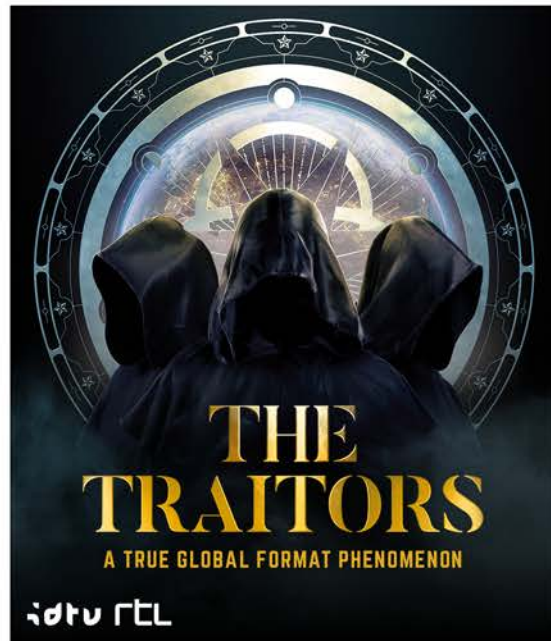
Details of Yong's investment in the US\$2.8-million *Money Not Enough 3*, which releases during the Lunar New Year holiday period in 2024, have not been disclosed.

The release of *I Not Stupid 3* will follow later in the year.

Yong and Neo go way back. He was an investor in *Ah Girls Go Army Again 2*, and his Chinese ballad, *My Way*, was the original soundtrack for *Ah Girls Go Army*.

Money Not Enough 3, directed and co-written by Neo, reunites Neo, Mark Lee and Henry Thia in a story anchored in issues facing Singaporeans of all ages.

The sequel is the first film Neo has co-produced under HiJack Pictures, a venture formed in 2022 between Neo's J Team productions and Singapore-based distributor-producer Clover Films.



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JKN hits back, threatens US\$42m lawsuit

No signed Miss Universe Coin crypto deal, co says

The Thai-listed owner of the Miss Universe Organisation, JKN Global Group, is threatening a THB1.5b/US\$42m lawsuit against would-be partner, TCG Social Media Group, over a crypto coin deal.

JKN admitted to an MoU, but said this was not legally binding, and that TCG went ahead and launched the Miss Universe Coin (MUCoin) in Sept without a signed agreement.

At the time, JKN published a statement denying any involvement in MUCoin and warned fans "to please use caution and not to join in the coin scam".

TCG has already filed a lawsuit claiming damages of THB1 billion/US\$28.3 million against JKN to protect its reputation and as compensation for some of the damages incurred. The preliminary hearing is scheduled for 18 Dec 2023.

In a row that has extended from stock exchange filings and press events to social media platforms, JKN Global boss Anne Jakrajutatip posted, "you messed up with the wrong trans woman". Her post appeared beneath an image featuring the planned THB1.5 billion lawsuit against TCG.

"Your lies, illegal acts from both front and behind the scenes, disrespectful manners and all kind of dishonesty will be justified and taken forward with official lawsuit," she said in the post.

The post also included a notice on JKN Global Group's letterhead about the planned legal action.

In another post, she said: "It's time to clean up". And she broadened her housekeeping, alluding to other conflicts.

"... everyone who did me wrong in terms of making smear campaign, fake news and dirty information," she said, adding: "Thank you for being so bad".

"I certainly learnt a lot on who the real friends, manipulators, drama makers, cheaters, insincere associates, social media scammers, and truly die hard fans are!," she said.

China heart beat for Africa in new drama

Welcome to Milele marks 60 years of medical aid



Welcome to Milele

Mainland Chinese authorities have up-sized their soft-power initiatives, closing out 2023 with drama, *Welcome to Milele*, a celebration of China's 60-year involvement in providing medical aid to Africa.

The production, involving 178 crew members on location in Africa, is being presented as the largest-scale overseas filming project in Chinese television history, Chinese Communist Party newspaper, *Global Times*, says.

The 35-episode series is the story of Dr Ma Jia, who joins a team headed for Sanna in Africa and finds himself grappling with a vastly different environment and profound cultural differences.

The series is available across platforms including on YouTube with

English subtitles, was filmed in six locations across China and Tanzania. 20 episodes are available for free on Youku online, with the balance behind a pay wall. A version in Swahili is being planned to distribute on African platforms.

Inspired by true stories, the drama showcases "China's humanitarian spirit on the world stage" and "highlights the selfless dedication of Chinese medical teams serving in Africa".

