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*The full story is on page 3*



## Show goes on for Miss Universe El Salvador event kicks off in full glamour mode ahead of 18 Nov finale

The Miss Universe 2023 pageant has kicked off in El Salvador, with full-glamour beach runs, beauty routines, special moment charity events and a catalogue of branded swag for sale ahead of the grand finale on the evening of 18 November. No mention – at least not publicly – is being made of the furious behind-the-scenes activity in Bangkok, where finance and compliance teams at the Miss Universe Organisation's Thai-listed owner, JKN Global Group, are in full bankruptcy rehabilitation mode.

*The full story is on page 11*

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## Maleenont heirs upped in BEC reorg

Trusted lieutenant Thiamthong to run Thai TV empire



From left: Pinkamol Maleenont, Piyawadee Maleenont, Tracy Ann Maleenont

Thailand's BEC World has unveiled a new management structure that ups heirs of media baron and BEC founder, Vichai Maleenont, and puts long-time trusted lieutenant Chatchai Thiamthong at the head of its flagship television business as acting president.

The company's former CFO, Thiamthong replaces Surin Krittiyaphongphun, who resigned suddenly earlier this month. No reasons were given for his exit after three and a half years.

The new org chart sees third-generation of the Maleenont family, all of who have been involved in the business for years, assigned expanded roles.

Family members still own the largest stake in BEC World, which listed on the Thai Stock Exchange in 1995. The company was founded in the late 1960s as Bangkok Entertainment Co.

BEC World, which operates the country's second biggest free-TV network, Ch3, is telling investors that the internal management structure will ensure "efficient and streamlined management".

The new structure kicked in on Friday, 10 November.

The re-org puts Tracy Ann Maleenont in charge of programming, broadcasting, digital and new media strategy, as well as the company's fast-growing international business, and finance and accounting.

Piyawadee Maleenont will supervise BEC Studio, a separate division set up in 2021 to produce premium originals for international markets, as well as commercial (ad-sales and sponsorships), and marketing.

Pinkamol Maleenont will supervising programme production, artist and rights management.

All three move into the new structure as assistants to the group COO, and will support Thiamthong.

The announcement of the new structure coincided with the company's Q3 2023 earnings report, which showed a 65.9% year-on-year drop in net profit to THB 37.9 million/US\$1.05 million.

The company attributed this to local and global economic factors, and listed strong gains in regional/global licensing as well as record performance of theatrical film, *Tee Yod*, out of its fledgling movie production initiatives. *Tee Yod* released on 26 October and is on track to hit box office of THB 400 million/US\$111 million.

The latest licensing alliances include *Doctor Detective* to Prime Video; *The Betrayal* to Viu (Southeast Asia) and VieOn Vietnam; and a 600-hour agreement with Singapore's Mediacorp, including blockbuster titles such as *Love Destiny 2* and *Nakee*.

BEC also said its 3Plus streaming platform has hit 100,000 paying subs.





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## Thailand's Workpoint Entertainment, Major Cineplex seal 50-50 film production venture

Thai production house and digital terrestrial broadcaster, Workpoint Entertainment, is establishing a new joint-venture label with the country's largest cinema chain, Major Cineplex, to invest in and produce movies.

The new venture, Karman Line Studio Company, will be set up before the end of this year with a registered capital of THB 110 million/US\$3 million.

The investment in 50% of the Karman Line Studio will be made through Workpoint's 99.9%-owned subsidiary, Thai Broadcasting Co Ltd.

The other 50% will be held by the Major Cineplex Group, which is also listed on the Thai Stock Exchange.

