

East of Taiwan 23.5°N: International Tourism Film limited-time Challenge

Competition Guidelines

I. Competition Rules and Information

1. About the Competition

Much of the Tropic of Cancer runs through arid desert, but eastern Taiwan is a striking exception. Fed by Pacific currents and monsoon rains, a ribbon of green unfolds between the coast and the valley's two mountain ranges, creating a landscape found nowhere else along this latitude.

The competition brings filmmakers from around the world to eastern Taiwan for an intensive five-day challenge to shoot and complete a film on location. Through their diverse creative perspectives, filmmakers will journey from the blue Pacific to rippling rice fields and Indigenous communities, revealing the beauty, culture, and character of this land to audiences worldwide.

II. Competition Theme

Entries should focus on the natural landscapes, ecological resources, local culture, diverse communities, and unique travel experiences shaped by Taiwan's location at 23.5°N on the Tropic of Cancer. Films should capture the distinctive character of Hualien and Taitung as a destination along the Tropic of Cancer, build greater recognition of the region, and bring its appeal to a wider international audience.

Each team must bring together at least two of the following themes in its film:

1. Natural Landscapes and Ecology

Examples include the rice fields of Hualien and Taitung; the geology of the East Rift Valley; mountain and forest ecosystems; and the natural beauty of the East Coast.

2. Food, Local Industries, and Unique Experiences

Examples include Luye Red Oolong in Taitung; the mud volcanoes of Luoshan Village in Fuli; Wuhe black tea; Antong, Zhiben, and Ruisui hot springs; hands-on experiences; and local businesses rooted in the region's slow-living culture.

3. Art, Craft, and Community Revitalization Stories

Examples include the East Rift Valley Land Art Festival; arts and crafts by local artisans; and community revitalization through art and design.

4. Cultures and Lifestyles of Diverse Communities

Examples include Indigenous cultures and communities; Hakka culture; immigrant villages; and the cultures of local communities and settlements.

III. Eligibility

1. Age and Nationality: The competition is open to filmmakers aged **20 or older** from Taiwan and abroad, regardless of nationality. Young filmmakers, vloggers and

independent content creators, audiovisual industry professionals, and filmmaking enthusiasts are welcome to enter as teams.

2. Team Size: Each team may have **no more than four** members. The team roster is subject to the organizer's review and approval.

3. International Team Eligibility: For this competition, an “international team” is one in which at least half of the members are foreign nationals who are not Republic of China citizens and do not hold valid Taiwan residence permits. Teams selected in the first round must provide immigration records, airline ticket records, or other supporting documents for verification.

4. Equipment: Teams must provide their own filming equipment, including drones where applicable, as well as computers, editing software, and any other equipment needed to complete all filming and post-production independently. Under the organizer's regulations, teams may not use drones made by mainland Chinese brands.

5. Transportation: Teams must cover their own international and domestic travel expenses, including travel to and from Taiwan and to the check-in location designated by the organizer.

IV 、 Competition Schedule

Stage	Date	Activity
Promotion & Call for Entries	2026/10/26 -12/31	The official competition website goes live and online applications open.
Application Review	2027/1/1 – 1/30	A panel of judges from Taiwan conducts the first-round eligibility review and evaluates the submitted proposals.
Finalists Announced	2027/1/31	Announcement of the six finalist teams selected in Stage 1: one domestic team and five international teams.
On-Location Filming	2027/3/6 – 3/12	Five days to shoot and complete a film on location. ● March 6, 2027, 7:00 PM: Meet in front of Ruisui Railway Station. ● March 11, 2027, 11:00 AM: Competition film submission deadline.

Jury Review	2027/3/11– 3/12	Submitted films will be scored and reviewed by a professional panel of international and Taiwanese judges.
Awards Ceremony	2027/3/12	Awards ceremony held.

V 、How to Apply

1. Online Application: Teams must complete the online application form on the official competition website before the application deadline.
2. Required Application Materials: Applicants must provide the following information and documents. Incomplete applications will result in disqualification.
 - ✓ Team introduction and filming proposal: Links to previous work and details of relevant experience, the proposed theme and creative direction, and the filming plan.
 - ✓ Required agreements: Applicants must electronically sign the **Copyright and Work Licensing Agreement**, complete the **Storyboard Summary**, and upload the documents to the competition website in PDF format.

VI 、Submission Specifications and Deliverables

Teams selected in the first round must travel to Taiwan for five days of filming and editing, then submit the following video and photographic materials in the required formats by 11:00 AM on March 11, 2027:

1. Video Deliverables (four video files per team)

- ✓ Full-length film: 4 to 8 minutes.
- ✓ Highlight cut: 1 to 3 minutes, for use on social media and in advertising.
- ✓ Format and resolution: Original digital files must be submitted in MP4 or mov , compatible video format. Minimum resolution is 1920 × 1080 (Full HD).
- ✓ Subtitle Requirements: Both the full-length film and the highlight cut must be submitted with English subtitles in two versions: one with subtitles and one without, for a total of four files. These versions will be used for future international promotion and adaptation into multiple languages.

