**CONCEPT PAPER ON DOCUMENTARY FILM**

**SS113: THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD**

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| **TITLE:**  THE SALT OF THE EARTH: PRESERVING THE LEGACY OF TIBUOK ASIN |
| **OVERVIEW:**  This documentary will explore the profound impact of industrialized salt production on the traditional salt-making practices and livelihoods of the indigenous community in Barangay Cagangohan, a remote coastal barangay in Panabo City, Davao del Norte. As large-scale commercial operations have flooded the market with cheap, mass-produced salt, the film will examine how this has threatened the centuries-old craft and economic stability of the Tibuok Asin salt harvesters, forcing them to adapt or face the loss of their cultural heritage and primary source of income. |
| **RATIONALE:**  Tibuok Asin’s traditional salt-making methods, passed down through generations, represent a unique and sustainable form of food production that is rapidly disappearing worldwide. By documenting the stories and experiences of the salt harvesters, this film aims to shine a light on the broader challenges faced by indigenous communities in the face of globalization and industrialization. It will explore the environmental, economic, and sociocultural implications of the shift towards commercialized salt, ultimately advocating for the preservation of traditional practices and the empowerment of local producers, which will contribute to protecting the locals from the negative effects of globalization by raising awareness about the importance of preserving traditional, sustainable food production methods and supporting the livelihoods of indigenous communities. |
| **APPROACH AND TREATMENT:**  The film will take a character-driven approach, following the personal narratives of several salt harvesters from Barangay Cagangohan, Panabo City. Through intimate interviews and observational footage, the film will immerse the audience in the daily lives and rituals of these salt-making communities, allowing their voices and perspectives to guide the narrative. The visual aesthetic will emphasize the natural beauty and rugged terrain of the region, contrasting the artisanal salt production with the sleek, mass-produced alternatives that have flooded the market. This approach will provide a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by the local salt producers and the importance of their traditional practices. |
| **KEY STORYLINES AND CHARACTERS:**  The documentary will center around the experiences of three salt harvesters from different generations and backgrounds: Aling Minda, a seasoned elder who has practiced the traditional methods her entire life; Kuya Berto, a middle-aged salt farmer struggling to adapt to the changing market; and Ate Lani, a young woman determined to preserve her community's heritage while finding innovative ways to compete. Their personal journeys will illustrate the multifaceted challenges faced by the Tibuok Asin salt producers and the importance of safeguarding their cultural legacy. |
| **PRODUCTION DETAILS:**  The film will be shot on location in the coastal area of Barangay Cagangohan, capturing the annual salt harvesting cycle and key moments in the lives of the featured characters. The group will coordinate closely with the local salt-making communities, government agencies, and relevant stakeholders to ensure a respectful and ethical approach. The project will utilize a mix of professional and community-owned equipment to capture the essence of the area and its people. |
| **CONCLUSION:**  "The Salt of the Earth: Preserving the Legacy of Tibuok Asin" will serve as a powerful testament to the resilience and ingenuity of the Tibuok Asin salt producers, who are fighting to preserve their centuries-old craft in the face of overwhelming economic pressures. By sharing their stories, the documentary will inspire audiences to rethink the true value of salt and the importance of safeguarding traditional, sustainable food production methods worldwide. |
| **THE FILMMAKER(S):**   * Samantha Reyes – Director * Juan Dela Cruz – Video Editor * Maria Gonzalez, Leonor Rivera – Researchers * Corazon Corcuales – Writer * Gertrude Santos - Interviewer * Cardo Dalisay, Bretman Rock – Technical Assistants   *\*(You can add other roles/responsibilities not enumerated above)* |