

# macao

JANUARY 2012

Quarterly

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Macao-born doctor  
on the front line  
in Afghanistan

Guangzhou:  
capital of the Chinese  
empire 2,000 years ago

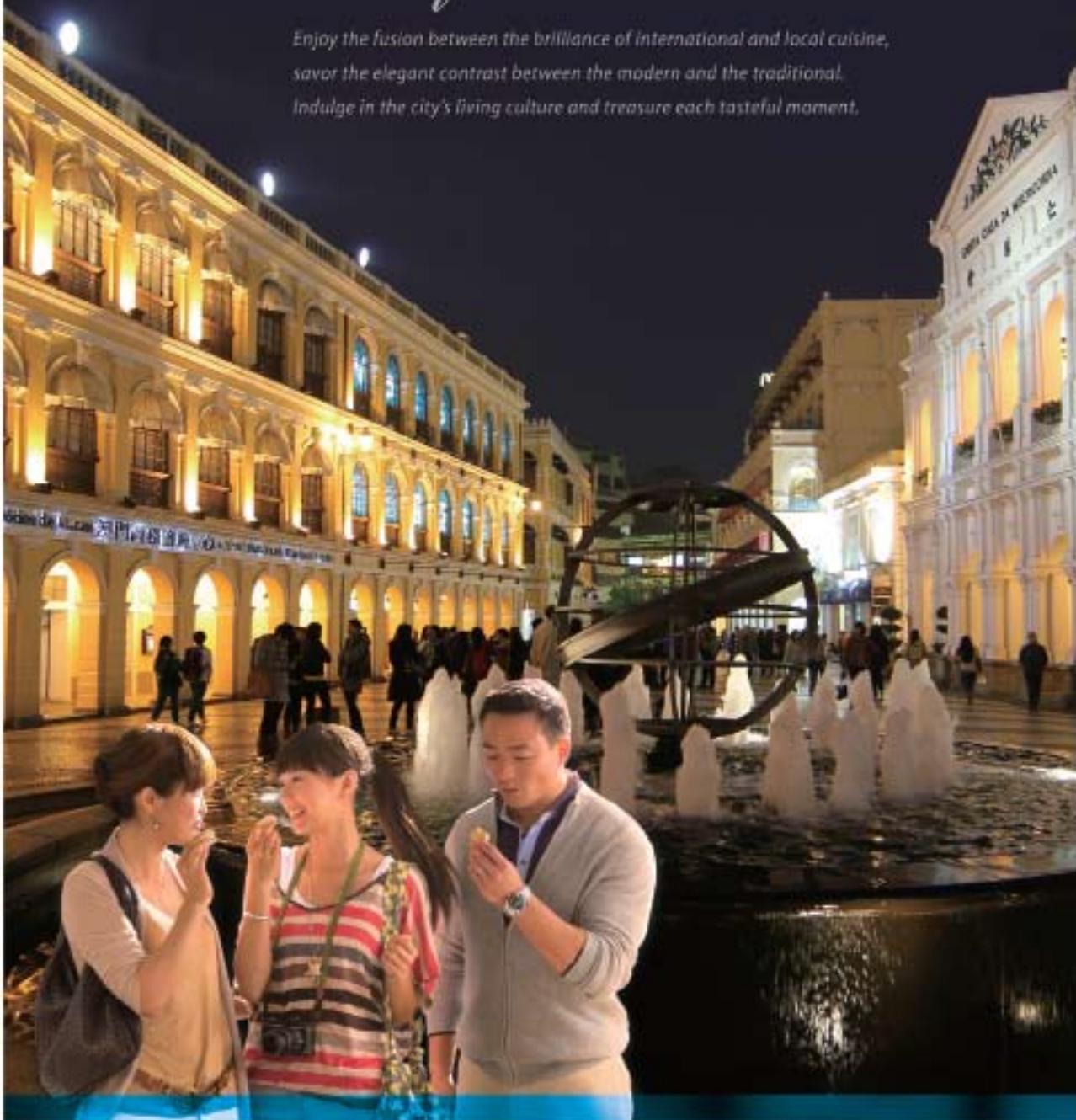
What to expect in the  
Year of the Dragon

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a treasure given  
from Asia to the world**



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## Tranquility [An]

The character for “tranquility” is rooted in the ancient Chinese tradition of male dominance. A “woman” under a man’s “roof” indicates that all is as it should be.

But “an” has a richer meaning, reflecting the parallel between microcosm and macrocosm. Just as a harmonious relationship between man and woman brings tranquility to the heart, peace comes when universal energies are in harmony – the forceful, creative energy of heaven above, and the gentle, receptive energy of the earth below.

Tranquility: when our world is in order.

From the book “The Spirit of the Chinese Character - Gifts from the Heart” by Barbara Aria with Russell Eng Gon

# macao

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Captain Olívia de Souza in Montijo Air Base

# From Macao to Afghanistan

## Captain Olívia de Souza of the Portuguese Air Force heals the war wounded

By Staff Reporter in Lisbon

Photos by José Goulão

**Years ago, when she still made the daily trek between her home and high school in Macao,** Olívia de Souza never imagined that one day she would be bounding Rambo-like through the mud in the Sintra hills near Lisbon ahead of a posting to Afghanistan.

Olívia de Souza must now be the only woman from Macao who can combine fire-fighting skills with knowledge about protection in nuclear, radiological, biological and chemical environments, in how to deal with explosives and firing heavy weapons, all the while saving lives. Olívia is a medical doctor in the Portuguese Air Force and as such recently spent time in one of the world's most intense war zones – Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan. Few people from Macao can list this experience on their CVs.

Anyone coming across Olívia Fátima de Silva Souza

on the street or in a Lisbon shopping centre would probably take her for younger than her real age of 34. They would certainly be unable to imagine her shooting a weapon or defusing a bomb just as easily as she grasps her mobile phone on a restaurant terrace to send an SMS.

But when wearing a white medical coat, flight suit or air-force uniform, complete with blue trousers, cap and leather jacket, Olívia becomes Captain Doctor Olívia de Souza. She then looks a lot more like Maverick, the fighter pilot portrayed by American actor Tom Cruise in the film Top Gun.

Olívia's medical career, her base in Portugal and the switch from civilian to military life was neither planned nor ever imagined. While Maverick always wanted to be a pilot, it never crossed Olívia's mind that she would move to Portugal and, what's more, join the Portuguese Air Force.



Kabul - Afghanistan

## From Macao beginnings to Medicine

Olívia was born near the Lou Lim Ieoc garden in Macao and later lived on the Calçada de Santo Agostinho and in the Praia Grande district. Her grandmothers are from southern China, her grandfathers from Portugal.

She spent her early childhood at the Dom José da Costa Nunes nursery school before attending what is now the Sir Robert Ho Tung Luso-Chinese School, formerly Macao's official primary school. She then attended the Commercial School and the Macao Lyceum, where everything seemed to be progressing normally until her life took an unexpected turn.

"When I finished school I took my tests, then I got a call from Pedagogical Support. They wanted to talk to me rather urgently, before I sent in my university application. They told me my results would get me into medical school and suggested that I follow that option," she states.

At first Olívia wasn't interested. She thought medicine involved "too much work". But she was convinced by the argument they gave her at school:

that if she regretted her decision, it would be easier to switch from medicine to another course than from another course to medicine.

"I was totally focused on laboratory research. I had thought of doing research or biology, pharmacy or biochemistry – indeed, anything but medicine," she says.

But in the end she chose medicine. Olívia left her parents behind in Macao, content and proud, though missing them enormously. For Olívia, the shock of leaving was matched by the shock of arriving.

"The first contact with Portugal was really difficult. For someone who was used to living in a place where 99 percent of the people spoke Cantonese, it wasn't easy to keep speaking Portuguese from morning till night – to say goodbye to people in Portuguese, to say goodnight in Portuguese," she remembers.

"On my first day at university I just wanted to go home. For me, everything was unknown. Everything was new, including the people. Basically, I came to Portugal alone," she adds, recalling her problems with such small details as buying a bus pass or being unable to go everywhere on foot like she did in Macao.

After arriving in Lisbon, Olívia first lived in the house of an uncle, before her father had the idea of placing her in a residence run by nuns, where she stayed until her third year at university. She then moved into an apartment with two other girls from Macao.

But Macao continued to be one of the touchstones in this young student's life. Indeed, it was at the Macao representative mission, at that time in the centre of Lisbon, that she met her future husband. A Shanghai native, he had come to Portugal when he was 20 years old to join his family.

Up to this point Olívia's future had been uncertain, but from here on the puzzle pieces began to fall into place. During her fourth year she decided she wanted to specialise in general and family medicine so that she could become a family doctor. What she liked most (and insists she still likes) is its broad scope, which covers people of all ages.

"I made a group of friends at university, who stayed by my side for the rest of my course. After I had got to know them, I began to like Portugal. A person begins to like the freedom: being far away from parents, being able to do things on one's own,"

she says.

Olívia's idea of going back to Macao to work either at a hospital or a health centre started to be abandoned little by little, especially after she received a certain letter. It was then that the young Macao student definitively shifted course. Her parents were not very enthusiastic about the idea.

"They were shocked as they didn't expect it. My father didn't say so, but I think he suffered the most. After my third year I think he knew I wasn't going back, because I had my group of friends and had got used to the lifestyle over here. I knew I'd have no problem staying on," Olívia recalls.

"That's when I received a letter from the Air Force Recruitment Centre. There were various specialty areas – lots to choose from. The first was general and family medicine. I thought: why not give it a try? I submitted the papers to the recruitment centre, just to see what would happen. After all, I had nothing to lose," she adds.

After visiting an Air Force hospital, Olívia became even more convinced. She remembers how well she was received. She was also drawn by the stability and the entrance into the profession that it provided.

*Kabul International Airport - Afghanistan*





Montijo Air Base

## From scalpel to G3

But to join the Air Force you have to sweat – literally. Other jobs may only ask for a psycho-technical test or interviews, but the Air Force requires that you pass something called Military Aptitude Trials, which determine a candidate's ability to enter military life. This meant a two-week period spent at the Sintra air base, which included psycho-technical tests, medical examinations and physical tests, followed by the initiation into military life.

"A civilian doesn't know what to expect during the trial period. It's a shock, though a positive one. I never imagined I'd be given camouflage and boots and that I'd be trudging through mud and crawling around the Sintra hills. They are things I'd never thought I would capable of. I had never done anything like it and only seen such things in Rambo films. And it really did seem like a film. Learning to march, doing formation drilling, wearing camouflage, and not dressing as a civilian – all this was totally new to me," Olívia recalls.

As a young recruit she remembers "living every experience to the utmost". When she was ready to drop, she would have to go on a night march, then she would wake up exhausted the following morning, to take up a weapon for the first time in her life.

"It was a very strange feeling. I had never held a heavy weapon before, and I stood looking at this machine gun, a G3. I was used to stethoscopes, scalpels and much lighter things. And here I was walking with a weapon, marching with a weapon; this had nothing to do with my life. The feeling of shooting for the first time made me nervous and a little scared, even though everything was monitored – we were always accompanied," she says.

Nothing in her previous life could have made Olívia de Souza imagine that she would one day join the health personnel of the Portuguese Air Force.

"My mother thought it was very strange; my father not so much because he'd served in the military. But my mum thought I wasn't at all the type, though she eventually got used to the idea," she recalls.

In 2004, the future Captain Doctor Olívia, who was by now married, was first stationed at the Monte Real air base near Leiria in central Portugal. It marked the beginning of an Air Force career where she has left a good impression at all her posts.

"She's a fine military example, with a sense of dedication to the service and to the institution of

the Portuguese Air Force. She's been noted for her selfless approach to work regarding the service and the military members and civilians we cared for," says Manuel Tátá, head of the pneumology service at the Air Force Hospital. He was Olívia's superior from September 2010 to April 2011. "She has excellent human and professional qualities."

Olívia meanwhile returned to Macao whenever she could, usually once a year during the holidays. It was enough for her family and friends to see that the Air Force was making a difference.

"My parents used to say that I was a little bossier. They thought I had gained a bit of authority. When I got home I would start giving orders. Even today, I sometimes forget I'm not in uniform. I arrive at home and begin giving instructions and organising things, and my husband has to remind me that, "we're not in the army here". We're given a lot of responsibility. At first it felt weird. At Monte Real I put on a uniform and dressed like a soldier. But I knew very little about being a soldier. Later, over time, things began to take root," she says.

Olívia always kept in touch with her friends in Macao. "They thought it was so cool I was in the Portuguese Air Force. They always asked me what I did, what my daily routine was. For them it was so interesting to have a friend in the military." At the weekends she always finds time to speak to her friends from home, because in Lisbon there are increasingly fewer Macanese people in her circle of friends.

But Olívia continues going to yum-cha (Chinese tea with dim sum) in Lisbon with her family. Her mother, husband, four-year old daughter and various uncles live in the city. "We keep up some of the Macao traditions."

The family is now used to her belonging to the Air Force, which to a certain degree smooths Olívia's relationship with the older generations. "My family is large, and many of my uncles did their military service in Portugal when it was compulsory. So I've begun to identify a bit with my uncles, with my parents' generation."

When her medical specialisation period was over in February 2010, Olívia went to the Services Department to find out where she would go next. They asked her to choose a unit, and Olívia picked Air Base number six in Montijo, near Lisbon. "It was where I had come from, but then they made me another proposal." It was one that would take Olívia a bit further from home than Montijo – more specifically, to Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan.



## SOS Kabul

"They told me they'd be delighted to station me in Montijo, but they said that before that I had to go on a mission. I thought it would be a national mission – a peaceful one. Then they asked me to sit down and I thought it was because the conversation would take time. When they said Kabul my mouth dropped. I almost fell over; I thought I'd heard wrong," Olívia recalls.

The young Macanese admits she was worried for a while. She did not know what she would be doing in Afghanistan until the Air Force taught her what very few people in Macao know how to do. During the Individual Common Core Skills course she was trained in personal defence and marksmanship, in how to handle different weapons, to fight fires, to recognise and deal with explosive devices and to confront biological and chemical weapons.

Her family's reaction was meanwhile quite different. "My mother had a panic attack right away. My daughter couldn't understand it. My sister, who

was spending the holidays with me at the time, was also upset. Kabul, Afghanistan – it sounded very dangerous. They asked me what I'd be doing and I said I didn't know. I would only find out when I arrived," Olívia says.

Olívia's husband took things in his stride but was still taken aback. Her father also kept calm; he told his daughter everything would be all right. Then everyone got busy, with the family spending every day looking up information about Afghanistan on the Internet.

"At first they were a little scared about the risks you could run into there. I never had time to see anything; I was always on duty. I also didn't try to investigate much, because what has to happen happens, and what has to be just is. At the time I was more interested in knowing how much time I'd spend there and what my duties would be. My military friends who had already gone on missions, though calmer ones, told me everything would go well. And it did," Olívia states.

She left for Afghanistan on 12 April 2010, aboard



Kabul - Afghanistan

a Hercules C-130 that took off from Figo Maduro military airport in Lisbon. The trip brought to mind the 18th-century grand tours: on the way to Kabul the plane stopped in Thessaloniki, Greece and Baku, Azerbaijan.

While on the trip the Macanese military doctor still did not know what to expect; she recalls that on arrival her first impression was "I'm in a desert". She had seen photos of Kabul, but Olívia's preconceived notions were far removed from the reality. "It was totally surreal. Mountains everywhere – desert, altitude, sand and dust."

After leaving the Hercules, backpack over her shoulders, Olívia stepped for the first time onto the tarmac of Kabul International Airport (KAIA), which would be her world, home and workplace for the next few months. She took a good look round.

Like a stage backdrop marking the horizon were the snow-capped mountains surrounding Kabul, with clouds nestling behind peaks that hinted at an invisible world beyond. The early morning silence of the prefabricated buildings was broken only by the

NATO mission's Land Rovers. The mountains were very high and seemed to begin where the military base ended, at the barbed wire separating it from the rest of the city and the rest of the world.

"As soon as I arrived they gave me what everyone else had: a gun, a helmet, a vest and ammunition. They had nothing in my size," Olívia recalls.

The mission was a contract Portugal had with NATO, from July 2009 to July 2010, split into three medical postings, each a four-month mission with 16 members.

Olívia stresses that working at KAIA was tough, especially dealing with the emergencies. KAIA was much more than just a simple health centre in Macao or Portugal, where she had planned to spend her career when she was studying. The Afghan capital's airport hospital is what they call a Roll 3 Hospital. It received patients with serious injuries and offered specialties still scarce in the country, like neurosurgery.

Olívia and a group of international doctors, mainly French, handled an average of 30 serious injuries a day in the emergency rooms. They included men, women and children, many maimed, whose bodies would never be the same, and who would have to get used to living without legs, or arms, or their sight.

"They were mostly victims, both civilian and military, who needed trauma care, orthopaedics and surgery. The civilians were Afghans – collateral damage. The military ones were members of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF)," the doctor says.

"It's very difficult there. I wasn't expecting to see such traumatised patients, so seriously wounded. Family doctors usually work in health centres. I was in the emergency infirmary, because there was no-one else." Olívia took a deep breath and told herself she could do it. "I did my best."

"It's so hard to see maimed children. There were a lot of them, including child amputees, for example, resulting from shot wounds, or stepping on mines or being hit with shrapnel. The sensation of seeing a mutilated child hurts. Your heart constricts," the military doctor says.

So the days at KAIA were not easy, though the environment was international and interesting in professional terms. Olívia says she learned a lot, both professionally and culturally, from the German, French, Belgian, Romanian and American medical teams.



Kabul Hospital

## Homesick

One of the most interesting things was the guessing game about Olívia's origins. Was she Japanese, Korean, Filipino or Thai? She heard it all. A Frenchman of Vietnamese origin thought that they might be compatriots. People named just about every neighbouring place of the small territory on the South China Sea coast, except for Macao. While Portuguese food did occasionally reach KAIA, like salt cod or sausages, it was harder to satisfy the young doctor's yearning for food from Macao. And there was no-one from China at the base. She only spoke Cantonese on the telephone, with her family. To refresh her memory she turned on her MP3 player and listened to the Tuna Macaense group. "As soon as I heard them I felt closer to my land and my family," she recalls.

The music helped her deal with the homesickness, but certainly not with the craving for Macao fare. The base served typical American small-town food: hamburgers, hot dogs, fajitas, pizzas. There was obviously nothing related to Macao; the only Chinese food was instant cup noodles. A Thai

restaurant at the base was the only place where she could sometimes shorten the distance to Macao.

The meals at the restaurants, along with games of ping-pong and snooker and what little social life existed at the base barely alleviated a mission that demanded a lot from its personnel. A great deal of emotional investment went into the job, aside from the practical work.

"I tended to inpatients with serious injuries. They took some time to recover. The children affected me the most. I wasn't expecting to receive so many children with collateral damage – serious injuries. They ranged in age from just a few months to the oldest I cared for, who was 13 or 14," Olívia says.

"I spent a lot of time with them. Because I missed my own daughter so much, I spent plenty of time with the children, treating them as if they were my own. When I left them, it affected me. They were children and they were injured," she adds.