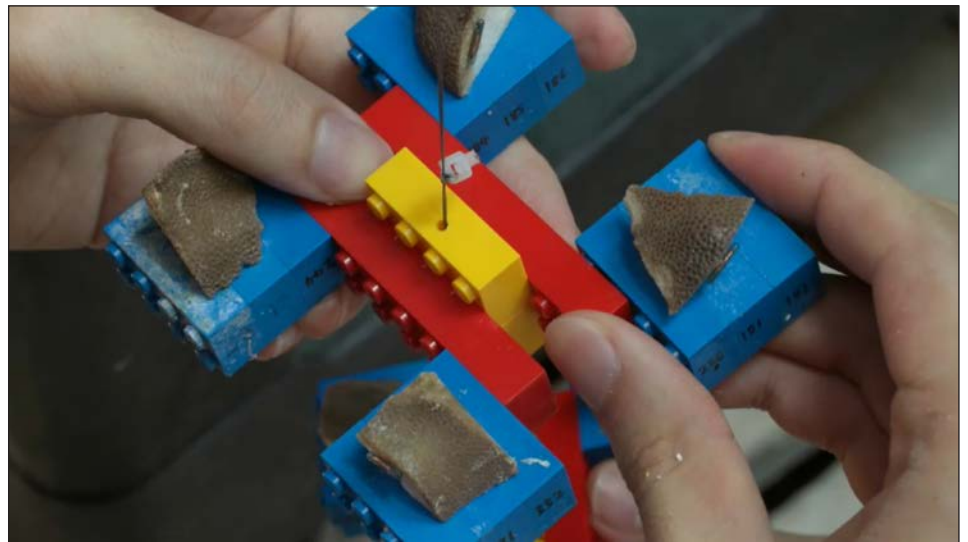
In a note to its shareholders this morning, Major Cineplex said its board had already approved the investment in the new company.

Both partners said their investment would be made in two phases: the first payment of THB 25 million/US\$693,000 each in December 2023 and the second of THB 30 million/US\$832,000 each within 2024.

The money will come from the working capital of both companies.

Major Cineplex is already deeply involved in Thailand's film production environment with, among other ventures, majority stakes in M Pictures Co, M Pictures Entertainment and M Thirtynine Co, as well as a number of joint ventures for specific films, including *Hug Terd Tueng* (M Pictures and Land of Smile), *Juad Kathoei Bung Fa* (M Thirtynine Co and Thai Broadcasting Co); and *Buaphan Fun Yub* (Major Join Film and BEC World).

## CNA doc takes sole AIBs prize for Asia *We Can Do Hard Things – Very!* wins in sci/tech category



*We Can Do Hard Things – Very!*

Singapore Mediacorp's CNA documentary – *We Can Do Hard Things – Very!* – is the only Asian production that made it to the winners' list for this year's international AIB Awards' winners.

The 47-minute programme, released in March this year, was awarded the Highly Commended prize in the science and technology category, along with *TechXplore Japan* (Electric Eel Studios for BBC World Service).

*Under Poisoned Skies* (BBC News Arabic) was the category winner.

Winners in the 20 categories were announced at an event in London at the weekend.

*We Can Do Hard Things – Very!* is about marine biologist Neo Mei Lin and

her team from Singapore's National Marine Lab dedicated to saving Singapore's corals and underwater species, using Lego bricks as one of their tools.

Over 400 hours of content were submitted to the 2023 competition, which reward international journalism and factual productions across TV, radio, and digital platforms.

"This competition is needed more than ever, as we face a world in increasing chaos and danger," AIB chief executive, Simon Spanswick, said in his opening of the awards ceremony.

"In many areas, that chaos and danger threaten media freedom and the ability of journalists to hold power to account," he said.

## Astro adds five Fast channels to Njoi, sooka

Malaysian platform Astro has added five free ad-supported (Fast) channels to its NJOI service as well as streaming platform sooka, bringing the Fast package to 15 channels.

The five channels, created by Astro with a mix of in-house and acquired content, are film/telemovie channel Filem Mantap, drama/music channel Drama Hebat, Chinese drama channel

Drama Hotpot, comedy channel Lawak Sentral and travel/culture/cooking channel Travel & Taste.

Astro said the new channels increased choices across a range of genres, including dramas, comedies, travel shows and its own content, such as Super Spontan All Stars, Suri Hati Mr Pilot, The Rebel Princess and Perfect Partner.

