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Bali seeks to expand commish

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As part of a push to expand its capabilities and services, the Bali Film Commission has changed its name to the more general Bali Film Center.

Org is also ramping up its role in the Asian Film Commission Network; launched in 2004, AFCNet is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the region through film. Members include Japan, Malaysia, Korea, China, Russia, Vietnam, Singapore, Cambodia and Indonesia.

BFC topper Deborah Gabinetti sits on the org's board, and all her promotional efforts are paying dividends, with eight



SEA WORTHY: Underwater beauty draws many filmmakers.

films currently shooting in Indonesia including MTV's "Living Lahaina" (U.S.).

"Toute la beauté du monde" helmer Marc Esposito was particularly taken with the island of Bali. "When I wrote this script, the story was set just somewhere in Asia, but once I arrived in Bali, it was love at first sight: Bali or no movie at all," Esposito says.

Such is the activity in the

country that the BFC is now considering building a state-of-the-art production facility and training center in Bali.

The BFC will be at the Busan Intl. Film Commission and Industry Showcase (Oct. 15-18). The results speak for themselves, with a total of 22 projects filming in the country between 2003 and 2006, on locations in Bali, Java, Sumba, Sumatra and Kalimantan.