Olívia recalls that one of the challenges was to help the Afghan wounded get over the fear and mistrust they felt on entering a hospital from a totally hostile world marked by killing and death. She said the ice was quickly broken, due to the added support from the Afghan doctors who helped overcome the

linguistic and cultural barriers. Yet she understands the difficulties the injured Afghans faced.

"Like anyone else, patients who come in don't know me or trust me. For these people in conflict, there's less trust, and that's normal. They're very afraid of what we do, because they've never seen it done before. They have never been treated in a proper hospital by someone with even a basic idea of how to treat them. So you have to explain what you're going to do step by step."

Some of the wounded had to learn how to take a bath, to shave or bathe their children; others how to use the WC. Olívia says that after a while the patients received the doctors "almost with affection; they no longer had that fear". The children, especially, quickly learned a few words in Portuguese – bom dia, boa tarde and boa noite.

Besides listening to Tuna Macanese, Olívia was also accompanied in Afghanistan by the music of Jason Mraz and of the Portuguese musicians Rui Veloso, Pedro Abrunhosa and João Pedro Pais. Her days were full, and she barely had time to open the "tonnes" of scientific books she had brought along, thinking she would have a few days to study. But over there she did not learn much from books; life itself taught her things that she will never forget.

"Your world view changes radically after an experience like that. A person lives very differently once back home, and sees things in a completely different light. I put things into perspective a lot more now. I think we put too much emphasis on very futile things. The Afghan people don't have anything. They taught me, above all, that we need to focus on the important things," the military doctor stresses.

Tears come to her eyes when Olívia recalls how Afghan mothers improvised nappies for their children from hospital screens, tying them with the most unlikely knots. She remembers the happiness of the children when given a doll, a pen or paper as gifts. She remembers too the mothers' emotional reactions when they were offered a going-home kit with cans of food, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste and combs in it when they left the hospital to return to the outside world.

"They didn't even have the basics. Seeing that was the type of thing that stays with you," Olívia says.

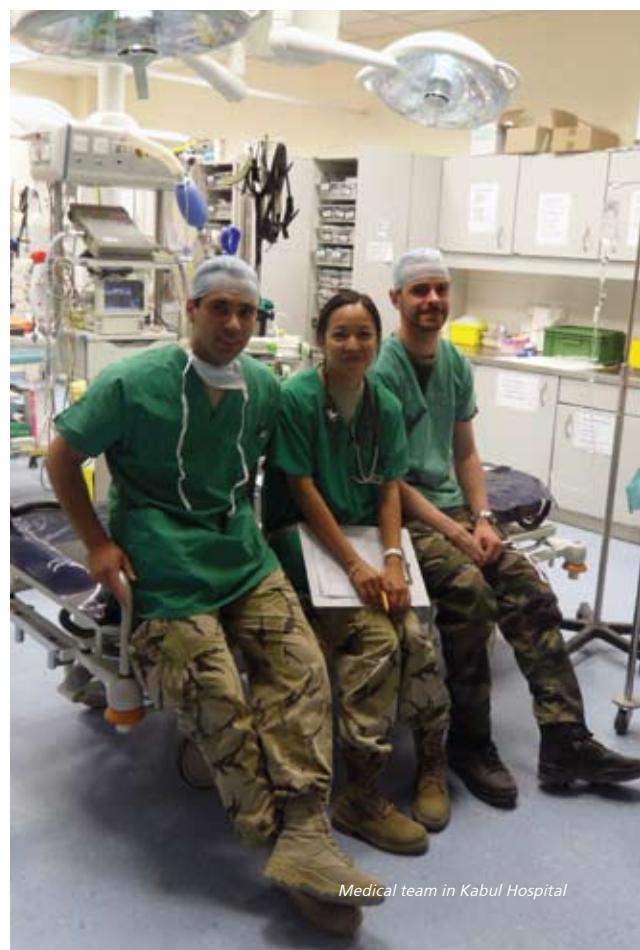
"We finished our work there with the feeling of duty done – the feeling that we'd left behind something achieved well. We were able to improve

something in the lives of those people, at least during the time they were with us. We'll never be able to improve everything – I'd like to be able to do it, as would everyone on my team. But at least for a few days, a week, a fortnight, we gave something that maybe they'd never had before," she states.

In the end, it's hard for Olívia to recognise the girl who left secondary school in Macao to spend a few years in Lisbon, and half reluctantly at that. Now that she is on this road, this path of life that has taken her to Afghanistan, Olívia can never look at the world in the same way.

In the give and take of such matters of life, Olívia also feels that after a mission in which she gave her all, she is still in debt to the people she helped the most.

"Maybe they showed more to me than I to them. I can't change their lives, but they changed mine. They're going to stay there, while we're the ones who were just passing through. We experienced very different things, saw different things and brought back to our daily life here what we felt over there," concludes Captain Doctor Olívia de Souza. ■



Medical team in Kabul Hospital

## **Macanese woman heads Portuguese Air Force base health centre in Montijo**

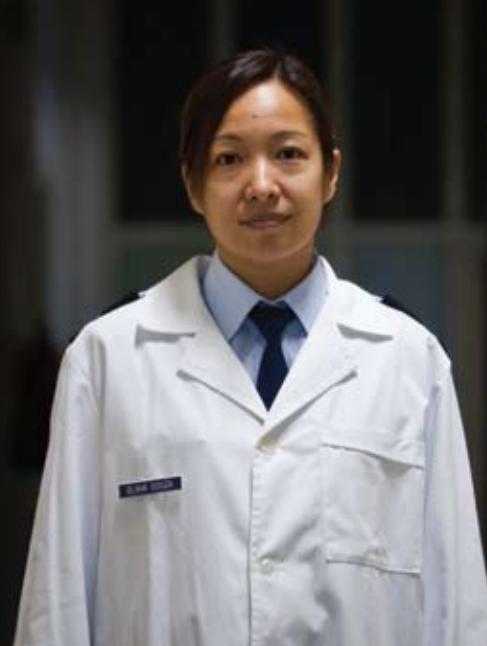
Captain Doctor Olívia de Souza is the only Macanese person in the Portuguese Air Force and the only Macanese woman known to have taken part in a Western military mission in Afghanistan.

The Portuguese Air Force counts 326 personnel carrying out health-related duties: 116 attendants with enlisted rank, 86 nurses with sergeant's rank, 17 health technicians and 77 doctors.

Personnel are stationed at Sintra near Lisbon, Beja in southern Portugal's Alentejo region, Monte Real in central Portugal near Leiria, Montijo 30 km southeast of Lisbon, and at the Ota training centre 50 km north of Lisbon, as well as at two airports – one at Ovar, in northern Portugal near Aveiro and the other, a transit facility at Figo Maduro in Lisbon.

Olívia de Souza was stationed at Monte Real (where three doctors, four nurses and five attendants are posted) and trained in Sintra, where the medical personnel comprise four doctors, four nurses and five attendants.

The Macanese doctor now heads the health centre at the Montijo base, which counts two doctors, eight nurses and six attendants. The facility in Beja further south has the same number of doctors: five nurses and five attendants. At its base in the Azores Islands, the Portuguese Air Force counts three doctors, five nurses and six attendants, while the one at Ota on the mainland has six attendants, five nurses and two doctors. Two nurses and three attendants are stationed in Ovar, while only three attendants are on duty at Figo Maduro.



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Photo by Eric Tam

# Bumper Subsidies

**2012 record budget focuses on social welfare and economic diversification**

Chui Sai On by GCS





**Macao residents will receive their sixth and biggest “wealth-share” cash handout this year** – 7000 patacas (US\$ 875) for permanent residents and 4200 patacas for non-permanent residents, Chief Executive Chui Sai On announced in his 2012 Policy Address on 15 November 2011.

He delivered the policy address in a plenary meeting of the Legislative Assembly.

The theme of the policy address of “promoting moderate economic diversification, and improving people’s living standards” highlights the government’s commitment to social welfare and Macao’s sustainable and diversified economic development.

The “wealth-share” handout is part of the Macao government’s determination to help residents fight inflation and share in the city’s economic boom.

The government will also spend 8.57 billion patacas on extra subsidies for the elderly, students, the disabled and low-income families.

The government was highly concerned about the underprivileged and the impact of inflation on residents’ living conditions, Chui said.

A string of tax-exemption measures and subsidies will cost the government 1.47 billion patacas and 8.57 billion patacas respectively, according to Chui. In fact, the government will spend nearly 12 percent of its expenditure next year on residents’ direct subsidies.

The government is also injecting 6000 patacas

into every resident’s account in its Central Savings System, a non-mandatory scheme to give retirement benefits to those whose companies do not offer pensions.

The Central Savings System covers each permanent resident who is over 22 years old and lives in Macao for at least 183 days a year. Each Central Savings System account comes with a “start-up” allocation of 10,000 patacas borne by the government.

The annual cash subsidy for the elderly will be increased from 5000 patacas to 6000 patacas, and each permanent resident will receive a 500-pataca voucher for medical services.

University students will receive a one-off subsidy of 2000 patacas next year, while primary and secondary school students will get 1700 patacas, and kindergarten pupils 1500 patacas.

The biggest slice of the expenses (20.4 percent) will be spent on social welfare measures, whose budget almost doubled to 14.9 billion patacas.

The government also pledged to provide 19,000 newly built public housing flats by the end of next year. Families on the public housing waiting list will get a monthly subsidy of up to 1900 patacas until they are able to move in to their new flats. The government allocated 5.9 billion patacas to the housing sector with 86 percent of the total to be spent on public housing that consists of low-rent social housing flats and government-subsidised home-ownership scheme units.

## Fiscal prudence

With an area of nearly 30 square kilometres and a population of slightly over 560,000, Macao is internationally renowned for its UNESCO-listed World Heritage sites and thriving tourism and gaming sector. The massive tax payments of the latter enable the government to grant residents a wide range of social benefits and subsidised health care, education and housing services and benefits. Moreover, the government provides free compulsory education for all local children from kindergarten to senior high-school level and a string of tertiary education grants and scholarships.

The government is able to offer high welfare benefits thanks to prudent management of public finances. There is a 35 percent tax on the gaming industry's gross revenue, which is a major source of the autonomous region's public revenue. Furthermore, the regional government only spends part of its revenue each year, ensuring a steady increase in fiscal surpluses year after year. There is virtually no public debt in Macao.

The budget bill allocates 46.4 billion patacas for current expenses, which include the salaries and fringe benefits of public servants, up by 11.8 percent from the 2011 budget.

According to official data, at the end of June there were 22,500 people working in the public sector – one civil servant for every 25 inhabitants.

The government is expecting revenues of 115.2 billion patacas in 2012, with most of it (85 billion patacas) predicted to come from direct and indirect taxes on gaming.

The 2012 forecast for expenses is much lower, standing at less than 77.4 billion patacas, which would lead to another budget surplus of about 37.8 billion patacas.

The 2012 public investment budget amounts to 19.2 billion patacas, an increase of 74.5 percent from 2011.

The public investment plan includes the reclamation works for an offshore artificial island for the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge project and the construction of several public housing projects and the Light Rapid Transit (LRT) system.

The 2012 budget is the biggest in Macao's history. ■

*Macau Legislative Assembly by GCS*



# MACAO YEARBOOK 2011

Macao Yearbook 2011 is the regional almanac published by the Government Information Bureau of the Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR)



The richly illustrated book aims to provide its readers with a comprehensive and objective record of the progress of Macao's political, economic, social and cultural developments in 2010. The well-edited Yearbook is meant to provide detailed and accurate information, in-depth analysis and concise data to all those who wish to know more about and better understand Macao.

Macao Yearbook 2011, separately published in Chinese, Portuguese and English, can be purchased at major bookshop in Macao at 120 patacas or 120 Hong Kong dollars per copy.

In Hong Kong, the three separate language editions of Macao Yearbook 2011 are on sale at the Commercial Press (HK) Ltd bookshops.

During the promotional period lasting until 31 March 2012, a 20-percent discount will be offered to any purchase of Macao Yearbook 2011.



Taipei 101

# Enhancing Ties

## Macao government opens first office in Taiwan

By Mark O'Neill

**In December 2011, the Macao government opened its first office in Taiwan** since the foundation of the Special Administrative Region in 1999.

The Macao Economic and Cultural Office opened its doors on the 56th floor of Taipei 101 in early November, with a staff of 15 headed by Nadia Leong Kit Chi, former secretary-general of the Commission for the Development of Tourism.

The new office is a result of the improved relations between Beijing and Taipei since Ma Ying-jeou took office in Taiwan in May 2008, which led to direct

air and sea links and the signing of ECFA. The latter was the most important trade agreement between the two sides of the Strait since 1949.

In July, the cross-strait agencies of Beijing and Taipei reached agreement on the opening of Hong Kong and Macao representative offices in Taiwan and on giving them equal status with Taiwan's existing offices in Hong Kong and Macao.

"The office in Taiwan aims to help Macao people who reside in and visit Taiwan for their study, employment, business and emergencies," said Alexis

Tam Chon Weng, chief spokesman of the Macao government. "It will also promote communication and cooperation between the two sides in the fields of tourism, education, health and culture, and will strengthen cooperation in fighting cross-border crime. It is a major breakthrough for the office of Chief Executive Fernando Chui."

It is the counterpart to a similar office established by Taiwan in Macao: the Taipei Economic and Cultural Centre. In July 2011, it was renamed the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office.

Taiwan is the most important non-local education venue for Macao people, with 4000 studying there, having overtaken mainland China in 2007. In 2010, some 921 local students began their studies in Taiwan, up from 775 in 2008. This compares to figures of students going to the mainland of 830 and 672 respectively in the two years in question. Among the graduates is Nadia Leong, who holds a degree in journalism from Taiwan Chengchi (Politics) University, as well as a Masters in administrative management from Zhongshan University (Sun Yat-sen University) in Guangzhou.

The new office will give the Macao students access to a representative of their government resident in Taiwan for the first time.

## Better links on all fronts

The government also wants to promote cooperation with Taiwan in trade, MICE (meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions) and innovative industries, as part of its efforts to diversify the economy.

Tourism is another important sector which the office will promote. Nearly 1.3 million Taiwan people visit Macao each year for tourism, accounting for about five percent of the total number of visitors, and ranking third after mainlanders and people from Hong Kong.

Two carriers from Taiwan and one from Macao offer direct flights between the two territories.

Of the Taiwan visitors, a large proportion continue into the mainland for business or pleasure, according to Wang Chun-bao, director of the Taiwan Visitors' Association.

On a visit to Macao in December to promote Taiwan food delicacies, he said that 900,000 Taiwan people travelled to the mainland through Macao in 2010. This is despite the launch of direct flights across the Taiwan Strait in 2008.

In 2011, a record 100,000 Macao people visited Taiwan, an increase of over five percent from the 2010 figure. "This was due to the convenience of travel, simplified visa procedures and a more relaxed environment compared to other destinations," Wang said.

The new office will be able to promote Macao directly to the Taiwan public as an easy and attractive destination, and will organise publicity events. In September last year the government organised a Macao Week in Taipei, to promote the Special Administrative Region.

The event was presided over by the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture of Macao, Cheong U. The office will also have a role in improving cultural exchanges. Taiwan is promoting its "soft power" in the export of films, theatre, dance and music groups, and is eager to increase their exposure in Macao.

The Taiwan government attaches great importance to its relations with Macao. On 19 July last year, Lai Shin-yuan, chief of its Mainland Affairs Council, came to Macao for a ceremony to rename its office here; it is located in the Dynasty Plaza in Nape.

"The renamed office brings a positive impact (to the ties between the mainland and Taiwan) and will provide a better service for the people of both Macao and Taiwan. The renaming is a milestone for the strengthening of Macao-Taiwan relations," she said.

The new office in Taipei 101 consists of two units on the 56th floor, with a floor area of 1600 square metres, chosen after inspecting 20 potential offices in the capital. It is one of the most prestigious addresses in the city.

Of the staff of 15, five are on secondment from their civil-service posts in Macao.

In March 2010, the Chief Executive Fernando Chui Sai On announced in his first policy address that Macao would set up a "formal communication mechanism" with Taiwan.

The Chief Executive announced that his government would set up "all types of contacts and cooperation" with Taiwan, and provide Macao residents working and studying on the island with a range of services and facilities.

The Chief Executive also said that the "formal communication mechanism" will be coordinated by his chief-of-cabinet Alexis Tam Chon Weng. ■



珠海格力电器有限公司

# Beating the Heat

## Zhuhai air-conditioner maker becomes global giant

By Mark O'Neill

Twenty years ago, it was a small-town firm, in Zhuhai – the neighbouring Special Economic Zone to Macao.

It made less than 20,000 air-conditioners a year.

Now Gree Electrical Appliances is the world's largest manufacturer of them.

A multinational company, it employs 80,000 people around the world, and has factories in Brazil, Pakistan and Vietnam as well as China.



Gree Headquarters in Zhuhai



In 2011, its revenue was more than 80 billion yuan, compared to 60.8 billion in 2010, and it produced 40 million units. It has been the world's largest air-conditioner manufacturer since 2005, and China's largest since 1995.

It sells its products and services in more than 100 countries and regions worldwide, boasting 150 million customers. It made central air-conditioning systems for seven of the stadia in South Africa for the World Cup in 2010, and for a large shopping mall in Sochi, Russia, host of the Winter Olympics in 2014.

In June 2010, it set up a US headquarters in a suburb of Los Angeles and is considering a factory in the US. It sells 1.5 million units a year to the American market, and is seeking to expand that share, through Wal-Mart, Home Depot, Target, and other major retailers.

"Our historic mission is to move from 'made in China' to 'created in China,'" said company president Dong Mingzhu.

Gree is one of a growing number of Chinese multinationals who had their first successes at home and are trying to repeat this in the global market.



It has much to do. Of its exports, only 25 percent use the Gree brand. The rest carry the names of the famous companies in this sector – like General Electric, Electrolux, Daikin and Sanyo.

"We want to increase our OBM status (original brand manufacturer)," said Peng Hong, deputy marketing supervisor of overseas sales. "We must improve our name and our reputation."

To this end, it has set up three research and development centres, employing 5,000 people, to develop new components and systems and create products unique to Gree. It invests heavily in R & D.

## Soaring sales

The company was born in 1991 in Zhuhai, a special economic zone which borders Macao. Its creation followed the merger of two small firms, Haili and Guanxiong. The new company produced air-conditioners to combat the sweltering heat that covers China over the long summer months. The Chinese name is Ge-li and the English name Gree, close to 'green'.

Sales grew rapidly, from 103 million yuan in 1991 to 2.84 billion in 1996, when it was listed on the Shenzhen stock market. Today the government holds a 20 percent controlling stake.

By 2000, sales reached 6.34 billion yuan. The company broadened its range of products, from domestic use to units for offices, shopping malls, trains, subways, yachts and container ships. Today it boasts that it can make air-conditioners for any scenario except an aircraft.

