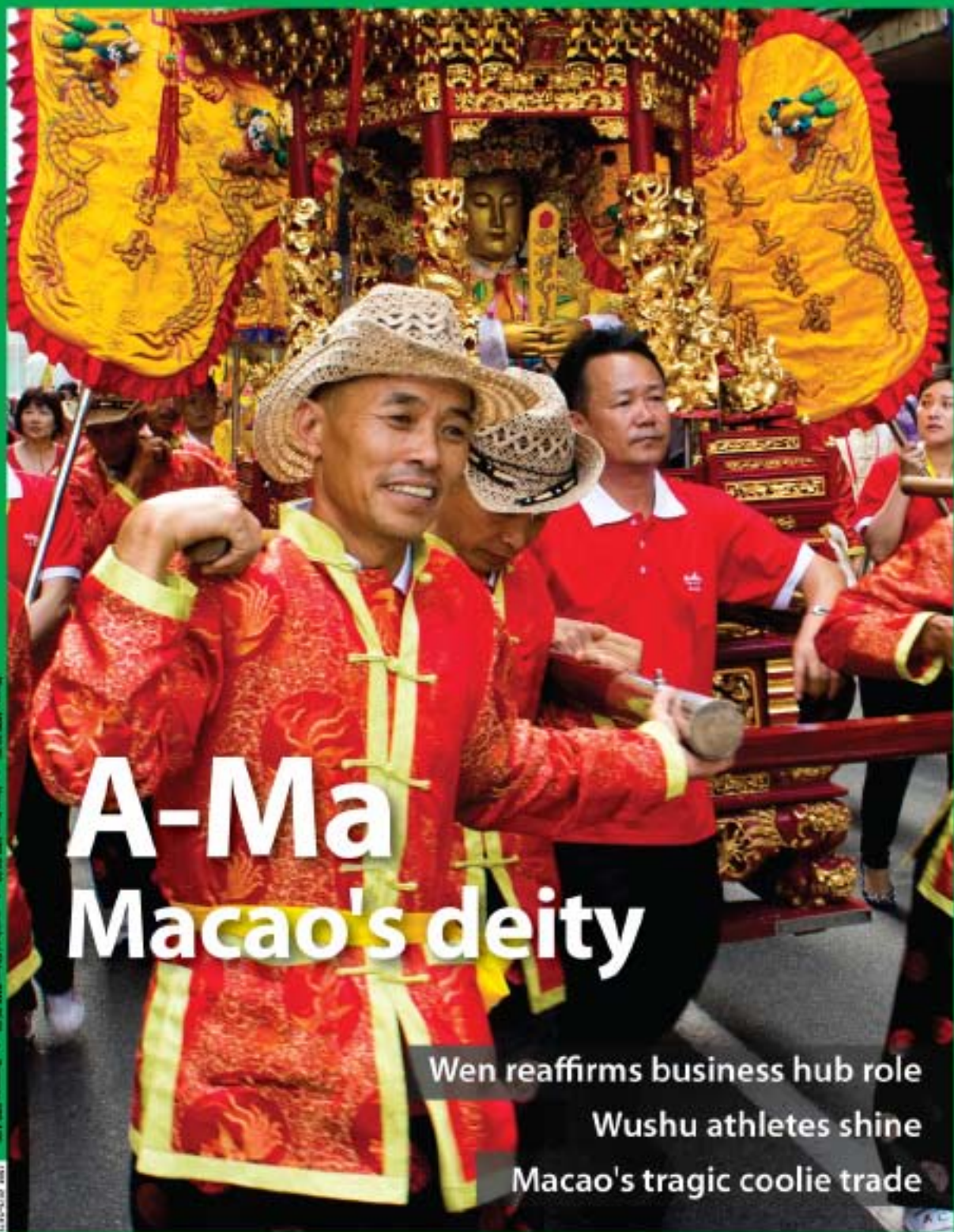


# macao

JANUARY 2011

Quarterly

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## A-Ma Macao's deity

Wen reaffirms business hub role

Wushu athletes shine

Macao's tragic coolie trade







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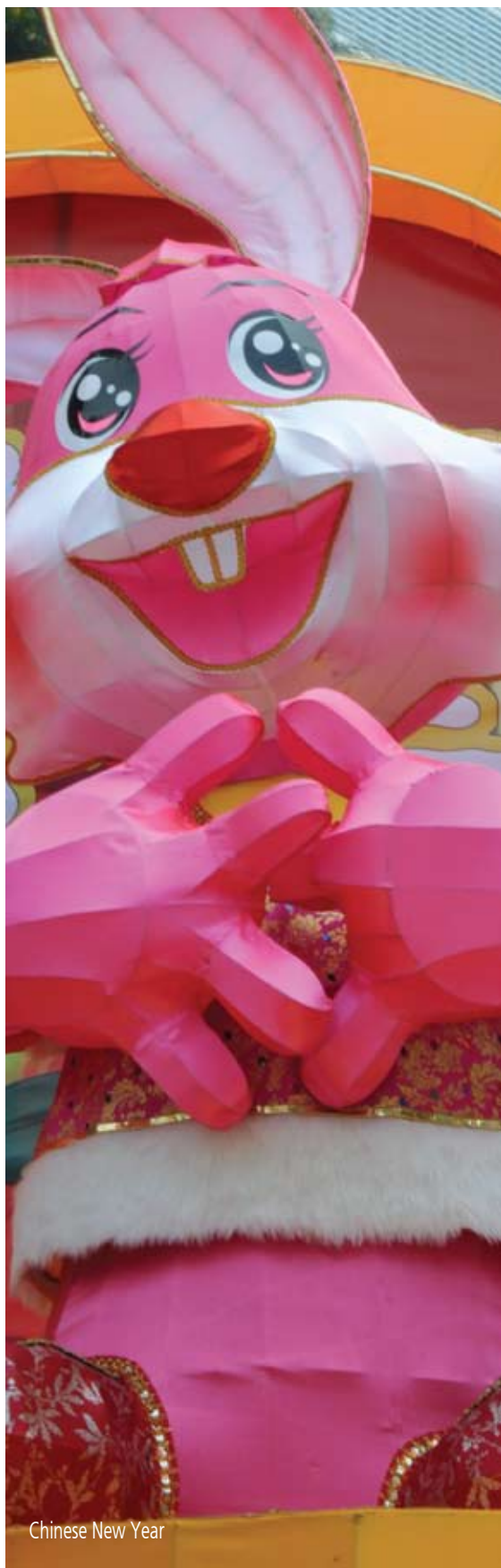
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Chinese New Year

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# Editor's note

The visit by Chinese premier Wen Jiabao to Macao last November was significant for Macao's future. The premier reaffirmed Macao's role as a platform for the development of economic and trade ties between China and the Portuguese-speaking world, opening up new, great opportunities to the territory, as well as enhancing its international status.

The first issue of Macao magazine in 2011 features a long report on Wen's visit and its meaning for Macao in the coming months and years. It is published at a time when the development of Hengqin island next to Macao is set to open up new avenues for the progression and diversification of the Special Administrative Region.

In December, work began on a giant ocean theme park on the southern tip of Hengqin island. It will be one of many projects expected to create a new image for the region.

On the political level, relations between Macao and Taiwan are closer than they have been since the handover in 1999, with the two sides considering the opening of a quasi-official representative office in Taipei to match the one in Macao. This move will open up yet more opportunities for Macao in many areas, resulting in an even bigger bilateral flux of people, goods, tourism, culture, technology and education.

In this issue we retrace the story of Mazu, the legendary sea goddess originating from Fujian. Born in AD 960 on a small island in the coastal province, Mazu (also known as A-Ma) used her mystical powers to help the poor and the sick. Legend says that Macao got its name from Mazu, and for this reason, the goddess has become a great tourist attraction with a yearly festival dedicated to her.

The Hong Peng Wa Ballet School – the pioneer of ballet dancers in Macao; the new 'boom' of Japanese tourists in the territory; the life of Macao-born Xian Xinghai, who rose out of poverty to become a famous Chinese composer with his Yellow River Cantata; and a Portuguese museum and cultural centre in Lisbon dedicated to Macao, are also part of this issue.

An article on one of the darkest periods of Macao history, when the territory became the centre of the 'coolie trade' in the 19th century, recalls that from 1847 to 1875, between 250,000 and 500,000 Chinese 'coolies' were sent from Macao to Latin America and the Caribbean. They were placed aboard vessels of Western nations and most of them never returned but died poor and alone in foreign lands.

This issue closes with the story of a Portuguese priest, born in Malacca, who has dedicated all of his life, knowledge and efforts to helping thousands of refugees who have been arriving in Macao since the 1940s in search of a safe place to stay.



## Love [Ai]

The character for ai, the 'love' that one person feels for another, suggests that although the word is now used as freely in China as elsewhere, love was once considered a highly spiritual emotion. Some sages believed it to be a form of giving that should be extended not only to those closest to us, but to more distant members of society as well.

In the centre is the 'heart' pictogram. Above and below 'heart' are the characters for 'breath' and 'graceful movement'. Love, therefore, can be seen as a kind of inspiration. It breathes life into the heart, and brings grace to the body.

From the book "The Spirit of the Chinese Character - Gifts from the Heart" by Barbara Aria with Rusell Eng Gon





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# Goddess Power

The worship of a Chinese sea deity has become a big tourism event in Macao

By Louise do Rosário





**Mazu, the legendary sea goddess originating from Fujian,**

is one of the most popular celestial deities in southern China. Born in AD 960 on a small island in the coastal province, Mazu (also known as A-Ma) used her mystical powers to help the poor and the sick. At 28, she died while rescuing victims of a shipwreck.

The goddess is worshipped by an estimated 200 million Chinese worldwide, half of whom are in China and 14 million in Taiwan. She was once adored by fishermen and sailors who prayed for her guidance on the sea, but has now been elevated to be a symbol of benevolence and protection for all, especially among Fujianese.

Macao, though thousands of miles away from the goddess' hometown, has a special link to Mazu: the city's name is believed to be derived from it.

In 1553, when the Portuguese landed in the enclave, they named the city after its famous Mazu temple, which was pronounced 'Ma Kok' in the local dialect.

Today, the temple, built in 1488, is one of the city's most famous sights, popular with both tourists and local residents who come for blessings and to admire its lovely traditional architecture.

In recent years, Macao's centuries-old Mazu tradition has received another boost. Ngan In Leng, 62, a local Fujian businessman, and other prominent local figures, have built a 7,000 sq metre park, for the worship of the goddess in Macao.

Ngan is chairman of Hang Huo Enterprise Group, which runs a business empire of hotels, entertainment, property and trading companies in Macao. He was brought up in the rich folklore of Mazu in his hometown in Fujian.

In Macao, his adopted home since 1980, Ngan has been keen to promote his faith through the multi-million dollar Goddess A-Ma Cultural Village. He and other supporters of the Mazu project have invested about HK\$60 million to date.

*A-Ma temple*



*Photo by Eric Tam*

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## Faith and festival

Since its completion in 2003, the cultural village, perched on a hill on the island of Coloane, has become a place of reverence for believers worldwide. In October each year, thousands of worshippers come from China, Taiwan and other places to celebrate the annual A-Ma Cultural and Tourism Festival held there, with elaborate rituals and celebrations.

The festival, running since 2001, is another of Ngan's ventures – a natural complement to the cultural village. Similar festivals are held elsewhere in greater China, with much fanfare and excitement. In Taiwan, they can last for days, with the goddess' shrine being carried and worshipped by big crowds as it is moved from town to town. In Macao, it is held on the ninth day of September of the lunar calendar. It lasts for a few days and the scale of activity is much smaller. Nevertheless, the event attracts much public attention every year.

For each festival, the organisers send delegations to China and Taiwan to publicise it and to learn how to conduct it well. Ngan said the festival incorporates culture, tourism and religion into one single event to promote Macao's specialness.

In many public speeches, Ngan has hailed the Mazu faith as a cultural bridge among Chinese overseas that brings Chinese from diversified backgrounds together for a good cause.

At the most recent one on 14-16 October 2010, over 2,000 guests came from China, Taiwan and Southeast Asia. They brought with them their shrines and their artists to perform dances, martial arts, dramas and acrobatics in a crowded three-day schedule.

"I come every year to pray for the health and safety of my family," said a Macao resident, who was standing close to the VIP area at the opening ceremony of this year's festival at the packed village.

A native of Pujiang in Fujian, she prays regularly to Mazu at home where she has set up a small altar.

Chen Chaoming, a representative of a Mazu temple in Taichong in central Taiwan, said that similar festivals at home lasted for many more days. Still, he was impressed by the efforts Macao had made for the occasion.

The climax of the festival was a two-hour procession held in the northern part of the Macao peninsula on the second day. Over 1,000 participants dressed in colorful ancient costumes moved in groups, carrying their delegation's flags and other religious artifacts.



*Religious Procession in Macao*

They danced, chanted, sang and played traditional musical instruments. As they proceeded to the destination, Lao Hon Park, passers-by cheered and prayed. Some even knelt and burned joss sticks to the Mazu statues carried around in sedan chairs.

## Promoting tourism

The festival, started as a religious event in 2001, is now a major tourist attraction. In 2005, the Macao government granted the festival's organisers an





award for its contribution to local tourism. Ngan's Mazu ventures started in 1998, the year Macao's landmark A-Ma goddess statue was completed. The 500-tonne white-jade sculpture was one of several monuments the Portuguese administration built to celebrate good Sino-Portuguese relations on the eve of Macao's return to Chinese rule.

The majestic structure, 19.99m tall, in memory of Macao's handover date in the year 1999, stood at Alto de Coloane, the highest point in the city.

Ngan, a leader of the local Fujian community, was asked to organise an enshrining ceremony for the gigantic statue. In Macao, one fourth of the population comes from Fujian, and most worship Mazu.

The association promptly arranged music, dancing, ritual ceremonies and different performances for the occasion.

"It was a sensational success," recalls Ng Lun Mang, a spokesman for a local Fujian association. "There was a large turnout, from morning till night on 28 October 1998."

The occasion inspired Ngan to launch a big project to celebrate his faith. Ng said: "The Mazu sculpture was built as a stand-alone. There was no temple, no place for worshippers to burn joss sticks and make a wish. So an idea was born, to build a place where the public could worship Mazu, learn about the history of her legend and understand the changes Macao had undergone over time."

As a first step, Ngan set up the Goddess A-Ma Foundation of Macao in 1998. The foundation, whose members' list reads like a Who's Who in Macao, aims to promote the Mazu faith locally and to reach out to other Mazu-believing communities worldwide.

Choosing the site for the Mazu project was straightforward: it had to be close to the A-Ma statue. The design and layout were to resemble those of other famous Mazu temples elsewhere, namely Fujian and Taiwan. Materials and craftsmen came mainly from Fujian.

The gate to the vast compound is a 15m arched façade, standing majestically on Seac Pai Van Road, at the bottom of the trail to Coloane Park. Every

day, many visitors take the free shuttle bus to reach the cultural village via a long, winding road.

On arrival, they have to climb six flights of stairs, which are carved with auspicious images of tigers, lions, cranes and phoenix. Then they find themselves in a spacious courtyard flanked on two sides by a drum tower and a bell tower. At the centre is a carved marble altar, leading to the Tian Hou (Heavenly Empress) Palace. Inside the temple is a 3.8m statue of A-Ma, surrounded by eight round stone pillars carved with dragons. Then, there is a two-storey building behind the temple, called the dressing hall of the goddess.

All structures, artifacts and decorative items are in the style of southern Fujian architecture of the Qing dynasty, with roof eaves carved like the tails of swallows. Red, bright orange, gold and green are the colours used most often.

Ng said the foundation has asked the government to grant land for a museum, cable cars and a hotel near the village. It is waiting for the green light for its ambitious expansion plans. ■

Coloane A-Ma Festivities

Photos by Leong Ka Tai







# Cooperação



*Premier Wen Jiabao addresses the  
3<sup>rd</sup> Ministerial Conference of the  
Forum for Economic and Trade  
Cooperation between China and  
Portuguese-speaking Countries*



# High Praise from China's PM

## Wen reaffirms Macao's role as hub between China and Portuguese-speaking world

By Christian Ritter

### **Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao reaffirmed**

Macao's role as a platform for the development of economic and trade ties between China and the Portuguese-speaking world during his first visit to the Special Administrative Region in November (2010).

During his two-day visit on 13-14 November, the popular premier also voiced four hopes for Macao's future development.

Addressing the 3rd Ministerial Conference of the Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries at the Macao Dome, Wen announced that the Chinese government will launch six measures between 2010 and 2013 to help boost the progression of less-advanced Portuguese-speaking countries.

About 1,500 officials, including several heads of

state, and business people attended the two-day conference.

Under the new measures, financial institutions from mainland China and Macao will set up a US\$1 billion development fund for cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking countries, in a bid to push forward financial cooperation between the two sides. "The eight brothers of this Forum are at different stages of development," Wen said, adding that to "help the developing Portuguese-speaking countries achieve faster development and shake off poverty is our common responsibility".

Apart from China, the Forum includes Brazil, Angola, Mozambique, Portugal, East Timor, Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde. EU-member Portugal is the Forum's only developed country.



Opening Ceremony of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ministerial Conference

## Six measures

The Chinese government's six measures announced by Wen are:

1) Financial institutions from mainland China and Macao "will initiate a US\$1 billion cooperation and development fund between China and Portuguese-speaking countries to boost financial cooperation".

2) Providing 1.6 billion yuan (US\$237 million) in concessional loans under bilateral framework arrangements to the Forum's Asian and African member states.

3) Providing materials, equipment, technical personnel and other support to one bilateral agricultural cooperation project in each Asian and African member state of the Forum.

4) Training 1,500 officials and technical personnel for the Asian and African members of the Forum and supporting the Macao government in establishing a local training centre under the Forum.

5) Providing 1,000 one-year government scholarships to students from the Asian and African members of the Forum to study in China.

6) Providing medical equipment and devices worth 10 million yuan to each Asian and African member of the Forum.

The Forum's African members are Angola, Mozambique, Cape Verde and Guinea-Bissau. The Atlantic island nation of São Tomé and Príncipe is not a member of the Forum because it does not yet maintain diplomatic ties with Beijing. East Timor is the only Asian member of the Forum.

Wen's keynote speech was headlined 'Advance Common Development Through Diversified Cooperation'.

The premier also said that the "Forum has served as an important platform and bond for mutually beneficial and friendly cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking countries," stressing that the Forum "has given full play to Macao's unique advantage as a bridge between the two sides and boosted our exchanges and cooperation with a focus on the economy and trade."



## Booming trade

Wen pointed out that when the Forum was founded in 2003, trade between China and the Portuguese-speaking world stood at just US\$10 billion, while two-way trade surged to US\$77 billion in 2008 and hit the original target of US\$50 billion one year ahead of schedule.

According to Wen, trade between the two sides reached US\$68.2 billion in the first three quarters of 2010, up 57 per cent year-on-year.

Angola is now China's main African oil supplier.

"Today, coffee, cashews, wine and other famous products from the Portuguese-speaking countries are becoming more and more popular in China," Wen said, adding that "quality yet inexpensive consumer goods from China have enriched the markets of the Portuguese-speaking countries and have been well received by their people."

Wen also pointed out that by the end of 2009, business people from Portuguese-speaking countries had set up over 700 companies in mainland China with a total investment of more than US\$500 million, while China's investment in the Forum's seven counterparts has topped US\$1 billion.

The premier also stressed that since 2004 China has provided 3.6 billion yuan of assistance to Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique and East Timor, and cancelled 230 million yuan of debts associated with interest-free government loans.

Underlined by Wen too was the Forum's commitment

to human resources development, pointing out that by November 2010 the Chinese authorities had held over 200 workshops and trained over 2,100 officials and technical personnel from Portuguese-speaking countries.

