

Japan's anime industry in crisis even as its popularity soars

Three of the 10 feature films *in the running* for top prize at the world's most important animation festival in Annecy in France are from Japan.

in the running 参赛

But Japan's booming animation industry is in crisis — with bad working conditions, a huge shortage of artists and a lack of creativity — just as its global popularity has never been higher.

With talk of a talent shortage, its greatest star, the legendary *Studio Ghibli* founder Hayao Miyazaki, has come out of retirement at 78 to make "How Do You Live?" — which may be released next year — with speculation that he could take on another feature if his health holds.

Studio Ghibli 吉卜力工作室

Miyazaki 宫崎

Yoshiaki Nishimura, a former Miyazaki *stalwart* who produced the Oscar-*nominated* "The Tale of The Princess Kaguya", told AFP that his peers also complain of low pay, a *paucity* of emerging young talent and burn-out in overworked animation teams who often put in 12- to 18-hour days.

stalwart 忠诚的；拥护者

nominated 被提名的

paucity 缺乏

Ayumu Watanabe — whose beautiful "The Children of the Sea" was shown out of competition at the festival — worried about visual "standardization" and lack of *originality*, with "fewer and fewer animators who can draw well by hand."

originality 创意

Amel Lacombe, whose company Eurozoom is a key French animation *distributor*, said the industry's *travails* are due to its rapid growth, and now "we are in a period of adjustment". She believes that the Japanese authorities are waking up to anime's importance and global reach "as a export force".

distributor 经销商

travail 痛苦