In 2000, it opened its first overseas factory, in Manaus in northern Brazil. The next year it opened a plant in Pakistan and in 2008 one in Vietnam. It has five factories in China – in Hefei, Chongqing, Zhengzhou and Wuhan, in addition to the main plant in Zhuhai.

In 2005, sales exceeded 10 million units, becoming first in the world. It has invested heavily in energy saving and environmentally friendly models.

Gree also makes electric fans, water dispensers, rice cookers and other household appliances, as well as having a property-development subsidiary. But air-conditioners continue to account for the vast majority of its output and sales.

Of the 200 million air-conditioners in the world, 110 million are in China. Economists say that this mass introduction of cooling devices has been an important factor in China's economic miracle. The productivity of people in offices and factories rises as they are less and less hampered by heat and sweat. It is inseparable from the rise of the middle class and the country's rapid urbanisation.

## Braving Brazil

When choosing its first overseas factory, the company decided on Brazil. The country has the largest market in South America for cooling systems, after the government imposed a tax of 60 percent on imported air-conditioners.



Brazil retail shop

For a company that had never manufactured outside China, this was a major challenge. The investment environment in Brazil could hardly be more different to that at home. Brazil had strong unions and laws favourable to workers, as well as a high level of taxes, workers' strikes, and a culture that placed more importance on quality of life than on jobs.

The company picked for the site of its factory not a city in the southeast where most of the population lives, but Manaus, capital of the Amazonas State, in the far north of the country.

It chose the city's Free Economic Zone, which offered tax advantages unequalled in the rest of the country. The zone is home to all of Brazil's air-conditioner manufacturers. But Manaus is 3,900 km from the capital Brasilia and even further from the main centres of population in the south.

Early obstacles included an unstable power supply and a complex tax regime involving taxes being levied at city, state and federal level.

The first general manager of the Manaus plant was Zhang Yuechao, who spent a total of nine years there, over two different stints.

"We started out with no experience of Brazil. We had to learn the local laws and customs," he said. "Chinese like to do overtime. The Brazilians may not, even if they are paid for it. You cannot order them to do it. We told one outstanding worker that he was doing very well and that we wanted to promote him. If he had been Chinese, he would have thanked the managers and said how happy he was. But the Brazilian worker said: 'How much more will I earn?'"

If Zhang wanted a meeting at nine o'clock, he would ask his guests to be there at eight. Those arriving late would routinely say that their wife had just given birth to a child. If the Brazilian soccer team was playing a match, Zhang had to schedule production at a different time.

"On the positive side, Brazilians are very warm, open and easy to deal with, said Zhang. "They tell you what they are thinking. They follow the instructions, while a Chinese person might try to think up his own way of doing it. Chinese people are more shy and cautious and do not tell you directly what they are thinking."



## South American success

From a modest beginning, the factory now has 300 workers, and an annual output of 300,000 units. Gree has a sales company of 130 in Sao Paolo, the country's largest city in the southeast, and a distribution network in 24 provinces across Brazil. It has become an international brand in South America. Gree owns 100 percent of the venture, whose workforce is 95 percent Brazilian, with Chinese people holding only supervisory roles. It transports the products via the Amazon to Belem, 100 km from the Atlantic. From there, some go by lorry and some by ship to customers all over the country. Most of the output is sold in Brazil, and the rest exported to other South American countries. The Brazilian currency, the real, is erratic. In 1994, it was fixed at one to one to the US dollar. It fell to about two in 1994 and almost four in 2002. In 2010 it was about 1.6.

By sourcing most raw materials locally, Gree has been able to insulate itself from these fluctuations. Brazil was little affected by the global financial crisis of 2008, thanks to strong domestic growth and the World Cup and Olympics to be held in 2014 and 2016.

## Going global

The Brazilian plant is one of three overseas factories. The others are in Vietnam and Pakistan. In 2009, the firm established two joint ventures with Daikin Industries, involving a total investment of US\$133 million, to increase its sales in the Japanese market. Founded in 1924, Daikin is one of the world's leading brand names in the air-conditioning industry

The US is one of Gree's major export markets, with annual sales of 1.5 million units. On 18 June 2011, it set up its US headquarters in Industry, a district of Los Angeles that is home to nearly 900 Chinese and Taiwan firms, mostly in shoes, garments and information technology.

It has established a joint venture with an American partner, of which it holds 51 percent while the partner holds 49 percent. Nearly 100 people attended the opening ceremony, including district mayor David Perez and China's consul-general in Los Angeles.

"We aim to enter Wal-Mart, Home Depot, Lowe's, Sears and other big American stores," said President Dong Mingzhu at the opening ceremony.



"Our products are 30 percent more environmentally friendly than traditional products, and I believe they will become favourites of American consumers."

Peng said Gree was considering a joint-venture plant in Indonesia, which has a population of 240 million but only 1.2 million air-conditioners. Other possibilities are India, Turkey and the Middle East.

"Many places in India have no electricity," said Peng. "When it is introduced, the first product they will choose is a fan, then a television, a refrigerator and a washing machine, with air-conditioners as the final choice. The arrival of electricity will reduce the birthrate – it will provide alternative kinds of entertainment in the evenings."



## Tiger lady

The creation of Gree as a global brand has much to do with Dong Mingzhu, who has been its president since 2001 – the decade which has coincided with its period of fastest growth.

Born into an ordinary family in Nanjing in 1954, she graduated in statistics from a college for officials in Wuhu, Anhui, in 1975. In 1984, her husband died of an illness, leaving her and a son aged two. In 1990, she gave up her job in Nanjing, left her eight-year-old boy in the care of his grandmother and went to seek her fortune in Guangdong. It was here that she was introduced to Gree, then known as Haili.

She had no background or experience in sales but threw herself into the field. In 1992, she achieved sales of 16 million yuan in Anhui, the province for which she was responsible. It represents 12 percent of the company's national sales. Dong moved to

Nanjing, where she achieved sales of 36.5 million yuan in one year. By 1996, she had become the manager of the firm's sales division, and the following year vice general manager.

From 1997 to 2001, Dong served as vice general manager, and then from 2001 as chief executive. Since 2006, she has also been chairman. In 2004, 2005 and 2008, Fortune named her as among the 50 most influential businesswomen in the world. She devotes herself to her work and has not re-married. China's corporate world is dominated by men. Such a successful and high-profile lady chief executive is rare; she has become a role model for thousands of women who want to make it to the top in business. "Our foreign strategy is not to spend a large amount on a big acquisition, but to grow steadily," she said. "We want to build Gree into a very famous brand." ■



# Betting on Africa

**Major Brazilian firms expand business in Mozambique and Angola**

By Klinger Portella in São Paulo



VALE IN MOZAMBIQUE



**"Mozambique is a country for the future and a country that can guarantee a long and sustainable partnership like this one with Vale."** It was with these words that, on 27 March 2009, Mozambican president, Armando Guebuza, celebrated the start of construction of the Brazilian mining company's most ambitious coal project. Beyond the investment of US\$1.65 billion required from Vale – almost 15 percent of Mozambique's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) this year – the arrival of Brazil's second-largest company in the East African country is a tremendous boost to Mozambique's development.

Between 1976 and 1992, Mozambique was ravaged by a civil war, which became known as the '16-year War'. The armed conflict between government forces and members of the opposition party, the Mozambican National Resistance (Renamo), decimated local infrastructure and drove the African country's economy into a period of great turbulence.

In 1992, the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (Acordo Geral de Paz) put an end to the war, and the economy began to glimpse a modest possibility of growth. From the end of the war to 2009, Mozambique's GDP rose five-fold, reaching a figure of US\$9.8 billion.

However, this growth has not been enough to lift Mozambique from its position as one of Africa's poorest countries.

But why is a company that earned US\$16.1 billion in the second quarter of 2011 alone investing in Mozambique? The answer lies, in fact, in Guebuza's statement: Mozambique is a country of the future. Vale wants to be one of the largest players in the world coal market and Mozambique is a big part of those plans.

Mozambique's good prospects in this respect are already apparent from the figures. Sector experts point to it having the future second-largest coal reserves in Africa, exceeded only by South Africa. Vale has taken note of this and is applying a chunk of the US\$9 billion it has earmarked for international investments to an ambitious project in Mozambique.

Vale's coal project in Moatize, in Mozambique's Tete province, is the company's first "green-field" in Africa and is expected to achieve a production capacity of 8.5 million tons of metallurgical coal (used in the steel industry as raw material for coke production) and 2.5 million tons of thermal coal



(used in power plants for power generation).

The initial investment of US\$1.65 billion in Mozambique was the Brazilian mining company's biggest-ever investment in coal.

## First shipments

Last September, the Orion Express ship left the port of Beira carrying 35,000 tons of thermal coal from the Moatize coal mine. This shipment marked the start of the Brazilian company's operations in Mozambique, Vale told Macao magazine.

Before being shipped, the coal was transported on several trains along the 575-kilometre Sena-Beira railway line, which was put into use for the first time since the 1980s.

"Boarding this ship marks the end of the first phase of implementation of the Moatize coal mine. From now on, Vale becomes an influential operator and exporter in the Mozambican market," a spokesperson for the company said.

Tete province may, however, offer the Brazilian giant much more. The mining company estimates that in a second phase of the project, the mine will reach production of 24 million tons per year.



Mozambican President Armando Guezeba (M.) during the opening of Vale operations

Moatize may have reserves of up to 838 million metric tons, which would make the mine the largest unexplored coal reserve in the world. The region is rich in a type of metallurgical coal known as "hard coking coal", which is of excellent quality.

Vale currently projects a coal production capacity of 8 million tons per year, including its operation in Australia and stake-holdings in China and Colombia. In addition to Mozambique, the Brazilian mining company is also carrying out feasibility studies for coal exploration in Mongolia.

"Vale's project in Moatize is in line with the company's strategy to grow in this sector, given that Brazil is totally dependent on coal imported from abroad," said Pedro Galdi, an analyst at brokerage house SLW, and an expert on Vale.

"With the coal investments in Mozambique, Vale intends to ensure supply of metallurgical coal for the Brazilian market, which is a great consumer and importer of this commodity, supporting the development of the Brazilian steel industry. When it reaches full capacity, after its expansion, the Moatize mine's production will have sufficient capacity to fully meet the demand for coal from the Brazilian steel industry," said Vale in a press release.

In addition to allocating Mozambican coal production to meet the needs of projects located in Brazil, Vale plans to export the coal produced at Moatize to other countries in Asia, the Middle East

and Europe.

Pedro Galdi notes that with coal prices rising on the international market, the operation in Moatize – which was scheduled to be launched at the end of the first half of 2011, but was delayed – will be profitable from the start. "As the price of coal has soared, Vale will accumulate profits from the operation in Mozambique regardless of the volume provided by the mine."

Since June 2010, the mining company has been carrying out pre-operational work at Moatize with a team of mining-equipment operators. Almost 90 percent of the workforce at the project is made up of Mozambican workers. There are about 7500 people involved in the project in Tete province.

"The Moatize Coal Project is helping to boost the Mozambican economy, generating jobs and income. As well as its commitment to create jobs, Vale encourages and develops local suppliers of products and services," the mining company said in a statement.

While celebrating the growth of 126 percent in net income for the first half of the year – the biggest ever for a publicly traded Brazilian company, according to Brazilian consulting company Economatica – Vale used part of its statement to shareholders to discuss progress of work in Mozambique.

The company said that the commissioning process – a kind of equipment test phase – had been completed



Moatize plant

at the first module of the coal washing plant (coal handling preparation plant: CHPP). It noted that completion of the commissioning of the second module should take place in October. "Testing of the oven's operation has begun, and it was initially powered by the first module of the CHPP, and is scheduled to be fully operational in October."

### Infrastructure obstacles

Despite the substantial numbers that represent Vale's operations in Mozambique, a "detail" has led to a number of changes to the Moatize project schedule. When it began to build the mine, the Brazilian mining company scheduled operations to begin in 2010. The deadline was later extended to the first half of last year.

At the launch of mining activities at Moatize, which was one of the last projects visited by Vale's former CEO Roger Agnelli in May, the Brazilian giant announced the processing plant would start operating in July, which did not happen.

Changes in plans are directly linked to a problem

that needs to be overcome by the new head of Vale, Murilo Ferreira, who took control of the company on 22 May, after a decade of Agnelli at the helm. During his management, the executive internationalised the Vale "brand" and increased profits by 903 percent.

Ferreira, who joined Vale in 1998 as director of the wholly owned subsidiary Vale do Rio Doce Aluminio (Aluvale), reached the rank of chairman of Vale Inco – now Vale Canada. At the age of 57, his approach is considered less aggressive than Agnelli's, which may facilitate the company's contact with both the Brazilian government and other governments worldwide.

Based on the initial project, production from Moatize would be transported along the 575-kilometre Sena railroad and be distributed from a coal terminal under construction at the Port of Beira, in Sofala province. The coal terminal belongs to a Mozambican government concession-holder. However, this facility would only be enough to store 11 million tons of coal from the first phase of the Moatize project. When the Moatize project



## Coal for life

Whilst Vale expects to make millions from mining coal at Moatize, the Mozambican government expects to see social gains from the Brazilian giant's presence in the country.

At the beginning of coal mining operations, Mozambique's Natural Resources Minister, Esperança Bias, said that the 11 million tons of coal per year that the Brazilian mining company would take from Mozambican soil meant more tax revenues for the government's coffers.

"This production will bring an important contribution not only through the taxes that the company will pay, but also for job creation. We also want the project to attract other industries, not only based on coal, but also those that can provide services," she said.

And that goal is compatible with Vale's proposal. Since it started working in Tete province, the Brazilian mining company has invested over US\$90 million in projects in the health, agriculture, infrastructure, sports and education sectors.

The social project developed by Vale has also resettled 1,300 families in the region. The Brazilian mining company will also refurbish Tete Provincial Hospital, the Moatize Health Centre and the Moatize Institute of Geology and Mines.

Another initiative outlined in the agreement is the development of local agriculture (still the main economic activity in Mozambique) and construction of schools and health centres.

Vale's social investments in the region are being conducted by the Vale Mozambique Foundation, which was established in 2010.

Vale is also involved in agreements between the governments of Brazil and Mozambique to set up a factory to manufacture anti-retroviral drugs in Maputo, the capital of the Portuguese-speaking African country. The mining company will provide funding for construction work.

"Also in the capital, the Vale Foundation supports the recovery of the Tunduru Botanical Garden. In addition, it has partnered with the Fund for Housing Promotion (FFH) and the Water Supply Asset and Investment Fund (FIPAG), with the aim of improving the quality of life for communities in Tete," the company added.

reached its full potential, there would be enough transportation and outflow for production.

Given this, Vale has signed an agreement of intent with the Mozambican government for construction of a railway linking Moatize to the port of Nacala. The route will be 180 kilometres long and will link the province to Lirangwe, in Malawi. In addition to this, some 730 kilometres of railways will be refurbished, connecting Malawi to Mozambique.

The project also includes construction of a deepwater sea terminal in Nacala. However, the new terminal is not scheduled to be completed until 2014.

During his visit to Mozambique, Agnelli said the main obstacle to the company's operations in Moatize was infrastructure. At that time, the Sena line had a capacity of just 4 million tons per year.

"In order to have a world-class logistics infrastructure to move its production in Central and Eastern Africa, Vale will invest in the expansion of the Nacala logistics corridor by building the rail links needed to ensure the outflow of production from Moatize, as well as a new deep-water sea terminal in Nacala," the company said.



## Other projects in Africa

As well as the investments in the Moatize Coal Project, Vale is carrying out research on new investments in Mozambique. According to local press reports, next year the Brazilian mining company has to submit a feasibility study to the government for exploration of a phosphate mine in Nampula.

The National Director of Mines of Mozambique, Eduardo Alexandre said recently that the project would be conducted by the Brazilian mining

company. "We have a very interesting phosphate project in Nampula, which will be implemented by Vale, and the final product will be the production of fertilizer," he said.

"In terms of size it will be a project as big as the coal project in Tete," Alexandre added.

The Director of Mines of Mozambique also said that in 2013 the Brazilian company is scheduled to present a project for coal exploration in the Maniamba basin in Niassa province, in the north of



Moatize plant

the country. The area to be explored would be four square kilometres.

Alexandre said the project, the reserves of which are not yet known, has been prospected by seven mining companies. "Two of them are Vale and Riversdale (acquired by Anglo-Australian group Rio Tinto)," he said.

Amongst Portuguese-speaking African countries, Vale also has an office in Angola, where it carries out feasibility studies for projects with potential for

copper and nickel mining.

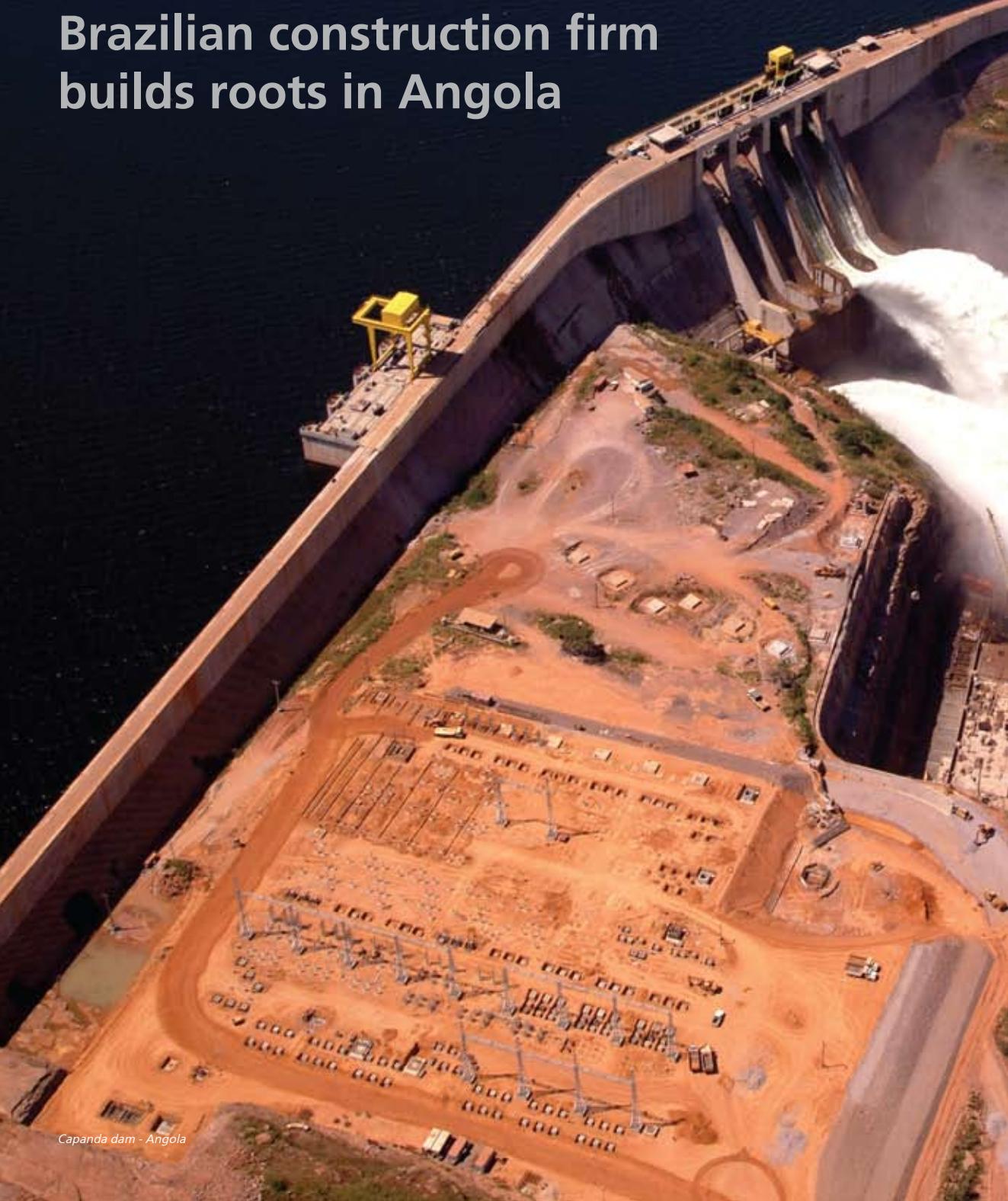
During his last visit to Mozambique as Vale CEO, Roger Agnelli confirmed the company's ambitious projects for the African continent.

