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Chinese (GB) Chinese (Big5) Spanish French Russian Arabic Breaking News Hu Jintao expects Abbas' visit to further China-Pale

News Photos Voice People BizChina Feature About

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China

World

Business

Technology

Opinion

Culture/Edu

Sports

Entertainment

Life/Health

Travel

Weather

XML RSS

About China

Map

History

Constitution

CPC & Other Parties

State Organs

Local Leadership

White Papers

Statistics

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- Conferences & Exhibitions

- Investment

- Bidding

- Enterprises

- Policy update

- Technological & Economic

Development Zones



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UN to stage documentary film festival in NY

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UNITED NATIONS, May 18 (Xinhuanet) -- The United Nations is staging its first documentary festival in New York this weekend to review how its field offices and agencies, in response to decisions by Member States, have empowered the poor, healed the sick and brought justice to the exploited. Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information Shashi Tharoor announced Wednesday.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan has seized the opportunity of the 60th anniversary of the United Nations to review the work of the Organization and to focus on how we can do things better, Tharoor noted.

The festival will take place on Saturday and Sunday at New School University. It will feature screenings, panel discussions with the film makers and others, and award presentations.

The festival will reflect the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) adopted in 2000, he said, saying the documentaries at the special event will show how the United Nations works with people around the world to make the MDGs' a reality, and how real people work with the United Nations to achieve the goals, one village at a time.

According to Tharoor, the United Nations collaborated with Media Communications Association International (MCA-I) in making the call for entries dealing with the MDGs and was delighted to get films.

The 30 finalists were selected by a committee of UN officials, MCA-I representatives and New School University professors on the basis of topical relevance, artistic merit and productions value pointed out.

Awards will go to winners of two categories: Best Stories from the Field Short those shorter than 40 minutes, and Best Stories from the Field Feature those longer than 40 minutes. Enditem

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