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## “Life is not just about surviving,” TCCF winner Lo Yi-shan says 22 projects win US\$200,000 total funding in 2023 Taiwan pitch

Years after her best friend Chun died on a mountain in Nepal during a trekking trip with boyfriend Yueh, director Lo Yi-shan returns to the scene to honour the promise Chun and Yueh made while trapped on a ledge. Chun died three days before rescue teams reached them.

The promise that whoever survived would tell the story of the 47-day ordeal became *After the Snowmelt*, a US\$160,000 Taiwanese-Japanese docu-feature that was one of two grand prize winners at this year's Taiwan Creative Content Fest (TCCF), which wrapped in Taipei on Friday night.

Presented as a “coming-of-age tale that delves into how teenagers grapple with their first experience of profound loss”, *After the Snowmelt* is Lo's first documentary feature.

With 75% of its funding already in place before the TCCF win and currently in post-production, the feature is not an unknown project on the regional development stage. Support includes Korea's DMZ Docs Development Fund, Indonesia's Asiadoc Workshop and Japan's Dojo Residency.

“Chun and I met at a Catholic girls high school, where his transgender identity drew criticism,” Lo says in her production statement for the Taicca pitch.

“Witnessing his silent tears, I admired his courage and resilience. Alongside his beloved Yueh, they inspired me to explore the world beyond the classroom, and we made a promise to travel abroad together someday... The desire to honour our high-school promise drove me to assume the role of the survivor and embrace the responsibility of sharing this story,” Lo says.

“Through this film I want to create a journey from trauma to reconciliation. It resonates not only with themes of gender, education and nature, but also serves as a testament to the resilience of life, the potential for growth, and the realisation that life is not just about surviving, but about truly living and loving,” she says.



*After the Snowmelt* (above); director Lo Yi-shan (left)



Along with Filipino fantasy feature film, *Mother Maybe*, *After the Snowmelt* won

US\$30,000 as part of a funding collaboration between TCCF organiser, the Taiwan Creative Content Agency (Taicca), and French agency CNC (Centre National du cinéma et de l'image animée). The two prizes are part of a total US\$200,000/NT\$6 million funding awarded in this year's Taiwan Creative Content Fest (TCCF) pitches, which involved 53 pitches in five categories plus six for a special workshop section.

The second Taicca x CNC grand prize winner is Filipino feature film, *Mother Maybe*, a comedy/fantasy drama that mixes Filipino folklore with a universal message of finding your own family and your place in the world. The film is produced by E&W Films/Southern Lantern Studios.

*Mother Maybe*, budgeted at US\$550,000, is about a son reunited with his mother in Tokyo, only to find she becomes a mythical 'manananggal' creature at night. He then joins an absurd Japanese TV game show to

earn money to pay for her treatment. The game immerses him into a different world, further separating him from his mother.

Producer Arden Rod Condez describes the multi-language Tagalog/Japanese/English project as “quite personal but, also, a little crazy”.

Directed by Sonny Calvento, the film's 'monster' is a metaphor for the identity developed by people who leave their family to work abroad.

“It is inevitable that time and distance can reshape our being, and eventually, it reveals another persona that our family back home or even ourselves will hate,” *Mother Maybe* producers say.

This year was the first time the TCCF pitching was open to international projects. The decision to expand participation comes as Taiwan focuses on building its global footprint.

“Our goal is to provide creators with more funding while seeking additional international collaboration opportunities,” said Taicca chairperson, Homme Tsai, at the pitch awards ceremony.

**The full story is at [www.contentasia.tv](http://www.contentasia.tv)**



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## iQiyi kicks off *My Stand-in* production, Thai BL drama slated for 2024



Directors of *My Stand-In*, Kongkiat "Khom" Khomsiri (left) and Banchorn "Pepzi" Vorasataree

Chinese streamer iQiyi has kicked off production on new Thai BL drama, *My Stand-In*, a project with domestic production house, YYDS Entertainment (*I Feel You Linger In the Air*), and producer Wan "Yuan" Thabkrajang.