"This is our first major project in Africa. After this we will go to other countries: the Democratic Republic of Congo, Namibia and Zambia for copper and nickel," he said a year ago.

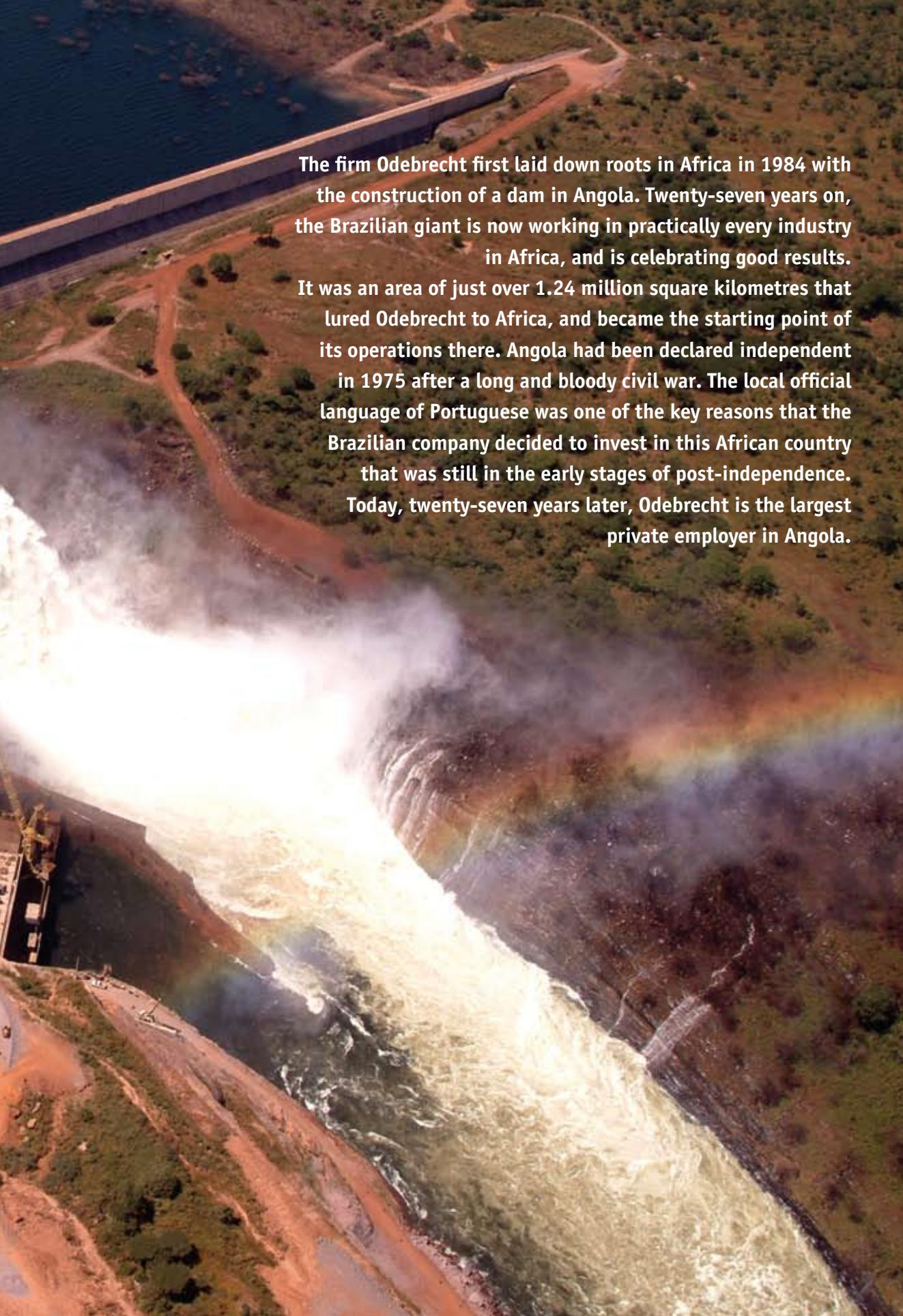
Now, it is up to the new chairman of the Brazilian giant, Murilo Ferreira, to follow up on the projects. ■

# Home from Home

Brazilian construction firm  
builds roots in Angola



Capanda dam - Angola

An aerial photograph of a massive concrete dam. A powerful stream of water is pouring over the spillway, creating a massive mist and a vibrant rainbow. The dam's long, straight concrete wall stretches across the frame. In the background, there's a mix of green vegetation and brown earth. On the left side of the dam, a small industrial area with some buildings and equipment is visible.

The firm Odebrecht first laid down roots in Africa in 1984 with the construction of a dam in Angola. Twenty-seven years on, the Brazilian giant is now working in practically every industry in Africa, and is celebrating good results. It was an area of just over 1.24 million square kilometres that lured Odebrecht to Africa, and became the starting point of its operations there. Angola had been declared independent in 1975 after a long and bloody civil war. The local official language of Portuguese was one of the key reasons that the Brazilian company decided to invest in this African country that was still in the early stages of post-independence. Today, twenty-seven years later, Odebrecht is the largest private employer in Angola.

## Firm beginnings

In 1919, Emílio Odebrecht and Isaac Magalhães de Albuquerque Gondim established Isaac Gondim and Odebrecht. It was the first construction company in the Brazilian Northeast with expertise in the new technique of construction work using reinforced concrete.

In this first incarnation the firm lasted until November 1923, when Isaac Gondim and Odebrecht was dissolved. Then Emílio Odebrecht and two other partners established Emílio Odebrecht and Cia, a civil construction company with headquarters in Recife.

In the 1950s, the company signed contracts with Petrobras. It followed on in 1960 and 1970 with its national and international expansion.

Odebrecht has participated in nearly 100 projects in Angola, and has provided opportunities for work and training for 40,000 people. Seventy percent of those people can count Odebrecht as their first-ever employer.

The company currently has more than 20 contracts in progress in the country, with a staff of around 20,000 workers, 93 percent of whom are Angolans. Operations cover agri-business, mining, infrastructure, energy, real estate and some retail sectors.

## Important partnership

The context of the partnership of Odebrecht and Angola is important for both parties.

Angola ceased to be a Portuguese colony in 1975. Until the 1970s its economy was largely based around agriculture. Guerrillas of three liberation movements – the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), the National Front for the Liberation of Angola (FNLA), and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) – led the fight for independence.

For almost five centuries of Portuguese colonisation, Angolans had seen their country go through an intense period of European occupation that eliminated the opportunity for enrichment and social development for the local people.

Independence brought with it the promise of economic and social development for Angolans. But they needed support from outside in order to achieve it.



In the 1970s, while Angolans were fighting for their independence, Odebrecht was planning its internationalisation process. It was one of the first Brazilian companies to look abroad. In 1979 the construction company began operations in two South American countries: Peru and Chile.

For Odebrecht, projects outside of Brazil would become an important strategy for dealing with the so-called decade of "double dip" that the Brazilian economy started to face from 1980 onwards. Following President Juscelino Kubitschek's promise that Brazil would grow 50 years in five years, the country enjoyed a period of strong investment. But then the Brazilian economy entered into a rhythm of near stagnation. The country endured sky-high inflation rates for ten years. Relief from the situation did not come until 1994, with the creation of the Real Plan during the presidency of Fernando Henrique Cardoso.

## A tale of two countries

If the 1980s were synonymous with low growth and hyperinflation for the Brazilian economy, the decade



Pungo Andongo farm

marked a process of construction and development for Angola.

Rich in minerals – especially diamonds, oil, and iron ore – Angola also had deposits of copper, manganese, phosphates, salt, mica, lead, tin, gold, silver, and platinum. In 1966, oil reserves were discovered off the coast of Cabinda and later off the coast of the capital, Luanda. The discoveries made Angola one of the main producers of oil in the world, and have been the key to the economic development of the country.

Odebrecht realized that Angola's little-explored natural resources could transform the country into the "jewel" of Africa.

In 1984, the Brazilian construction company signed its first contract in Angola for the construction of the Capanda hydroelectric dam.

"The project, built 400 kilometres from the capital Luanda, with a capacity to generate 520 MW, is a key milestone for the development of the Angolan economy," a spokesperson from Odebrecht told Macao magazine.

The work was undertaken by a Russian-Brazilian consortium, in which Odebrecht was responsible for civil works.

Hundreds of Brazilians and Angolans took part in

the construction of the power plant, in addition to the 3000 Angolans who undertook training programmes in engineering, construction, information technology and health.

Investment in infrastructure has been critical to the country's economic growth. In 1984, when Odebrecht arrived in Angola, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was US\$ 6.8 billion – far less than the US\$ 209 billion of Brazil. In 2010, Angola's GDP was US\$ 84.3 billion, an increase of approximately 1140 percent.

Despite the expansion, Angola has experienced decades of civil war since gaining its independence. Such conflicts have prevented further foreign investment and blocked parts of the local development plans.

"In recent years, Angolans have had peace and security to think about their country and devise solutions to the problems arising in the reconstruction of their basic infrastructure. During this period, economic growth has returned, and stability has been consolidated with falling inflation rates," wrote the chairman of the board of directors of Odebrecht, Emilio Odebrecht, in the article 'The strategic partnership with Angola', published in the Brazilian newspaper O Globo on 24 March 2006.

To Emilio Odebrecht, "the current process of stabilisation has created confidence for internal and external investors. This in turn boosts the local economy by building a sound way to create job opportunities, income generation and thereby the eradication of poverty through the development and expansion of social-responsibility projects."

## Featured projects

Over 27 years, Odebrecht Angola has been involved in several important construction projects in the African country. In addition to the Capanda dam,

the first local project, the company highlights the Waters of Luanda (Águas de Luanda) and Waters of Benguela (Águas de Benguela) as two of the most important assignments carried out by Odebrecht Angola in the infrastructure sector.

The Luanda Water Project was initiated in 1998 with the aim of strengthening the supply and distribution of water from the Kwanza River.

"Two steps have been completed, including the construction of the Water Treatment Plant (WTP) Southeast Luanda, the implementation of 66 kilometres of water mains, and the rehabilitation and construction of distribution centres. Added



to that has been the installation of about 50 kilometres of household distribution networks, 4800 household connections, and standpipes in densely populated areas that have difficult access to the piped network," said Odebrecht.

The Benguela Water Project was initiated in 2004 at Catumbela River as a system of integrated water treatment. The project's aim was to have the capacity to produce 131 million litres of water a day. Production would be distributed to four locations that had poor water supplies.

"The project will also rehabilitate old structures of driving uptake and water supply, as well as

*Pungo Andongo plantations*



building a water-treatment plant, a station for water collection and the pumping of raw water, 70 kilometres of water mains and 290 kilometres of distribution networks, plus two distribution centres boasting a capacity of 15,000 square metres of water reserves," added the company.

The list of Odebrecht's major projects in Angola is a long one.

The company also highlights the Luanda Sanitation Programme (Samba), started up in 2002, which includes macro-drainage (channelling rainwater into the sea) in order to avoid floods.

For the Samba project, Odebrecht built five ditches for drainage as well as redeveloping 2.5 kilometres of Avenue Samba. The programme also included the construction of 3.4 kilometres of new roads and the installation of 29 kilometres of water networks, electricity, telephone lines and collectors for a future household-sewer system.

The next stage of the project also provides for the construction of two drainage ditches and 2.5 kilometres of construction to double Avenue Samba, as well as more technical networks in the region.

Odebrecht was also responsible in Angola for the Viana Industrial Pole in the special economic zone with the same name. The project was developed in 2005, and comprises a transmission line and substation, with a supply of drinking water, a treatment plant for waste water, drainage systems, road systems and public lighting.

Odebrecht has completed the urbanisation of the first batch, which corresponds to 11 units of the project.

In 2008 Odebrecht participated on the Kifangondo Martyrs (Mártires de Kifangondo) project. The contract was to complete a neighbourhood revitalisation programme, including providing paving work, technical networks, signage, street lighting and urban development.

The company was responsible for building the Peripheral Luanda highway, which, at 33 kilometres long, now serves as Angola's first and main ring road.

"The project started in 2007 and generated more than 1500 jobs at its peak," Odebrecht said.

In the same year, the company began the Revitalisation Project of Luanda Streets, which involved ten main roads in the capital of Angola, with the implementation of an urban project for the reinvigoration of the city.



Benguela - Catengue road

In this project, Odebrecht was also in charge of street cleaning, maintenance and supporting the works to improve the traffic in the region.

In terms of agri-business, the Brazilian giant created the Pungo Angondo Farm (Fazenda Pungo Angondo), where the company produces grain. The intention is to bring Angola to a point of self-sufficiency in the food sector.

The farm is located in the Malange province and, according to Odebrecht, has the most advanced technology for the planting, harvesting and storage of grain. The farm has also implemented the industrialisation of flour and animal-feed production.

## Trust and priorities

The nearly three decades of Odebrecht's operations in Angola have led the giant Brazilian company to lay down firm roots in the country.

"Odebrecht has built trust in Angola. The company expects to have long-term relationships in the places it operates in. To this end, Odebrecht creates strong connections and commitments to these areas," the company told Macao magazine.

The Brazilian construction company considers Angola to be one of the "priority markets in the world... It means the company is always alert to opportunities in the country".

Among the new opportunities springing up are the construction of three international airports set to begin operations by 2013. Odebrecht has been voted by the Angolan press as the most likely leading company to perform these works.

Nationwide, the Brazilian company still has operations in sectors such as mining, real estate, transport, energy, and retail. "The diversity of projects in Angola has encouraged the entry of Odebrecht into other regions that we operate in," added the company.

The internationalisation process has already taken Odebrecht to 35 countries, in four continents.

After Angola, the company started working in eight countries in Africa: South Africa, Botswana, Congo, Djibouti, Gabon, Libya, Liberia, and Mozambique.

"The projects undertaken in Africa by Odebrecht have brought important socio-economic benefits to countries marked by problems in several sectors, especially in infrastructure," the company said.

## Corporate social responsibility

In addition to investments in infrastructure, Odebrecht has brought the social values of the Odebrecht Foundation to Angola. In 2010 alone, the company's social initiatives in the country had investments of US\$ 2.4 million.

The projects included the construction of health centres, and support for the government in vaccination campaigns and prevention programs to combat the two diseases afflicting Angolans: malaria and AIDS.

The Odebrecht Foundation also had a role in training courses for farmers, in order to increase local productivity. In one of them, 190 producers in the province of Malange underwent courses of practices and technologies for the production chain of cassava.

It does not seem a coincidence that after 27 years of Odebrecht's presence in Angola, the country's GDP per capita has risen from US\$ 1810 to US\$ 5400, according to World Bank data.

## Solution to the crisis

With the economic crisis overshadowing developed economies, Brazil is looking for new business partners, and Africa is high on the list of contenders. Recently, the president of Brazil, Dilma Rousseff, ordered the creation of the Africa Group, in order to strengthen partnerships between Brazilian and African countries.

Odebrecht was mentioned as an example of a success story resulting from such a partnership.

In fact, there is great potential in the African market for Brazilian companies.

Currently, trade with Africa represents only five percent of Brazil's total.

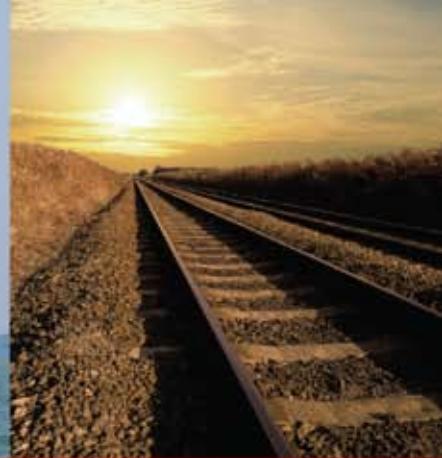
In nine years, Brazil has quadrupled the flow of trade with the African continent, reaching US\$ 20.6 billion in 2010. The amount is still small compared to other partners. With Europe, for example, Brazilian trade was US\$ 82 billion in 2010.

The numbers show the Brazilian government what Odebrecht predicted nearly three decades ago: that partnerships with African countries can provide great opportunities for development. And this is true with or without an economic crisis in the background. ■



## Odebrecht projects underway in Angola

- Water Supply in Benguela, Lobito and Baía Farta
- Catumbela – Phase 2
- International Airport of Catumbela
- Highway Cacuso-Capanda
- Peripheral Highway Luanda (Cabolombo–Futungo)
- Peripheral Highway Luanda (Viana/Cabolombo)
- Gove Dam
- Condominium Monte Belo
- Condominium Riviera Atlântico
- Viana/Kikuxi Road  
(Excerpt: Zango Road/Highway Peripheral Luanda)
- Noblesse Residence
- Housing Emergency Programme for Sapu
- Housing Emergency Programme for Zango
- Luanda Sanitation Programme – Phases: 3, 4 and 5
- Waters of Benguela Project
- Waters of Luanda Project – Phase 3
- Luanda Sul Project
- Revitalisation of Luanda highways
- Revitalisation of the Martyrs Kifangondo Quarter  
(Bairro Mártires do Kifangondo)
- Luanda Sanitation Revitalisation – Phase 6
- Earthworks and Foundations of Viana Industrial Units – Special Economic Zone
- Villas St Paul de Luanda  
(Vivendas São Paulo de Luanda)



# ANGOLA - CHINA

## Partners in Africa



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**Govt injects US\$ 87.5 million patacas into Air Macau**  
 Macao, China, 3 Nov – Air Macau said that its shareholders have approved a 700 million pataca (US\$ 87.5 million) capital injection by the Macao government. The government's Air Macau stake has risen from five percent to around 21 percent. Following the capital increase, the government became the company's second biggest shareholders after Air China.