Commerce Minister Chen Deming wound up the Forum by pledging that China and the Portuguese-speaking countries would focus on the development of two-way investment as part of their economic and trade cooperation in the coming three years.

Chen also said that China planned to exempt tariffs for some products from Portuguese-speaking countries in Asia and Africa over the next three years.

The Forum's eight participating countries signed an Action Plan at the end of the conference. The plan vows to expand the scale of cooperation, optimise trade structures and give full play to Macao's unique advantage as a hub and business-service hub and link between China and Portuguese-speaking countries.

The plan also calls for the Forum's member countries to promote free trade within the framework of each of their international commitments and to strengthen customs cooperation. Also highlighted is the cooperation of the two sides in the areas of finance, infrastructure development, natural resources exploitation, tourism, education and human resources development.

The next ministerial conference of the Forum is slated to be held in Macao in 2013.



*Wen Jiabao (R) talks to a local shopowner*

## Four goals

### In terms of the Forum's future activities, Wen raised four goals:

- a) Increasing bilateral trade – “We should open our markets wider to each other, reduce trade barriers, step up policy coordination, jointly oppose trade protectionism and work hard to raise our trade volume to US\$100 billion by 2013,” Wen said, adding that China was willing to “phase in zero-tariff treatment for the overwhelming majority of the commodities imported from the Portuguese-speaking countries in Asia and Africa.”
- b) Promoting two-way investment – Wen called for the removal of investment barriers and stressed that “Chinese enterprises are competitive and experienced in infrastructure construction, while Portuguese-speaking countries have big markets.”
- c) Exploring new areas of cooperation – Wen singled out the potential of tourism and transport cooperation, and he announced that the Chinese government will promote the tourism resources of the Portuguese-speaking countries. The premier also called for deepened financial cooperation such as “encouraging the establishment of branches of banks in each other's countries”.
- d) Bringing into full play Macao's role as the Forum's cooperation platform – Wen said that the Chinese government would continue to urge mainland Chinese enterprises to use Macao as a business-service platform for the development of trade and investment ties with their counterparts in the Portuguese-speaking world.





The 3rd conference is the triennial Forum's first to be attended by heads of state and government. The conference originally slated for 2009 was postponed by a year due to scheduling problems by some of the member states.

The conference was held under the official motto of 'Diversified Cooperation, Harmonious Development'. It closed with the adoption of an Action Plan for Economic and Commercial Cooperation.

The conference was co-hosted by the Chinese government's Ministry of Commerce and the Macao government.

**Sound advice**

The premier also met with Macao Chief Executive Fernando Chui Sai On and other top officials of the Macao Special Administrative Region during his visit. He urged them to build a fair and harmonious society, stressing that improving people's livelihoods should be their main concern.

Wen also urged the government to further develop Macao's tourism, business-service and convention industries, based on the key gaming sector, and emphasised the need to promote the development of the creative and cultural industries, traditional Chinese and Western medicine, and small- and medium-sized high-tech industries.

The premier praised Macao's free education system and free health services for elderly residents.

**Four hopes**

On the second and final day of his visit, Wen voiced four hopes for Macao's future development to ensure continued stability, prosperity and social harmony. They were:

- 1) Enhancing people-oriented governance by ensuring integrity, efficiency and transparency.
- 2) Promoting the economy's diversified development and strengthening cooperation with Guangdong.
- 3) Safeguarding people's well-being by improving the population's living conditions; speeding up the construction of public housing and improving public transportation; paying special attention to low-income earners and enhancing social justice and equality.
- 4) Ensuring the development of a harmonious and stable society, based on mutual respect among Macao's different segments of civil society.

*Wen meets Macao students*





*Wen practises "tai chi" with local people during a visit to Fortress Hill*

The premier singled out four famous compatriots whose lives were closely connected with Macao: Qing Dynasty mandarin Lin Zexu (1785-1850) who tried to stop the opium trade in Guangdong; political reformer Cheng Kuan-ying (1841-1920) whose writings had a strong influence on China's modernisation; Republican revolutionary Dr Sun Yat-sen (1866-1925) who is widely seen as the 'father' of modern China; and composer Xian

Xinghai (1905-1945) who penned the famous 'Ode to the Yellow River'.

The premier, who visited several tourist spots, community facilities and educational establishments during his visit, praised Macao's economic development over the past decade, pointing out that the Chinese government's five-year development plans now also included Macao. ■

*Photos by AFP and Xinhua*



*Premier Wen bids farewell to Macao residents before leaving the Special Administrative Region*





*Wen Jiabao waves during a visit to the St. Paul's Ruins*



# A golden opportunity

How Macao can best play out its role  
in the relations with the  
Portuguese-speaking world

By Thomas Chan  
Head of Chinese Business Centre  
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University





*Macao, Photo by AFP*

**As part of the Pearl River Delta region,** Macao would have difficulty standing out among all of the region's cities if we were talking merely in terms of scale. Macao does not compare with its neighbours Hong Kong, Guangzhou and Shenzhen, all of which are either already a world city or aspiring to be one. However, Macao has one thing that almost no one else in the Pearl River Delta (PRD) and in China-at-large has: its long trading history between East and West, and in particular its intimate relationship with Portugal and other Portuguese-speaking countries. Macao's past as part of the Portuguese colonial empire has receded into history. However, its cultural heritage and legacy remain alive among Portuguese-speaking countries, including Brazil – one of the

BRICs (Brazil, Russia, India, China), African countries like Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, and Mozambique, as well as São Tomé and Príncipe. Together these Portuguese-speaking countries do not form a community that is strong or integrated enough to compete against the likes of the British Commonwealth or regional communities in Africa and Asia, such as the Community of Sahel-Saharan states (CENSAD), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Common Market of Eastern Southern Africa (COMESA), the East African Community (EAC), the Southern African Development Community (SADC), and the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations).

## A common culture

It is the cultural affinity and regional commitments that bring these Portuguese-speaking countries to Macao. The result for Macao is a comparatively large country network in Africa as well as in Latin America, due to the pivotal role of Brazil there.

Given its 'city state' scale and importance, it is not easy for Macao to be invited into large economic communities in the same fashion as Singapore or even Hong Kong, despite the latter's reluctance to cooperate in bilateral and multilateral free-trade agreements (FTAs) in the past. It is true that Monaco is even smaller than Macao and yet has been successful in building up an international reputation and image, but its functions are basically local even in Europe.

The resurgence of China in recent years presents a golden opportunity for Macao to turn its historical heritage and cultural affinity with the Portuguese-speaking world into some large-scale projects that would benefit each party involved.

The opportunity was heralded in as Macao recently hosted the Forum on Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries. The first ministerial-level conference of the Forum was held in 2003, the second in 2006 and the third one in Macao in November (2010). Premier Wen Jiabao chaired the third conference together with heads of government and state and senior officials of the other member countries. Their presence has upgraded the political status of the Forum and injected fresh and greater political significance into it.

## China's African engagement

The institutional mechanism China has been using to trade with African countries to date has been criticised by some in the West and by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). They argue that the mechanism increases the debt burden of less-developed African countries.

This is not fair criticism, partly because it is coloured by the discontent of the IMF and Western banks at the effects the mechanism has on them. The 'resources for loans' or 'reserve-backed lending' or 'commodity-secured credits' (that is, the repayment of loans through exports of oil, minerals and other natural resources to China) has put the IMF and Western banks at a disadvantage. Unlike China, they do not like to take the risk without direct and immediate collaterals for their loans.

The mechanism is not new to China. In the 1970s Beijing financed the importation of machinery, equipment and turnkey projects from Japan by the contracted exports of Chinese coal in the subsequent years.

Such a mechanism represents a win-win arrangement for China and African countries, offering many advantages to both. China has been able to secure its future supply of natural resources, in particular oil and gas, by using its huge surplus trade receipts with developed countries. It can also export its industrial machinery and large infrastructural projects to African countries, helping them to build up an infrastructure for sustained growth at the same time as selling China's equipment and solutions knowledge for large-scale projects.

*Hong Kong*







Guangzhou

## Aiding African recovery

The African countries in the transaction commit future sales of their natural resources, which China aids them to explore and process. China is obliged to help them conduct a more efficient and productive exploration of their resources as the outputs will be repaid to China once they are marketable. China is also very concerned to help establish efficient 'mine-to-ship' logistics. It may or may not give concessional loans, as global interest rates are quite low, particularly so for China with its huge foreign exchange reserves and domestic money supply.

Despite the lack of hard currency on the part of the African countries at the beginning, the Chinese trading credit arrangement enables these deficit countries to start building up infrastructures not just for exploration of their natural resources, but also for modernising their economies, resulting in ports, railways, hydro-electricity plants, highways, and irrigation systems, as well as schools and hospitals. In fact, China is initiating an infrastructure

revolution in Africa at a time when the developed countries and international organisations like the IMF and the World Bank are too occupied with their own recovery from the financial tsunami.

It is said that the success of African countries in avoiding the worst of the financial crisis plaguing the developed countries lies in their remarkable growth of trade and investment with China and other emergent markets. Trade with China has doubled, and investment is even more impressive, although not in all countries on the continent. Poverty-stricken African countries, just emerging from civil wars, famines and other natural and man-made disasters, have been able to engage in trade even when they have had nothing tangible to offer. Moreover, they have been able to use the trade for their recovery and, in some cases, rapid growth, like the double-digit growth of Angola in the last few years. This is due in no small part to the innovating trading arrangements of China.

## Agriculture and infrastructure

China has a great advantage over the West in being able to offer appropriate development strategies and the material means for implementing them. Developed countries can offer sophisticated, advanced technologies but at a high price. By contrast, China is able to deliver very cost-effective projects that are more adaptable to local conditions where starting points are very low.

China's own achievements have demonstrated two lessons: the importance of agriculture and of infrastructure. Such is the success of China's hybrid rice (not genetically modified as in the US) and its irrigation techniques, that people are talking of a China-sponsored Green Revolution in Africa. First stop is Angola, China's largest trading partner in Africa.

The 'investment for resources' method allows China to help African countries build up their modern infrastructure, including telecommunications, using Chinese technology, engineers and project management at a much lower cost than available from multinational corporations. And this lower cost is not achieved by sacrificing quality. For example, in railway construction, China has led the world in high-speed railway systems and in upgrading conventional railways to near high-speed mode. Yet the cost has been much lower than that offered by leading developed countries like Japan and France, by a large margin.

China clearly understands its enormous influence in Africa to date, and the even greater potential in

China-Africa trade and economic cooperation in the coming years and decades. This is why China has initiated many dialogue mechanisms with Africa. At the November Macao Forum, Premier Wen announced that China-Africa trade would reach US\$100 billion by 2013 (up from around US\$50 billion in 2009), and that the Forum would play a more active role. Immediately after the Forum, Vice President Xi Jinping went on a four-nation tour in Africa, including Angola, to emphasise all the more the importance of Africa, particularly Angola, to China.

## Macao as trade and investment centre

The November Forum has given Macao two important tasks. One is for mainland Chinese and Macao financial institutions to set up a China-Portuguese speaking countries Cooperation Development Fund of US\$1 billion, as well as preferential credits of 1.6 billion yuan to participant countries of the Forum. This means that Macao should be involved in the investment and credits that China extends to these African countries, and to East Timor. It opens up a large policy space for Macao to initiate financial cooperation with these countries in US dollars and in renminbi (yuan) either via the government or in private-public partnership. Given its large foreign exchange reserves and strong support from the central government in Beijing, Macao could work as the financial centre for trading and investment with Portuguese-speaking countries, particularly those in Africa.

*Guangzhou*







Hong Kong

## Macao to train and upgrade

The other is the establishment of a training centre for the Forum in Macao. The relationship between China and Portuguese-speaking countries has now reached a crucial stage in the transition from hardware construction to the development of software. Macao, probably with support from its neighbouring cities in the PRD, Guangzhou and Hong Kong, could offer appropriate training to officials and workers in public and private organisations in these countries. Its universities and higher-education institutions could offer scholarships to students of these countries as well.

The apparent intention of central government is to make Macao the human-resources support base for Portuguese-speaking countries, especially those in Africa. This is in line with central government's recent urge for diversification of the Macao economy and the upgrading of its services. Macao has built several higher-education institutions, which need to be upgraded and become more professional and specialised.

Providing training to Portuguese-speaking countries is the best vehicle for advancing the training capability of Macao institutions and attracting experts from outside. During the process of training

Portuguese-speaking countries, Macao would build vital relationship resources. From this position, Macao would be able to become the human-resources support base for African countries and China-in-Africa to benefit both Africans and Chinese (from the mainland, Hong Kong and Taiwan), as well as unrelated countries.

## Helping PRD enter African market

In addition, Macao could also use the knowledge and connections from the Forum to help firms and entrepreneurs from neighbouring PRD cities to enter the huge, growing market of Africa, targeting firstly the Portuguese-speaking countries. This much-discussed international role of Macao in the PRD has yet to be fully realised.

With the development of finance and human resources services from the Forum for Africa in addition to the existing gaming and consumer services to mainland visitors, Macao will have a much better chance of becoming a world city on a par with its neighbours, Hong Kong, Guangzhou and Shenzhen. Together they would build up the most cosmopolitan and internationalised conurbation in the world. ■

*Photos by AFP, Allan Salas, Eric Tam and Mércia Gonçalves*

# Guangzhou firm builds the 'Orlando' of China

By Staff Reporter



*A scale model of Hengqin island*



**In early December, work began on a giant ocean theme park on the southern tip of Hengqin island next to Macao, which will have the world's tallest Ferris wheel and is designed for 30 million visitors a year.**



**It was the start of the second largest project in Hengqin,**

with a total investment of 20 billion yuan, that aims to transform sand dunes and oyster farms into the 'Orlando' of China. On five square kilometers, it is building Asia's biggest holiday centre, with a convention centre, hotels, 18-hole golf course, yachting centre and entertainment. It will provide 20,000 jobs directly and 100,000 indirectly and aims to bring 50 billion yuan in income a year to the island.

On the east of Hengqin, builders are constructing the new site of the University of Macau; faculty and students will move in at the end of 2012.

These are two of the projects that are re-shaping one of the last undeveloped islands in the Pearl River delta and will turn it into a tourist, education and business haven by 2020, when its population will reach 280,000, up from 5,000 now.

The 'Orlando' project represents a major gamble for Chimelong, the private company based in Guangzhou, which is building the resort. Founded in 1989, the company has invested in environmental tourism, hotels and holiday resorts, with its major project a safari park, circus and tourist centre in Panyu, a southern district of Guangzhou.

Orlando, in central Florida, is the model for the Hengqin development. The city has turned sugar cane fields and citrus plantations into one of the most visited cities in the United States. This is because of Universal Orlando Resort, SeaWorld Orlando and Walt Disney World, which is 34 kilometres to the south. In addition, it hosts the second largest convention complex in the country.

Chimelong wants to follow the example of Orlando. It has hired major U.S. design firms – PGAV and WATG – for two major parts of the project, the Ocean World and the Ocean Hotel. Based in Honolulu, Hawaii, WATG has designed hotels and resorts in more than 100 countries across the world.

Last December (2010) marked the start of the first phase of the project, involving investment of 10 billion yuan, on a land area of 1.43 million square metres and a built-up area of 1.2 million. It will include the Ocean Theme Park, International Ocean World and the Chimelong Dolphin Hotel, with 1,888 rooms, the largest 'environmental' hotel in China. It will take ideas from the Venetian hotels in Macao and Las Vegas, with rooms, restaurants and retail space built around water.



The first phase will also include a 210-metre-high ferris wheel, the tallest in the world, a two-kilometre cable car and a marine museum. This phase is due to open in 2012, with an annual design capacity of 30 million visitors. PGAB has overall design responsibility for this first phase. For the financing, Chimelong has borrowed five billion yuan from a consortium of seven banks led by Industrial and Commercial Bank of China and, in addition, is using its own funds.

Before construction began, the builders had to remove 1,000 mu (67 hectares) of oyster farms and dump 850,000 cubic metres of earth into the sea to reclaim land.

When it is finally completed, the project will include eight theme parks, including animal kingdom, science world, world flower park, bird world, beach sand park. There will be an 18-hole golf course, yachting centre and other sports facilities, international ocean theatre and international convention centre.





## Panyu safari park

This investment represents the second major project for Chimelong, after its amusement park in Panyu, for which it is known across China. It opened on April 12, 2006, with an investment of over one billion yuan, on an area of 67 hectares, including a safari park, a circus, crocodile park, golf centre, hotel and seafood restaurant, a total of 60 attractions. It can receive 50,000 visitors a day.

In 2009, the park attracted 10 million visitors, compared to the 5.03 million who went to Ocean Park in Hong Kong. It was the success of the Panyu park that enabled Chimelong to win the contract for Hengqin.

Ye Wenqing, deputy director of the Zhuhai Industrial Development Bureau of the Hengqin New Area Administration Committee (NAAC), said that the dolphins, sea lions and other animals had started to arrive from Russia, Japan, the United States and Australia and were learning to adapt to their new surroundings.

"Initially, we expect the tourists to be mainly from the mainland. Then more and more will come from abroad," she said. "This will help to diversify tourism in Macao. While the husband plays in the casino, his wife and children can come to the Ocean Kingdom."

*Panyu safari park*





*Zhao Zhenwu*



*Ye Wenqing*

## Complement to Macao

The land area of Hengqin is three times that of Macao, one of the world's most densely populated places with 540,000 people. The island is designed as a complement to Macao, offering housing, facilities and services for which it has no more space.

It was in August 2009 that the State Council approved the island as a special economic district, the third in China after Pudong in Shanghai and Binhai in Tianjin. Such a high-level decision was a sign of the importance the central government attaches to the island and its strategic role in the future of the Pearl River delta.

Beijing wants to take the opportunity to turn this virgin territory into something new – an island of trees, lakes and green space, of low-density and low-carbon development and the most comfortable living environment in the delta.

"It will be a model environmental island," said Zhao Zhenwu, deputy director of the party-masses work division of the Hengqin New Area Administrative Committee (HNAAC). "Of its 106 square kilometers, 78 will not be developed or have very limited development.

There will be no pollution and no air conditioning – the cooling will be provided by natural gas. It will provide an excellent living environment.

One of the key projects in Hengqin is the new campus of Macao University, a site of 1.09 square kilometers on the east coast facing Taipa. Under a bill passed by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress in June 2009, the Macao SAR will have jurisdiction over the site. It will pay US\$150 million to Zhuhai for a lease for 40 years; the construction cost is six billion patacas.

The architect is He Jingtang, vice chairman of the Architectural Society of China, who designed the China Pavilion at the 2010 Shanghai World Expo. The new campus will have 10 residential colleges, each with a capacity of 500 students; it will have a total of 10,000 students, compared to 6,000 on the current crowded site in Taipa. It has 20 times the land area of the existing site.

He has designed a garden-style campus, with lakes, trees and covered walkways, combining the architectures and cultures of south China and southern Europe.





## International residential area

Other tourist attractions on Hengqin will include a marine centre for yachts, two golf courses and medical tourism, including beauty and health treatment and possibly a hospital, and an artistic and exhibition centre with sculpture, calligraphy and teachers in residence.

Zhao said that the Pearl River could attract more tourists if it offered a variety of activities. "In the future, we can offer one-two days in Hong Kong, one-two days in Macao and one-two in Hengqin. This will be more attractive to visitors and people will stay longer. We will complement Macao."

On the northern side of the island will be an 'international residential area,' of homes in a green and low-density setting.

Zhao said that prices of homes in the area will be lower than those of Macao, which will attract some of its residents to move there. "The environment will be more attractive, with sea and water, and there will be many opportunities for recreation. It will be convenient to Macao, with the border open 24 hours a day."

## Preparing the way

The city government is spending 12.6 billion yuan to create the infrastructure necessary to support a population that will reach 280,000 by the year 2020.

