Guess What?

Deddy vows to improve FFI quality

JPU/J. Adiguna

JAKARTA: Actor and director Deddy Mizwar says he will be more selective in appointing the jury members for the upcoming Indonesian Film Festival (FFI) to raise the confidence of the film industry in the competition.

"We have not yet formed the jury for the FFI because we have to select people who have both the capability and the time. We do not want to hire people who are competent but have no time to do their job," Deddy, who heads the organizing committee for the national event, was quoted as saying by *detikhot.com*.

Organizers of the FFI were criticized in 2006 when a number of filmmakers and artists handed back their Citra Awards after the jury members chose *Ekskul* as the best movie. The filmmakers and artists claimed the film plagiarized a foreign movie.

The festival's organizer has not yet determined the city where the event will be held, although Manado and Malang have expressed their willingness to host it, Deddy says.

The number of films produced by local filmmakers increase each year despite a decrease in the number of theater-goers. — *JP*

Moore to release new film online for free

AP/Matt Sayles

LOS ANGELES: Oscar-winning film-maker Michael Moore is to release his new film via the Internet for free as a gesture to fans, the filmmaker said in a statement Friday.

Moore, 54, the director behind hit documentaries *Bowling for Columbine* and *Sicko*, said his new film, *Slacker Uprising*, about young voters at the 2004 U.S. election would be made available for download from Sept. 23 from *SlackerUprising.com*.

The statement on Moore's website said it was the first time a major feature-length movie has debuted on the Internet, with no theatrical release or television airing.

Moore — who has made three of the top five highest-grossing documentaries of all time — said he was releasing the film online as a thank you to fans as the 20th anniversary of his acclaimed film *Roger & Me* approached.

"I've been very blessed and fortunate to have so many people come to my movies over these two decades, I decided the way to say thanks was to make one that the fans can have for free, as a show of my profound appreciation of their support," Moore said.

The 97-minute film follows Moore as he travels across 62 cities in swing states during the 2004 presidential election.

Moore said he hoped the film would inspire young people to vote at the Nov. 4 presidential election. — *AFP*

Josaphat Tetuko Sri Sumantyo

Getting research off the ground

Ellen Tunggono
Contributor/Bandung

Josaphat Tetuko Sri Sumantyo, an associate professor at Chiba University in Japan, has created a niche for himself in the international world of radars, microwaves, antennas and remote sensing.

The Indonesian national never imagined he would one day become an expert in this field, for his childhood dream was to become an architect or aircraft designer.

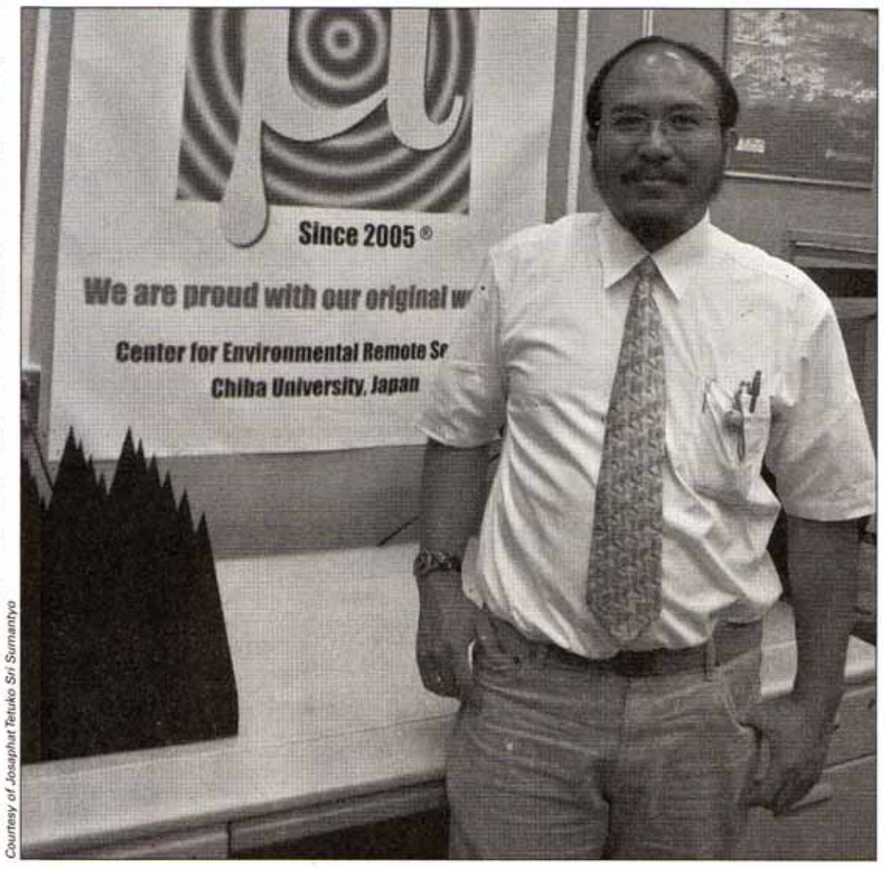
"Most people see the melting of the ice in the North and South poles as a negative phenomena, but I'm utilizing it's positive effects to help me find a new sailing route for ships traveling to Europe", said that man better known as "Josh", when talking about his latest invention, the CP-SAR.