2. Digital Photographs (at least 13 photographs per team)

- ✓ Original lifestyle and contextual images: At least 10 digital photographs.

- ✓ File format: JPG (.JPG) or TIFF (.TIFF).
- ✓ Resolution and pixel dimensions: At least 300 dpi and 12 megapixels, with image dimensions of no less than 4,000 × 3,000 pixels.
- ✓ High-resolution files for large-format printing: Teams must also submit three ultra-high-resolution photographs suitable for printing at A3 size or larger. The files must meet the requirements for large-format promotional posters printed at A3 or A2 size.

3.Late Submission Penalties

- ✓ If a participating team fails to submit its competition entry by 11:00 AM on March 11, 2027 (Taiwan Time), the team will be required to pay a penalty of NT\$10,000 and cover hosting expenses of NT\$90,000.

VII 、Prizes and Participation Requirements

1.Competition Awards and Prize Money

The competition offers a total prize pool of NT\$100,000 (including tax). In addition to the cash prizes, winners will receive official award plaques recognizing their achievements.

- ✓ First Place (Gold Award): NT\$50,000 and an official award plaque.
- ✓ Second Place (Silver Award): NT\$30,000 and an official award plaque.
- ✓ Judges' Special Award: NT\$20,000 and an official award plaque.

* Note: Under Republic of China tax law, winners who are not residents of the Republic of China, including foreign nationals, will be subject to 20% income tax withholding when the prize is paid.

2.Exclusive Benefits and Support for Finalist Teams

The six teams selected through the preliminary review will receive full on-site support from the organizer during the on-location production period from March 6 to 12, 2027.

- ✓ Accommodation and Meals: Hotel accommodation and three meals per day, including local specialties, throughout the production period.
- ✓ Transportation: Dedicated vehicles and drivers from Hualien's Ruisui Station (meeting point) through the end of the award ceremony, providing transportation to filming locations throughout the East Longitudinal Valley.
- ✓ On-site Assistance and Guidance: A dedicated staff member will accompany each

team to assist with production planning, execution, and local coordination.

- ✓ **Competition Insurance:** Travel accident insurance will be arranged by the organizer for all teams during the production period.

3. Expenses to Be Covered by Finalist Teams

For planning purposes, the following expenses are not covered by the organizer and must be borne by each participating team:

- ✓ **Transportation to and from the Meeting Point:** Domestic and international transportation costs, including flights, high-speed rail, and Taiwan Railways services, for travel to the meeting point in Hualien and return travel after the award ceremony.
- ✓ **Photography, Filming, and Editing Equipment:** Cameras, video cameras, drones, audio recording equipment, lighting, editing computers, and other equipment required by the team. The organizer does not provide equipment rental or loan services.
- ✓ **Personal Expenses:** Costs related to personal itineraries not arranged by the organizer, private shopping, personal medical expenses, and travel document processing, including passports and visas.

4. Requirements for Finalist Teams

- ✓ **Script Development Meeting:** Before traveling to the filming locations, finalist teams must attend an online pre-production meeting organized by the organizer and its professional advisory team.
- ✓ **Adjustment of Filming Themes and Proportions:** To highlight the tourism characteristics of the East Longitudinal Valley, the organizer may provide guidance and make appropriate adjustments to the filming script, route planning, and proportion of thematic content based on tourism promotion priorities and on-site filming feasibility. This is to ensure that the films feature the Valley's distinctive landscapes.
- ✓ **Script Refinement and Implementation:** Teams must agree to refine the final filming script and storyboard based on the consensus reached during meetings and conduct on-site filming in accordance with the approved version, in line with the tourism marketing objectives of the competition.
- ✓ **Additional Documents Required for International Teams:** Selected international teams must provide copies of team members' passports and proof of travel to Taiwan, such as immigration records or international flight records, to verify their

actual participation in Taiwan. Teams must also demonstrate their ability to cover round-trip transportation costs between their place of departure and Hualien, Taiwan, without requiring the organizer to advance any payments.

5. Force Majeure

In the event of natural disasters, earthquakes, typhoons, heavy rainfall, epidemics, major infectious diseases, government-imposed restrictions, or other force majeure events that prevent the event from being held as scheduled or in its original format, the organizer reserves the right to modify, suspend, postpone, move the event online, or terminate the event at any time. This includes all stages of judging, the award ceremony, and related activities.

The organizer may adjust the schedule and content as necessary based on actual circumstances. Such changes will be announced on the official website or event page, without individual notification. Participants may not raise objections or claim damages or compensation from the organizer as a result of such changes.