This includes a 52-kilometre road that will run the full circumference of the island and will be lined with trees and flowers. Ye said that it would be suitable for bicycle races or international marathons.

The infrastructure also includes two more bridges linking the island to the rest of Zhuhai, including one to the city's airport, two tunnels and one bridge to Macao and roads within the island. Residents of Macao with cars will be able to drive them to Hengqin.

Energy will be provided by wind power and natural gas brought in from the South China Sea. The China Power Investment Corporation is building a power generator project at a cost of 12 billion yuan.

## Business district

In the northeast of the island will be the Shizimen Central Business District; ground was broken on the first phase of this project in July 2010.

It will involve investment of 100 billion yuan, of which 38 billion will come from the Huafa Group, Zhuhai's biggest property company. It covers an area of 5.77 square kilometers and will take five years to build.

It will include two five-star hotels, to be managed by St Regis and Sheraton Hotels and Resorts, and the Zhuhai International Convention centre, with facilities of 25,000 square metres and a capacity for 10,000 attendees. Next to it will be a 300-metre tower, the tallest building in Zhuhai and Macao, with high-grade office space and the St Regis Hotel.

The district is designed for banking and insurance, business services, trade and business, conventions and exhibitions. It will seek investors worldwide, with priority given to Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao companies. It will include the headquarters of China Aviation Industry Corporation (AVIC), which is building a factory in Zhuhai to make fixed-wing general aviation.

It will have a total of 11 million square metres of space, of which 45 per cent will be commercial

offices and 55 per cent commercial apartments and other supporting services, said a spokeswoman for the district. She said that the capital would come from the government and Chinese and foreign companies. "The central government has approved this project, so we need it," she said.

## Industry

The master plan also includes a high-technology industry zone and a science and research zone in the northwest corner. Zhao said industries in Hengqin would be restricted to those that were non-polluting, such as high-tech electronics.

The government is setting aside 1.5 square kilometers for a traditional Chinese medicine park, for which Macao is providing the investment. It will be a platform for research, development and training and will invite outside investors.

The master plan calls for a population of 280,000 in 2020, up from 5,000 now and 120,000 in 2015 and for a per capita GDP of 200,000 yuan in 2020, up from 120,000 in 2015. By 2020, the green area will account for 50 per cent of the island, all the waste water will be treated and all the urban daily waste will be disposed of without pollution.

It is an ambitious plan – to create a 'green' island in an area of high population and dense industry. ■

*Works on the new site of University of Macau*

*Photos by Eric Tam*







# ANGOLA-CHINA

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Taipei 101 building



# Across the Strait

## Macao-Taiwan relations closer than ever

By Mark O'Neill

**Relations between Macao and Taiwan are closer** than they have ever been since the handover in 1999, with the two considering the opening of a quasi-official representative office in Taipei to match the one in Macao.

Last September, secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Cheong U, went to Taipei to open Macao Week, the largest-scale promotion in Taiwan of the Special Administrative Region (SAR) as a tourist destination. It was the highest-level visit by a Macao official since the handover. The month before, Alexis Tam Chon Weng, head of the Chief Executive Office, paid a three-day visit to Taipei.

Relations are already close, in many areas.

Taiwan is the third biggest source of tourists to Macao, after the mainland and Hong Kong, with 517,000 visitors in the first nine months of last year. Taiwan has the largest number of Macao people studying abroad, with 3,932 at universities there in the 2009 academic year. Bilateral trade in the first

nine months of 2010 was worth US\$260 million.

"Strengthening economic and trade ties as well as cultural exchanges between Macao and Taiwan will be one of the major tasks for the Macao SAR government this year," said chief executive Fernando Chui Sai On last August. He was speaking at the sixth Pan Pearl River Delta Regional Co-operation and Development Forum in Fuzhou, capital of Fujian province.

He repeated this message in October, when he met Wu Poh-hsiung, honorary chairman of Taiwan's ruling Kuomintang (KMT); Wu was attending the seventh World Summit of Chinese Entrepreneurs at the Venetian Macao. "We attach great importance to the promotion of closer ties with Taiwan," said the chief executive. "We very much encourage exchanges and co-operation between community organisations from both sides in terms of tourism, culture, sports, education, investment and trade."

## Representative offices

Taiwan is represented in Macao by the Taipei Economic and Cultural Centre, a quasi-official entity. What the two are discussing is something similar to represent Macao's interests in Taiwan. Currently, a public relations firm in Taiwan promotes Macao tourism and exhibitions but has no government-backed status and cannot help individuals needing assistance, such as those involved in accidents or crimes or with travel- and stay-permit problems. During his visit last August, Alexis Tam met Chiang Pin-kung, chairman of the Strait Exchange Foundation (SEF). Chiang said that he would use his influence to support as far as he could the creation of a Macao office, which would boost closer relations and exchanges between the people of both territories.

Tam said that the SAR government expected active co-operation and support from the Taiwan authorities in opening a bureau as soon as possible. "It would encourage co-operation in areas such as tourism, economy, trade and culture," said Tam. "The government also wants to promote the relationship with Taipei in the exhibition, convention and creative industries, as well as in education."

In an interview in Taipei last November, Viviane Huang, deputy director-general of the Department of Hong Kong and Macao Affairs of the Mainland Affairs Council (MAC), said that her government always encouraged civil exchanges and co-operation between the people of Macao and Taiwan at all levels.

"We wish to greatly elevate the quality of official exchanges and interaction. We welcome the proposal of the Macao government to set up an office in Taiwan and hope that the opening of this office can provide quicker services to the people of both sides."

She said that, during his policy speech, chief executive Fernando Chui Sai On had for the first time included the development of normalising relations with Taiwan as a government policy. "This is a very positive step for the development of relations between the two sides." She described the visits of Mr Tam and Mr Cheong as a 'major breakthrough'. She also said that an 'official' element was necessary in the proposed office, if it was to deal with issues such as visas, accidents or crimes, when Macao people need help. Currently, it is the Mainland Affairs Council which handles such cases.



## Tourism

Taiwan is Macao's third largest source of tourists, after the mainland and Hong Kong, with 1.3 million arrivals in 2009. Macao Week, held in Taipei last September, was the biggest promotion on the island by the Macao Government Tourist Office to further increase the numbers.

It included an inauguration ceremony and dinner reception; a Macao World Heritage Painting Exhibition; a road show at Taipei 101 (the island's highest building); an exhibition of art works of Macao students in Taiwan; and a showing of Macao films at Eslite, the most famous bookstore chain on the island.

At the dinner, secretary Cheong said that ties between the two places were strong, long-standing and friendly. "I believe that co-operation in tourism





*"Macao Week" Promotion in Taipei (Courtesy of MGTO)*

and culture will increase further in the future."

The road show had a corridor of booths offering tourist information, Portuguese egg tarts and pork buns. Visitors were invited to take part in games to win prizes, including air tickets and tours to Macao. The corridor displayed the scenes and architecture that make Macao distinct in Asia.

Tseng Yong-chuan, president of the Friends of Hong Kong and Macao Association, said that 20,000 Macao people were working in Taiwan. He explained that direct air links between Taipei, Kaohsiung and Macao, with a third under consideration to Taichung, underlined the advantages and benefits of cross-strait connections.

The routes are served by Air Macau and two Taiwan carriers, Eva Air and Trans-Asia Airways.

The number of tourist arrivals has been affected by

the start of direct flights between Taiwan and the mainland in 2008. Before that, Macao and Hong Kong were the most popular transit points between the two. The highest number of tourist arrivals in the last five years was 1.482 million in 2005. The number fell from 1.444 million in 2007 to 1.31 million and 1.29 million in the next two years, largely because of the introduction of direct flights.

In 2009, the average Taiwan tourist stayed 1.79 nights and spent 2,754 patacas, the second highest amount, after the mainlander who spent an average of 4,164 patacas.

Going the other way, 29,000 Macao people went on tourist visits to Taiwan in 2009, an increase of 16.7 per cent from 2008, according to figures from the Taiwan government.



*Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Cheng U, during the opening of "Macao Week" in Taipei*

## Education

Ever since 1949, Taiwan has been the most popular overseas destination for Macao students, especially in the days when the territory had no tertiary institutions of its own. Many of Macao's civil servants – including Alexis Tam – studied in Taiwan's universities.

In recent years, the number of Macao students there has been rising. In the 2009 academic year, it stood at 3,932, an increase of 524 from a year earlier. Applicants from Macao to study at Taiwan universities in 2011 are 2,659, accounting for 32 per cent of all applications by overseas Chinese, including those from Hong Kong.

Viviane Huang said that every year the Mainland Affairs Council organises a visit to Taiwan for young people from Hong Kong and Macao so that they learn about the opportunities at Taiwan's universities.

In addition, the Sun Yat-sen Memorial House in Macao, which belongs to a Singapore-registered company owned by the KMT, organises exhibitions and events to introduce Taiwan to the Macao public.

Most Macao students return home to work. But, if they can find a company willing to apply for a work visa for them, they can stay and work in Taiwan.

One topic discussed during Tam's visit last August was recognition by Taiwan's Ministry of Education of degrees issued by tertiary institutions in Macao. Currently, only the University of Macao meets the certification standard. SEF chairman Chiang Pin-kung promised to help negotiations between the two sides on mutual recognition of higher education qualifications.





*Courtesy of MGTO*

## Chinese-medicine industrial park

Another potential area of co-operation is a Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) scientific and industrial park, which Macao is funding in Hengqin island, part of Zhuhai city and adjacent to the SAR. The Guangdong provincial government has agreed to allocate one square kilometre of land on the island for the park. The Macao government will provide investment of about 600 million patacas to the project.

The Macao government has announced that construction of the TCM park was due to begin in the first quarter of 2011 and start operating within three years. The Macao government and Guangdong authorities aim to produce TCM products with international certification, provided by a body set up in Macao with specialists from all over the world. Taiwan has considerable expertise in this area.

During his visit in August, Tam met Taiwanese specialists who said that they were eager to participate in the project, believing it could become a platform to promote multilateral co-operation among the three sides and take TCM to a new level.

They told him that Taiwan had extensive experience in TCM and biotechnology and, with its advanced agriculture, could help in the production of high-quality ingredients.

Huang said that the Taiwanese government welcomed the project.

In 2009, Taiwan exports to Macao reached US\$304 million and imports were US\$15 million, according to Taiwan official figures. In the first nine months of last year, its exports amounted to US\$250 million and imports US\$16 million.

Exchanges are also booming in the area of culture and the performing arts. ■



# Holiday Charm

## Direct flights fuel boom in Japanese tourists to Macao

By Staff Reporter





**As he savoured his grilled cod and red wine** in one of Macao's best-known Portuguese restaurants, Hiroshi Goryo reflected on the city's future. "It should become the music and show capital of Asia, attracting people from Korea to Thailand. Asia has no such centre and Macao should be the one."

On his fifth visit to Macao, Goryo knows what he is talking about. He is the chief operating officer of the Media Business Group of Sony Music Entertainment. "My advice to the government is to organise shows and events that can be enjoyed by all the family and follow the example of Las Vegas. Why should the big events go first to the US, Europe and then Asia? This should change."

Japanese are the fourth largest source of tourists for Macao and the number is growing, in part because of direct flights which began in 2007. They are attracted here by the diversity of entertainment,

culture, cuisine and shopping.

According to figures from the Macao Government Tourist Office (MGTO) the number of Japanese visitors in 2009 was 379,24 – more than double the 2005 figure of 169,115, with an average annual increase of more than 25 per cent. They ranked fourth in the inbound tourism market. In the first seven months of 2010, the number was 234,167, an increase of 20.2 per cent over the same 2009 period.

Until direct flights were established, Macao was a secondary destination for Japanese, a place to spend one or two days as part of a tour to Hong Kong or south China. Then, in 2007, Air Macau started serving Kansai International Airport in Osaka and, since March 2010, has been flying five times a week. In March 2010, the company inaugurated a two-weekly service to Narita airport in Tokyo.



*Tetsuya Yamada*

## **New destination**

"Macao has become a new destination," said Tetsuya Yamada, general manager of JTB (Macau) Travel Ltd. "There has been a sharp increase in the number of Japanese who only visit Macao. Flying from Japan takes three and a half hours, while flying to Hong Kong and then coming to Macao by boat takes six and a half hours – in that time, you could go to Bangkok or Singapore."

For Japanese, Macao changed as a destination with the opening of Wynn in September 2006 and the Venetian in August 2007. "Las Vegas is very famous in Japan," said Yamada. "From 1995 to 2000 there was a boom in the number of Japanese going there. Then the numbers dropped. It is a long-haul flight. But, like Hong Kong, Taiwan, Beijing, Shanghai, Korea, Guam and Saipan, Macao is a short-haul flight. You can come for three days and two nights. "The opening of Wynn attracted great attention in Japan because of the fame of its casino resort in Las Vegas. Then, when the Venetian opened, it was heavily promoted in Japan. These two led to a sharp increase in the number of visitors coming only to Macao," he said.

Although it allows gambling on pachinko, slot machines and horse and cycle racing, Japan bans casinos, so people have to go abroad to play in them. With the rapid expansion of the industry in Macao, it offers the most varied casino experience within a short flying distance of Japan. The other options are Seoul, Saipan and Genting Highlands in Malaysia and, further afield, New Caledonia and Sydney.

Yamada said that about half of the Japanese visitors gamble. "They bet with about 10,000 yen and try the slot machines. They do not gamble with the intensity of Chinese."

Katsuhiko Tsugeno, 53, is typical of the new type of Japanese tourist. He and his wife flew the three and a half hours from Osaka on a Wednesday and returned on a Sunday, so that he could report for work the next day. They did not visit Hong Kong. "Japanese enjoy the atmosphere and feeling of Las Vegas in the big casinos of Macao, with some betting up to two million yen," he said.

But he was not entirely satisfied with the Venetian, where he and his wife stayed. "The staff do not speak Japanese. The waiter and dealer service is poor, worse than other places. It is very big and easy to get lost. There are no convenience stores or supermarkets, so we cannot always find the food we want, like nigiri (a form of sushi) for breakfast." Of the visitors who come through JTB, 55 per cent are individuals and 45 per cent are groups. These groups include parties of up to 1,000 people from a company which gives their employees a holiday once or twice a year. This is a very important slice of the market; it needs the skill and size of big hotels to handle such large numbers. If a person has a good experience on a group holiday, he will come back on his own or with his family.

The MGTO figures show that, in 2009, the average length of stay for a Japanese visitor was 1.89 nights, up from 1.53 in 2005 and 1.79 in 2008. Among those who stay in five-star hotels, the average length was 2.42 nights, while those in cheaper hotels stayed for less than 1.5 days. Of the total, 44 per cent of the





*St. Paul Church Ruins*

visitors came and left on the same day and 56 per cent stayed for at least one night.

The Macao Government Tourist Office was very active in Japan in promoting tourism during 2010. It attended the Japan Association of Trade Agents World Tourism Congress and World Trade Fair in September – the two most important events for the industry in Japan. In December it attended the 20th International Meetings Expo at Tokyo International Forum and hosted a product seminar, mini mart and dinner in Tokyo and Osaka with 27 trade representatives from Macao tour operators and hotels.

## Culture and history

Gambling is one of the things which attract Japanese to Macao. The others are culture, food and shopping. In 2005, the centre of the SAR was declared a World Heritage site by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), making it a major draw for tourists. Every day you find groups of Japanese walking around the centre, enjoying the churches, museums and old buildings. "Women especially like the churches and their atmosphere," said Yamada. "Also they are accessible. You can walk from one to another. It is very good when individuals have done their own research and

walk around the World Heritage sites, with a book in one hand."

One popular spot is the crypt below the ruins of St Paul's Church, which houses the remains of Japanese Catholic martyrs and a small museum of religious relics, including a painting completed in 1640 of the crucifixion of 26 martyrs.

It recalls one of the most tragic episodes of Christendom. Jesuits based in Macao brought Catholicism to Japan. But in the late 16th century, the Japanese shogun outlawed the religion and began to execute those who refused to recant. Hundreds fled their homeland and took refuge in Macao, where they lived in the area round the church. It was Japanese stonemasons who helped to carve the facades of the church. The remains are of 59 Japanese martyrs, brought to Macao for burial. Their names are listed on a plaque in front of the crypt.

"I did not know this remarkable story until today," said Hiroshi Nagakawa, a company representative, as he read the explanation in front of the crypt. "We were a closed country then. People in Nagasaki know about the martyrs because they lived there. Many others do not. We should keep an open mind and learn new things all the time."

Groups of Japanese tourists visit the crypt every day and marvel at this link of blood between their country and Macao four centuries ago.

## Cuisine

The range of food available is another attraction for Japanese visitors, giving them choices they do not enjoy at home. "We like the variety of food, both Chinese and Western," said Tsugenno. The arrival of so many new hotels and casinos in the last ten years has brought a wide array of tastes, including French, Italian, Spanish, Indian, Filipino, Korean and Japanese, as well as every kind of Chinese and Portuguese cuisine.

"The ladies like delicious desserts, like sweets, egg tarts and milk puddings," said Yamada. "Eating is an important aspect of the holiday, especially for the ladies. Macao offers different kinds of cuisine."

A popular restaurant for Japanese, where Goryo from Sony was enjoying his dinner, is Manuel in Taipa, which serves Portuguese cuisine. It is owned by a long-time Portuguese resident of Macao, who has opened four restaurants under the 'Manuel' brand in Tokyo since 2002. One of them is the 'House of Fado', where diners enjoy their meal to the sound of Portugal's haunting traditional music.

"I train the chefs here and send them to Japan," said Manuel. "The rents in Tokyo are high but the businesses are profitable. Many of our Japanese customers come to my restaurant here when they visit Macao."

The many new hotels and casinos have also brought with them an enormous variety of retail, especially of major brands – another draw for the lady visitors. Good law and order is an additional plus for Macao as a destination.

## Okura

This flood of Japanese visitors has persuaded the Okura Hotel, one of Japan's best-known chains, to open a Macao branch in 2011. It will be only the second Japanese-invested hotel in the SAR, after the Hotel Royal, which has been operated for 20 years by the Daiji Group.

The new Okura will open in the Cotai Strip, with 32 floors above ground, one below and 488 rooms. It will not have a casino. Guests who wish to gamble will be able to walk to the neighbouring Galaxy Casino, which will have 700 gaming tables and leisure facilities, including a large swimming pool, fitness centre and spa.

In a press release, Okura said that the new hotel was part of an international expansion that had begun in 1979 with the opening of the Shilla Seoul, and included hotels in Shanghai, Hawaii, Amsterdam and two in Taiwan.

"Macao, where Hotel Okura will be making its first appearance, is both an entertainment capital of the world whose leading business sector is its casinos, and features numerous historical buildings and plazas designated as world cultural heritage sites ... We consider the operation of a hotel in the Cotai Strip a unique opportunity for Hotel Okura to raise its international profile as Japan's leading luxury-brand hotel," reads the release.

*Manuel Restaurant in Macao*





## Flights

The development of Macao as an independent destination for Japanese travellers is closely related to direct air links between the two. Before they began in 2007, travellers had to come here by ferry from Hong Kong or by land from the mainland, meaning that Macao was included as the last stop in a tour of Hong Kong or of cities in the mainland. On 19 May 2009, Macao and Japan signed a bilateral Air Service Agreement, establishing a legal framework for operation of scheduled air services between the two places. On 10 February 2010, Lau Si lo, secretary for transport and public works, and Shigekazu Sato, consul-general of Japan, formally signed the bilateral Air Services Agreement, in the presence of Chief Executive Fernando Chui.

A milestone was reached in March 2010, when Air Macau began the first scheduled flights to Tokyo; previously, it had only been able to fly charter planes. Air Macau can extend its services to cities in China in partnership with Air China, combining Hong Kong and Macao with All Nippon Airways (ANA) and Taiwan and Macao with Eva Air.

