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INDUSTRY NEWS

On 28 February, The Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council PRC announced 31 initiatives to promote equal commercial treatment for Taiwanese enterprises on the mainland. The initiative takes effect immediately, including three relating to the film and television industries:

Article 18: No limitations for Taiwanese to participate in mainland television programs, dramas and films;

Article 19: No limitations for Taiwanese import films and television dramas through a mainland film distributor; radio; audio-visual websites and cable television networks;

Article 20: Eased limitations on the number of leading mainland actors, and investment limits for mainland-Taiwan co-produced films and television dramas. This includes the removal for declaration of co-production costs and shortening the storyline reviews for co-produced television dramas.

Official figures show that China's national box office in February has hurdled USD 1.6bn (RMB 10bn) from 259mn patrons, setting a new record in China. Further, it topped the 2011 July record of USD 1.4bn (RMB 8.8bn) set in America to become the biggest month ever worldwide. China now has over 9,914 cinemas and 53,824 screens; including 47,466 3D screens (88.1%), 294 China Film Giant Screens, and 502 IMAX screens.

Enlight Media sold a 27.6% share of New Classics Media to Tencent for USD 526.5mn (RMB 3.3bn). The deal made Tencent the second largest shareholder of New Classics Media, replacing Enlight.

CINEMA DEVELOPMENT

Bona Film Group has opened its first overseas cinema in Sky Avenue, Resorts World Genting, Malaysia. The new complex has four auditoriums, with one IMAX screen and one VIP room to be opened in July.

On 3 March, 17 Wanda cinemas in Dalian live-cast a football match in its theater lobby to the patrons free of charge.

FEATURED FILM RELEASES

BLACK PANTHER – 9 March



T'Challa, the King of Wakanda, rises to the throne in the isolated, technologically advanced African nation, but his claim is challenged by a vengeful outsider who was a childhood victim of T'Challa's father's mistake.

PACIFIC RIM: UPRISING – 23 March



Jake Pentecost, son of Stacker Pentecost, reunites with Mako Mori to lead a new generation of Jaeger pilots, including rival Lambert and 15-year-old hacker Amara, against a new Kaiju threat.

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