## Chief Executive vows to curb inflation and diversify economy in 2012 Policy Address

Macao, China, 15 Nov – Raising the living standards of Macao residents is top of the government's agenda in 2012, Chief Executive Chui Sai On said in his 2012 Policy Address.

Chui unveiled a string of measures to fight rising inflation in his address. He also said that reviewing Macao's political development will be another major task of the government. He explained that the government will launch a public consultation next year on whether to (and how to) amend the method for the formation of the Fifth Legislative Assembly in 2013, and the selection of the Fourth Chief Executive in 2014, in accordance with the Macao Basic Law.

## Spanish driver Daniel Juncadella wins

### Macao Formula 3 Grand Prix

Macao, China, 20 Nov – Spanish driver Daniel Juncadella won a thrilling Macao Grand Prix with the time of 42:17.099.

Brazilian Felipe Nars was second with 42:17.458 and German Marco Wittmann third with 42:17.761.

03 NOV



15 NOV



20 NOV



10 NOV



19 NOV



20 NOV



## Chief Executive of Macao promotes communication with public via internet

Macao, China, 10 Nov – The Office of the Chief Executive of the Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) officially launched its website with information related to Chief Executive (CE) Chui Sai On in an effort to promote communication between the government and local residents. The new website, which has both Chinese and Portuguese language versions, publishes speeches of Chui Sai On, the annual Policy Address, photos, and other news of government affairs dating back to when Chui became the chief executive, according to Alexis Tam Chon Weng, spokesman of the government.

## Macao University project costs on Hengqin island rise 50 pct to 9.8 billion patacas

Macao, China, 19 Nov – The "final" construction cost of the University of Macao's new campus on Zhuhai's Hengqin Island will amount to 9.8 billion patacas (US\$ 1.225 billion), 50.8 percent more than originally planned, Secretary for Transport and Public Works Lau Si Io revealed during a visit to the project site. Lau said that the cost of building the necessary infrastructure, including a tunnel linking the campus to Cotai, had risen from 500 million patacas to two billion patacas. The project's other construction costs have risen from six billion patacas to 7.8 billion patacas, according to Lau.

## British Michael Rutter Makes Macao History with Seventh Win

Macao, China, 20 Nov – British contender Michael Rutter made Macao Motorcycle Grand Prix history by securing a seventh victory on the Guia street circuit, bettering the existing record he had shared with driver Ron Haslam since 2005. Rutter's team mate Martin Jessopp came second, with Ian Hutchinson on the Swan Yamaha 1000 making a remarkable return to the competition by taking third for an all-British podium.

**Govt predicts 85 billion patacas in gaming tax next year**  
 Macao, China, 21 Nov – Secretary for Economy and Finance Francis Tam Pak Yuen said the government expects to collect 85 billion patacas (US\$ 10.625 billion) in direct gaming taxes in 2012, based on an estimation of gross casino gaming revenue standing on average at 20 billion patacas a month – or 240 billion patacas (US\$30 billion).

Macao's casinos pay 35 percent of their gross receipts as direct tax to the government.

**Macao and Shenzhen sign three co-operation deals**  
 Macao, China, 28 Nov – Macao and Shenzhen inked three co-operation agreements in the areas of creative industries, tourism and investment incentives. The pacts were signed by representatives from the two governments after their annual co-operation meeting, held this time in Macao.

**Macao economy expected to grow by an average of 13 pct in 2012 and 2013**

Macao, China, 30 Nov – The Macao economy is expected to post real average growth of 13 percent in 2012 and 2013, years in which investment is expected to start rising slightly against expected figures for 2011, according to a report from the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).

The projections included in the report point to real growth of 12 percent in 2012 and 14 percent in 2013, which is less than the 22 percent projected for 2011, and a slight rise in gross fixed capital formation (investment) from 8.5 percent in 2011 to 8.9 percent in 2012 and 10 percent in 2013.

21 NOV



28 NOV



30 NOV



24 NOV



30 NOV



04 DEC



## 23 million visit Macao in Jan–Oct

Macao, China, 24 Nov – Macao recorded 23 million visitor arrivals in the first 10 months of 2011, an increase of 11.4 percent from the same period of 2010, according to official statistics. In October, the number of visitor arrivals rose 13.6 percent year-on-year to 2.37 million. Mainlanders and Hong Kong residents accounted for 61.7 percent and 23.5 percent respectively of all visitor arrivals in October.

## Macao's economy expands by 21.1 pct in Q3

Macao, China, 30 Nov – Macao's GDP in the third quarter of 2011 grew 21.1 percent year-on-year, due to the impetus of exports of gaming services, private consumption expenditure and investment, according to figures released by Macao's Statistics and Census Service (DSEC). Analyzed by major components, exports of gaming services surged by 39.8 percent, while total visitor spending (excluding gaming expenses), private consumption expenditure and investment increased by 9.1 percent, 9.0 percent and 5.7 percent respectively in the period, the figures indicated.

## Kenyans win Macao International Marathon

Macao, China, 4 Dec – Kenyans won the men's and women's 2011 Galaxy Entertainment International Marathon. Chemlany Stephen Kwelio, aged 29, won the men's marathon, clocking up 2:12.49 hours. He finished second in last year's local event. His compatriot Jepkemboi Chesire Rose, aged 27, won the women's marathon, clocking up 2:31.28 hours.

## Macao to build additional 3850 public housing units in 2012

Macao, China, 7 Dec – The government of the Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) will build an additional 3850 public housing units in 2012, Secretary for Transport and Public Works Lau Si lo said. Lau said that the additional public housing units were based on a land reserve dedicated for a total of 6300 public housing units in the future.

Macao will have a total of 23,100 newly built public housing units for its residents in 2012.

## Construction begins on Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao bridge

Hong Kong, China, 14 Dec – Construction began on the giant Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao bridge, after a year's delay caused by a legal challenge to its environmental assessment report.

The delay means extra manpower and equipment will be needed to meet the 2016 deadline for the mammoth project, Hong Kong Chief Executive Donald Tsang Yam-kuen said at the launch ceremony. Total costs of the bridge, whose total length will measure 29.6 km, are estimated at HK\$83 billion (US\$ 10.375 billion).

## Macao's inflation up 6.65 pct in November

Macao, China, 21 Dec – Macao's Composite Consumer Price Index (CPI) for November of 2011 went up by 6.65 percent over the same period of last year, according to the figures released by the city's Statistics and Census Service (DSEC).

In comparison with November 2010, the price index of food and non-alcoholic beverages, along with miscellaneous goods and services, and transport, recorded a notable year-on-year increase of more than seven percent during the period, due to higher prices of fresh pork, fresh fish, vegetables, clothing, gasoline and gold jewellery, according to the figures.

07 DEC



14 DEC



21 DEC



09 DEC



14 DEC



26 DEC



## Macao gaming revenue to hit US\$ 62.17 billion in 2015

Macao, China, 9 Dec – PriceWaterhouseCoopers estimates Macao's casino gross gaming revenue will grow at a compound annual rate of 21.5 percent between 2011 and 2015, according to a projection in their latest 'Global Gaming Outlook' study, released this week.

According to the global business consulting and accounting firm, in 2015 the local casino market will be worth US\$62.17 billion (MOP 497 billion).

## CEPA 8 'fully liberalises' Macao-mainland trade in services

Macao, China, 14 Dec – Secretary for Economy and Finance Francis Tam Pak Yuen said that Supplement VIII to the Mainland and Macao Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA) will fully liberalise trade in services.

The new supplement, signed by Tam and Vice Minister of Commerce Jiang Yaoping, mainly comprises new measures concerning trade and investment facilitation and trade in services.

## Macao's Chief Executive meets President and Premier of China

Beijing, China, 26 Dec – The Macao Chief Executive, Chui Sai On met President Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao and said that Macao has been taking measures to become a world tourism and leisure centre and a business and trading service platform for developing the relations between China and Portuguese-speaking countries.

Both President Hu and Premier Wen said the Macao government should manage the financial aspects of the territory with security in order to reduce risks, intensify the work on improving people's livelihoods and accelerate the pace of economic diversification.

## Govt to grant two more fixed telephone licences in 2012

Macao, China, 27 Dec – Two additional telecommunications operators will join Companhia de Telecomunicações de Macau (CTM) in providing fixed telephone services in the first half of 2012 as the Executive Council announced a by-law that will completely liberalise the local telecoms market following the expiry of CTM's 20-year concession agreement at the end of the year. Executive Council spokesman Leong Heng Teng made the announcement at Government House, saying that issuing two more licences to set up landline telephone services will help create competition effectively in the telecommunications market.

27 DEC



## Macao population totals 552,000 people in 2011

Macao, China, 29 Dec – The population of Macao totalled 552,500 people in August 2011, which represents growth of 26.9 percent compared to the 2001 Census, with average annual growth of 2.4 percent, according to the results of the 2011 Census announced by the region's Statistics and Census Bureau. According to the 2011 figures Macao's population density is 18,600 people per square kilometre, or 1730 more than in 2011 (16,870 people per square kilometre), which is a rise of 10.3 percent.

29 DEC



## Interpretation on Macao Basic Law adopted

Beijing, China, 31 Dec - The Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislature adopted an interpretation on two articles of the Basic Law of Macao concerning election issues and Macao's political development.

Macao Special Administrative Region expects the formation of its new Legislative Assembly in 2013, and the selection for the next term of its chief executive in 2014.

31 DEC



29 DEC



## Macao's trade deficit reaches 49.8 billion patacas in the first 11 months

Macao, China, 29 Dec – Macao's imports totalled 56.05 billion patacas in the first 11 months, up 41.7 percent. Exports dropped 2.8 percent to just 6.2 billion patacas, resulting in an external merchandise trade deficit of 49.8 billion patacas.

Textiles and garments accounted for 19.8 percent of all exports. Tobacco and wine, gaming industry-related articles, watches and diamond jewellery were other major export items. Most of Macao's exports went to Hong Kong, mainland China and the US.

29 DEC



03 JAN

## Macao's gaming revenue reaches US\$33.48b in 2011

Macao, China, 3 Jan - The total revenue of Macao's gaming sector for the whole year of 2011 amounted to 267.86 billion patacas (33.48 billion U.S. dollars), according to the figures released by the city's Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau.

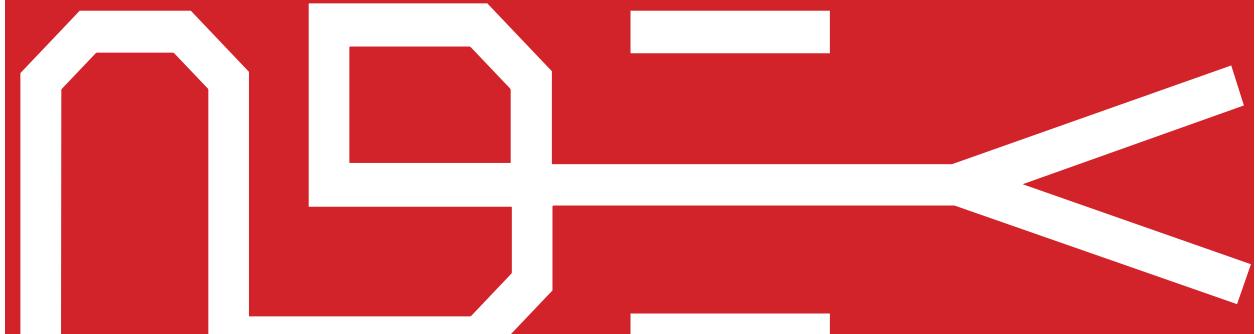
Total revenue for December last year amounted to 23.6 billion patacas (2.95 billion U.S. dollars), up 25 percent year-on-year and 2.3 percent month-to-month, according to the Bureau.

## Jobless rate dips to lowest since December '99

Macao, China, 29 Dec – Macao's officially estimated unemployment rate fell 0.5 of a percentage point to 2.3 percent in the September-November employment survey period, the lowest rate since the establishment of the Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR) in December 1999, according to official statistics. The rate was down 0.1 of a percentage point over the previous survey period (August to October).

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## Celebration of the 12th Anniversary of Macao's Handover to China

Photos by Xinhua, Eric Tam and GCS













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em Macau  
Drunken  
Dragon Festival  
in Macao



Lo Heng Kong

Photo by Carmo Correia

# Dots and Strokes

## Chinese characters sweep from Asia across the world

By Mark O'Neill

Photos by Carmo Correia,  
Xinhua, AFP and Eric Tam

**On December 12 each year, at the Kiyomizu Buddhist temple in Kyoto, a monk in colourful robes can be seen beside a large sheet of white paper.** On it he inscribes a Chinese character to describe the year that has just passed, as chosen in a public poll. Chinese characters are the world's oldest continuously used system of writing, invented more than 3,000 years ago. The event in Kyoto symbolises how this system of writing inspires respect and admiration across Asia, from Harbin to Hainan island and from Seoul to Singapore.

Their reach is now spreading from Asia across the world, with 100 million foreigners studying Chinese, according to government estimates. French and Americans, Brazilians and Beninese are learning Mandarin for the same reason as China's neighbours during the Tang dynasty – their desire to engage with a cultural and trading superpower.

As late as the 19th century, the characters were the written language of four countries – China, Korea, Japan and Vietnam. They remain the language of China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macao, Singapore and Chinese communities in Southeast Asia and across the world.

Vietnam and North Korea have abandoned them for their own alphabets, but they remain the basis of Japanese and are widely used in South Korea.

The thickest dictionary contains 47,035 characters but modern literacy requires knowledge of between 3,000 and 4,000. There are two main written forms – the traditional characters used in Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao and the simplified ones used in the mainland, Singapore, Malaysia and most institutions abroad that teach Chinese. Japan uses a mixture of both, having carried out its own simplifications after World War II.



Kiyomizu Buddhist temple in Kyoto, Japan

AFP photo

## No agreement on common form

Those who use the characters cannot agree on a standard form of writing, mainly because of the deep differences between Beijing and Taipei.

After the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, the new government invited a team of scholars and experts to devise a system of simplified characters, to make the language easier to read and write and reduce the level of illiteracy, then at 80 per cent. The scholars simplified a total of 2,235 characters.

In 1956, China officially adopted the new system as the national standard. It has since been used everywhere – in schools, books, the media, the government and business.

Taiwan, on the other hand, has continued to use traditional characters. It regards them as the treasure of Chinese civilisation, a link with the country's history and culture that enables people to read books and documents published hundreds of years ago.

Since 2004, Taipei city has held a month-long

Chinese Character Festival to celebrate what it calls 'the world's oldest and most beautiful language', including a mass practice of calligraphy with more than 10,000 people taking part. It aims to spread the characters into design, fashion and other creative industries.

"Traditional characters are a living wisdom that date back 3,000 years, and their beauty can never be replaced by the simplified ones," said Vincent Fang, a spokesman for the festival. "By comparison, simplified characters lack a sense of aesthetic symmetry."

A new section of the National Palace Museum under construction in Taipei will include a Museum of Chinese Characters, to celebrate their beauty and diversity.

Taiwan has applied to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) to include the traditional characters on its list of the heritage of humanity.

It has proposed to Beijing that, while using simplified characters, it should teach people to use the traditional ones. In this way, the two forms could co-exist and prosper together.



Hangzhou - China



Photo by Eric Tam

Macao rice shop

## Ditching tradition for literacy

The view in the mainland is different. From the early 1900s, many reformists have considered traditional characters an obstacle to the modernisation of China. They argued that children wasted too much time on writing and memorising characters, when they could be learning science, engineering or English – more useful subjects in the modern world.

The complexity of the characters were also an obstacle to literacy: the written language was the preserve of a small and educated, mainly urban, elite. Many campaigners proposed simplification – and some even suggested abolishing the characters completely and replacing them with a romanised alphabet. In the 1930s, the Nationalist government discussed a first batch of 324 simplified characters. After it took power in 1949, the Communist government proceeded with simplification as a matter of urgency, especially to deal with illiteracy; 80 per cent of the adult population could not read, with the levels especially high in rural areas and among women.

It published the first round of character simplifications in 1956 and a second in 1964. These have become the national standard. It also adopted a method of romanisation for the characters called Hanyu Pinyin, which has been widely adopted abroad as well as at home.

These two measures have been factors in a dramatic fall in illiteracy, one of the great successes of the Communist government. The overall literacy rate now is more than 85 per cent, and 95 per cent in major cities.

The simplified characters have played a major role in uniting the country with a single script which everyone can speak, read and write. Previously, Chinese were divided by hundreds of dialects which were mutually incomprehensible; without a common script, they could not communicate with each other.

Mainland scholars argue that the post-1949 changes are part of a long historical process of simplification. They stress that these changes are essential for bringing literacy to millions of people. They are especially concerned with those who do not have the time or the leisure that children of wealthy city families have, to learn hundreds of different strokes. They also argue that simplification alone does not alter the complexity and profundity of the language. People can still read historical texts, using simplified characters – a process which computers have greatly facilitated.

Since 1956, three generations of Chinese have been educated in simplified characters. They have become the national standard.

## EXAMPLES OF SIMPLIFIED CHINESE CHARACTERS

ENGLISH	PRONUNCIATION	SIMPLIFIED	TRADITIONAL
Love:	5]	.....	.....
Country:	; i c	.....	.....
Factory:	7\ b[	.....	.....
Park:	M b	.....	.....
Allow/give way:	F b[	.....	.....
Moustache:	< i	.....	.....
Door:	A Yb	.....	.....
Iron:	H\Y	.....	.....
Dull, wooden:	8 ]	.....	.....
Slow, late:	7\J	....	....



Tianjin, China (Xinhua)

## Happy Coexistence

Macao and Hong Kong are two places where both sets of characters are used. At school, students learn the traditional forms but can read the simplified ones and use them when they communicate to people in the mainland. Shop signs and advertisements use both; those aimed at mainland visitors use the simplified ones.

"There is no contradiction between the two," said Gary Ngai, president of the Macao Association for the Promotion of Exchanges between the Asia-Pacific and Latin America. As a student in Indonesia, he learnt to write calligraphy with traditional characters using a brush. When he lived in Beijing, he used simplified ones.

"Both can be used. One is not opposed to the other. Students in the mainland should learn simplified ones at primary school, since they are easier, and then traditional ones at secondary school. My sons, like other migrants from mainland China, learnt both – simplified in Beijing and traditional when they moved here. It was very easy."

"Scholars of history, literature and other arts subjects are in agreement that the traditional characters should be preserved as part of the traditional culture. Scholars in Korea and Vietnam

learn them if they want to study the history of their countries, as in China. Simplified ones are quick and easy to write; they are very practical. We need both," he said.

## Exporting the characters

Japan had no written language until the seventh century. From AD 630 onwards, the Japanese emperor sent large groups of monks, students and government officials, up to 600 each time, to Changan (now Xian), capital of the Tang dynasty. They were to learn the culture, philosophy, architecture and production technology of what was then the world's most advanced country. They brought back much of what defines Japan today – the grid system of Kyoto that imitated Changan, the kimono, chopsticks, eating etiquette, and Chinese characters.

The Japanese government welcomed the new system of writing. It invited scholars from China to spread the characters and gave them an official rank. In addition, Japan developed two syllabic scripts, in which the sounds of the characters could be written.