In 2009 and 2010, the percentage of Japanese arrivals by air was less than ten per cent, with more than 80 per cent arriving by sea. The potential in expanding the market is big.

Narita, the main international airport of Tokyo, is a bottleneck, unable to meet the demands placed on it. So Air Macau's best hope is the city's smaller airport, Haneda, which opened a fourth runway in October last year (2010). Haneda has the advantage over Narita in that it is located within the city.

## Weddings

One market which Macao has barely tapped is the 'destination wedding' favoured by thousands of Japanese couples. They choose to marry abroad, taking about a dozen close friends and family members, instead of holding a large-scale ceremony at home. The overall cost of a modest wedding abroad is often cheaper than a large celebration at home; it is also more relaxed and easier for the couple themselves to control.

The most popular destination is Hawaii, followed by Guam, Saipan, Bali, Fiji, cruise ships and cities in mainland US. The weddings are held in halls and clubs that resemble but are not churches and with a person who is dressed like a minister but is not a real one. Companies have built facilities specially to cater to Japanese couples and trained staff to look after them. Bona fide churches and temples usually refuse to marry people who have no connection with them and are not believers.

Macao is closer than these popular destinations and, with its long history and European architecture, has the 'romantic' ambience that would appeal to many young people. It also has an abundance of beautiful, historic churches, many of them under-used as their congregations decline. But it is unclear whether those who run the churches would be willing to use them for such a commercial purpose.

Another possibility is to create special venues for Japanese couples, as in other countries. ■

*Photos by Luis Almoester*







# Dance Passion

## Dedicated couple brings ballet to Macao

By Staff Reporter



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## Ballet is beautiful to watch and elegant to do.

For many young aspiring dancers in Macao, they would merely be passive admirers and not performers of the art were it not for the work of the pioneer of ballet in Macao -- the Hong Peng Wa Ballet School.

At the school, toddlers and teenagers dress in pretty ballet costumes and immerse themselves in a world of delightful classical music and ballet dancing. They are not trained to be professional dancers, but nonetheless enjoy it as a break from their busy school life and exams.

Hong Peng Wa and her husband Cheong Son Seng, the founders of the school, have taught ballet to 8,000-9,000 youngsters in Macao over the last three decades.

The couple, professional dancers from the elite Central Ballet Academy in Beijing, started teaching in 1982 in a small apartment, when few people in Macao knew about the art. Today, the school has two spacious studios and has trained generations of ballet dancers certified by the Royal Academy of Dance in London. Most of the graduates no longer practise ballet, but the days at the school have left an inedible mark on them.

## Happy student memories

"My twelve years at the school transformed me from a skinny, weak and shy little girl into an adult with confidence and enthusiasm for life," says Chiang Ka I, who joined the school when she was eight. "Ballet has helped me to cope with the pressure of school work and to develop a graceful posture and an ear for music."

Hong says many of her former students have written to tell her how much they enjoyed their ballet lessons. "One student, a mother of two children now, rang me yesterday, saying she recently had a dream of her good old days at the ballet school." The school's alumni remain loyal supporters of the art, sending their children to ballet lessons and regularly attending ballet performances.

The London academy had kind words for the ballet school when the latter celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2002. "Even in this frenetic age, when technology seems to govern so much of our lives, ballet remains one of the great art forms... That it survives the ravages of this altogether harsher age is due in no small measure to the dedication and commitment of



*Cheong Son Seng*

schools all over the world such as the Hong Peng Wa Ballet School," wrote Luke Rittner, Chief Executive of the Academy.

## Top ballet dancers in China

Ballet has been a lifelong passion for Hong and Cheong, both former top-performing ballet dancers of China.

Hong, an elegant lady at 65, began learning ballet at the age of four. Her aunt, a famous ballerina, established the first private ballet school in Shanghai. Cheong, also 65, came from a modest family in the same city.

Both Hong and Cheong were hand-picked from a national pool of 3,000 youngsters to study ballet at the top Beijing Dance School in 1956.

"We had Soviet-style training and had to practise for four to six hours a day," says Cheong.

Both excelled in their profession and were selected to join the prestigious Central Ballet Academy in 1963. They were a glamorous couple, as shown in black-and-white photos of them performing on stage. They were often the leading dancers, selected to perform in Germany, Myanmar, Austria, Romania and Macao.





Hong Peng Wa

"In 1978, we came with the China Art Academy to perform in Macao. We were surprised to find how backward it was in art development. We performed in a run-down cinema. It was hot and humid," says Cheong. Still, the couple eventually immigrated to Macao, after applications to go elsewhere proceeded too slowly for them. Cheong remembers arriving alone on "a very very cold day", 26 February 1982.

Three months later, Hong came with their six-year-old son via Zhuhai. "We were in Guangzhou briefly; so we were already familiar with the humid weather of the South."

## Settling in Macao

The new immigrants lost no time in putting down their roots in Macao. Says Cheong: "I brought with me just two pieces of luggage and our life savings of 10,000 patacas. My wife said that as long as I could find a place with a bathroom, it would be fine."

Cheong did better than that, landing his first job as a part-time ballet teacher at the Pui Ching Middle School a few days after arrival. "I started work on 2 March, teaching between 4pm and 6.30pm each

afternoon and earning 650 patacas a month." He recalls the details as if it were yesterday.

Soon afterwards, they decided to set up their own ballet school. "We were keen to develop our career. We opted to teach ballet because that was all that we knew," says Hong.

So, they used their 200-sq-foot living room to teach ballet. "We lived in an old five-storey building with no elevators. We had to drop a basket, with the door key in it, from our balcony to the ground floor for the students to open the gate themselves," Cheong says. Tuition was 70 patacas a month for eight lessons.

## A rough start

Running the school was no easy task, with their lack of experience and resources. "We went down many blind alleys at first. One problem was our own high expectations for the students. We taught them to be professional dancers, but to them and their parents, ballet dancing was an after-school activity, not a career. The students were young children, but we treated them like adults," says Hong.

The result was a high turnover of students.

Then in 1982-3, Jane Wong, who has been running a well-known ballet school in Hong Kong for decades, pointed the couple in the right direction. "She reminded us that we should not treat the children like professionals," says Hong.

So Hong and Cheong modified their teaching methods.

"If you ask young children to put their hands on a bar and stand still for a few minutes, they get tired and impatient very easily," says Hong. "So we had to make the learning more interesting, using children's songs and other lively formats to maintain their interest."

Adds Cheong: "In China, we were trained in a dull and harsh way. Our knees had to be straight all the time. For our students now, we can't be that demanding. It has to be a happy experience for them. That is why we arrange birthday parties and other light-hearted events for them to perform and feel rewarded."



## A milestone

In 1987, the school joined the exams of the Royal Academy of Dance in London, a milestone for the young institution. "Jane Wong very kindly sponsored our school to take part in the exams. The curriculum of the Academy was very useful for us, as it was designed for young people learning ballet part-time."

The exams provide a much-needed incentive for the students to do well and are an international academic recognition parents crave for their children.

To date, about 6,000-7,000 of the school's students have taken part in the exams, with a success rate of close to 100 per cent.

Over the years, the school has moved to various larger premises. Now its major studio is on Cidade de Santarem Road, close to the big casinos of Wynn and Star World. Another is on Pedro Coutinho Road. "We now have proper changing rooms, lockers and dance floors. Parents have more confidence in us and the students have more room to dance around," says Cheong.

Most classes are held in the late afternoon, after the children have finished their regular school day. There are two adult classes in the morning, popular with adults who have always wanted to learn ballet but have not managed to do so.

The school's guiding principles, as written on its website, are "to cultivate among the young an interest in ballet, develop their intellect and boost their self-confidence. Through the training, they will learn how to co-operate with others and will be instilled with a community spirit. They will also have better physical co-ordination, elegant movements and a refined taste."





## Annual events

Each November, the school organises the Future Ballet Stars event, bringing hundreds of parents to see their young children perform ballet alongside invited professional dancers. "It's like a carnival. Relatives and friends gather together to have fun," Cheong says.

In August, it also holds an annual open day, so that the public can have a close look at how the school operates.

Since 2005, it has also been organising a special summer dance course, inviting well-known teachers from overseas to teach ballet and contemporary dance.

Looking back, Hong is grateful to parents who have entrusted their children to her. "Macao people are very friendly and kind. They are reasonable and honest. They have always had confidence in us, even when we operated on a shoestring budget. They would sit on the sofa and watch how we taught. Without their support, we would not have been able to go so far," she says. ■

*Photos by Luís Almozer*



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# Striving to Excel

**Macao's Wushu athletes shine in global events**

By Louise do Rosario



Huang Yanhui (R.)

**Wushu, or martial arts, has a history spanning several thousand years in China.**

In recent decades, it has been made famous by kung-fu stars such as the late Bruce Lee, Jackie Chan and Jet Li. In international sports events too, it has been included as a multi-disciplinary event covering tai chi, Chinese-style boxing, weapon play and other kung-fu skills.

Huang Yanhui, born to a peasant family in Fujian, is one of the many young Chinese sports men and women trained to be a wushu athlete. From the tender age of 11, Huang spent hours and hours every day perfecting her martial arts skills. She has won numerous awards, including a silver medal in a national competition in 2002 in the category of nanquan (traditional boxing which originated in southern China). She has paid a heavy price for her prizes, though, suffering waist and knee injuries. In 2004, when she thought her brilliant sports career was ending at the age of 23, good fortune knocked on her door: the Wushu General Association of Macao invited her to join the select wushu team of Macao.

Huang agonised for days before she packed her bags for the city. "I worried that I might not be able to live up to their expectations. On the other hand, I did not want to miss the opportunity of a lifetime." On arrival in Macao, Huang nursed her injuries first. Then she made a remarkable comeback in international games, winning a gold medal at the World Wushu Championship (WWC) in Beijing in 2007 for her nadao (performing with a curved, one-sided sword as practised in southern China). At the next WWC, held in Toronto in 2009, she got another first for Macao, in the Wushu category of nangun (southern-China style cudgel playing). In 2010, Huang, at 30, finally gave up competing and is now a sports teacher and assistant coach. "Coming to Macao has changed my life," she said, adding that she has just married and is preparing to start a family soon.

Huang is one of the handful of top mainland athletes invited by Macao to join the local wushu team. Their brilliant performances have propelled Macao from the ninth position in the World Wushu Championship in 1997 to second after China in 2007 among 89 member countries.



Among the household names are Lei Fei and Han Jing, both female athletes who have retired after winning many gold and silver medals for Macao in international matches. Lei excelled in qiangshu (spear sparring), jianshu (sword play) and nanquan (southern-China style boxing). Han did well too in these categories, as well as in duilian, an event in which she performed jointly with Huang and which involves the sparring of weapons.

The stars today are Jia Rui, 23, the champion of daoshu (sword play), changquan (long-fist fighting) and gunshu (rod manoeuvring); as well as Cai Liang Chan, 22, who is gifted in sanshou (bare-footed boxing).

**Golden reward**

At the Guangzhou Asian Games in November 2010, Jia won a gold medal for his daoshu and gunshu, the first for Macao since the city's original participation in the game in 1991. Cai won a silver medal for his sanshou performance.

Jia impressed the judges with his flexibility, swiftness and strength as he made an 80-second choreographed performance within a floor space of 112 square metres. "You have to be as fast as a rabbit, as agile as a monkey and as strong as an iron eagle," he said, explaining how he carried himself in the tight race against his closest opponents from South Korea and Vietnam.

Macao was ecstatic, welcoming its heroes with big crowds and grand parades. Chief Executive Fernando Chui Sai On said the Wushu team's performance was "an honour for Macao" and would "have a positive effect on sports development in Macao".



*Jia Rui won a gold medal  
2010 Guangzhou Asian Games*



*Coach Zeng Tie Ming*

## Man behind Macao's success

Behind the success of these brilliant athletes is the much-respected, low-profile coach Zeng Tie Ming. Thanks to his well-planned training for the athletes, he has transformed many inexperienced teenage students into award-winning sportsmen. Zeng, 60, was himself a wushu champion and a senior coach in China, before moving to Macao to teach in 1991. When Jia received his historic medal in Guangzhou, Zeng was close to tears. "It is a dream come true. More importantly, I have witnessed the emergence of a new generation of wushu athletes. They were close to getting a medal at the Asian Games. Given time and more effort, I am sure they'll get to the top in the future," he said.

Jia has been Zeng's student for over seven years. "He is a strict teacher and like a kind father to us. When he is with us at a game, we feel we have nothing to fear," Jia said.

Jia came to Macao from the central province of Henan on the day he turned 17 in February 2004. He recalled how pretty the night scenery in Macao was when he crossed the border.

Like other mainland athletes, he was eventually admitted to study for a university degree in physical education at the Macao Polytechnic Institute, after meeting certain requirements. "We study human anatomy, nutrition, psychology and other sports-related subjects. If I did not have such knowledge, I would not have gone far in my sport."

Jia is at school during the day and trains at night. At 6.10pm sharp, a coach picks him and other athletes up at a designated spot, and delivers them to a spacious facility in Taipa for training until nine at night, six days a week.

Does the young man find the routine dull at times? "Not if you are passionate in what you do. It gives me much joy to work hard and be awarded at the matches," said Jia, the champion of gunshu and daoshu in the WWC in Beijing in 2007 and in Tornado in 2009 respectively.

In picking mainland talent to join the Macao team, Zeng, the coach, has avoided top winners. "They are likely to have realised all their potential and already bear many physical injuries," he said.



## Beyond wushu

Zeng looks for athletes who have had a good foundation in wushu and are ranked fourth or fifth in national matches.

Jia was a budding, young athlete when he arrived in Macao. This has enabled him to work and grow alongside other local athletes and raise the team's overall standard. "If you have superstars who are far ahead of others, you will not be able to build a team."

Zeng also stresses the importance of academic studies for the athletes, since they are youngsters pursuing sports on a part-time basis. "It is important that they do well at school too. If not, no matter how good they are in wushu, family members will not support them doing their training." He notes that, in China, athletes devote their lives completely to their careers. When they quit sports, they find themselves out of touch with society and do not have the skills to make a living.

Zeng himself is a man of letters, who has written numerous essays and poems. To him, a true wushu athlete should also practise good morals such as humility, patience and endurance. "Getting a medal is not everything. In one's long lifetime, working hard and striving for the best is more important." That is to him the true spirit of wushu, the art as practised by masters of centuries past. ■

*Photos by Eric Tam*



*Cai Liang Chan won a silver medal  
2010 Guangzhou Asian Games*

*Photo by AFP*





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**macauhub** is a free Macau-based news service in Chinese, Portuguese and English providing economic, trade and investment information about southern China's Pearl River delta and the world's eight Portuguese-speaking nations to help governments, private entities, businesspeople, researchers and others better understand the development and business potential in the respective countries and regions.

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**macauhub** is the Macau Special Administrative Region Government's dedicated Internet site to promote Macau's role as a platform for the development of ever closer economic and trade ties between the People's Republic of China (PRC) – comprising mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan – and the Portuguese-speaking world.

**macauhub** is part of the **macaulink** media group that also produces the English-language Macao magazine and English and Chinese-language MacauNews website.

**macauhub** logged some one million website visitors in 2010.



## **Macao to set up state laboratory of Chinese medicine**

Macao, China, 29 Oct – Macao will set up a key state laboratory of Chinese medicine, which will help promote high-tech research in medicine, improve Guangdong-Macao cooperation and aid in the development of the Hengqin Chinese Medicine Industrial Park, said Chui Sai On, chief executive of Macao.

## **China creates US\$1 billion fund to develop relations with Portuguese-speaking countries**

Macao, China, 13 Nov – The premier of China, Wen Jiabao, announced the creation of a US\$1 billion fund to develop financial cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking countries.

## **Chinese PM says Macao should continue to be a platform to Portuguese-speaking Countries**

Macao, China, 13 Nov – The premier of China, Wen Jiabao, said that the Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries had strengthened exchange and cooperation, particularly in terms of the economy and trade, between Macao and Portuguese-speaking countries.

29 OCT



13 NOV



13 NOV



10 NOV



13 NOV



14 NOV

## **Border crossing between Macao and Zhuhai to open 24 hours in 2011**

Macao, China, 10 Nov – An agreement between the Macao and Guangdong authorities that would pave the way for Hengqin island's land-border crossing to stay open 24 hours, with the Border Gate crossing slated to follow, could be signed by early next year at the latest.

## **Trade between China and Portuguese-speaking countries expected to total US\$100 billion by 2013**

Macao, China, 13 Nov – China and Portuguese-speaking countries should work to oppose trade protectionism and towards bilateral trade to increase to US\$100 billion by 2013, China's premier said in Macao.

## **Fourth Ministerial Conference between China and Portuguese-speaking countries scheduled for 2013 in Macao**

Macao, China, 14 Nov – The fourth ministerial conference of the Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries is scheduled to take place in Macao in 2013, officials said in Macao at the end of the third Ministerial Conference.

## **Macao's leaders have priority of serving the people, says Wen Jiabao**

Macao, China, 14 Nov – The premier of China, Wen Jiabao, told officials from the Macao administrative, legislative and judicial bodies that they need to be continuously focussed on serving the citizens, being free from corruption, and having enormous dedication when carrying out their roles.

## **2011 Macao budget foresees 22 billion patacas surplus**

Macao, China, 16 Nov – The Macao government's 2011 budget bill presented in the Legislative Assembly provides for receipts of 79.6 billion patacas and expenditures of 57.5 billion patacas, resulting in an expected surplus of 22.1 billion patacas.

## **Italian Edoardo Mortara wins F3 Macau Grand Prix for the second consecutive year**

Macao, China, 20 Nov – Italian Edoardo Mortara, driving a Volkswagen-powered Signature, became the only racing driver to win the Formula 3 Macau Grand Prix for a second time.

14 NOV



14 NOV

16 NOV



20 NOV

20 NOV



22 NOV

## **Chinese premier Wen Jiabao ends visit to Macao**

Macao, China, 14 Nov – Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao left Macao for Zhuhai, ending his first official visit to the Macao Special Administrative Region. During his two-day tour, Wen attended the opening ceremony of the third Ministerial Conference of the Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries.

## **Stuart Easton wins the Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix for the third year in a row**

Macao, China, 20 Nov – Stuart Easton cruised to a third consecutive Macau Grand Prix victory, ahead of Michael Rutter, Jeremy Toye and Simon Andrews.

## **Macao's inflation rate climbs to 21-month high**

Macao, China, 22 Nov – Macao's inflation rate as measured by the composite consumer price index (CCPI) climbed to a 21-month high in October, according to data released by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC).



## Brazilian Gilberto Gil to play in Macao

Macao, China, 23 Nov – Grammy Award-winning Brazilian singer-songwriter and guitarist Gilberto Gil will be among the performers featured in the Macau Cultural Centre's (CCM) programmes for 2011, according to a statement released by the centre.

## Macao wins six medals at 16th Asian Games in Guangzhou

Macao, China, 29 Nov – Macao won six medals (one gold, one silver and four bronze) in Wushu, Karate and Diving during the 16th Asian Games held in Guangzhou.

## Ethiopia's Nurelign wins Macao's international marathon

Macao, China, 5 Dec – Ethiopia's Tekeste Nekatibeb Nurelign and Wang Xueqin from the mainland won the men's and women's segments, respectively, of the 29th Macau Galaxy Entertainment International Marathon. Nurelign reached the finish line in two hours, 16 minutes and 15 seconds.

23 NOV



29 NOV



05 DEC



25 NOV



01 DEC



07 DEC

## Macao government announces stronger control of gaming operators

Macao, China, 25 Nov – Macao's Secretary for Economy and Finance, Francis Tam Pak Yuen, announced a string of measures to tighten the government's control of the gaming industry, such as the "strengthened monitoring of casinos through electronic means" and "strengthened auditing" of Macao's six gaming operators.