The drama also involves *KinnPorsche* creators, Banchorn "Pepzi" Vorasataree, Kongkiat "Khom" Khomsiri and *Girl from Nowhere* star, Poompat "Up" lam-Saman, as well as and Phuripan "Poom" Sapsangsawat.

*My Stand-In* is based on Chinese writer Shui Qiancheng's online novel, *Stand-In Ship*, about passionate stunt double, Zhou Xiang, who falls in love with Yan Mingxiu, the young Yan family master. He pursues the relationship, only to discover that he is merely a stand-in for the famous star Wang Yudong.

The series will premiere worldwide in 2024.

## True CJ begins three new Thai TV series Korean adaptations scheduled for 2024



Triple kick off ceremony for True CJ Creation's three new productions – Thai versions of *Happiness*, *What's Wrong with Secretary Kim* and *Mouse*

Thai-Korean joint venture, True CJ Creations, has kicked off production on its latest three adaptations – Thai versions of Korea's apocalyptic thriller *Happiness*, 2018 romcom *What's Wrong with Secretary Kim*, and crime thriller *Mouse*.

All are scheduled to release in 2024.

*What's Wrong with Secretary Kim Thailand* stars Bua Nalinthip (*Praomook*) opposite Jespipat "Jes" Tilapornputt (*Rak Rai*).

Based on CJ ENM's 2018 Korean drama series, *What's Wrong with Secretary Kim* is about the vice chairman of a major corporation whose world is shaken when his secretary quits.

*Happiness* is a 2021 Studio Dragon thriller set against in a time when infectious diseases are the norm and 'mad-person' disease has created chaos *Happiness* stars Suppapong "Saint"

Udomkaewkanjana and Orn Patchnan.

Starring Nonkuk Chanon, *Mouse* is about a detective's attempt to catch a psychopathic serial killer.

The three new titles are part of a growing stream of adaptations coming out of Thailand from the seven-year-old joint venture.

*Black Dog: Being A Teacher* premiered as *Thank You Teacher* in June this year, and will be followed next year by fantasy/romcom *Familiar Wife*, business/romcom *Start Up*, medical/romcom *Emergency Couple* and legal thriller, *Lawless Lawyer*.

Part of a five-format deal announced in September 2022 between Korea's CJ ENM and TrueVisions, *Thank You Teacher* released on TrueVisions' OTT service, True ID, pay-TV channel TrueVisions and DTT channel True4U.

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# Show goes on for Miss Universe 2023

El Salvador event kicks off in full glamour mode ahead of 18 November finale



Miss Universe 2023

The Miss Universe 2023 pageant has kicked off in El Salvador, with beauty queen beach runs, special moment charity events and a catalogue of branded swag for sale ahead of the grand finale on the evening of 18 November.

Little public mention is being made in these halls glamour of the furious behind-the-scenes activity in Bangkok, where finance and compliance teams at the Miss Universe Organisation's Thai-listed owner, JKN Global Group, are in full business rehabilitation/bankruptcy protection mode.

The pageant so far fulfills a promise JKN Global made that the show would go on as planned when it put in motion the bankruptcy protection filing on 8/9 November, only days after the first anniversary of its high-profile US\$20-million acquisition from IMG.

This year's event is the second under JKN Global, which acquired the property in October 2022. The 2022 competition was held in New Orleans in January

this year because of pandemic-related delays in 2022.

In a note tracking the progress of its business rehabilitation proceedings, the company told the Thai Stock Exchange yesterday that the matter would be presented to a hearing of Thailand's Central Bankruptcy Court on 29 January 2024.

As part of the process, repayments and interest on debentures have been suspended.

The scheduled 8 December meetings with bond holders – including Daol Securities and Asia Plus Securities, which both requested payment on 9/10 November – have been cancelled.

Trouble has been brewing since August, when JKN said it would be negotiating with bond holders to reschedule debt repayments, due on 1 September.

Soon after the original filing last week, the company said it fully intended to continue its operation while being under the rehabilitation plan which is "a sustainable solution to the problem and to create profits in the future".