Today, 49 per cent of the Japanese vocabulary is made up of words borrowed from Chinese or using Chinese roots, 34 per cent from native Japanese words and the rest foreign or hybrid words.

After the Meiji restoration of 1868, scholars in Japan, as in China, questioned the value of the characters. Some called for them to be scrapped, as an obstacle to the country's modernisation, with one even proposing that the country adopt French as the national language.

The debate rose again following Japan's defeat in World War II and occupation by US armed forces. Some were proposing a switch to a romanised alphabet. As a compromise, the government carried out a simplification – less drastic than in China – and drew up a list of the 2,100 most common characters. Students now learn these at primary and secondary school.

Guizhou (Xinhua)

Japanese also use characters for their names, places and many companies and institutions. Like the monk at the Kiyomizu temple, they consider calligraphy a form of high art.

## Evolution in Korea

Like Japan, Korea adopted the characters as its written language in the seventh century. To be literate, a Korean had to learn Classical Chinese.

In the 1440s, King Sejong the Great commissioned a team of scholars to devise a phonetic alphabet that reflected Korean words. They devised a system called Hangul, which can write Korean words as well as those of Chinese origin.

Since it was created by scholars, it is, like Esperanto, a completely logical system with no exceptions. But, even after the creation of Hangul, the characters

remained the written language of the court and educated classes for the next 450 years. As a result, more than half of modern Korean vocabulary consists of words either directly borrowed from Chinese or derived from Chinese characters.

It was only under the Japanese colonisation of Korea (1910–1945) that knowledge of Hangul became widespread, in part as an expression of nationalist pride. After 1945, Korea was divided into two countries.

Having taken power in North Korea, Kim Il-sung abolished the characters. This led to everything being written in Hangul. As a result, even educated North Koreans cannot read books or documents written before 1945.

South Korea has continued to use both the characters and Hangul. The characters are most frequently used in academic publications but rarely in mass-circulation books and magazines. They are also used in newspapers, personal and place names and for advertising and decorative purposes. Subway and railway stations give names in characters, Hangul and English.

South Koreans start to learn characters in secondary schools, where they are taught 1,800 of them.





Beijing, China (Xinhua)

## Opting for alphabet

The Chinese introduced their language and characters into Vietnam after their conquest of the country in the second century BC. The country did not regain its independence until AD 938 but continued to use the characters as its written language.

As in Korea and Japan, they were the script of the court and scholar class.

During the 17th century, Roman Catholic missionaries developed a romanised alphabet for Vietnamese, to introduce the scriptures to a wide public. It indicated tones through the use of accent marks. The first dictionary was published in 1651 by Alexandre de Rhodes, a French Jesuit.

In the 19th century, the French colonial government promoted this alphabet, as a way to break the grip of Chinese culture and spread Western ways of thinking. But the characters continued to be used. In the early 20th century, nationalists embraced the script as one way to fight the French. They promoted its use, set up schools teaching it and published

periodicals using the script. Since it is easier to learn than characters, the promotion of the alphabet facilitated widespread literacy.

Before 1900, a majority of Vietnamese could not read or write. Now they are almost universally literate.

In 1910, the alphabet officially replaced Chinese characters as a means of writing Vietnamese. In 1954, the governments of both North and South Vietnam adopted it as their national script.

## Mobiles and PCs – blessing or curse?

The widespread use of mobile telephones and personal computers are both a curse and a blessing for the characters. Software engineers have devised systems which enable users to write characters. The most popular system is pinyin, where you tap in the sound and the software offers you a wide choice of characters corresponding to that sound.

As a result, many young people – in China, Taiwan, Japan and South Korea – rarely write characters at



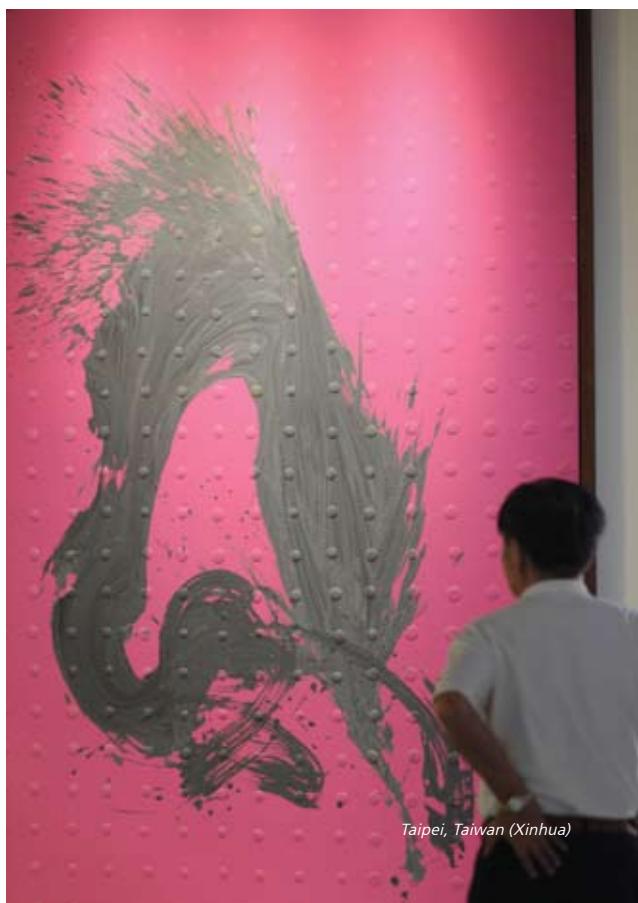
Taipei, Taiwan (Xinhua)

all, except to sign their name or fill in a form. But if people don't regularly write the characters, they forget them. There is even a phrase to describe this phenomenon – 'tibi wangzi', meaning 'take a pen, forget the character'.

A poll published in a Beijing newspaper in April last year found that 83 per cent of 2,100 respondents admitted having problems writing characters.

The stumbling block is that, as the characters are not systematic, there is no alternative to memorising them than through rote learning. And if people forget how to write characters, it will eventually affect their reading ability.

The blessing of the software available is that it makes the characters easier to write and widens their use. The software can include both simplified and traditional forms. This opens the way for a friendly coexistence between the two forms, if the political will exists. ■



Taipei, Taiwan (Xinhua)



Pine wind from Myriad villages  
Wu Li (1644)

# From intellectual to pioneer priest

## Famous Chinese painter seeks truth from the West

By Mark O'Neill



*Portrait of Wu Li recorded in Lianchuan Mingrem Huazhuan*

**Wu Li was one of the most famous of the Chinese painters, poets and calligraphers of the 17th century, whose work can be found in museums in China and overseas.**

**At the age of 50, he had an extraordinary conversion and became a Jesuit priest.** He studied for seven years at Saint Paul's College in Macao, and spent his final 30 years as a priest in the villages of his home province of Jiangsu. The government had banned missionary work, so for much of that time, he had to work underground.

Wu was one of the three earliest Chinese Catholic priests and one of a small number of Chinese scholars to be ordained. His life counts as one of the greatest successes of the Jesuit mission in the Middle Kingdom.

He and five fellow artists were the six painting masters of the early Qing period: his ink and water landscapes hang today in museums in Beijing and Shanghai, Sydney and New York. He and a handful of other intellectuals embraced the learning of the West and treasured their Chinese culture. The two were not in conflict as one enriched the other.

At the end of his life, a bitter dispute between the Emperor and the Vatican led to a ban on Christian missionary work. The era which had produced such a remarkable personality came to end.

## Early life

Wu was born in 1632 in Changshu, Jiangsu province, east China. With a mild climate and fertile land in the Yangtze river delta, it was and is one of the richest cities in the country.

Wu was born into a gentry family of learning and status. His grandfather and great-grandfather were high officials under the Ming dynasty (1368–1644). He is said to be a descendant of Yan-yan, an important disciple of Confucius in the south.

He received a traditional education, learning Confucianism, Daoism and Buddhism. He also studied poetry, painting and the qin, a seven-string instrument similar to the zither. His father passed away when he was young. His mother chose not to remarry – earning praise from society – and concentrated on raising Wu and his two brothers. The family was highly educated but poor.

When he was 12, a cataclysmic change occurred – the overthrow of the Ming dynasty by a Manchu army from northeast China, and the establishment of the Qing dynasty. The people of Changshu saw the brutal tactics used by the Qing army to subdue resistance in the areas south of the Yangtze river.



Wu himself witnessed three massacres committed by the army in the city.

For a family like the Wus, who were loyal to the Ming, it was a blow that they could barely accept. Like other educated Han intellectuals of his time, Wu took a vow not to serve the new regime, which was Manchu and not Han Chinese. This change caused a period of turmoil among intellectuals; many looked for a new direction to revitalise their country, morally and scientifically.

Changshu was a centre of religion as well as commerce, housing several Buddhist temples. It was home, too, to a Confucian residence that had been converted into a Catholic church, near the



Macau seminary by Eric Tam

Wu household. The city was one of the centres of propagation of Catholicism in China. Wu met missionaries from Europe and was also very interested in Buddhism.

Wu did not want an official career and the wealth and rank it would bring. He focused instead on his art.

His greatest talent was landscape painting, in the traditional style of ink and water; he was famous for his dry brush strokes and light colours. When his mother died in 1662, he was deeply affected. He went on to support himself and his family by selling his paintings.

His distinctive style made him one of the six masters of the early Qing period; all were natives of southern

Jiangsu. They were members of the orthodox school known as the 'literati painters'. By the 1660s, he had established a strong reputation as a painter.

An accomplished man of letters, Wu also wrote poems and books.

## Conversion

In 1666, Wu went to Suzhou and became a close friend of Mo Rong, abbot of the Buddhist monastery of Xing Fu. He had been interested in Buddhism since childhood, but it had never satisfied him entirely.

In 1670, he accompanied a friend to Beijing, where he met Jesuits working at the Imperial Court.



He was impressed by their work, their scientific learning, and the Baroque churches they had built in the capital. He drew closer to Catholicism. When he returned to Changshu in 1672, he found a flourishing Catholic community of 20,000 people, boasting 14 churches and 21 chapters.

He met Jesuit missionaries like Francois de Rougemont and Philippe Couplet, a Belgian. Couplet baptized him in 1675 and gave him the Christian name of Simao Xaver da Cunha.

In 1681, Couplet was recalled to Europe, where he would promote the China mission of the Jesuits and plead its cause before Pope Innocent XI. He planned to take with him five Chinese candidates for the priesthood, including Wu.

The two went together to Macao. Couplet went on to Europe, but Wu remained in Macao for five months. He returned to his home town in the summer of 1682.

In the end, Couplet took with him just one Chinese person: Michael Shen. During his travels in Europe, he met the British king James II who had Shen's portrait done by the court painter. It still hangs in Windsor Castle. It could so easily have been a portrait of Wu Li.

Later in 1682, Wu returned to Macao in the winter and joined the Society of Jesus. It was a remarkable decision for a leading Chinese intellectual not only to convert to a Jesuit but also to undertake the rigorous and celibate life that that entailed. Both his mother and his wife had died, in 1662 and 1680 respectively, and his two daughters had got married. He had fulfilled his family obligations.

At the seminary of St Paul, he learned Latin, philosophy and theology, and started to write poetry with Catholic themes. It begs the question: How many Chinese people would be prepared to learn Latin at the age of 50?

On 1 August, 1688, he was consecrated a priest under the name A. Cunha. The ceremony was conducted in Nanjing by Luo Wenzao, the first Chinese apostolic vicar and legitimate bishop; Wu was one of the first three priests personally ordained by Luo.

Wu was assigned as a missionary in his home province, in Jiading, in what is now Shanghai. In his letters, Bishop Luo describes Wu as having faith and zeal to evangelise. He could also say Mass in Latin. He even created a new kind of poetry, based on Christian theology but using classical Chinese forms.

## Persecution

Relations between the Qing emperor and the Catholic church had been good in the 17th century. The Jesuits served at the Imperial court, advising the emperor on astronomy, mechanics, diplomacy and the manufacturing of artillery. Two Jesuit translators took part in Sino-Russian negotiations over the Treaty of Nerchinsk in 1689.

In 1692, Emperor Kang Xi issued an edict of toleration of Christianity. The Jesuits were overjoyed. By the end of the century, there were an estimated 300,000 Catholics in China, out of a population of 300 million.



But other Catholic orders, including the Dominicans, argued that Chinese rites to honour Confucius and their ancestors were idolatrous and that Christians should not be allowed to practise them. The Jesuits, on the other hand, said that these rites were 'social' rather than 'religious' and that converts should be allowed to participate. The Dominicans asked Pope Clement XI to ban them.

The Pope ruled in favour of the Dominicans and sent a Papal emissary to inform the Emperor in 1705. Enraged, Kang Xi banished the emissary to Macao. The foreign missionaries and Chinese clergy were trapped in the middle of this controversy.

The effect of the dispute on Father Wu Li was profound. The government closed the border to foreign priests and banned missionary work south of the Yangtze. So Wu had to work in secret, travelling frequently, and living in harsh conditions. He disguised himself as a peasant and a fisherman and went from one village to another to evangelise.

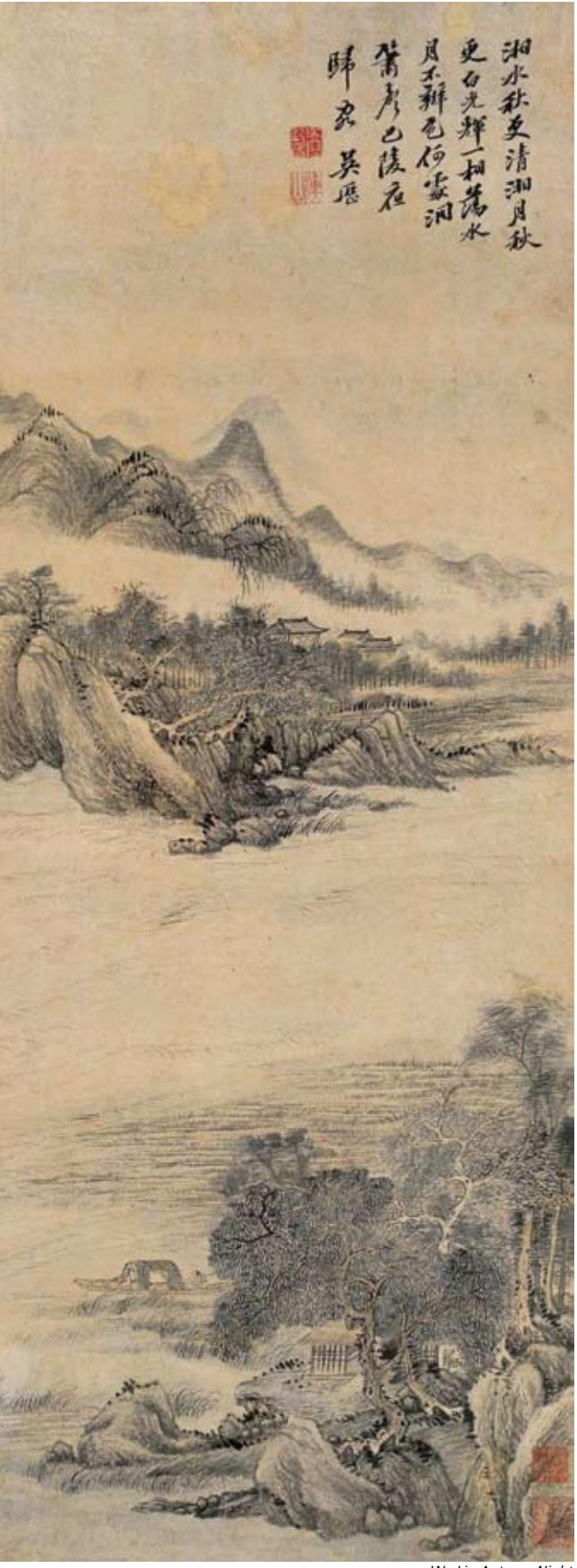
Because of this persecution and the controversy over the rites, fewer and fewer people were willing to convert. The only audience for this leading intellectual was made up of fishermen and farmers. One convert recorded the sermons he delivered in 1696 and 1697. It was the first collection of sermons by a Chinese priest.

In his old age, Wu became sad and desolate but retained a profound faith in God. "For the past 10 years, I have not found a way out of this city of distress," he wrote in one of his poems. "Yet the clock cares not for the depths of my distress. It chimes day and night for itself."

After he became a priest, he had less time for painting. He maintained a traditional style but made some revisions as a result of his encounter with Western art. He became ill and died on 24 February 1718 in Shanghai, aged 86. He was buried in the Jesuit cemetery of a Catholic church outside the south gate of Changshu; it was destroyed in the Cultural Revolution (1966–76).



Macau seminary by Eric Tam



Wu Li - Autumn Night

## Evaluation

On 19 March 1715, the Pope issued a bull condemning the Chinese rites.

In retaliation, in 1721, Emperor Kang Xi banned Christian missions. "Reading this bull, I have concluded that Westerners are petty indeed. 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. From now on, Westerners should not be allowed to preach in China, to avoid further trouble."

The momentous decision of Pope Clement XI was not reversed until 1939. It closed a chapter in which the Jesuits had made remarkable inroads into the world's most populous and developed country. If he had decided otherwise, the history of China would have been different.

In October 2001, Pope John Paul II sent an apology to the Chinese people for the mistakes committed by the church and its missionaries: "I feel deep sadness for these errors and limits of the past and I regret that in many people these failings may have given the impression of a lack of respect and esteem for the Chinese people on the part of the Catholic Church."

Let us leave the final word to Yu Sanle, a scholar and director of the China Society for the Study of the Ming Dynasty. He wrote about Wu and Xu Guangqi (1562–1633), another leading intellectual and one of the earliest converts to Catholicism.

"In order to serve the Chinese nation and its people, scholars like Xu Guangqi studied Western learning very intensely. They had no traditional prejudice about 'the ravine between Chinese and foreigners'. They said: 'In the seas of the East, in the seas of the West, the heart is the same, reason is the same.'

"They opened their eyes to look at the world in a way that Chinese people had never known. They paid great attention to transmitting Western learning to other people ... Christianity and the related advancement in science and technology benefited people more than Buddhism in China during the late Ming till the early Qing times."

"This special group of Chinese intellectuals were the pioneers who sought truth from the West – a generation of giants among the intelligentsia during the late Ming dynasty." ■

JINGMAI

photography and installation by Carol Kwok

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本項目獲澳門文化中心支持  
Com o apoio do Centro Cultural  
With the support of Macao Cultural Centre



A photograph of a woman standing in a museum gallery, looking at framed portraits on the wall. The gallery has a dark floor and walls, with recessed lighting in the ceiling.

# A Revolution Remembered

## Macao plans museum to honour Dr Sun Yat-sen

By Staff Reporter

Photos by Eric Tam

On the 100th anniversary of the Xinhai revolution, Macao has been remembering the man behind it – Dr Sun Yat-sen. The city played an important part in his life, serving as a base for his revolution and as the home of his family.