## Two Macao labs accepted to be 'state-key labs'

Macao, China, 1 Dec – Two laboratories in Macao have been accepted by the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) in Beijing to receive the prestigious status of state-key labs – the first time local labs have been given the privilege, the Science and Technology Development Fund (FDCT) announced.

## Macao's economy expected to expand 16.3 pc in 2011 and 14.5 pc in 2012

Macao, China, 7 Dec – The Macao economy is expected to see real expansion of 16.3 per cent in 2011 and 14.5 per cent in 2012, years in which investment is expected to start rising once again, according to the December 2010 report from the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), of The Economist group.

## University establishes first Macao space science institute

Macao, China, 15 Dec – The privately-owned Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) has established a Space Science Institute to build on the university's research focus on lunar and space science, according to Tang Zesheng, professor at MUST's Faculty of Information Technology.

## Giant pandas arrive in Macao

Macao, China, 18 Dec – The two giant pandas gifted to Macao by the central government arrived in Macao. 'Hoi Hoi' and 'Sam Sam' are already settling into the Panda Habitat theme park on Coloane island.

## President Hu meets chief executive of Macao in Beijing

Beijing, China, 22 Dec – China's president Hu Jintao met Macao Special Administrative Region Chief Executive Fernando Chui Sai On in Beijing during Chui's visit to report his work to the central authorities. China's president spoke highly of the government's work in 2010.

15 DEC



18 DEC



22 DEC



15 DEC



21 DEC



23 DEC

## Macao and Shenzhen sign five cooperation accords

Macao, China 15 Dec – Macao and Shenzhen signed five cooperation accords covering finance, tourism, education, and quality control of Chinese traditional medicine and cultural industries during Chief Executive Fernando Chui Sai On's two-day visit to the special economic zone bordering Hong Kong.

## Macao seeks to expand commodity supply from mainland China

Macao, China, 21 Dec – The government of Macao will work closely with relevant departments of the central government in order to expand and stabilise Macao's commodity supply from the Chinese mainland, the Chief Executive Chui Sai On said.

## Chinese Premier vows to improve cooperation between Hong Kong, Macao and mainland

Beijing, China, 23 Dec – Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said the central government would work to promote cooperation and exchange between the mainland, Hong Kong and Macao.



## **Macao logs 22.7 million visitors in 11 months**

Macao, China, 28 Dec – Macao recorded 22.69 million visitor arrivals in the first 11 months of 2010, an increase of 15.1 per cent on the same period of 2009, the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) announced. The majority of visitors were from mainland China (12 million), Hong Kong (6.8 million) and Taiwan (1.2 million).

## **Mitsubishi wins Macao's light-rail project**

Macao, China, 30 Dec – Japan's Mitsubishi Heavy Industries has won the bid to build the first phase of Macao's light rapid transit (LRT) with a contracted sum of just under 4.7 billion patacas (US\$ 586 million), and is obligated to complete construction within four years.

## **Macao casinos revenues up 57.8 percent from 2009**

Macao, China, 3Jan - Macao's casino industry cashed in a record 188.3 billion patacas (US\$ 23,537 billion) last year, up 57.8 percent from 2009, according to figures released by the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ).

28 DEC



30 DEC



03 JAN



28 DEC



31 DEC



10 JAN

## **Macao's GDP up 27 per cent**

Macao, China, 28 Dec – Macao's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the third quarter of 2010 expanded by 27.1 percent in real terms, the Statistics and Census Service said.

## **Economic prosperity on Macao government's mind for 2011**

Macao, China, 31 Dec – In a New Year message the Chief Executive, Fernando Chui Sai On, said the government would continue to improve the people's livelihood and promote economic prosperity in 2011.

## **Macao chief executive starts official visit to Singapore**

Macao, Jan, 10 Jan - Macao's Chief Executive Fernando Chui Sai On started a 4-day official visit to Singapore at the invitation of Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong.

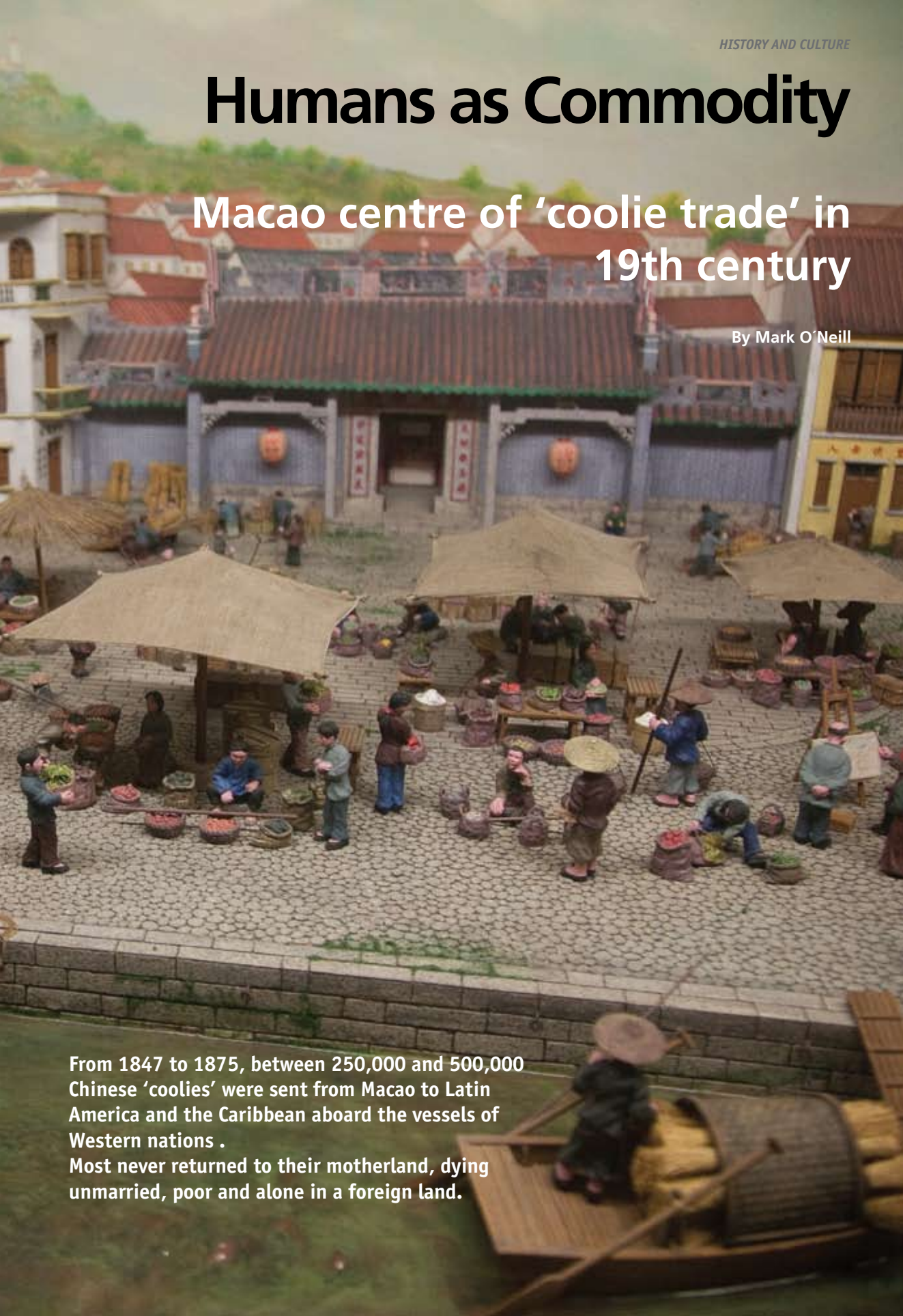




# Humans as Commodity

## Macao centre of 'coolie trade' in 19th century

By Mark O'Neill



From 1847 to 1875, between 250,000 and 500,000 Chinese 'coolies' were sent from Macao to Latin America and the Caribbean aboard the vessels of Western nations .

Most never returned to their motherland, dying unmarried, poor and alone in a foreign land.

Macao was the centre of this trade: peasants from Guangdong and other provinces were tricked or forced to the Portuguese enclave, from where the ships carried them across the Pacific to virtual slavery in plantations and the booming sugar, guano and mining industries.

It is one of the darkest pages in the history of Macao. It was finally closed by international outrage over the treatment of the coolies and by the protests of the Chinese Government, forcing the colonial authorities to shut down this trade in human cargo.

The export of coolies was part of an effort to revive an economy badly hit by the loss of the opium trade, which had been taken over by the British colony of Hong Kong after it was ceded by China in 1842.

It was also a substitute to the slave trade, which had been abolished in the British Empire in 1833, and provided an alternative source of cheap labour to the Americas.

The two main destinations of the coolie trade were Cuba and Peru. In Cuba, the coolies were sent to sugar cane plantations, where they worked next to African slaves. In Peru, they were sent to sugar and cotton plantations, railway construction sites and pits to dig guano – bird excrement that was considered the best organic fertiliser in the world.

## Replacing the slave trade

It was the British who started sending indentured Chinese workers overseas in 1806, with a shipment of 200 men to its colony, Trinidad, one year before it abolished the slave trade. By 1838, Britain had transported 25,000 indentured Indians to its new East African colony of Mauritius; it also sent them to other colonies.

But most historians put the start of the Chinese coolie trade at 1847, when Cuba sent two ships to Xiamen which brought back a total of 979 Chinese. These coolies – a pejorative term which means ‘hard labour’ in Chinese – worked under onerous conditions; they signed a contract with an employer to work for seven-eight years and were paid a small salary, along with food, clothing and lodging. They went on their own, without their family. On completion of their contract, they were, in theory,

free to return home or remain in their new country. But the contracts were often not honoured and the men were forced to continue working.

For many, the contract appeared to offer the kind of money they could never earn at home. After 1847, coolies were transported to Cuba and Peru, British colonies such as Jamaica, Trinidad and British Guyana, and the United States, where they worked in gold mines and helped to build the railway to the Pacific coast. Over the next 27 years, they travelled in the vessels of 20 Western nations, principally Peru, France, Spain, Holland and Austria.

The export of these workers began in the ports of Xiamen, Fuzhou, Shantou, Guangzhou and Hong Kong, but moved to Macao in the 1850s. It followed reports of abuse and cruelty, leading to pressure on the British Government who did not want such trade in ports it controlled. It was the dominant naval power in Hong Kong and in most of the major Chinese ports. In 1852, citizens of Xiamen organised a protest movement against the export of workers.

## A new haven in Macao

The obvious alternative to these ports was Macao, which became for more than 20 years the centre of the coolie trade. It was conducted by foreign merchants and Chinese contractors in charge of recruiting the workers, with the compliance of colonial officials who were well paid for their acquiescence.

According to figures from the British consulate in Guangzhou, by 1865 Macao had 8-10 recruiting centres – nicknamed ‘piglet pens’. In 1866, the number reached 35-40 and by 1873 more than 300, with as many as 30,000 people involved in the trade, including agents and middlemen. In 1871, Cuba and other South American countries set up five representative offices in Macao, to organise the trade. All these worked to maintain the fiction that the coolies were ‘voluntary migrants’, in deference to international opinion.

These centres, where the workers were detained, were surrounded by tall steel fences and tightly guarded by the Macao police, who employed hooligans to attack the coolies if they resisted.



工 作 合 同

馮榮

中國開人係

廣東

府

縣人氏年方

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同治五年

十月

大

日在澳門立合同工人

馮榮

收銀八元

Esta Conforme

Signal de

Ang Ving

Ang Ving

Interprete



*The inner harbour, Macao 19th century*

*Courtesy of Macao Museum of Art*

## Wide recruitment net

The coolies were recruited from villages in the Pearl River Delta, coastal areas of Jiangsu, Zhejiang and Fujian and even the inland provinces of Hubei and Hunan. The agents used all kinds of methods, including promises of work and wealth, lies about the places the coolies would go, the conditions under which they would work and the terms of their contracts, as well as using drugs and violence. They were brought to Macao in high-speed boats.

Farmers and fishermen were one of the main sources. The others were those who had been arrested during the frequent clan wars in Guangdong and those who had lost money in gambling in Macao and could not repay their debts. Those recruited included teachers, students, women and children.

In the centres, they were treated like common criminals; they had to put on a uniform with a number and were beaten and abused by the guards. Some were beaten so severely that they died of their injuries. Others committed suicide; if they were caught escaping, they were executed and their bodies dumped on the street.

Before leaving, they were brought in front of a Portuguese and told to sign a form saying they were going abroad of their own free will because of poverty. A guard would lift the coolie's finger and sign a thumb-print on the form. After the ill-

treatment inflicted on them, most were willing to sign. Guards escorted them to the ships, often with handcuffs to prevent them from escaping.

In 1875, 80 per cent of the coolies examined by British commissioners said that they had been abducted.

An article in the New York Times on August 16, 1873 describes the recruitment: the foreign merchant signed a contract with a 'coolie-catcher' who undertook to provide a certain number of workers. He used promises of high wages in a foreign country, drugs and violence to obtain the required number. Easiest to recruit were illiterate peasants who believed what they were told and had no knowledge of the trade.

The recruits were taken to Macao and detained until they were shipped abroad. If they resisted, they were beaten until they agreed to go. "These measures of deception and violence are supported by the wholesale bribery of officials," the article says. "When, by accident, an officer is anxious to protect the kidnapped, it often happens that he is unable to understand their complaint owing to the fact that almost every village has a separate dialect and no interpreter can be found with a knowledge of a sufficient number of them."



## Crossing the Pacific

Conditions on the ships crossing the Pacific were terrible; many died of disease, shortage of food, beatings or suicide. The coolies were kept in holds below the deck, with no sunlight, and so tightly packed that they could not lie down. The journey to Peru took 120 days and to Cuba 168 days. One ship with 600 coolies arrived at its destination with only 100 alive. The conditions were comparable to those on the ships that took African slaves to the Americas.

Huang Hongjian, a history professor at Nanjing University, said that, between 1854 and 1873, 16 ships carrying the coolies had a death rate of over 40 per cent. In 1870 and 1871, two boats carrying 650 people had a death rate of over 90 per cent. Such conditions led to frequent mutinies.

On arrival, they were treated like slaves – driven to markets by drivers armed with whips, and stripped naked, so that buyers could decide how fit they were. Then they were sold at auctions to the highest bidder. The purchaser was able to keep them for the seven-eight years of the contract. After that, they were in theory able to choose their employer, but in fact were often forced to work for several more years. During their employment, they were often chained, flogged and kept in detention, to prevent them from escaping.

## Guano pits and sugar plantations

Peru passed a law to import Chinese coolies in November 1849. Over the next 35 years, 133,000 arrived there, to work in sugar and cotton plantations, guano pits and on construction sites. The Peruvian Government saw such foreign labour as docile and easy to control.

The harshest conditions were on the Chincha islands, where they dug guano, dropped there by millions of birds. In fact the Chinese accounted for the majority of the workforce there. They lived and worked on the islands, where they dug the material under intense heat, their lungs infected by clouds of guano dust.

Working conditions there were among the worst for the coolies overseas and similar to that of slaves: they worked in groups of five, under the supervision of an overseer armed with a heavy lash. The sick seldom received medical care.

Few survived the ordeal for more than 10 years, dying of beatings, disease, exhaustion or malnutrition. Many committed suicide by jumping into the sea or poisoning themselves with opium.

Over three decades from the 1840s, until the guano was exhausted, Peru exported 12 million tonnes of the fertiliser to Europe and North America, where it stimulated a commercial farm revolution. It earned the state revenue of nearly US\$500 million, which enabled it to pay off the substantial foreign debt it had incurred since independence in 1821 as well as earn a high rank in the international financial community. It also funded major infrastructure developments in the country.

It was a similar story in Cuba, the destination of 140,000 coolies between 1847 and 1874. They were sent to Havana, home to the largest Chinatown in Latin America, and then to sugar plantations, where they worked alongside Africans. As in Peru, they were subject to cruel and inhumane treatment, overwork and inadequate food and medical care.





Courtyard of the Coolies in Macao

## A cry for help

From 1872, the Qing dynasty sent diplomatic missions to Cuba and Latin America to investigate reports of mistreatment; it was a milestone in the Government's efforts to protect its citizens overseas.

One mission in Cuba in 1874 collected 1,176 depositions and 85 petitions supported by 1,665 signatures.

"The foreigners of Macao sent out vicious Chinese in order to kidnap and decoy men and place them in barracks and on board ships from which they cannot escape, chastise them there without restraint and convey them against their will to Havana," said one submitted by Xian Zuobang and 14 others. "They removed their pigtails, changed their clothes and offered them for sale in the human market."

According to the Cuba Commission Report compiled by the Qing dynasty, of the more than 140,000 who sailed for Cuba, over 16,000 died during the voyage. "When we left Macao and proceeded to sea, we were confined in the hold below," said a petition by Li Chaochun and 165 others. "Some were shut up in bamboo cages or chained to iron posts and a few were indiscriminately selected and flogged as a means of intimidating the others. We cannot estimate the deaths that took place from sickness, blows, hunger, thirst or suicide from leaping into the sea."

The petitions describe the daily violence used against the workers in the plantations. "If the work is not performed to the satisfaction of the administrator, they resort to imprisonment and working in chains," described one petition by Chen Dezhen. "They inflict 20, 25, 50 or an indefinite number of

blows, causing blood and flesh to trickle down. The overseer said that it did not matter if we died, as others could be brought to take our place."

They were fed on a meagre diet of maize, bananas, sweet potatoes and rotten meat and paid a salary so low that, while it covered daily necessities, it did not allow them to save money.

"When the completion of the eight-year term was approaching, everyone was consoled at the prospect of speedy liberty, of saving money and going back to China," said a petition by Ye Fuchun and 52 others. "But our employer was so heartless as to insist on our binding ourselves for a further six years, sending those who refused to the depot, where they had to labour on the roads the whole day, with chained feet, receiving no wages and not having enough to eat." The best way to escape was to be baptised a Catholic and be accepted by another employer; this required documents and money which few coolies could obtain. Two won prizes in a lottery and married Chinese women but were unable to pay the cost of passage home. But the number able to marry and settle down was very small.

A petition by Ren Shizhen and two others is a good summary of their plight: "although the officials, merchants and planters are all indebted to us, they act with heartless cruelty, torment us daily and hourly, refused to treat us as human beings, dispose of us as slaves and act towards us as if we were animals. We learn that friendly relations now exist between China and the great powers of the West and that it is by the efforts of the latter that the traffic in negro slaves was abolished. Why do they not render to us a similar service?"



## International outcry

It was media exposure of the working conditions and inhumane treatment of the coolies that caused an international outcry. The attention put pressure on governments to ban the trade and on the Qing dynasty to do more to protect its citizens.

In March 1866, the governments of Britain, France and China enacted a convention that required traders to provide money to the coolies in return for their safe passage home. The West Indian colonies declined to accept the workers on these terms, thus the legal trade between China and the West Indies ended.

From 1866, the new Qing governor for Guangdong-Guangxi, Rui Lin, began to campaign against the coolie trade; he aimed to cut off the supply of workers to Macao and stop those who recruited them. He also targeted the foreign ships that transported the coolies.

It took longer to end the trade with Cuba and Peru. In 1877, China and Spain signed a treaty, which nullified the contracts of all Chinese coolies, and Beijing sent consuls to Cuba to protect them. Spain was the principal colonial power in Central and Latin America.

Bowing to international pressure, the Lisbon Government finally agreed to ban the trade, with an official notice in official newspapers in Macao on December 27, 1873 saying that the ban would take effect on March 27, 1874. With a stroke of the pen, a business that had put US\$200,000 a year into the coffers of the Portuguese enclave was brought to an end and 20,000-30,000 people were out of work. The last ship sailed from Macao to South America on March 27, 1874.

