

Diplomacy & Trade

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IT IS THE FESTIVE SEASON!

The end of the year is a festive time in most parts of the world and Hungary is no exception. Open air markets offer toys, handicrafts, souvenirs and culinary specialties in Budapest and throughout the countryside.

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Japan

► The overall goal Kuni Sato set for herself when she began her tenure as the Japanese Ambassador in Budapest was “to further develop the close and amicable relationship with Hungary that we and our ancestors have built up, so far.” In an interview, she tells Diplomacy&Trade that bilateral economic relations are built “through the goodwill and steady efforts of many people” and that Japanese people have a surprisingly good knowledge of Hungary.



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country FOCUS

One-stop shop

► The Hungarian Investment Promotion Agency (HIPA) has an important role in attracting German investments to Hungary. Its President, Róbert Ésik says in the Germany section of Diplomacy&Trade that in 2017, 30% of their projects were related to German companies and this ratio is even higher, some 35%, when considering the number of jobs or the value of the investment that these German companies represent.

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MAAKE MOCHHAKKERAM
TERMA KASIH RABIH MAITH AGAT
GRAZIE MULTUMESC JUSPAXAR
MERCY MOCHHAKKERAM
GRAZIE THANK YOU
CHOKRANE MATUR NUWUN
MATONDO DANK JE
CHOKRANE DANK JE
SPASIBO MAAKE
KIA ORA SPASIBO
WELALIN
ARIGATO KIITOS
OBRIGADO
VINAKA
KIITOS OBRIGADO
MAMANA DANK JE
SALAMAT CAM ON BAN
KIITOS RABIH MAITH AGAT
MERCY OBRIGADO

15 years of DIPLOMACY&TRADE

THANK YOU FOR THE PAST 15 YEARS COOPERATION AS WE LOOK FORWARD TO OUR FUTURE TOGETHER. WE WISH OUR READERS, ADVERTISERS AND PARTNERS HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!



THE HEALING POWER OF FILMS AND FILM-MAKING

'VERZIÓ 15' FILM FESTIVAL PRESENTS WAPIKONI'S FRIENDS



» This year's annual International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival titled 'Verzió 15' presented 59 films from 35 countries as well as a huge number of programs including roundtable and panel discussions, concerts and more. Organized in November, the festival started in Budapest and continued in Pécs, Kecskemét and Szeged. In Budapest alone, the fest had up to 10,000 visitors over six days. One of the highlights of the festival, the screening of Mathieu Vachon's 'Wapikoni – Encounter in Kitcisakik', followed by a discussion on women's roles in Canada, with special guests Isabelle Poupard, Ambassador of Canada to Hungary and Canadian documentary filmmaker Manon Barbeau was organized by the Visual World Foundation.

Why Wapikoni?

'Wapikoni – Encounter in Kitcisakik', in 51 minutes, documents a visit by the Wapikoni Mobile, the celebrated studio on wheels that for the past six years has travelled through Aboriginal communities in Quebec, providing production training to youth. "Wapikoni Mobile today is also a non-profit organization based in Montreal, Quebec", explains Manon Barbeau, who co-founded the organization in 2003 along with the Council of the Atikamekw Nation and the Youth Council First Nations of Quebec and Labrador (currently known as First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Youth Network). According to Barbeau, the name Wapikoni pays tribute to a 20-year-old Atikamekw girl who lost her life in a car accident on the badly maintained road leading up to a reservation. "Wapikoni Awashish, with her pure heart, bravery, and dedicated community-building work, had



earned her people's trust: she was the primary candidate for the position of tribal chief in her community. Her senseless death, and the many other tragedies among Canadian indigenous people, upset me so much that I decided to take action." The launch of Wapikoni Mobile took place in 2004 during the Montreal First Peoples Festival. Motorized vehicles outfitted with editing and recording equipment were sent to indigenous communities, offering youth the opportunity to express themselves by shooting documentaries, music videos or short films. "The idea was an instant hit. The first permanent studio was inaugurated at Wemotaci in 2006; other communities have since acquired similar studios. Today, the company is proud to have helped produce over a thousand short films – an unparalleled cultural heritage," says Barbeau, who, shortly after her visit to Budapest,

received the UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize for the Promotion of Tolerance and Non-violence, on the occasion of the International Day for Tolerance (November 16), at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris.

Learning by doing

The mobile studios travel thousands of kilometers each year, visiting new and old Aboriginal communities, providing workshops for First Nations youth that allow them to master digital tools by directing short films and musical works. During each stopover, 'mentor filmmakers' welcome and train thirty young participants during all stages of implementation. By bringing youth together, participating in positive and rewarding activities, the arrival of Wapikoni Mobile offers "respite" to communities often faced with severe social issues. Sometimes referred to as a 'youth center on wheels', at times, Wapikoni Mobile hosts, children, parents and grandparents who become involved in different ways in creative youth projects. "Our mobile studios offer a safe and friendly place of creation, equipped with the latest digital technology in film-making and music. They are an environment conducive to communication and intergenerational relationships essential for the transmission of cultural traditions and practices between youth and seniors. They also serve as venue for the public and media during special events, forums, conferences, exhibitions, product launches, and more," Barbeau notes, adding that since Wapikoni's inception, more than 5,000 participants have been trained or initiated in documentary film or musical recording; 300 to 500 new participants each year. "70 short films and 30 musical recordings are created every year in Canada and abroad, which make a one-of-a-kind indigenous cultural heritage collection that is unique in the world, so far featuring over 1,000 films and 750 musical recordings. As a result of

the trainings, and with this new opportunity to be seen and recognized, participants have had a boost in self-esteem and improved their ability to manage stress. They feel less isolated, less invisible and therefore less dependent on drugs and alcohol. This is how making short films about their own culture can save lives." Wapikoni Mobile also creates jobs, employing a dozen people in its administrative offices and approximately 60 contractual field workers, a half of them indigenous. Officially partnering with UNESCO, the company extended its workshops throughout the country, and stepped thru the borders of Canada, effectively giving a voice to more and more young Indigenous people in South America, Europe and the Middle-East. **131**



VERZIÓ 15 FESTIVAL

The primary aim of documentary filming is to record the events of the world, to reveal hidden phenomena, and to show human stories: to create a visual imprint of what is going on around us. Therefore, the slogan of this year's festival is the Latest Imprint of the World!

IMPLEMENTING WAPIKONI MOBILE METHODS IN HUNGARY

Following the screening at Toldi cinema, within the framework of the 'Wapikoni's Friends' program, a workshop was organized, bringing together 60 people, including Counsellor Charlotte Garay from the Canadian Embassy in Budapest, along with representatives of organizations working with Roma populations and advocates for vulnerable groups.