Cheong U - Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture during the inauguration of the exhibition

**At the end of last year, these memorial activities included a stage production, a concert, tours of sites connected with Dr Sun,** a seminar attended by one of his grand-daughters, and an exhibition in the Macao Museum.

The government has purchased the site of the pharmacy which Sun opened in 1892, and plans to turn it into a museum devoted to him. Due to open in 2012, it will contain some of the items on show at the exhibition.

The idea is to create a permanent museum dedicated to one of the most important Chinese men of the modern era, to supplement the existing statues, homes, gardens and streets in the city named after him.

## Not just another exhibition

"No matter which angle they are viewed from, both Dr Sun Yat-Sen and the 1911 revolution initiated by him appear to have a very close relationship with Macao," reads the introduction to last year's exhibition by Ung Vai Meng, president of the Cultural Affairs Bureau of Macao.

"It was from here that the young Sun embarked on his journey to the outside world. Macao was also the

first place he began practising medicine in, and the very soil on which he developed his revolutionary ideas. Macao is regarded as the strategic base where he planned and organised the Chinese republic, and sheltered when in danger. Hence, it can be said that Macao was the second home of Dr Sun Yat-sen and his family."

The exhibition contained a wide variety of items related to Dr Sun, borrowed from museums and private collections in Macao, Shanghai, Shenzhen, Guangzhou, Taipei and Hong Kong. They included letters, articles, photographs, medals, souvenir porcelain and a film about his life.

Lilian Chan, a researcher at the museum and one of the team that created the exhibition, said that it took twelve months to prepare. "Our focus was on Dr Sun's links to Macao. Many Chinese cities have held exhibitions on him, so it was hard to find new material. Our idea was 'let history talk, let the truth talk'."

Chan and her colleagues went to different cities in the Chinese world to seek exhibits. "Everyone was willing to donate. Many did not ask for a deposit – only the cost of transportation and insurance. Some museums demanded a small deposit to cover their



Lilian Chan

administrative costs. The most difficult thing was to find items, especially new ones. Everyone was doing exhibitions, so it was hard to borrow. But after a while many local people came forward with offers to lend things. I was very moved. There were a lot of enthusiastic people. Museums in the mainland were very co-operative. Over half of the items in the exhibition had not been seen before. I thank the exhibitors and private collectors for their help."

Macao resources were also very important, including the Cultural Bureau, historical archives, the Central Library, the Civil and Municipal Affairs Bureau, the Kiang Wu hospital, and private collectors. "We found a lady of a hundred – Madame Chan Yuet-san, who lives in Macao and had met Dr Sun as a little girl in Kobe. Her father was a revolutionary who had gone there to support him."

## Role in the revolution

Chan said that Macao played a major role in the revolution. "It had a status that protected the revolutionaries – like a sanctuary. The governments of China and Guangdong used to ask the Macao government to arrest revolutionaries. The Macao

government would then assign the task to their Chinese police. But these policemen had different attitudes. Some supported the revolution and others were afraid of those taking part in it. They did not do their best to search out revolutionaries, nor did they report the truth. In effect, they did not complete their job. This provided a space for the revolutionaries to hide. The Macao government did not support the revolutionaries, but turned a blind eye.

"One beneficiary was Chen Jiong-ming. The government said that he was not here when he must have been. I am not sure how long he stayed." A native of Haifeng in Guangdong, Chen was a lawyer and a member of the Qing dynasty legislature who turned against the government. He later became commander of the Guangdong army and, after the revolution, governor of the province.

Sun found supporters among the Portuguese as well as the Chinese community in Macao. The most prominent was Francisco Fernandes (1863–1923), owner of the Echo Macanese newspaper, which he published in Chinese and Portuguese. Despite the sensitivities of the issue, Fernandes published articles by and about Sun, and printed advertisements for Sun's pharmacy.

The exhibition showed articles from Fernandes' newspaper, and a letter he wrote to Sun, in English, to congratulate him on becoming president. Also on display was a photograph of Fernandes' tomb in the St Michael's Cemetery in Macao.

In addition was a photograph of Sun at a gathering with Portuguese members of the Military Club in 1912, after he had become president.

## History lesson

The exhibition was a lesson in Chinese history. Sun came to Macao in 1892 to start his medical practice, after training in Hong Kong. The city's Kiang Wu hospital gave him a loan to set up a pharmacy selling both Chinese and Western medicine. He was the first Chinese doctor in the city to sell Western drugs.

The exhibition showed documents relating to the establishment of the pharmacy and advertisements from it in Fernandes' newspaper.

Then there was a letter from Zheng Guanying, one of the great reformers of the late Qing period, introducing Sun to Li Hongzhang, a senior official of the Qing government. In 1894, Zheng published "Words of Warning in Times of Prosperity", in which he advocated a representative and participatory political system, and 'commercial warfare' against Western imperialism. He wrote the book while he was living in Macao.

The book influenced thousands of Chinese people, including the then Emperor Guang Xu, Sun himself and later Mao Zedong. Li Hongzhang certainly read it. Sun wrote Li a long deposition in which he set out the reforms he considered necessary to modernise China and confront the Western powers. Li did not reply. It was a critical moment in Sun's life. Believing that the government would not reform, he concluded that violent revolution was the only way forward.

One exhibit was a medallion of the Macao Queue-cutting and Dress Reform Society of 1910. Under the Qing, men had to wear a pig-tail: cutting it off was illegal and a sign of defiance. Also on display were letters from the Hong Kong and Guangdong governments asking the Macao authorities to expel revolutionaries.

After the revolution, Sun returned to Macao only twice, once to see his friends and supporters and once to meet his daughter and to meet Chen Jiongming. A photograph in the exhibition showed him meeting supporters in the Yiu Yuen, now the Lou Lim Ieoc park.

Copies of "Fundamentals of National Construction", in Chinese and Mongolian, were also fascinating to see. Published by Sun in 1919, it was his most detailed exposition of the economic development of China.

*Courtesy of Taipei Economic and Culture Centre*

*Sun Yat-sen in a meeting with Portuguese civil servants and officers in the Military Club of Macao (1921)*





Sun Yat-sen and his wife Soong Ching Ling in Guangzhou (1917)



Sun Yat-sen as president of the Chinese Republic

## Family home

While Sun himself had little contact with Macao after the revolution, it had great importance as the home of his family. In 1886, at the age of 20, he had an arranged marriage with Lu Muzhen, a lady from his native village. She bore him one son and two daughters.

In 1915, Sun married his secretary Soong Ching-ling, despite the strong opposition of his father and Lu's plea to accept her as a concubine, rather than a wife, to save her status and reputation. After the marriage, Sun bought a house in Macao for Lu and the children. She remained there with her children and grand-children until her death in 1952. The building has become the Sun Yat-sen Memorial House.

The exhibition included photographs of Lu, her children and grandchildren, and her family life, as well as porcelain donated to her on her 70th birthday.

Macao fulfilled an important role as a safe haven for Lu and her family. For Sun, it was a place where he could leave his first family, far from Beijing, Nanjing and the other cities in China where he was fighting the revolution. Lu's presence close to him would have been an embarrassment, and something which Soong would not have tolerated.

Visitors left the exhibition with a better understanding of what Macao meant to the father of the Chinese Republic. ■



Sun with his family in the Macao Residence (1901)

Courtesy of Shenzhen Museum



# Generous Gift

Taiwan sculptor gives  
mountain museum  
to his people

By Staff Reporter



On a mountainside in northern Taiwan overlooking the East China Sea, is a large outdoor museum. It houses the works of the island's most famous sculptor.



**Ju Ming bought 27 acres of land and built the project with his own money, as a gift to the people of Taiwan.** It is the biggest outdoor museum on the island.

It serves as a permanent memorial, containing over 2500 pieces of extraordinary variety and covering many themes. Ju continues to work intensively every day, and still donates new pieces to the collection.

In 2006, he held an exhibition in Macao, whose Grand Lisboa hotel has two of his pieces on display.

### **Carving out a future**

Ju was born in Miaoli, northwest Taiwan, in 1938. He was the 11th and last child of a poor family. His father and mother's advanced ages at his birth, of 51 and 42 respectively, inspired Ju's nickname '9-2' – the combined ages of his parents. His father earned his living from odd jobs – farm work, cutting grass and doing repairs.

At primary school, Ju was not very interested in mathematics, languages or other subjects except for arts and sports. After classes ended, he had to look after sheep and cows to earn money to support his family. At 13, he graduated, earning his one and only academic diploma. He went on to work as a clerk in a grocery store.

When he was 15, the Mazu temple in the town was being repaired. He left the grocery store and became

an apprentice to the main sculptor at the temple – Lee Chin-chuan. Lee became his first teacher. Ju worked with Lee for three years and eight months, learning how to carve and paint. He never forgot how much he learnt from this first mentor. Indeed, his father encouraged him to learn sculpture as a trade from which he could earn a living.

Miaoli was a centre for the furniture trade and counted many sculptors among its residents. It is one of the main areas of Taiwan for growing camphor wood – a favourite with the Japanese, who occupied the island from 1895–1945.

Ju set up a factory making camphor furniture for export to Japan. But he was a better artist than businessman, and ended up having to close the business. In 1961, he married Chen Fu-mei, his home-town sweetheart. They have four children.

In 1968, he found his second teacher. Yang Ying-feng, a well-known sculptor, had studied in Japan and Rome, and specialised in large abstract stainless-steel pieces. Seeing that Ju was too thin, Yang advised him to study Tai Chi. Through this, Ju strengthened his physique and learnt about the relationship between body and spirit, and how to conserve his strength. It became the inspiration for many of his later works.

He spent eight years working with Yang as his assistant and travelling with him abroad. Yang taught him to use not only wood but other materials as well.



Ju Ming - Photo by Si Chi Ko

## Professional breakthrough

His big break came in 1976. Yang had arranged an exhibition at the National Museum of History in Taipei – one of the best venues in the country. As conservative museum, it would only accept works by well-known artists such as Yang.

Yang deliberately waited until the last minute to tell the director that he did not have the pieces ready – but proposed using those of Ju instead. Since Ju was unknown, the director was uneasy. He summoned experts from Japan to come and see the pieces and meet Ju. They gave their approval and the exhibition opened.

It was a great success, indeed, so popular that it lasted for a year. It showed works inspired by nature, like cows and chickens. The most famous piece was 'Water Buffalo', a sculpture in camphor wood, showing the animal and farmers pulling a heavy load. It spoke to thousands of Taiwan people, acting as a symbol of their sweat and hard work.

This exhibition was the showcase Ju needed, and it made his name. In 1978–79, he held his first foreign exhibition, at the Central Arts Museum in Tokyo. It

was where his teacher, Mr Yang, had studied. His next foreign show, in 1980, was at the Arts Centre in Hong Kong – the home of his agent, Chang Tsong-zung. Chang also displayed Ju's work at his Hanart Gallery in Pedder Street, Central.

Chang became an important promoter of Ju's work, which can be found in many places in Hong Kong, including the new Bank of China building, Exchange Square, the Chinese University, and the Academy for Performing Arts.

Ju first showed his work in the United States in 1981, at a gallery in New York. Then he moved on to Manila, Bangkok, Singapore and again to Hong Kong. He made his European debut in 1991 at the South Bank Cultural Centre in London, and in a large private garden in Yorkshire, in the north of England. He also held regular exhibitions in Taiwan and Japan.

In 1997, he returned to Europe and held an exhibition in the Place Vendome in Paris. In 1999, he exhibited in Luxembourg.

His first exhibition in mainland China was at the National Art Museum of China in Beijing, in 2006. By then he had become an internationally famous sculptor.



## Creating his own museum

In the 1980s, he conceived the idea of creating a museum to exhibit his work. He had a studio in a northern district of Taipei. A friend recommended a site 50 kilometres north of the city, where the land was cheap. It was the slopes of the Jinshan district of New Taipei City, which overlook the East China Sea.

The site has streams running through it, which appealed to Ju; he likes the sound of water.

In 1987, he started to buy plots of land, using his own money. When he ran out of funds, he waited until he had more. The land belonged to fruit and vegetable farmers. When they found out who he was and what he was doing, they increased the price at which they were willing to sell.

In 1996, he established a non-profit foundation, which would run the museum and to which he would donate his pieces. He took a close personal interest in all aspects of the design and construction, turning a wasteland into the largest outdoor museum in Taiwan, covering 27 acres. The project was finally completed in 1999.

"Juming Museum is his biggest work and his best gift to the people of Taiwan," said Wu Su-mei, one of his daughters-in-law and executive director of the Juming Culture and Education Foundation. "He did not understand how to set up a museum but was determined to do it. He refused to accept donations because he wanted to remain in control. He says: 'the pieces are my children and the museum is their home. I want to promote fine art.'"

The museum receives 150,000–180,000 visitors a year, from Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macao, Japan and mainland China. It sells merchandise, and has large spaces for education.

"Sales of tickets and merchandise are not enough to cover our annual budget of NT\$100 million," said Wu. "We do fundraising, and Mr Ju keeps donating money and artworks to us too. Besides the artworks he gave the museum in 1999, he now allows us to choose the best pieces from his new work. Then they all become our museum's permanent collection."

At an auction in Sotheby's in Hong Kong in October 2011, a two-metre high Taichi Series piece from one Taiwan collector fetched HK\$18 million, a record for one of his works.



## Living like a monk

Although he is 73, Ju lives the disciplined life of a monk, far away from his family, and with an enthusiasm for his vocation as strong as it was during his teens.

He spends most of the year in a studio in Nantou, in central Taiwan, close to the mountains and away from the humidity of the coast. His wife and family live in their own house in Taipei.

"He likes to stay there so that he can concentrate on his work and not be disturbed by the social life of Taipei," said Wu. "He likes walking in the mountains, and works out on an exercise bicycle. He has no hobbies and no Saturdays or Sundays. He gets up at 6–7 am and usually has a traditional breakfast. He works through the morning, takes a light lunch, a one-hour rest, and goes back to work. After dinner, he relaxes, watches television – especially the Discovery channel – and then thinks about his creations."

He does not smoke, and drinks sparingly. He likes Japanese food; the two assistants who work with him grow vegetables. He is in good health, except for having weak knees. His work requires considerable physical labour, including the use of a chainsaw. He stays in Nantou for two-three weeks a month and then visits his family and the museum in Taipei. He keeps a studio in both places.

"He does not bother with administrative matters but sticks to creation. He believes that an artist must be like a monk or a nun – dedicated to what he does, and not easily diverted," said Wu.

## Soldiers, athletes and scientists

It is difficult to describe Ju's works in words. In the museum, there is a great variety of themes and materials, reflecting a career spanning 50 years, seeing the constant development of new ideas.

The 'Water Buffalo', in wood, is a favourite with Taiwan visitors.

Since 1980, he has been doing the 'Living World Series', which includes a great variety of human activities. For example, in 2005, he unveiled more than 300 life-size military figures under the theme 'Armed Forces'. They appear all over the museum – standing in rows, listening passively to their officers. There is even a jet plane and a steel ship.

After Chiang Kai-shek arrived in Taiwan in 1949, he instituted compulsory military service of at least two years for all males, including Ju. Martial law remained in force until July 1987.

This means that the army has been an intimate part of Taiwan society for over 60 years. Ju said that the idea of soldier figures marching with visitors to the museum came from World War II in China.

Ju's soldiers are expressionless: they seem to be silently obeying orders. In China, as in other countries, these foot soldiers are the passive instruments of the will of their masters. This seems to be the message Ju is conveying.

Ju explained how he worked on the Armed Forces series: "I tried to finish one piece a day. This kind of work is a tremendous challenge for me in terms of time, energy and budget. I kept thinking that if I missed this opportunity, I might not have had the chance to complete it in the future. I see this work as my unique 'grand production'."

Another theme is sports. There are figures playing golf, riding motorbikes and mountain bicycles, parachuting and pole vaulting.

There is a square devoted to his Taichi series – one of his favourite themes – containing over 30 pieces. They are monumental: one piece is 15.2 metres long and six metres high.

A science area has white statues of famous Chinese and foreign scientists, including Cai Lun, who discovered paper, and Fang Shi, who discovered gunpowder. Marie Curie, the only person to win a Nobel Prize in two different sciences, is holding a bicycle. Several have umbrellas, as part of the art work.

Since 2007, Ju has switched to white. "From now on, I will only use white to colour my sculptures ... it is a sign of growth," he said.

His current theme is 'Imprisonment'. On display are three cages showing the innocent in white and criminals in white suits. One shows a married couple. Some people asked Ju if it meant that marriage was the tomb of love; he answered that he wanted to show that marriage and other social institutions restricted people. There is nothing about the happiness or unhappiness of the people in the cages.

In 2007, he received the 18th Fukuoka Art and Culture Award for his work in developing Asian culture – the second Taiwan artist to receive it after film director Hou Hsiao-hsien. ■



Ju Ming Sculptures in Singapore

# Ancient Kingdom

Guangzhou:  
capital of imperial dynasty  
2000 years ago

By Staff Reporter

Photos by Eric Tam and José S. Morais

西漢南越王

In 1983, construction workers in Guangzhou were levelling a hill where they were to build an apartment complex when they made an astonishing discovery. They had unearthed the tomb of an emperor who had died 2133 years earlier and had been buried with 15 others, along with a treasure trove of precious objects.

三博物館



THE EAST SIDE  
THE WEST SIDE

**When the government and archaeologists found out what was in the tomb, they cancelled the plan to build apartments and began a painstaking recovery of the objects discovered.** They included jade, silver, copper, gold, lacquer ware and agate. Also remarkable was the fact that no one had known of the existence of the tomb before. "It was not in written records of the period," said Wang Weiyi, deputy chief of the education and publicity department of Nan Yue King Mausoleum Museum. "Perhaps the dynasty that followed it did not want to speak of it – that is what happens in China."

This secrecy saved it from the pillaging that has ravaged many of China's historical remains.

Instead of the apartment block, the city spent three million yuan on a museum of red stone, which contains the excavated tomb and the objects found inside it. It opened to the public in 1988 and has attracted foreign leaders, as well as China's president Jiang Zemin.

It is the most important imperial site in Guangdong and attracts 300,000–400,000 visitors a year – both Chinese people and foreigners.

The beauty and high quality of the items found, including some from west Asia and Africa, are evidence that then, as now, Guangzhou was an important city of foreign trade and commerce.

## Preparing for the next life

The tomb is of Zhao Mo, the second emperor of the Nanyue Kingdom, a vassal state of the Western Han dynasty. It had been founded in 203 BC by Zhao Tuo, who made his capital at Panyu, now part of Guangzhou. His kingdom included present-day Guangdong province and parts of Guizhou and Guangxi provinces as well as parts of what is now Vietnam.

Zhao Tuo ruled for 67 years – an astonishing span, considering the average life expectancy at that time was 20 years. Indeed, his first son died before him. So he was succeeded by his grandson, Zhao Mo, who ruled from 137 BC to 122 BC, when he died between the age of 40 and 45.

"In the second year of his reign, Zhao began to prepare for his death and burial, and appointed a minister to take charge of the arrangements," said Wang. "That was normal for emperors at that time."