Portugal had earlier abolished the slave trade on the transatlantic route in 1836 and in its African colonies in 1869.

Historians put primary responsibility for the coolie trade on the Portuguese Government of Macao. It provided a safe and legal place where the workers could be collected and put on the ships. But historians see other Western nations, including Britain, Spain, France, United States and Peru, as playing an important role - facilitating the trade, providing ships and benefiting from it.

Huang Hongzhao, a professor of history at Nanjing University who has written extensively on the history of Macao and Hong Kong, says that, while

migrants left China from other ports in the second half of the 19th century, Macao was the only place where the trade was organised and helped by the Government.

"It earned a large income from the trade. After the establishment of Hong Kong in 1842, Macao's economy went into decline, because Hong Kong's port was so much better. Even the Portuguese businessmen moved to Hong Kong. Macao needed a new sector for its economy, and the coolie trade was the one," he says.

Huang says that the Portuguese Government banned the trade under pressure from many quarters, including from the Qing Government and international opinion.

Zheng Guanying (1842-1922), the Qing dynasty merchant and reformer who later lived in Macao, said that the city had more than 200 companies involved in the coolie business and that the Government received one dollar in tax and two dollars in bribes for each worker abducted and sold overseas.

According to Portuguese statistics, 180,000 coolies left Macao for Cuba and Peru between 1856 and 1873. ■

*Photos by Eric Tam and Mércia Gonçalves*



## Portuguese historian blames China and Britain

A more nuanced version of the coolie trade is presented by C.A. Montalto de Jesus, a famous Portuguese historian, in his book, *Historic Macao*, published in 1902, with a second edition following in 1926.

In his account, the Macao Government passed measures aimed at protecting the workers, ensuring that they were humanely treated and that they left their motherland of their own free will. One regulation of 1856 said that coolie-brokers had to be licensed and bonded and were subject to penalties if they deceived or coerced emigrants or did not pay the costs of returning home to those who were not selected to go overseas. But these regulations had little effect in practice, he said.

“While the regulations of Macao provided against abuses practised locally, the mainspring of the evil lay in the perfect, systematic impunity with which the coolies were decoyed (deceived) and coerced in China, although according to Chinese laws the penalty was nothing short of decapitation. Whenever found out in Macao, the victims were handed over by the authorities to the charge of the district magistrates; but, instead of being sent home as requested, they were detained, sold to the crimps (recruiters) and brought to Macao again for shipment. Such perversity contributed not a little toward official laxity in Macao, which often nullified the law, turning the emigration into a slave trade fraught with dire consequences.”

He said the slave dealers were of different nationalities, some of them using Portuguese as their assistants, and that thousands of Chinese recruiters scoured the regions close to Macao for workers. They offered the workers good meals, the promise of a high income abroad, and lent them money. The workers then lost the money at gambling and had to surrender themselves as their form of payment. When recruits could not be found in Guangdong, hawkers, tradesmen and servants in Macao were lured into the recruiting centres. Sometimes Vietnamese who had been captured by pirates were used.

## Multiple mutinies

The terrible conditions on board the coolie ships led to frequent mutinies. Sometimes the coolies murdered the crew or were killed by them and the ship set on fire. The survivors died unless they were picked up by a passing ship. Between 1850 and 1872, 34 coolie ships sank, including 15 British ones, six from France, five from Italy and three from Peru. Of the 34, 13 came from Macao and the rest from Hong Kong and Chinese ports. In 1870, a French ship left Macao with 310 migrants. Three days after departure, the coolies mutinied, killing the captain and most of the crew, and brought the ship back to China. Investigations found that the mutiny had been planned by 34 of the coolies when they were still in Macao, with the aim of plundering the ship after they had taken it over. Several of them then returned to Macao and signed up for another ship, which they also planned to take over.

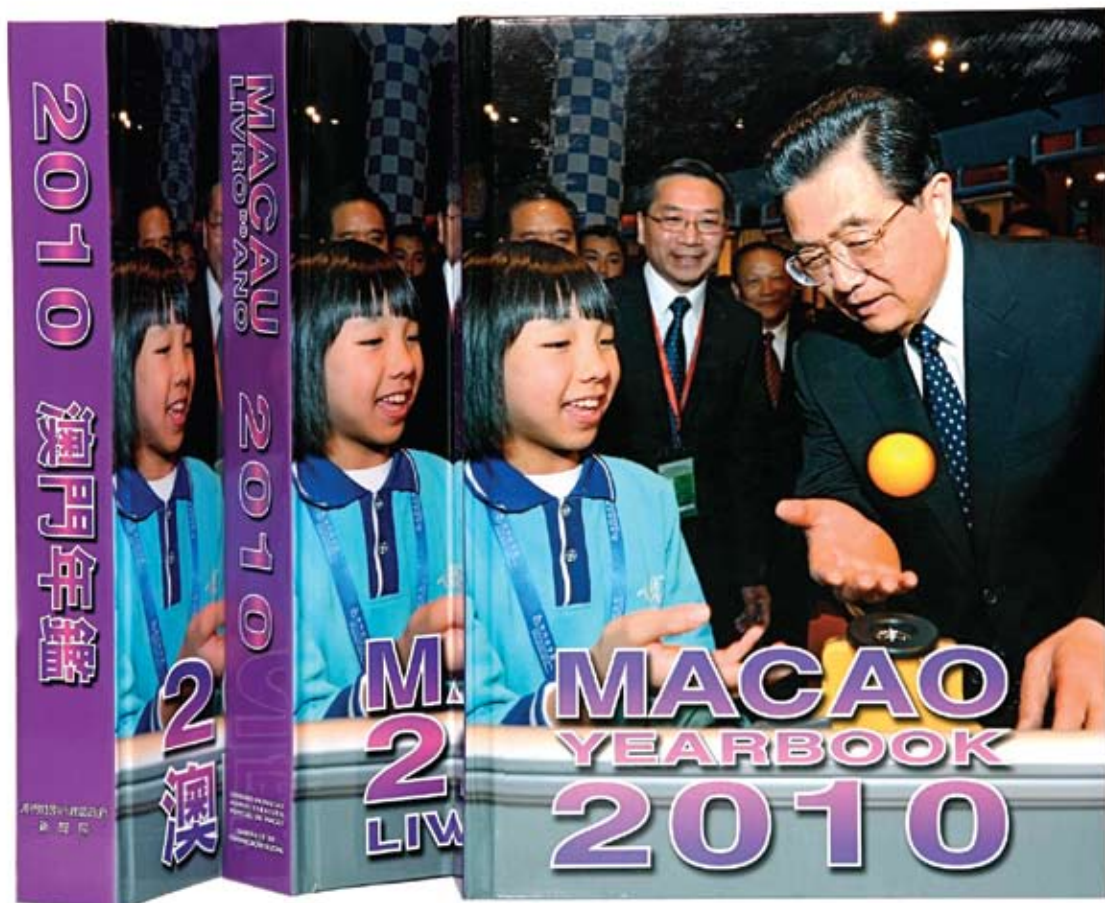
Montalto de Jesus said that many in Macao strongly opposed the trade. “Nobody abominated the traffic more than many respectable Macanese themselves. They would have nothing at all to do therewith, deeming it an utter disgrace to the colony.” He said that British criticism of the trade, at home and in Hong Kong, was hypocritical. For there was a similar traffic out of Hong Kong. “Not only British merchants in Hong Kong but London banks and firms of the highest standing reaped large profits from the traffic,” he wrote.

He said that the impact of the ban in December 1873 on Macao was ‘catastrophic’. “Several branches of lawful trade died out, thousands of people were thrown out of employment and, by the exodus which ensued, landed properties became seriously depreciated. The government lost an average yearly revenue of 200,000 dollars.” The Portuguese Government said that the ban was necessary because the trade had affected ‘vital interests of the colony and national prestige’. It put the blame of the abuses mainly on China, which it said refused to cooperate with Macao in regulating the traffic.



# MACAO YEARBOOK 2010

The English edition of Macao Yearbook 2010, an annual publication compiled by the Government Information Bureau (GCS), hit the shelf on 31 December 2010.



The richly illustrated book is divided into five sections, including the administrative priorities of the MSAR Government; calendar of events in 2009; review of the MSAR in 2009; overview of the MSAR; and appendices.

The Macao Yearbook 2010 can be purchased at the following places at 120 patacas: major local bookstores and Government Public Information Centre at Rua do Campo; and the Macao Post Office (Macao Post)'s Philatelic Division, Rua do Campo Branch, Outer Harbour Ferry Terminal Branch, Macau International Airport Branch, and Nova Taipa Branch.

During the promotional period lasting until 31 March 2011, a 20-percent discount will be offered to any purchase of Macao Yearbook 2010.

Overseas subscribers can buy the publication online through the Macao Post Office (Macao Post).

# The Boatman's Son and the Yellow River

## Macao-born Xian Xinghai emerges from poverty to become famous national composer

by Staff Reporter

Xian Xinghai



**He was born in a boat in Macao harbour and his mother earned a meagre living ferrying goods from Macao to Zhuhai.** He overcame poverty and prejudice to study music in Paris and wrote the most famous piece of Chinese music during the Pacific War.

Xian Xinghai lived a short but dramatic life, dying in a Moscow hospital in October 1945 at the age of 39. During his brief life he wrote two symphonies, a violin concerto, an opera and nearly 300 songs, including his masterpiece the Yellow River Cantata in 1938; it became the battle hymn of China during the war with Japan and has had a lasting impact on modern Chinese music.

Late last year the Salon Film Group completed 'The Young Xinghai', the first of three films about the life of the composer. The Macao Foundation provided most of the financing: 10 million patacas out of a total of 18 million yuan. The film had its premiere last December to an invited audience in Macao, and will go on general release in the mainland this summer.

The film describes the early life of a man who achieved so much in a short and tragic life and who is well remembered 60 years after his death.



## Unwelcome at school

Xian was born on 13 June 1905 into a family of boat people in the inner harbour of Macao. His father died before he was born, in a boating accident in Hong Kong. Xian was born in the small boat that doubled up as the family home, and lived there with his mother and maternal grandfather. His mother earned a pittance from carrying food and daily necessities on the boat from Macao over the short distance across the water to the mainland city of Zhuhai.

Boat people were at the bottom of the social ladder. When the young boy went to school, he was thrown out because they did not want such low-class people. He learned Chinese characters from his mother who drew them in the sand on the beach. She sang fishermen's songs, which was the start of his musical education. He used to deliver food to the homes of wealthy Portuguese and heard Western music for the first time. Then his grandfather died in a collision which destroyed the family boat, leaving the family with no adult male.

Mother and son moved to Singapore, where she found work as a domestic servant and lived in the house of her employer. Through a relative, they got an introduction to a school for overseas Chinese. With good teachers, Xian learned Mandarin and music. He completed primary school and two years of middle school, before moving to a middle school in Guangzhou that was part of Lingnan University. His teachers saw his talent in music, which became his favourite subject. In 1918, he started learning the clarinet at the YMCA school attached to the university.

## Studying music in Beijing, Shanghai and Paris

In 1926, he moved to Beijing to study music at the National Music Institute at Beijing University; but it was later closed by a local warlord. So he moved in 1928 to the Shanghai Music College, to study violin and piano, only to find himself expelled for taking part in a student movement. He looked elsewhere for a place to continue his music education and chose Paris, even though he did not have the money for the sea voyage, let alone the tuition fees.

Relatives helped him to get a job on a steamer bound for France in 1929; he worked in the engine

room, shoveling coal, to pay his passage. Once he reached Paris, he earned a living from working in Chinese restaurants and thereby learned French. His poverty and itinerant life had made him strong and independent. A Chinese student there introduced him to music teachers who taught him free of charge because they recognised his unusual talent. He was greatly helped by a Parisian girlfriend who taught him French, invited him to her house for meals and was very good to him. He began to compose music.

In 1931, he was admitted to the Paris Conservatory with a scholarship to study composition with Vincent D'Indy and Paul Dukas, two of the most distinguished teachers of the time. During these years, his mother continued to work as a domestic servant in Macao, Guangzhou and Shanghai, waiting patiently for him to return. He did not consider staying in Europe; he wanted to go back to China, to be re-united with his mother and work for China. He always said that his most important teacher in life was his mother.

In 1935, he returned to China, finding an excellent job as the director of the music department at a film company in Shanghai, then the largest and most important city in the Far East and home to Asia's biggest film industry. Suddenly, he had a good salary and a lifestyle that he could never have imagined – a large house in the French Concession and, for the first time, his own piano. It took time to track down his mother, who came to live with him.

But this life of wealth and comfort did not last long. In July 1937, the Japanese army began its full-scale invasion of China and soon occupied Shanghai – though not yet the French Concession. Xian played an active role in propaganda work against Japan and wrote anti-Japanese songs. Fearful of being arrested, he fled to the central city of Wuhan, where he met Zhou Enlai, one of the leaders of the Communist Party. Zhou invited him to go to Yan'an, the mountain base of the party in north-west China. Xian agreed; his mother remained in Shanghai.



## Fired up by patriotism

In Yan'an, he worked as director of the music department at the Yan'an Lu Xun Academy of Arts and Literature, for a nominal income. This was a very productive period for him in terms of compositions, including the Yellow River Cantata. It was inspired by a poem written by a man who had been to the front line and done propaganda work to support the Communist troops fighting the Japanese. Xian visited the man in hospital and decided to set the poem to music; he worked for three days and three nights. It was recorded very quickly and became the most popular song of the war, like a national anthem against the Japanese. It was sung by soldiers as they walked to the front, students in their assemblies, and overseas Chinese meeting to support the mother country. "It was a very difficult time for Chinese and they needed psychological support," says Xu Xin, a researcher at the Museum of Macao who wrote the script for the three films.

While he was in Yan'an, Xian married and the couple had a daughter.

The next stop of his odyssey was Moscow. The Communist Party had made a film on the Eighth Route Army and needed music. There were no facilities for this in Yan'an, so Xian took the reel to Moscow to add the music, accompanied by a member of the Yan'an film company. The journey had terrible consequences for him. In June 1941, Nazi Germany invaded the Soviet Union and nearly captured Moscow. Xian became one of the millions of victims of this most brutal conflict of World War Two. He lost the film reel and fled from Moscow, ending up in Alma Ata, capital of the Soviet Kazakh republic. He lived on his own, with no one to take care of him; he scraped a living and ate meagre rations. He continued to compose, including two symphonies and two suites for winds and strings. The bitter winter, overwork and malnutrition took a heavy toll on his health and he developed pulmonary tuberculosis. After the end of the war, he was able to return to Moscow.

where he was admitted to a hospital close to the Kremlin used by senior party officials. But it was too late and he died of the disease there on 30 October 1945. After going to Moscow in 1940, he had never returned to China and nor seen his mother, wife and daughter again; he lived the last five years of his life alone.

In total, Xian composed over 300 works, published 35 papers and had an enormous impact on Chinese music. Since his death, his works have been widely performed in China and, in recent years, in the West. In Guangzhou, the Xinghai Conservatory of Music and the Xinghai Concert Hall are named after him. In Panyu, a suburb of Guangzhou, there is a park named after him. Macao and Alma-Ata both have a Xian Xinghai street.

# Yellow River Cantata

(music score)

*Allegro molto agitato* ♩ = 108

*ff*

12

♩ = 68

20

*sim.*

28

♩ = 152

*mp*

36

*p*

44

*sim.*

*cresc.*

52

*sim.*

60

♩ = 84

*ff*

*accel.*

*sim.*





Actress Xu Ruoxuan  
Courtesy of Salon Multimedia Macao

## Retelling the story in film

The idea of making a film on the famous composer came first to Xu Xin. In 1966, he was a student at the Beijing Film Academy, whose vice-principal was a famous film-maker named Wu Yinxian. During the Cultural Revolution, Wu was fired from his job and sent to shovel coal. Xu Xin says, "I went to see him at his home and he was delighted to have a visitor. He recounted how he had known Xian Xinghai." Wu and Xian had worked together in the film industry in Shanghai and went together to Yan'an.

Wu described to Xu an evening in Yan'an when Chairman Mao invited him and Xian to dinner; it was after Xian had written the Yellow River Cantata, which had made him famous. "Mao asked him who was the teacher that had enlightened him. He said it was his mother. Wu said that this left a deep impression on him. I always remembered that. I heard his music and liked it a great deal, as everyone did in the mainland. He represented an era."

In 1982, Xu moved from Beijing to Macao and became a reporter at the newspaper *Va Kio Journal*; he used to interview fishermen in the Inner Harbour, where Xian was born. "When I talked to them, the idea of a film came to my mind. In 2004, I proposed it to Mr Li Qiankuan, chairman of the China Film Association, who knew of Xian's history and was very excited." Li decided to direct the film himself with his wife Xiao Guiyun.



Xu Xin, researcher at Macao Museum



*Courtesy of Salon Multimedia Macao*

It involved an investment of 18 million yuan, of which the Macao Foundation provided the major part, 10 million patacas. Five companies participated in the production. The film covers Xian's childhood years, in Macao and Singapore. Xu has written a second and third one, covering the years in France and Shanghai, and Yan'an and the Soviet Union respectively. They chose to make the film not in Cantonese, the native language of Xian and his mother, but Mandarin, because the market for the film is in the mainland.

For the cast, Li looked all over China for six months. He chose as the actor for Xian's early years a boy from Beijing who is gifted at singing and swimming as well as good-looking. For Xian's years in Singapore he chose a teenager from Xi'an. For the mother, he chose a Taiwanese actress, Xu Ruoxuan. Their aim was to finish it by 2009, the 60th anniversary of the founding of the PRC and the 10th anniversary of Macao's return to China.

They shot the film in Macao, Zhuhai, Zhongshan, Guangzhou and the Nanhai film city. They cut it in Macao in mid June 2009 and had it ready by the end of the year. "The hardest thing was to recreate the conditions of a fishermen's village 100 years ago, which we did in Hengqin (in Zhuhai)," said Xu. The music for the film was composed by Shunanm, who works with the Macao Youth Symphony Orchestra. A resident of Beijing, Shunanm composed the music for 'Building the Nation', a film made by the Central Government to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the PRC.

"Macao had a profound impact on Xian," Xu said. "It is there he learned fishermen's songs from his mother and his education in music began. He first heard Western music and had his first lessons in the violin. It was the time of his awakening." ■

*Photos by Luis Almoater*





*Xian Xinghai statue in Macao*





# Lasting Words

Pioneering Swedish sinologist wrote first history of Macao

By Mark O'Neill



*Courtesy of Macao Museum of Art  
The Praia Grande, Macao, 19th century*

**Born into a poor family in southern Sweden, he moved to Guangzhou in 1798 at the age of 39 to work in the China trade. After making a fortune, he wrote the first history of Macao, where he spent the last 20 years of his life, and pioneered the study of China in his native country.**

**Anders Ljungstedt is buried in the Protestant cemetery in Macao.** He is also remembered in a large secondary school, named after him, which he established in his native Linköping.

"He was a model for Swedish people in learning about China," said Lars Danielsson, the country's consul-general to Hong Kong and Macao. "He started the tradition of the study of China in Sweden, which later produced four to five very famous Sinologists. They include Goran Malmquist, who translated Gao Xingjian and was the first ethnic Chinese to win a Nobel Prize for literature, in 2000. Ljungstedt was more important than he imagined."

In 1832, Ljungstedt published 'An Historical Sketch of the Portuguese Settlements in China and of the Roman Catholic Church and Mission in China & Description of the City of Canton', the first comprehensive history of Macao.