JKN's year to date stock price is down more than 90%.

Without directly mentioning any business woes, JKN Global CEO, Anne Jakrajutatip, posted a note about starting over on her Instagram account yesterday, thanking fans for their love and kind support.

"Don't be afraid to start all over again. This time, you are not starting from scratch but from high-level experience," said text laid over an image of her and her two children.

In the post, she referred obliquely to the protection filing as events "in the recent global news", and said this was "simply just another life chapter of mine which I learned on how to be extremely resilient and also how to turn pain into power. I'm not afraid to face with it and address it to the world," she said, reminding her 6.7 million followers that she had "built everything from scratch myself and it's time for me to transform everything back to the top again".

The comment received more than 12,000 likes.

## What's on where...

November 2023	22-23	Dubai International Content Market 2023	Madinat Jumeirah, Dubai
December 2023	5	AVIA: OTT Summit 2023	Singapore
	5	The ATF Leaders Dialogue 2023	Singapore
	6	AVIA: Piracy Over the Top 2023	Singapore
	6-8	Asia TV Forum & Market (ATF) 2023	Singapore
	6-8	14th Content Tokyo	Tokyo, Japan
March 2024	3-6	Australian International Documentary Conference (AIDC)	Melbourne, Australia
	11-14	Hong Kong International Film & TV Market 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
May 2024	29-31	BroadcastAsia/CommunicAsia 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	Bangkok, Thailand
	22	ContentAsia Awards 2024	Bangkok, Thailand
September 2024	26-29	Gwangju Ace Fair 2024	Gwangju, Korea
October 2024	19-20	MipJunior 2024	Cannes, France
	21-24	Mipcom 2024	Cannes, France



# U.S. superheroes top Taiwan demand

## Loki, Gen V leave competition trailing – Parrot Analytics

Disney+'s *Loki* swept demand for digital originals in Taiwan for the week of 31 Oct-6 Nov 2023, with Prime Video's *Gen V* running second and *Bebefinn* third.

*Loki* and *Gen V* were the only two digital originals of the titles measured by Parrot Analytics in Taiwan that attracted double digit demand. On the overall list, four titles moved into double-digit territory, in contrast to markets like the Philippines, where digital activity around

all the titles on the lists is high.

Korean series of the moment, *Doona!* – Netflix's top show in Taiwan for the two weeks from 23 Oct to 5 Nov – was fourth on Parrot Analytics' list with a little over 9x demand for the average show that Parrot Analytics measures in the market.

Of the titles measured, *Loki* attracted enough demand to top the overall list as well, as did Prime Video's U.S. superhero series *Gen V*.

### Top 10 overall TV shows: Taiwan

Rank	Title	Difference from Market Average
1	<i>Loki</i>	19.33x
2	<i>Gen V</i>	18.1x
3	健康 2.0	11.76x
4	<i>Ani Tomo</i>	10.3x
5	<i>Ultraman (1966)</i>	9.86x
6	<i>Bebefinn</i>	9.85x
7	<i>The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon</i>	9.75x
8	<i>Attack On Titan (進撃の巨人)</i>	9.66x
9	<i>PAW Patrol</i>	9.6x
10	<i>Doona! (이두나!)</i>	9.06x

### Top 10 digital originals: Taiwan

Rank	Title	Platform	Difference from Market Average
1	<i>Loki</i>	Disney+	19.33x
2	<i>Gen V</i>	Amazon Prime Video	18.1x
3	<i>Bebefinn</i>	Netflix	9.85x
4	<i>Doona! (이두나!)</i>	Netflix	9.06x
5	<i>Ahsoka</i>	Disney+	7x
6	<i>The Worst Evil (최악의 악)</i>	Disney+	6.89x
7	<i>The Mandalorian</i>	Disney+	6.11x
8	<i>Foundation</i>	Apple TV+	5.16x
9	<i>Star Trek: Strange New Worlds</i>	Paramount+	4.87x
10	<i>My Journey To You (云之羽)</i>	iQiyi	4.39x

Date range: 31 October-6 November 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



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