Multimedia Library Collection: Environmental Film Profiles (videos)

Iron Crows

Park, Bong-Nam. *Iron Crows*. South Korea: Frontline News Service (FNS), 2009. HDcam 1080i, 75 min. https://youtu.be/n31OKLSO69k.

> Under torrential rains of sparks, blowtorches tear through the thick steel skin of a ship. As they are cut lose, the pieces of metal plummet to the ground with a roar. This is the ship graveyard that serves as the final destination for a significant part of the world's fleet. Here, crows make their nests from pieces of iron wire. *Iron Crows* shows how workers risk their lives for two dollars a day at the world's largest ship demolition yard in Chittagong, Bangladesh. Ekramul is only 12, but poverty is more powerful than the law against child labor. Rufik remembers how it all began back in the 1960s, with a ship that washed ashore. Twenty-one-year-old Belal barely escapes death with the camera rolling. The impressive footage evokes an atmosphere of menace and danger, but the faces beam when a new ship comes in. Most of the workers send a portion of their meager salary back to their families, and they are proud of that. But Belal has not succeeded in saving $700 in 10 years, as he had dreamed he would. His visit home to his wife, where he sees his undernourished, blind child for the first time, is heartbreaking. (Source: FNS)

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About the Environmental Film Profiles collection

Further readings:

- Crang, Mike. "The Death of Great Ships: Photography, Politics, and Waste in the Global Imaginary. " *Environment and Planning A* 42, no. 5 (2010): 1084–1102. doi:10.1068/a42414 .
- Langewiesche, William. "The Shipbreakers." *The Atlantic Monthly* 286, no. 2 (Aug. 2000), 31–49.

Related links:

- IDFFA Official Page
  https://www.idfa.nl/industry/tags/project.aspx
- Ship Breaking Activities and its Impact on the Coastal Zone of Chittagong, Bangladesh (Institute of Marine

Sciences)
http://ypsa.org/publications/Impact.pdf
- "Occupational Health Hazards of Ship Scrapping Workers at Chittagong Coastal Zone, Bangladesh" by A.s.M. Saifullah, et al.
http://www.researchgate.net/profile/ASM_Saifullah/publication/236015280_Occupational_Health_Hazards_of_Ship_Scrapping_Workers_at_Chittagong_Coastal_Zone_Bangladesh/links/0c960515beb0ed38ed000000.pdf
- Eisenfresser (Film Profile)
https://www.environmentandsociety.org/mml/eisenfresser-ironeaters

Websites linked in this text:

- http://www.koreanfilm.or.kr/jsp/films/index/filmsView.jsp?movieCd=20100503
- https://www.environmentandsociety.org/multimedia/collection/environmental-films-project