"His history is an impressive work," said Danielsson. "In the European context, it was pioneering. Most historical works at that time were presented through the eyes of the colonists. But he presented the Chinese point of view; his main sources were Chinese academics and intellectuals. Few Europeans then could speak Chinese, but he could speak Mandarin and Cantonese."

One of Macao's most famous historians of the last century, Father Manuel Teixeira, wrote that Ljungstedt deserved the gratitude of Macao and Portugal: "he had the merit of publishing documents which had disappeared long ago. As he wrote his history in English, Macao became internationally known. His history became also an abundant source where all future historians went to drink."

One of the most controversial statements in Ljungstedt's book was that, based on historical documents, Macao had always been Chinese territory and that the Emperor had never given it to Portugal. For this, he was fiercely attacked by Portuguese historians, who insisted that the Emperor had ceded the territory to Lisbon. History proved Ljungstedt to be correct.

## Early life

The sinologist was born into a poor family in Linköping, Sweden, on 23 March 1759. Founded in 1287 in the south of the country, Linköping is now Sweden's fifth largest city, with a population of 100,000. It is famous for its cathedral, university

and high-technology industry.

When the young boy was three, his father died and his mother re-married. Because of poverty, he was unable to attend school until he was 13. He graduated from secondary school and attended Uppsala University but was forced to drop out due to lack of money. Like other children of poor families, he could not obtain the education he wanted because his parents could not afford it. So he devoted himself to learning foreign languages, as a way to earn his place in the world. He mastered Russian, the language of Sweden's giant neighbour and one of the great powers of Europe.

In 1784 he went to Russia, where he worked as a teacher of children from wealthy families for ten years. On his return to Sweden, he found employment in the government as a translator and served as interpreter for King Gustav IV Adolf during his journey to Russia in 1796. He proposed to a wealthy Russian princess but she rejected him because of his background and modest means; instead he married a lady from a poor family.

## Move to China

His big break came when he went into the China trade. In 1797 he was hired by the Swedish East India Company (SEIC) and the next year took a ship to Guangzhou, the centre of China's trade with the outside world. The company had been founded in 1731 on the model of the profitable Dutch and British companies of the same name. It became the largest trading company in Sweden during the 18th century and aimed to emulate the success of the Dutch and British companies in trading between China and Europe. Many Chinese goods were coveted by the rich and the nobility of Europe and the profit margins on them were very high.

The SEIC was extremely profitable; its principal cargoes were Swedish iron, steel, copper and timber in exchange for Chinese tea, porcelain, textiles and silk. It re-exported much of the tea, via smuggling, to England, where it undercut that country's monopoly. It reaped high profits, averaging 25-30 per cent of the capital invested and peaking at 60 per cent. Ljungstedt was one of many Swedes who became wealthy thanks to this trade. The last of the company's 132 expeditions ended in March 1806, when the final vessel returned to Gothenburg. It was wound up in 1813.



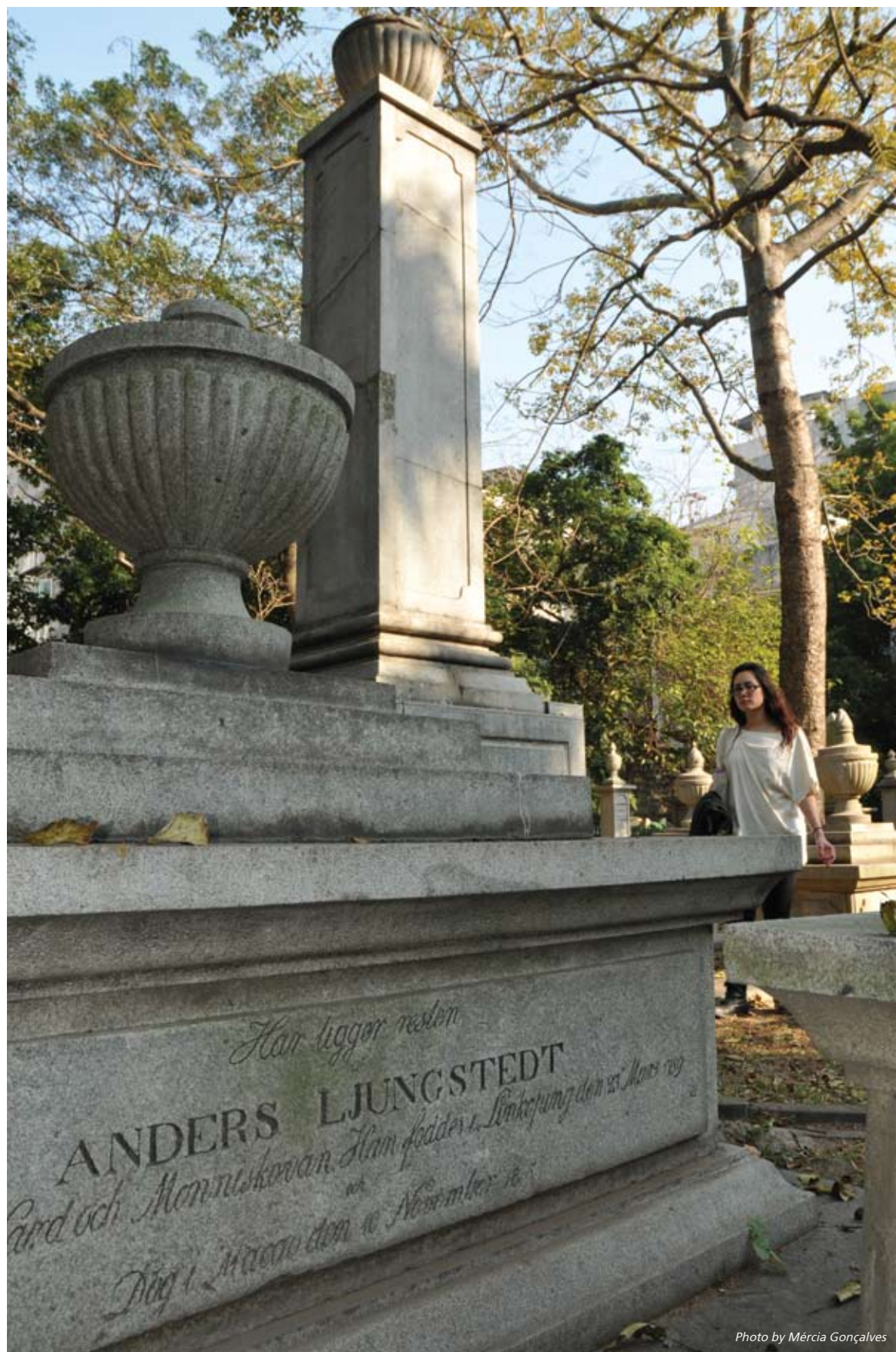


Photo by Mécia Gonçalves

Ljungstedt then went into business on his own. With his knowledge of the China trade, the connections he had built up over 15 years and his language skills, he made a fortune. He donated most of it to his home town to set up a school for children from poor families. He also donated most of the estate of his wife and brother, who died before him, to the school. The Anders Ljungstedt Gymnasium is today one of the largest schools in Linköping, with 2,700 students and 350 teachers. The money also established a foundation that bears his name. He wrote articles to introduce Guangzhou to a Western audience. He was the first Swede to live in the city.

## Move to Macao

Ljungstedt's wealth gave him the luxury of choosing where to spend the rest of his life. He had fallen in love with south China and especially Macao, where he moved in 1815 and spent his remaining years. He never returned to Sweden nor saw his wife again, although he provided money to support her and the family.

In Macao, he worked as a merchant and writer. In 1820 the King of Sweden appointed him as the country's first consul-general in China and awarded him the Order of Vasa. This was bestowed on citizens who had given outstanding service to the state and society, especially in the fields of agriculture, mining and commerce.

He began to develop an interest in history, the field in which he left his greatest legacy, together with the school in Linköping. He brought to this task his considerable linguistic skills – he spoke and read English, French, Dutch and Spanish as well as Swedish, and spoke Cantonese and Mandarin but could not read Chinese easily. In Macao, he learnt Portuguese, to the point that he could read old documents and write letters in the language.

## History of Macao

He became friendly with a Portuguese priest named Dom Joaquim de Sousa Saraiva, who had arrived in Macao in September 1804, with the intention of going to Beijing to serve as an assistant to the Bishop of Beijing. But he could not go because of the persecution of the church, and instead remained in Macao for the rest of his life as a professor at St Joseph's Seminary. He collected many documents



from the Macao Archives in order to write the history of Macao.

However, Saraiva decided in the end to let Ljungstedt write the book in place of him. In the preface, Ljungstedt acknowledged his debt to his Portuguese friend: "he took incredible and unrelenting pains in saving from perdition a host of interesting accounts relative to Macao; they were recorded in an authentic manner but on materials which by the age of centuries had been defaced, mutilated, worm-eaten and were mouldering into dust. With his excellency's friendly permission, I compared with his valuable manuscripts extracts of my accumulated collections. They were thereby improved so much that this my humble essay may, in many respects, be considered a repository of facts, of which the archives of the Senate can exhibit the originals no more."

These documents were an important source of material for history, as well as documents in other languages and official documents translated from Chinese. Ljungstedt was remarkably free of the social and religious prejudices which handicapped many of his contemporaries. "He was low-key,





*Courtesy of Anders Ljungstedts School in Linköping, Sweden*

softly-spoken and not combative,” said Danielsson. “He was never in conflict with the authorities.” This made his mind open to accept the evidence of the material he read, rather than repeat what was politically correct at that time.

“The Portuguese never had acquired the right of sovereignty over Macao, though they have been in possession of it for nearly three centuries,” he wrote, challenging the country’s claim to the place where he lived. This set off a storm of criticism from

Portuguese historians.

He also sided with Beijing in a controversial decision by Pope Clement XI in March 1715 that Confucian rituals were in conflict with Christian teaching, a decision that had a calamitous effect on the Catholic efforts to evangelise China. Hitherto, the Jesuits had been successful, serving at the imperial court and winning the favour of Emperor Kangxi, who ruled from 1661 to 1722. They made many converts, including members of the ruling class.



But the Papal ban so enraged Kangxi that he banned Christian missions in China: "Reading this proclamation, I have concluded that the Westerners are petty indeed," the Emperor wrote. "It is impossible to reason with them because they do not understand larger issues as we understand them in China ... I have never seen a document which contains so much nonsense." In December 1939, Pope Pius XII reversed the decision. The decision in 1715 was an error of historic proportions, ending the best opportunity to convert the world's most populous country to Christendom.

This is the analysis of Ljungstedt's book: "Presumptuous foreigners thought themselves better qualified than the Emperor to fix the

explanatory meaning of a couple of Chinese characters. In the meantime, many men of learning and influence embraced the foreign creed and favoured it; its opponents, more numerous, were enabled now and then, by their remonstrances to put a check to its rapid progress." He called the ceremonies that honoured Confucius and departed ancestors 'rational and innocent'; but Rome called them 'idolatrous.'

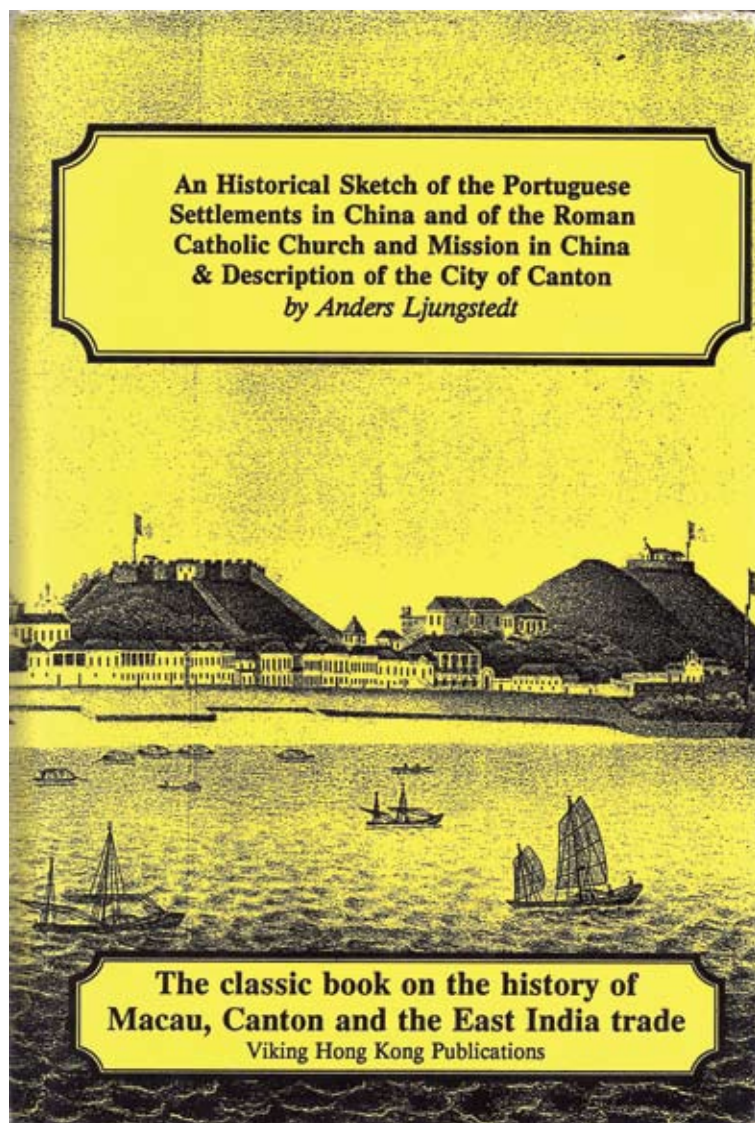
His book was published in English in Macao in 1832. On November 10, 1835, he died there, alone. In 1836, James Munroe, a publishing house in Boston, brought out a collection of his works. In 1992, a new edition appeared by Viking Publications of Hong Kong, edited by Bengt Johansson, who was then the Swedish consul there and is now the consul in Shanghai. A Chinese edition appeared in 1997.

## Legacy

Ljungstedt was the father of Sinology in Sweden, inspiring his countrymen in the 170 years since his death to study the language, history and culture of China. In 1997, Macao became a sister city of Linköping and named a street in his honour. His home town is also a sister city of Guangzhou. Music students from the school he founded have come to Macao, stayed in the homes of students and played music together.

In 2009, a ceremony was held in the Protestant cemetery of Macao, in honour of the 250th anniversary of his birth.

"Anders Ljungstedt will for a long time continue to be one of the major personalities in Sino-Swedish relations and an inspiration for those in Sweden who would like to learn more about China in general and Macao in particular," said Lars Danielsson. ■



EXPOSIÇÃO

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澳門博物館  
MUSEUM MACAU

# Voyage of Discovery

## The Museum of the Macao Science and Culture Centre

By Staff Reporter

Once inside, the bustle of Lisbon fades away and is replaced by an ambience that takes us to other shores, far distant in space and time. The Orient imposes its presence as soon as we take our first exploratory steps. It is this sensory voyage that is offered by the Museum of the Macao Science and Culture Centre (CCCM) in the Portuguese capital.







**The only museum outside China dedicated to the History of a Chinese city**, the CCCM was inaugurated on 30 November 1999, weeks before the return of Macao from Portugal to China on 20 December. It aims to illustrate the essence of Macao as a perfect meeting point for Portugal and Europe with China and the East, whilst also emphasising the context of that relationship within thousands of years of Chinese history. It is a relationship and interchange that endures beyond historical memory and is still evident today. For example, items from the CCCM collection were included in the exhibits of the Portugal Pavilion at the 2010 Shanghai Expo, including two Chinese lacquered wood tea chests from the 19th century and a painting by José de Guimarães. The painting is a modern interpretation of Jesuit Tomás Pereira, a missionary in Beijing who became friends with Chinese emperor Kangxi (1662-1722) and one of the symbols of inter-cultural dialogue. The director of the CCCM, Luís Filipe Barreto, noted that “until the Centre was set up there was no specific museum about Macao in Portugal and about China and there was certainly no organised library on Macao, on China and East Asia.”

## Voyage through History

The voyage at the Museum, starts with the first contact with China by Western merchants and explorers, particularly the Portuguese. It takes us through to the time Macao was set up as a Western trading post in the south of the great empire. The Museum has on display a Portuguese edition from 1502 of the book about the voyages of Marco Polo, and a French first edition from 1628 of the Pilgrimage of Fernão Mendes Pinto. The latter was dedicated to Cardinal Richelieu, the famous minister to King Louis XIII. The path through the exhibits takes visitors from the roots of Macao as a safe harbour and trading post to the establishment of the ‘Christian city’, the base for the work of missionaries in East Asia. It also follows the rise of the city to its position as the main trading post between China, the West and Japan. The journey is also one of development of East-West interchange beyond mere commercial transactions. This interchange extended to a true sharing of knowledge, from astronomy to agriculture, from medicine to the military arts and armament. It resulted in, for example, watercress being called the ‘western sea vegetable’ in China,

and Europeans being introduced to the tastes of papaya and peanuts, along with the more famous oriental novelties such as spices and silk.

The Museum’s collection is mainly based on Chinese art purchased from Macao collector António Sapage, a self-taught expert. He brought together an important collection and became an international authority on Chinese terracotta and porcelain. The CCCM’s collection of Chinese art is the most important on the Iberian Peninsula, bringing together items that cover 5,000 years of Chinese history. António Sapage’s collection of Chinese porcelain and terracotta formed the basis for creating a journey from the Chinese Neolithic to the golden ages of terracotta of the Tang dynasty (618-907) and the Ming dynasty (1368-1644) porcelains. But in its collection of around 4,000 items, as well as ceramics, the Museum also has paintings, furniture, textiles, documents, coins and jewellery.

This collection is organised into two main groups of exhibits, the first entitled ‘The Historical and Cultural Condition of Macao in the 16th and 17th centuries’, and the second called, ‘Collection of Chinese Art’. The first part covers the history of Macao, through sections called ‘Portugal and China: The Beginnings of the Meeting’, ‘The Port City’, ‘Forms of Chinese Spirituality’, ‘The Order of Transfers’, and ‘Christianity and Culture’. It is an area focused on the 16th and 17th centuries - Macao’s commercial golden era. Here it is possible to understand Macao’s role as a place to exchange experiences that were to define the city for the rest of its history. The exhibits and the organisation of this section of the Museum are a result of research by the CCCM on Macao as a hub for exchange between the West and the Orient.

The Museum provides a guided tour of the history of Macao through objects such as an altar chest - a veritable portable church used by missionaries to celebrate mass on ships or at other places without churches. Alongside it are items such as pipes and utensils for smoking opium; muskets and cannons that the Portuguese introduced to Asia, and models of a Portuguese ship and a Chinese junk. In addition there are China Trade-style watercolours recording local landscapes and places before the invention of photography. The altar chest, the most important item on exhibit in the CCCM, is a rare piece, as only two further examples of its kind have been documented; one in Brazil and another in the Ancient Art Museum collection in Lisbon.



*Director of the CCCM, Luis Filipe Barreto*



## More than Glass Cases

A visit to the CCCM is not only about looking at exhibits that tell us about the past from inside glass cases. The use of multi-media brings events that are almost five centuries old to life, such as the story of the construction of the S. Paulo Jesuit school. Known as the St. Paul's Ruins, and a trademark of Macao, only the facade of its Madre de Deus church is now standing. Also brought to life are the stories of Nau do Trato, or Black Ship, from the time when Macao had a monopoly on trade with Japan. The Naus do Trato were called The Black Ships by the Japanese because of the colour of their hulls. They come to life at the Museum via a 1:10 scale replica animated with small holographic projections. They tell of life on board, of the cargo and of the economic and cultural interchange with Japan carried out by merchants and missionaries who set off from Macao.