Welcome to Milele is timed to coincide with the 10th anniversary of the China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

The cast includes Zambian actor Kawawa Kadichi as an African child who came to China to study and then returned to his home country.

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The Big List 2024 directory

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From page 1: NBCUniversal

The network has not commented on layoffs involved in the reorg. From 1 January 2024, CNBC will handle its own affiliate sales in Asia.

Affiliate sales for DreamWorks and Studio Universal will be handled by NBCU's Global Distribution sales team.

The latest revision follows the early 2022 reorg that put networks' affiliate sales, finance and operations under Justin Che.

NBC's decision comes as little surprise, capping a channels contraction that began at least six years ago.

The U.S.-based programmer started whittling down its channels bouquet in June 2017 when Syfy and Universal Channel exited the region. On 31 December 2019, the plug was pulled on the last of its entertainment channels – E! and Diva – leaving the network with DreamWorks for kids and business channel CNBC.



Taiwan's cable subs fall to record lows in Q3 – NCC

Taiwan's cable subs fell to a record low of 4.55 million in the third quarter of this year, according to the country's regulatory body, the National Communications Commission (NCC).

Household penetration dipped to just under 49.5%.

The NCC attributed the 2.42% year-on-year drop in overall cable subscriptions to alternative entertainment sources, and pointed out the steady decline over 24 consecutive quarters.

At its peak in 2017, Taiwan registered 5.26 million subs.

Six operators control about 80% of Taiwan's cable market, or approx 3.75 million cable subscribers.

The six are Kbro Co, Homeplus Digital Co, Taiwan Broadband Communications, TFN Media, Taiwan Optical Platform and Dafeng TV.

The only platform that registered an increase was Taiwan Optical Platform (Top), which reported an increase of 0.13% for the third quarter compared to the second quarter.

Gilberto Duavit takes GMA reigns
Broadcast icon Felipe Gozon retires, 2nd generation rises

Philippines' broadcast lifer Gilberto Duavit Jr takes over the country's largest broadcast network from the beginning of 2024 in an end-of-an-era move for the domestic industry.

Currently president and COO, Duavit takes over from GMA Network chairman and CEO, Felipe Gozon, who announced his retirement at the weekend during his 84th birthday celebrations.

Duavit, the eldest son of GMA co-founder Gilberto M Duavit Sr and already a tried-and-trusted member of the GMA empire, takes over from 1 January 2024.

Gozon will continue to serve as the chairman of the Board and adviser to the corporation.

At the same time, Joel Marcelo G. Jimenez – the son of co-founder Menardo R Jimenez – was elect-

ed as the new chairman of the network's Executive Committee, effective 1 January 2024.

The power shift comes a year shy of the 50th anniversary of the making of GMA as it is known today.

In 1975, Gozon, Gilberto Duavit Sr and Menardo Jimenez, revived the struggling Republic Broadcasting System (RBS), the precursor of GMA. The three restructured debt, upgraded equipment and produced local shows. Gozon took the helm in 2000.

Duavit joined GMA's board of directors in 1999 and has been the chairman of the Network's executive committee since August 2000.

He was named EVP and COO in November 2000, and was elected as the company's president in October 2010.

Duavit holds multiple positions in the company's sprawling media empire, including chairman of the board of GMA Network Films.

Among other positions, Jimenez is the president/CEO of Menarco Holdings, and the CEO of Alta Productions Group.



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Taiwan: Asia's content darling

Asian content: Demand on the rise, distributors say

Plus Meileen Choo on Coolie, top-of-mind topics across Asia & more

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For editorial info, contact Janine at janine@contentasia.tv
To advertise in any of ContentAsia's publications or online, contact Malena at malena@contentasia.tv (Asia, Australia and Middle East) or Leah at leah@contentasia.tv (Americas and Europe)

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What's on where...

