



Press Release

NHK Wins ABU Prizes in Three Categories

Tokyo, November 8, 2006 – The winners of the ABU Prizes for 2006 were announced Tuesday, November 7, at the awards ceremony held in Beijing, China. Three NHK programs won the ABU prize which is given to the best program in each category.

ABU Prize for TV Drama

The Ice Wall, Episode 2: A Mortal Challenge (58 min.)

Broadcast on January 21, 2006 [NHK General TV channel]

Synopsis:

The Ice Wall is a six-part dramatization of a bestselling 1956 mountaineering novel by Yasushi Inoue. Transposing the action to the present day and using overseas locations and stunning computer graphics for a grand sense of scale, it tells a story about friendship between two climbers who attempt an ascent of K2 without oxygen. While the climbers, Okudera and Kitazawa, are scaling a wall of ice just below the peak of K2, Kitazawa is injured in an avalanche. Okudera tries to help Kitazawa but Kitazawa falls to his death. Okudera presses on alone to return from a height of 8,000 meters. When Okudera later tells the media what caused Kitazawa's death, an uproar ensues.

ABU Prize for TV News

Dying Alone (52 min.)

Broadcast on September 24, 2005 [NHK General TV channel]

Synopsis:

Recently, apartment complexes all across Japan have witnessed a spate of “solitary deaths.” The Tokiwadaira Housing Complex, built 45 years ago on the northeastern outskirts of Tokyo, was Japan's first large-scale public housing project. Over a recent three-year period, 21 “solitary deaths” occurred on the premises. Almost all were men, and most were relatively young, between the ages of 40 and 60. Circumstances varied, but generally these men had lost their jobs, their families, their health. Alone and lonely, they had cut all ties to society. Even their deaths went unnoticed for as long as three months. Appalled, the residents of Tokiwadaira have established a volunteering counseling center to reach out to single residents.

ABU Prize for Radio Drama

Haru's Diary (50 min.)

Broadcast on January 7, 2006 [NHK FM Radio]

Synopsis:

This drama looks at the problems of aging and at the way a mother and her daughter come to understand each other. The mother, Haru, is initially confident and dynamic, but she goes downhill with the onset of dementia. And the symptoms only get worse, with Haru's memory suddenly reverting to her early years in mid-conversation or Haru leaving the house to go shopping and forgetting where she is going. Her daughter, Shizuko, is nearly 50. She has long struggled in vain to win her mother's acceptance as a capable adult, at times enduring painful comments from her mother. But now, as Haru becomes increasingly feeble, Shizuko is forced to take on a motherlike role in the relationship. One day, Shizuko reads a diary in which Haru has described her anxieties, and she finally starts to understand.

About the ABU Prizes

The ABU Prizes were established in 1964 to promote the production of radio and television programs of a high standard in order to raise educational and cultural levels and to strengthen understanding among the peoples of the ABU member countries and regions. The ABU Prizes Contest takes place alongside the General Assembly Meeting. This year, 211 entries (147 television programs and 64 radio programs) from 59 organizations were submitted. The number of entries this year is a record high.

An ABU Prize is given to the best entry in each of the following thirteen categories:

TV: Drama, Entertainment, Children, Youth, News, Documentary, Sports Programmes

Radio: Drama, Infotainment, Children and Youth, News, Documentary, External Broadcasts

About the ABU

The ABU (Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union) consists of 111 broadcasting organizations in 52 countries and regions (as of October 2006). Since the ABU's establishment in 1964, ABU delegates have been promoting cooperation through a news exchange (Asiavision), program exchanges, negotiation of broadcasting rights for sports games, holding of the ABU Prizes Contest, provision of technical information and advice to developing countries, and other initiatives.