Neither exhaustive nor very large, what the two rooms of the CCCM are able to explain is the apparent paradox of the importance and historical and cultural greatness of Macao despite its small size. "The Museum has two sides. A very public side, for visitors and an educational service for children and schools, and another side that aims to provide the basis for research work, says Luís Filipe Barreto. "Although the Museum is the most public part of the CCCM, very serious work is also being carried out in terms of transforming the collections into research material which then becomes of benefit to the public," he says. The director of the CCCM adds that the "Museum has moved on from merely having its collection on display to a phase in which that collection is the basis for research by teams of academics, and is generating knowledge."

The aim of the CCCM in the mid-term is for all the areas of the Museum to produce research, resulting in specific publications. Luís Filipe Barreto notes, for example, that last year the first Masters thesis on aspects of the Museum's collection was put forward, specifically on opium utensils, unveiling the symbolism of the decorative motifs on pipes and other objects and interpreting their inscriptions. In addition, a doctoral thesis was presented on the coins in the Museum's collection. There are around 60 items in the opium- utensils collection, making it one of the most important collections of its kind in Europe. It is part of the second section of the Museum, the Chinese Art Collection. Here the aim is to provide an educational

voyage through Chinese history and the arts from the Neolithic period to the beginning of the 20th century, tracing Chinese history and the products of exchange with the West. It is a story told through terracotta, bronzes, porcelains, paintings, Chinese lacquer items, fans, silver, ivory, textiles and coins.

The oldest witnesses of China's past on exhibit at the Museum are shells that were used as currency in the Shang dynasty (about 1600 BC - 1046 BC) and examples of bronze coins covering several periods of Chinese history up to the Song dynasty (960-1279). Another of the highlights of the Chinese section is a terracotta horse's head from the Han dynasty (206 BC - 220 AD), which has more or less become the Museum's emblem. Not to be missed also are the porcelains intended for the export market, which became popular in Europe in the 18th and 19th centuries.

## Bringing in the Future

A museum that aims to research and explain the history of centuries of exchange and sharing also incorporates future projects. These aim to increase the collection and set up new partnerships for further exhibitions.

In 2011 a collection of Chinese earthenware pieces from the Tang and Song dynasties, from a Spanish collector who lived in China, is due to be presented at the Museum.

In 2012 a collection of jade from a Portuguese collector will broaden the scope of Chinese-history exploration offered by the Museum. According to the director of the CCCM, there are also plans to add a contemporary dimension to the exhibits, by setting up exhibition areas based on the legacy left to the Museum by anthropologist Ana Maria Amaro and architect Manuel Vicente. Amaro lived and worked in Macao in the 1960s, and Vicente carried out some significant work in the territory in the 1980s and 90s. Documentation, items of clothing and traditional Chinese games collected by Ana Maria Amaro, and sketches and models of Manuel Vicente's projects are now being catalogued and analysed by the CCCM in order to become new journeys and discoveries for visitors to the Museum. For Luís Filipe Barreto, the conclusion is obvious and "sooner or later the Museum will have to open a new wing to house the collection that is accumulating and that illustrates the more contemporary history of Macao."





CCCM Museum - Terracota Horse Head - Han dynasty



## The Past in Dialogue with the Present

As well as the permanent collection, the CCCM regularly organises themed exhibitions on a diverse range of subjects. Recent exhibition themes include the traditional dress of Chinese ethnic minorities; Chinese calligraphy; traditional Chinese musical instruments; the travels of Portuguese adventurer Fernão Mendes Pinto through the China seas; and tea. One of these temporary exhibitions, 'China, Parallel 30', was organised together with the embassy of the People's Republic of China in Lisbon. It provided visitors with a photographic voyage from the Himalayas to the East China Sea and the Pacific Ocean. The photographs showed China's human, historical and cultural tapestry, from the autonomous region of Tibet to the sea. It passed through the provinces of Sichuan, Hubei, Hunan, Jiangxi, Anhui, Jiangsu and Zhejiang, on a journey through living records of the development of Chinese civilisation and numerous locations classified as World Heritage Sites by UNESCO. However, in a museum that aims to be more than a mere repository of remains from the past and that aims to make those fragments of historical memory come to life, themed workshops, conference cycles, cinema exhibits and educational activities are an integral part of the Museum's activities.

"The Museum focuses strongly on its relationship with schools, both public and private, from pre-schools to higher education establishments, and with cultural and social associations, to create activities that form the Museum's link with society," says the Museum's educational director, Énio de Sousa. "One of the Museum's fundamental policies is that instead of waiting for schools to come looking for us, we go to the schools and propose activities at the Museum, what we call 'Projects with Schools', which are an attempt to have closer ties between the Museum, school and families," he says.

With this in mind, the Museum organises themed guided tours where the students carry out projects based on information they have got from the Museum, ranging from the arts, to music, theatre, dance or computer presentations. The projects are then exhibited at the Museum itself. And the workshops given by the Museum give information about Chinese musical instruments and the Chinese language. The former involves exploring different shapes, construction materials and sounds and comparing them with Western instruments, in a demonstration of the universality of music. The latter has a specific focus on children. According to Énio de Sousa, some 70 per cent of the people who visit the Museum, around 1,000 people per month, are associated with activities offered by the educational service.



CCCM Museum - Chinese Neolithic Pot



CCCM Museum

## Beyond the Public Face

The Museum is the public face of the Macao Science and Culture Centre, which carries out research and publication work beyond that seen in its 'visitors' room'. The CCCM is a Public Institute of the Portuguese Ministry for Science, Technology and Higher Education dedicated to the issues of Portugal's - and Europe's - relationship with China and East Asia. As illustrated in the Museum, this relationship is shown not only in terms of the historical past, but also from the perspective of current and future relationships. At the origin of the creation of the CCCM and as a long-standing hub for Euro-Asian exchange, Macao is naturally the starting point for the centre's activities.

In terms of research, the CCCM has a wide-ranging co-operation programme with academic institutions in China and several European countries, and is part of the multi-lateral organisation Ibero-American Network for Oriental Research (REDIAO). It also has partnerships with networks of research centres, Asian centres of Southern Europe (MedAsia) and the European Association of Japanese Resource Specialists (EAJRS). This academic network leads to regular research and increased knowledge of Chinese studies. Issues range from language and culture to the study of the social and cultural multiplicity of the Chinese world, and from Portuguese-Chinese relations to Macao society and culture in the past and present. In terms of training, the CCCM organises courses on Chinese language and culture, on Portuguese-Chinese relations, both historical





CCCM Museum entrance

and contemporary, and on Chinese studies.

In its role as a centre for cultural and scientific dissemination, the CCCM regularly organises conferences on themes related to East-West relations, and produces publications about the Chinese world. These cover Portugal's historical ties with China, and the past and present role of Macao, and are aimed at both the scientific community and the public in general. In order to support research or just oriental studies enthusiasts the CCCM has a library specialising in Chinese studies and the history and culture of East Asia. The collection contains over 100,000 documents, including books, audio and video records, micro-films, photographs and manuscripts covering history, art and culture, science and technology, economics, philosophy, religion and social and political systems.

The CCCM library is considered to be the most complete collection in Portugal of documents on Macao and China, particularly on the Ming and Qing dynasties. The CCCM also has protocols of co-operation with institutions in the Macao Special Administrative Region. These protocols ensure a continuous interchange of information, publications and projects for temporary exhibitions associating the CCCM to counterparts such as the Macao Museum and the Macao Museum of Art.

At a time when China is affirming itself as a world power, it is possible, in a corner of Lisbon, to visit a museum that tells the story of how almost five centuries ago China's relationship with the West began in a small southern port called Macao. The CCCM may not be on Lisbon's main tourist and cultural itineraries, but it offers a true voyage of discovery. ■

*Photos by João Goulão © Museu do Centro Científico e Cultural de Macau*



HISTORY AND CULTURE

# LANCELOTE RODRIGUES

## The refugees' priest

By José Miguel Encarnação





Macao has always been a safe harbour for Asian populations. From the time the territory became a commercial hub until today there have been countless communities that have arrived fleeing from wars or in search of a better life. The ones that are most mentioned in local history are the Portuguese from Shanghai and the Vietnamese, who found a gateway to a happier future in Father Lancelote Miguel Rodrigues.



Malacca, in Malaysia, is the birthplace of Lancelote Rodrigues  
The Roman-Catholic environment of the place and family members  
convinced him to become a priest.





## **The true life story of Father Lancelote Miguel Rodrigues started with the arrival of the first Portuguese refugees from Shanghai to Macao in 1948.**

Mao Zedong army were about to take control of the Chinese city and people were fearful of what might happen.

That year a young Lancelot was studying at the Macao Seminary, having arrived from his native Malacca (Malaysia). Since 1941 he had heard of people who were leaving Shanghai to return to Macao due to the war between nationalists and communists.

As soon as they arrived in the territory they were sent to refugee camps set up at the Canidrome, at Rua do Gamboa and at Rua do Comércio.

Lancelote's strong personality led the Bishop of Macao to delay his ordination and he sent him to the Canidrome to help with work to support the refugees.

On 6 October, 1949 – five days after the establishment of the People's Republic of China - he was finally ordained as a priest. He gave Mass for the first time in the chapel of the Canidrome. That same year the Bishop nominated him as chaplain of the Shanghai Portuguese refugees – a position he held until 1965 – and cooperating vicar of the Parish of Santo António (St. Anthony).

Later, between 1950 and 1951, he was put in charge of the Chapel of St. Cecilia; he was the interim parish priest of St. Anthony's Church, from October 1958 to October 1959, and deputy vicar from 7 September, 1966 to 26 November, 1966.

However, serving the refugees was his main mission in life.

## **Shanghai Portuguese**

The Portuguese refugees from Shanghai were descendents of Macao families that had left the territory in search of a better life. Many preferred to set themselves up in Hong Kong and Tianjin.

Lancelote remembers those times: "Outside Macao there were more job opportunities. In the 20s and 30s many boys from the Seminary, the Secondary School and the Commercial School managed to do well in Hong Kong. Some of them even got married and had children. But those that came from Portugal, either returned home after doing military service, or tried their luck in other

places (United States, Canada and Australia), or opted to live in Macao."

Many missionaries were also sent to China, to Malacca, to Timor and to Singapore, thus increasing the number of Portuguese spread throughout East Asia.

When the Chinese Communist Party came to power in 1949, European descendents decided to leave China, with most Portuguese returning to the land of their parents and grandparents: Macao.

"They started to feel pressure to leave Shanghai. In the heat of the Cultural Revolution the new Chinese government did not see foreigners in China as a good thing. The Portuguese left as did the English, the Americans and the French, etc," said Father Lancelote, whose words seem as though they are narrating a film.

"The Shanghai Portuguese worked in banks and in other companies. Some were bosses, others employees, but almost all of them had good academic qualifications. At the beginning it was normal for them to be helped by American and French missionaries. Then it was a question of time and dedication until they made it in life. With nationalisation of companies unemployment came along and people had to find other places to live."

Once they had arrived in Macao the refugees received help from Santa Casa da Misericórdia, and money to pay for expenses was sent by the Portuguese Foreign Affairs Ministry.

From that time Lancelote still remembers the feature films and musical shows that were the entertainment at the Canidrome every Saturday: "It was all organised by the refugees. They played, sang and danced. It was immense fun!" he said, adding: "People felt safe in Macao. The territory was under Portuguese administration and China respected the agreements signed by the two countries. The only problem was the loneliness of some people, but I was there every day to raise their spirits."

Abandoned boys from Macao and China lived alongside the Shanghai refugees. The police would take them off the streets and hand them over to be cared for by the nuns.

From 1941 onwards there were also many refugees from Hong Kong in Macao, fleeing from the Japanese invasion of the then British colony.

## From Macao to the world

One of Father Lancelote Rodrigues' biggest challenges was re-housing around 2,000 refugees taken in by Macao during the Cultural Revolution.

In 1953 and 1956 President John F. Kennedy, under the terms of the Refugee Relief Program, opened up the United States to refugees who proved they had family living in the country or who could find a sponsor.

In order to do this the help of the office of the Catholic Relief Services in Hong Kong and its representative in Macao, Father Lancelote, proved to be vital.

In many cases people were welcomed by US dioceses, who were charged with finding them a job and somewhere to live. As well as the United States there were also refugees who travelled to Brazil, to Sweden and to Mozambique.

"In the United States many went to work for banks and other companies. Some went back to studying, graduating in engineering and architecture," he said, lamenting the fact that this movement "did not contribute to boosting political and trade relations between their new countries and China."

Interestingly there are no records of any refugees going to Portugal. "The war in Africa was underway. I actually spoke to Caritas Portugal that said it could do nothing. In logistical terms it was very difficult," he explained.

Although they all arrived with the refugee label, there were those who did not need the help of the Macao government as they had money deposited outside Shanghai, or they quickly managed to get work in Hong Kong, or even in Macao.

"It did not take long for some people to leave the refugee camp and rent a home. However, 116 people remained there until the end of the 1970s, which meant we had to put up a building to house them," he noted.

When the Hong Kong Catholic Relief Services left, in 1962 Lancelote took on the role of running the non-governmental organisation, a role he added to that of director of the Secretariat of Diocesan Social Assistance Services.

In a diplomatic way he called on the United States Consulate-General in Hong Kong, Oxfam (United Kingdom) and Macao's Public Assistance, with the aim of collecting funds to build a block of 70 apartments.

The campaign collected US\$86,000.

"In exchange Oxfam asked us to house the blind people that came from China. So we decided to put them in the same building, along with the Shanghai refugees and some poor people. The building was pulled down in the 1980s," he noted.

At the latest meeting of the Macanese Communities, held last year in Macao between 27 November and 5 December, Father Lancelote once again met some of the refugees whom he helped to start a new life.

## Vietnamese

In March, 1977 the first Vietnamese refugees, known as the "boat people" arrived in Macao. As soon as they got near the coast the police took them into detention. "We had to ask the governor for permission to take care of them. The diocese put them on Ilha Verde and made the Children's Home (Casa de Beneficência) available and the military provided us with Ká-Hó," he said.

Initially mainly South Vietnamese came off the boats, and those from the North came later. In total, over 30,000 passed through Macao. Many ended up in Hong Kong, where they live until this day.

The United Nations Organization worked in partnership with the Catholic Relief Services and nominated Father Lancelote as its representative in Macao.

"The most important thing was to provide employment and access to health care. We managed to get them jobs in public construction work," he noted, then outlining other projects: "UNESCO [a United Nations agency] paid students' fees, whether or not they were refugees. And the Portuguese Red Cross helped the blind and unprotected children. We also had the precious help of the Rotary Club to raise funds."

In terms of re-housing refugees from Vietnam, the Catholic Relief Services worked with several consulates, specifically from the United States, Australia, Canada, Germany, Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands, Sweden and France. Between 1977 and 1991 almost all of them were sent to other countries, with the exception of two people who remained in Macao.

The Ká-Hó refugee camp, in Coloane island, closed in 1991. The Catholic Relief Services left Macao in 1992 and Oxfam continues to be very active in Hong Kong.





As well as the Shanghai Portuguese and the Vietnamese, in the last few decades several thousand refugees have passed through Macao from China, Indonesia, Burma (now Myanmar), Malaysia, Laos, Cambodia and East Timor.

There are currently some political refugees living in the MSAR from Pakistan, Syria, the Lebanon,

Laos, Cambodia, Burma (Myanmar), Indonesia and Malaysia. It is the job of the representative of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees in Hong Kong to look after their safety and well being.

Father Lancelote's contact with the UN nowadays is "merely cordial."

**Macao's St. Joseph Seminary where Lancelote Rodrigues studied to become a priest. On October 6, 1949, aged 25, Lancelote Rodrigues was ordained, after which he began to help refugees from Shanghai.**





Courtesy of Victor Marreiros

## Other work

At 87 years of age, Father Lancelote Rodrigues currently heads up the Catholic Social Services, whose mission it is to help the neediest people in the areas of housing, employment and education. He is also the director of the São Pio X Music Academy (120 students and 12 teachers) and representative of the consulates of the United States, Great Britain, Australia and Canada in Macao, providing them with logistical and bureaucratic support in issuing visas.

The Catholic Social Services are housed in the Macao Cineteatro building, located in front of the Catholic Centre facilities, two buildings funded by the US government and the Catholic Relief Services.

In China, specifically in the provinces of Guangdong, Sichuan and Shaanxi and in Inner Mongolia, Lancelote also coordinated the construction of bridges, sewage

networks, water collection stations, power supply facilities, several schools, clinics and hospital and was supported by Fundação Oriente. These projects were later handed over to the respective provincial governments.

He was recently honoured by the Macanese Association and received an honorary doctorate in Humanities from the University of Macao, on 25 November, 2010.

He received honours from Prince Andrew of Yugoslavia, from the Red Cross, from the British Empire, the Australian Government, the Macao Government and the Portuguese Government.

Every Sunday Father Lancelote addresses the population in Saint Anthony's Church. ■





15 - 28 February  
**Images Story**  
 mixed-media photographic works  
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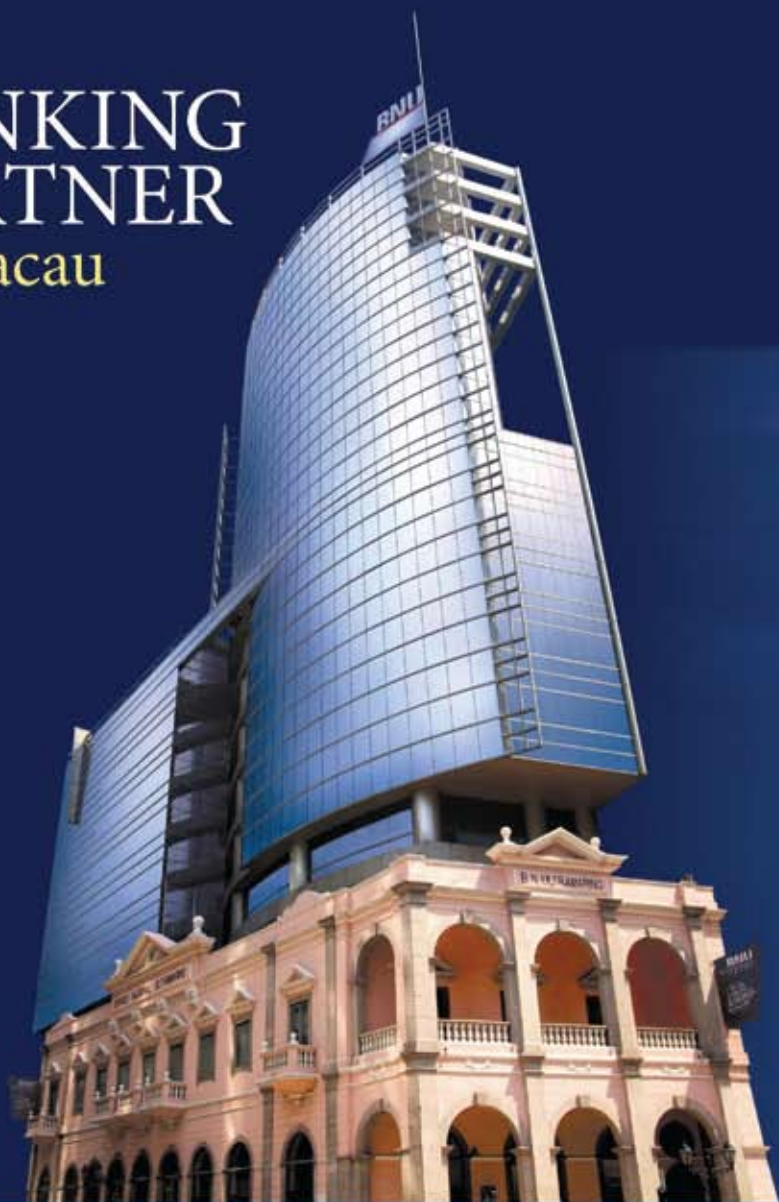
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