February 2024	22-23	SPORTEL Rendez-vous Bali	Bali, Indonesia
March 2024	3-6	Australian International Documentary Conference (AIDC)	Melbourne, Australia
	11-14	Hong Kong International Film & TV Market 2024	Hong Kong
	13-14	AVIA: Asia Video Summit 2024	Hong Kong
	19-21	Series Mania Forum 2024	Lille, France
April 2024	5-10	Canneseries 2024	Cannes, France
	8-10	Mip TV/Mip Formats/Mip Doc/Mip Drama 2024	Cannes, France
	25	AVIA: Future of Video 2024	Mumbai, India
May 2024	28	AVIA: Satellite Industry Forum 2024	Singapore
June 2024	6-8	Telefilm Vietnam 2024	Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
	17-18	DW Global Media Forum 2024	Bonn, Germany
	24-27	Sunny Side of the Doc 2024	France
July 2024	3-5	15th Content Tokyo	Tokyo, Japan
August 2024	20-21	ContentAsia Summit 2024	
	22	ContentAsia Awards 2024	
September 2024	3	AVIA: Korea in View 2024	Seoul, Korea
	5	Japan: Korea in View 2024	Tokyo, Japan
	26-29	Gwangju Ace Fair 2024	Gwangju, Korea
October 2024	10	AVIA: Vietnam in View 2024	Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam
	19-20	MipJunior 2024	Cannes, France
	21-24	Mipcom 2024	Cannes, France
December 2024	3	The ATF Leaders Dialogue 2024	Singapore
	4-6	Asia TV Forum & Market /ATF 2024	Singapore

High demand for Sweet Home in China

Netflix takes 3 of top 10 digital spots – Parrot Analytics

Mainland China's digital activity around *Sweet Home* in from 28 Nov to 4 Dec put the Netflix series ahead of all digital originals measured by Parrot Analytics during the week of 28 Nov to 4 Dec. The show also generated enough buzz to earn a place on the overall list of TV shows in China.

And no, in case you ask, Netflix still isn't available as a subscription service in China, although clearly that's not limiting its influence; three Netflix titles appeared

on the top 10 list for the week.

The top Chinese shows measured by Parrot Analytics are sci-fi series *Three Body*, based on the novel by Liu Cixin, and fantasy series, *Swallowed Star*, about a man in a post-apocalyptic world full of intelligent monsters. Both are from Tencent Video/WeTV.

The title that attracted the most demand is Japanese anime series, *Jujutsu Kaisen*, about a high-school boy with tremendous physical strength.

Top 10 overall TV shows: China

Rank	Title	Difference from Market Average
1	<i>Jujutsu Kaisen (呪術廻戦)</i>	26.72x
2	<i>Rick and Morty</i>	23.65x
3	<i>Attack On Titan (進撃の巨人)</i>	21.33x
4	<i>Sweet Home (스위트홈)</i>	20.9x
5	<i>Loki</i>	20.35x
6	<i>PAW Patrol</i>	20.19x
7	<i>Sesame Street</i>	20x
8	<i>Empresses In The Palace (后宫甄嬛传)</i>	19.36x
9	<i>The Boys</i>	18.94x
10	<i>Billions</i>	18.71x

Top 10 digital originals: China

Rank	Title	Platform	Difference from Market Average
1	<i>Sweet Home (스위트홈)</i>	Netflix	20.9x
2	<i>Loki</i>	Disney+	20.35x
3	<i>The Boys</i>	Amazon Prime Video	18.94x
4	<i>Gen V</i>	Amazon Prime Video	18.29x
5	<i>Stranger Things</i>	Netflix	17.16x
6	<i>Invincible</i>	Amazon Prime Video	17.01x
7	<i>Three-Body (三体)</i>	Tencent Video	16.7x
8	<i>Squid Game (오징어 게임)</i>	Netflix	16.7x
9	<i>Swallowed Star (吞噬星空)</i>	Tencent Video	16.47x
10	<i>For All Mankind</i>	Apple TV+	15.21x

Date range: 28 November-04 December 2023

The total audience demand being expressed for a title, within a market. Audience demand reflects the desire, engagement and viewership, weighted by importance; so a stream/download is a higher expression of demand than a 'like'/comment. In this dataset we are comparing the demand that exists for each series in this market, against the average TV show. A difference of 1x represents the market average and 10x means a series is ten times more in demand than the average TV show in this market



Editorial Director

Janine Stein
janine@contentasia.tv

Assistant Editor

Malena Amzah
malena@contentasia.tv

Events Manager

CJ Yong
cj@contentasia.tv

ContentAsia Marketing & Awards

Heather Berger
heather@contentasia.tv

Design

Rae Yong

Research

Rhealyn Rigodon
iyah@contentasia.tv

Associate Publisher

(Americas, Europe) and VP,
International Business Development

Leah Gordon
leah@contentasia.tv

Sales and Marketing (Asia, Australia and Middle East)

Masliana Masron
mas@contentasia.tv

To receive your regular free copy of **ContentAsia**, please email contentasia@contentasia.tv

Published fortnightly by:
Pencil Media Pte Ltd
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