VIII. Copyright and Legal Requirements

To give the organizer full flexibility in promoting the competition and its films in the future, finalist and winning teams must comply with the following copyright requirements:

1. Required Agreement: Participating teams must sign the Copyright and Work Licensing Agreement when applying.
2. Effective as of the date on which I sign this Agreement, I hereby grant the Organizer and any third parties designated or authorized by the Organizer.
3. Non-commercial exploitation: The Organizer and any third parties designated or authorized by the Organizer may exploit all or any part of the Entry for non-commercial purposes. Such exploitation includes, without limitation, public presentation, public broadcast, public transmission, reproduction, editing, adaptation, distribution, exhibition, and any other exploitation of economic rights under copyright.
4. Within the scope of the license set forth in the preceding paragraph, and to the extent necessary to fulfill the purposes of the license, I agree that the Organizer and any third parties designated or authorized by the Organizer may make such edits, modifications, cuts, additions of music, or other adaptations to the Entry as necessary. They may also omit my name from the Entry or alter the manner in which my name is indicated as necessary. °

IX 、 Judging Process

1. Judging Rules and Scoring Criteria

To ensure a fair, impartial, and professional competition, teams will be selected

through a rigorous two-stage judging process:

Stage One

(1) Preliminary Application Review (January 1 to 30, 2027)

(2) Scoring Threshold and Selection Process

● Preliminary eligibility review

Review Stage	Criteria	Requirements
Preliminary eligibility review	Application Materials	● Application form: Basic team information and contact details of the team representative. ● Team profile and experience: Team background, cross-disciplinary collaborations, awards, and other relevant experience. ● Links to previous work: Online links to selected examples of your work, such as YouTube, Vimeo, or another accessible online platform. ● Filming proposal: Theme concept, story outline, shot plan, location descriptions, storyboard, and other relevant details. ● Equipment declaration: A list of the filming equipment and editing software the team will use during the competition.
	Eligibility Requirements	● Team composition: Each team may have no more than four members. As a general rule, all team members should be able to take part in the filming project. ● International team definition: More than half of the team members must be foreign nationals who are not Republic of China citizens and do not hold Taiwan residence permits. Teams selected in the first round must provide immigration records, airline ticket records, or other supporting documents for verification. ● Filmmaking experience: Teams are encouraged to have hands-on filmmaking or production experience, which will be taken into consideration during the preliminary review.

	● Eligibility: Applicants must be 20 or older and have no criminal record or similar adverse record. ● Applicants must electronically sign the Copyright and Work Licensing Agreement, complete the Storyboard Summary.
Grounds for Disqualification	● Grounds for disqualification include having more than four team members, failing to meet the required proportion of foreign nationals for an international team, submitting incomplete information, or failing to upload the required agreement or other documents.

● Evaluation Guidelines

Review Stage	Requirements										
Preliminary eligibility review	Invite the judging panel to select six finalist teams based on the established evaluation criteria and notify the selected teams to participate in the on-location timed filming challenge. The six finalist teams will consist of one domestic team and five international teams. <table> <tr> <th>Criteria</th><th>Weight (%)</th></tr> <tr> <td>Completeness of application materials</td><td>30%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Theme concept and feasibility</td><td>45%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Portfolio and filming experience</td><td>20%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Other</td><td>5%</td></tr> </table>	Criteria	Weight (%)	Completeness of application materials	30%	Theme concept and feasibility	45%	Portfolio and filming experience	20%	Other	5%
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Portfolio and filming experience	20%										
Other	5%										

Stage Two:

- (1) Jury Review (March 11 to 12, 2027)
- (2) Evaluation Guidelines

Criteria	Weight (%)	Evaluation Guidelines
Creativity & Storytelling	20%	Is the story original and distinctive? Does the narrative flow naturally from beginning to end? Does the film offer a fresh perspective and resonate emotionally with viewers?

Criteria	Weight (%)	Evaluation Guidelines
Tourism Appeal	20%	Does the film showcase the landscapes, culture, and experiences that make Hualien and Taitung unique? Does it appeal to international audiences and inspire viewers to visit the region?
Technical Execution	15%	Are the cinematography, composition, lighting, sound, and editing consistently executed to a professional standard? Are the visuals and audio of high quality, without noticeable flaws or awkward transitions?
Artistic & Visual Presentation	15%	How effectively does the film use imagery, color, camera angles, and other visual elements? Is the overall visual style cohesive and compelling?
Relevance to the Theme	10%	Does the film stay focused on “Hualien and Taitung on the Tropic of Cancer”? Does it convey the significance of the region's location on the Tropic of Cancer while showcasing what makes Hualien and Taitung distinctive? Is the theme communicated clearly?
Cultural Sensitivity	10%	Does the film portray Indigenous Peoples and other cultural communities with respect and depth, while avoiding stereotypes and cultural appropriation? Does it reflect an awareness of and respect for cultural diversity?
Shareability	10%	Does the film have strong potential to be shared? Do the pacing, emotional impact, and subject matter resonate with viewers and make them want to share it, for example through a compelling subject or memorable visual impact?
Total	100%	