

The Secret's Out!

Photography Insights from Mike Yamashita and Kris LeBoutillier



Photography fans had reasons to rejoice over two days in late August when renowned National Geographic photographers Mike Yamashita and Kris Le Boutillier, conducted the **Secret to Award-Winning Photography Seminar & Workshop**. Held at the Arts House, the event was organized by **Sony Digital Workshop (SDW)**, a training facility managed by Sony Singapore that caters to the creative needs of owners of Sony Cyber-shot and Alpha cameras, Handycam video cameras and VAIO notebooks.

Mike Yamashita has been a regular contributor to the National Geographic for more than 25 years. Yamashita's most recent book was on the legendary Ming Dynasty admiral/explorer, Zheng He, which also grew into a major film documentary in 2006. His prior book, Marco Polo: A Photographer's Journey, sold over 200,000 copies worldwide, while other works include The Mekong: A Journey on the Mother of Waters. His works have also won numerous prestigious photography awards, including those from

the National Press Photographers Association Pictures of the Year Competition, and the Asian-American Journalists Association.

Kris LeBoutillier has contributed to magazines and newspapers in Asia and the United States, including Asian Geographic magazine, National Geographic Traveler, the Jakarta Post as well as airline publication Silver Kris for Singapore Airlines. He published his first book, A Journey through Phnom Penh, in December 2003 and has travelled extensively throughout Asia documenting life on the streets of Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos and Indonesia.

For the seminar and workshop, the objectives were to "bring new experiences to users via different engagements and expose our users to different disciplines which will enhance their skills and maximize the usage of the Sony products they own," stressed Ms. Jenny Khoo, Senior Manager and Division Head of Sony Digital Workshop. "Through this workshop, they will gain valuable insights and learn how to apply the various

photography techniques employed by these professionals first hand," she added.

The first day, a Saturday, was catered to a morning seminar attended by more than a hundred enthusiasts where the two experts talked, among other topics, about what makes a good photograph, shooting in a "closed" country, how digital has changed the face of photography, taking creative effective portraits and shooting a street scene and effective editing. Despite the pouring rain, a short photography walkabout was held around the Clark Quay area thereafter to allow the participants the experience of field work.

The second day saw an intrepid band of more than twenty budding photographers meet in the early morning at Chinatown for more field work on taking everyday images at real-life locations. Needless to say, participants were grateful for the tips and tricks provided by Mike and Kris. All participants were immensely pleased with the opportunities they had for this SDW-organized workshop and would cherish these valuable photographic insights as they pursue their quest for that perfect lumiere. For more information on Sony Digital Workshop visit www.sony.com.sg/sdw