Josh graduated from Negeri I Solo high school in 1989 and was awarded a Science and Technology Manpower Development Program scholarship offered by B. J. Habibie, the minister of research and technology at that time.

Through this scholarship, Josh obtained a Bachelor and Rotary International Scholarship to undertake his master's degree at Kanazawa University in Japan.

Upon his return to Indonesia, Josh worked as a researcher at the Agency for the Assessment and Application of Technology and the Military Education and Training Command in Bandung. In 1999, he returned to Japan and obtained a PhD from Chiba University, the place where he is currently head of the Microwave Remote Sensing Laboratory.

Josh, who was born on June 25, 1970, managed to complete his PhD within 3 years and was offered a permanent job at Chiba University. In 2004, at the age of 34, this newly recruited lecturer was promoted to associate professor.



Courtesy of Josaphat Tetuko Sri Sumantyo

JOSAPHAT TETUKO SRI SUMANTYO

He then went on to establish and head the microwave remote sensing laboratory at the Center for Environmental Remote Sensing at Chiba University.

Josh later received a prestigious grant from the Japanese Ministry of Education and Technology, which awarded him with a research grant of 23.54 million yen (approx. US$200,000) to further develop the next generation of Circularly Polarized Synthetic Aperture Radars (CP-SAR).

"The grant I received was utilized to build an anechoic chamber in my laboratory," Josh said, referring to a chamber that provides a shielded environment from radio frequencies and microwaves.

"My latest invention (the CP-SAR) is a multipurpose sensor that can operate in any weather, in the day or night, and can be placed in a microsatellite," Josh said.

Conventional SAR sensors have a limited ability to receive information as they are sensitive to circling electromagnetic waves, high powered, bulky and sensitive. Josh's CP-SAR invention can be placed on a microsatellite, which improves the quality of information retrieved from the Earth's surface.

The CP-SAR Josh invented is not influenced by circling electromagnetic waves in the ionosphere and doesn't need a lot of power. Solar panels can be reduced and a simple radar sensor device can be utilized, reducing the weight and size of the satellite to less than 100 kilograms.

"A CP-SAR sensor, a high resolution digital camera and a plasma probe will be placed in this microsatellite," said Josh, adding that the camera would be used for mapping, environmental and disaster monitoring and for monitoring global heating effects.

The plasma probe will monitor the temperature changes or scan the temperature of the atmosphere.

"(The probe) is very sensitive towards changes to the Earth's atmosphere prior to an earthquake. This phenomena will be detected, to predict the occurrence of an earthquake ... to minimize the number of casualties, the loss of materials and prevent other disasters."

Josh said he would use the satellite to monitor the sea at the North Pole to identify new sailing routes. Research into this, he added, was currently being conducted in cooperation with the world's biggest weather forecaster, Weathernews Corporation.

The satellite was designed to detect icebergs; information collected would be sent to passing ships via Weathernews.

"If we utilize the North Sea, the access to Europe can be shortened by one week ... therefore save on fuel, which will reduce the global warming effect. The current problem is, there are still too many icebergs blocking the way," Josh said.

According to plans, the microsatellite will be launched in 2012.

Though occupied with his work and research, Josh said he still managed to fly home to Indonesia regularly where his wife, who is an assistant professor in Fine Art at the Bandung Institute of Technology, and his son reside.

"While visiting Indonesia, I usually do a series of lectures or seminars at various institutions throughout the country," said the man who is also an adjunct professor at the University of Indonesia, a division head at the CRS Institute of Technology Bandung, and a visiting professor at the University of Udayana as well as a number of other institutions.