Zhao was buried with 15 others – his four concubines and 11 others, including musicians, servants and guards. "This was the ancient custom," said Peng Qingyun, a museum guide. "Emperor Qin Shi Huang (259–210 BC) had changed this. When he was buried, he took with him a terracotta army of fake people.



The previous custom had been to take real people."

Peng said that the 15 took poison and were buried with Zhao. "They were members of his family and his court. They believed that they should accompany him in the next life as they had done in the previous one. When we see the richness of the objects in the tomb, it is clear that they meant to enjoy the same life in the next world as they had in this one."

This explains the great diversity of items found in the tomb, including musical instruments, a chess board, an ink slab and stone, medicines, jade, gold and silver ornaments, cooking utensils, swords, spears and pieces of a chariot that was too large to fit in whole.

Zhao occupied the main room in a two-storey coffin made of wood. A lacquer screen separated him from the room on one side of him that contained his four wives. On the other side was a room with seven servants, while an official and two soldiers lay guarding him next to the first and second door.

Peng said they were able to identify Zhao from his teeth – which miraculously survived the heat and damp of Guangdong for nearly 2000 years. They are on display in the museum.

The Nanyue kingdom lasted for only 11 years after Zhao's death. In 111 BC, it was taken over by the

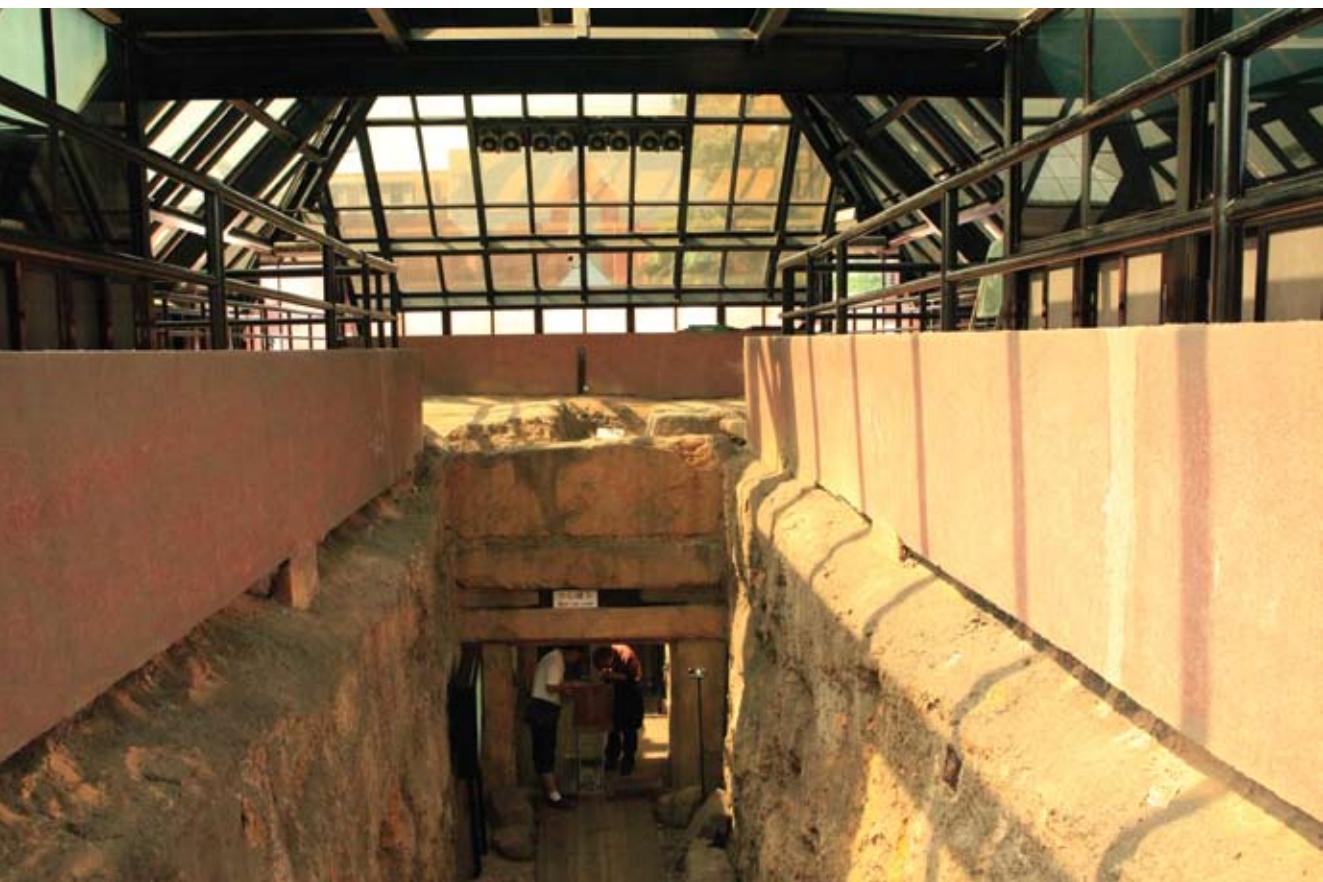
Han Empire, which made its capital in Chang'an, now Xian. Lasting for four centuries, until AD 220, it is considered one of the most prosperous and successful of the Chinese dynasties.

## Jade and Silver

The archaeologists found more than 1000 artefacts in the tomb, including copper, iron, jade, stone, gold, silver, glass, agate, crystal, lacquer work, silk, ivory, and medicines. They divided them into five categories – musical instruments, weapons, food utensils, ornaments for garments, and articles for daily use.

The items included pieces from different parts of China, as well as from abroad, such as African ivory, a silver box from Persia and frankincense from the Red Sea. It is a sign that then, as now, Guangzhou was an important port that traded between China and the rest of the world.

One of the most remarkable items is the jade burial suit worn by Zhou Mo. Measuring 173 centimetres long, it is sown with silk thread and jade pieces. It is the first one of its kind to be discovered and, considering its age, is in good condition. Experts have now restored it, using red seams, and put it on display in the museum.



Another fine piece is a bronze-jade drinking vessel composed of three parts – a green-jade goblet, a jade support with a gold head and silver body of a swaying dragon holding petals in his mouth, and a bronze tray. The effect is of three dragons supporting a vessel made of five materials – gold, silver, jade, bronze and wood.

There is also a jade drinking vessel carved out of a single piece of green and white jade, in the shape of a rhinoceros horn – a piece of remarkable craftsmanship. Equally impressive is a jade ornament with a pattern of a dragon and a phoenix.

Among the foreign items is a silver box weighing 573g from Persia. It is shaped like a garlic bulb, with the shapes in perfect symmetry.

The cooking utensils enable the user to fry, roast and steam food – an example of the diversity of Cantonese cuisine, then as now.

The emperor took with him musical instruments, including string and percussion pieces, similar to the Guzheng used today. He also took weapons, including swords and spears, made of iron. These are also on display in the museum.

The Nanyue King Museum was set up to protect the tomb in its original form. It has set a good example for the protection and utilisation of cultural relics in China. The architectural design of the museum was praised as a ‘world classic of world architecture’ in China at the 20th World Architect Conference.



## Royal Garden

Following the discovery of the tomb, archaeologists found other remains of the Nan Yue period in Guangzhou.

Between 1995 and 2000, they discovered a palace and royal garden, which covered a total area of 150,000 square metres. The garden contains a pond with a stone foundation covering an area of 4,000 square metres.

It is one of the earliest and best-preserved garden remains found in China, perhaps even the world.

The Hanging Gardens of Babylon were built in around 600 BC by King Nebuchadnezzar to please his homesick wife, Amytis of Media, who longed for the trees and fragrant plants of her homeland. They were considered at that time to be one of the seven wonders of the world. But they were destroyed by several earthquakes after the second century BC.

The garden of the Hadrian Palace in Rome, built in around the second century AD is preserved today; it dates from two centuries after than the construction of the garden of the Nan Yue kingdom.

The city government has built protective structures over the parts of the garden that have been excavated. As with the tomb, it plans to build a museum at the site, to give the public a clearer understanding of the palace and the garden.

## Water-control system

In 2000, workers made another important discovery from the Nan Yue period. When they were laying the foundations of the Guangming Plaza, they found the remains of the drainage system used during the dynasty.

It was four metres below the surface of the ground and covered an area of 35 metres long and five metres wide. The northern end was higher than the southern end; this allowed those using it to control the flow of the water from the Pearl River. It showed the water discharge and drainage system used in Guangzhou 2000 years ago.

It is one of the most important discoveries in China of a water system in ancient times. The city government decided to preserve the site in its original form and build the plaza around it. ■







# The Chinese Hawaii:

Sanya becomes the getaway for  
China's nouveau riche

By Sascha Matuszak

Sanya is fast becoming the destination of choice for mainland Chinese people of means who just want to get away from it all for a while. Sanya's footprint on the tourism map has been growing for a decade now, from an unknown tropical island with sandy beaches to what it is today: Asia's newest hot spot for luxury holidaying, offering family-friendly getaways and high-end events and exhibitions.



**Sanya isn't really for backpackers.** You would not find buskers, dreadlocks or other unconventional sights on the paths and pavements of China's southernmost city. Instead, it is full of couples with mother-in-law tagging along, nuclear families from the mainland and Russia, and young lovers making vows at Tianya Hajiao – a boulder-scattered beach famous all over China as the End of the Known World. Around 90 percent of the tourists here are mainland Chinese people escaping from the grind and grit of their daily lives. The rest are Russians, along with a smattering of international ex-pats from China and other Pacific Asian countries. A getaway by definition is easy to get to and peaceful

once you get there. Every major city in China has flights to Hainan – either directly to Sanya on the southern side, or to the capital Haikou on the northern coast. From the airport it's a short drive along immaculate highways to the hotels, and then through their reception and upstairs for a quick shower. Within a few minutes, all you can see for miles are beaches, and the occasional fragrant iced tea.

Sanya doesn't require much planning, thinking or improvisation. There are a few major beaches, each one boasting a hotel strip going from one end to the other. Each strip faces the ocean. There is little to stress out about. And that is the key to Sanya's sky-rocketing popularity with mainland Chinese



residents. Not only can people escape from the pressures of life back home, but the newly minted rich can also enjoy the fruits of their efforts in some of the best hotels found anywhere in the world.

"The Chinese market is demanding an international standard – the best standard," said Wolfgang Boettcher, general manager of the Sheraton Sanya Resort at Yalong Bay. "And in terms of beaches and resorts, Yalong Bay is one of the best I have ever been to."

That truly is saying something, coming from a man who has spent 20 years in the resort business in well-known resort islands like Bali, Phuket and Langkawi. The Sheraton was the first international resort

to open here, in 2002, but several major resorts followed soon after. They include the Marriot in 2004, the Hilton in 2006 and the Ritz-Carlton in 2008, along with several other major international resorts, such as the Pullman at Yalong Bay and the St. Regis Resort.

The whole strip is a cultivated garden facing the hills behind Yalong Bay, showing off a stunning array of landscaped gardens and swimming pools overlooking the beach and the ocean. Each resort has its own special take on the open, softly breezy tropical paradise that guests are eager to experience in Sanya.

But they all have one thing in common: luxury.



## Headlong into luxury

When I was growing up, if someone said a certain thing was "ritzy" or that a place was "the ritz", they meant that it was out-of-my-league extravagant. They meant gold watches and diamond cuff links and the wide smiles of people who have made it in this world, financially speaking. The term referred to a place where I would either stand out awkwardly or be an employee.

When I finally did sit down upon the soft cushions of a Ritz-Carlton sofa, it was in Sanya. The wide smile that greeted me was that of Michel Goget, the general manager of The Ritz-Carlton Sanya, who is both charmingly French and disarmingly American. Goget "became American" under the cloudless skies of Florida – a memory he cherishes with me over coffee on a billowy balcony overlooking Yalong Bay.

"Sanya is a lot like Florida back in the 1980s," Goget explains. "Back then, Florida was the getaway destination for America's rich and wealthy. Today, Sanya is the same thing for China."

If Sanya is the getaway for China's rich, then Yalong Bay is their private strip, with the Ritz-Carlton as the crown jewel in a glittering necklace of luxury resorts. They include the Sheraton Sanya Resort, Sanya Marriott Resort and Spa, and a St. Regis on the way. The major difference between Sanya and other resorts around the world, as with almost anything in China, is the speed at which it is developing. It took decades for the leisure industry in Florida to reach its peak. Almost 50 years separated the first whispers Miami heard around Hollywood and New York to the mass tourism of the 1980s and 1990s. The same could be said for France's famous Cote d'Azur, except that the process there took centuries, not mere decades.

"The speed of development here is beyond anything I have seen before," said Stephan Stoss, general manager of the Sanya Marriot Resort and Spa at Yalong Bay. "The infrastructure around the resorts – transportation, flights, labour supply – is being built almost as quickly as the resorts themselves."

But some things need to go even more quickly. Most of the resort managers agree that the major obstacles to Sanya's growth into a leisure and luxury hub for the wealthy are not highways and events, or even more hotels, but basic things, like trained staff, a night life outside of the hotels, and more international flights.

The city of Sanya itself is slightly undernourished in comparison to the massive luxury resorts crowding the Yalong, Dadonghai and Sanya beaches. There is little night life that would appeal to tourists, and much of the city seems to have been stuck in time as the world changes around it. For some holiday-makers, this is ideal: a luxury room with a view for the family, then an evening stroll through the raucous night markets for barbecued seafood.

But the lack of development within the city also



means that qualified staff are tied to the hotels, leading to many of them rotating back out to larger cities like Shanghai and Beijing out of sheer boredom. The key is to bring locals into the labour pool at the hotels, not just letting them serve as a sideshow selling trinkets and deep fried squid.

"The hospitality industry will face a big challenge in the next year or so due to the lack of trained staff in the area," said Sergio Brett, the General Manager of Pullman Oceanview Sanya Bay. "We will all be facing a shortage of labour. Therefore a lot needs to be done in this direction if we want to maintain the high standards of service of a five-star hotel chain and meet customers' expectations."

### **Island style**

Things move slowly on Hainan Island, even when the modern world has encroached as much as it has in Sanya. The indigenous Li people are making do as best they can. There are street-level hustlers making as much cash as they are able to out of the tourists, and there are builders constructing

new homes (using cash from the land they sold to resort-developers). Some make a living working in one of the many "Li villages" set up by the government along the Yalong and Haitang resort areas. Dancers can make the money needed to lift a family out of poverty, and they feel no shame in performing traditional dances for wealthy mainland tourists.

Beneath the bourgeois society that is slowly making Sanya a home-from-home for the rich, the original settlers and cultivators of the land, the native Li people, toil each day. They drive the Chinese tuk-tuks, they grill the seafood, they sell tobacco from little corner shops. The alleys of downtown Sanya are filled with the multi-toned inflections of their Cantonese-influenced native speech.

They also chew betel-nuts, chill out in hammocks beneath palm trees, and love to sip on wine-laced fruit juice and swap lies about the fish they caught that morning.

The Li are island folk, and have been so for some 3000 years, even if they originally hail from Fujian and Guangdong.

## History of the island folk

When the original Yue people arrived in pre-historic times, they encountered nothing but wild forest fowl, boar and a coastline of cliffs, sandy beaches and oysters that would become famous over time for their pearls. It was not until after the fall of the Qin and the rise of the Han Dynasty a little less than 2000 years ago, that the mainland re-established formal contact with the island.

At that time, Hainan was known as a place of exile and a source of some of the best pearls in the Old World. The subsequent dynasties named Hainan "Qiongzhou" or "Zhuya", in reference to the pearls and cliffs.

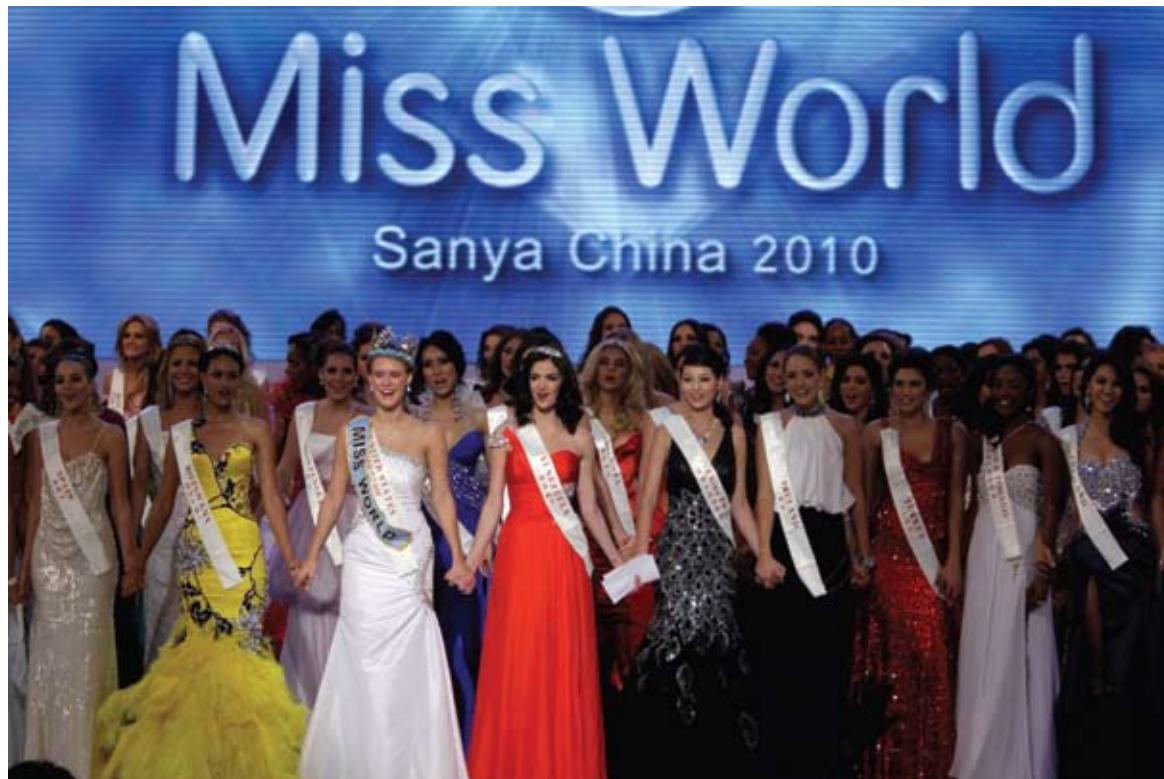
For centuries Hainan remained a remote extension of Guangdong Province, itself an extension, on and off, of the different empires that came and went with the years. The native Li were joined slowly by a Miao minority that migrated from Guangxi, along

with the sons and daughters of exiled officials whose bloodlines mixed in with the natives until they too became, in effect, Li.

It wasn't until modern times that the island received large waves of migrants and refugees. They were fleeing from the wars, political conflicts and economic duress that China has suffered over the past 250 years. The people arriving on the island included Ming dynasty rebels, fleeing from the Qing; foreign merchants, tearing open the doors of the tottering empire; Nationalist soldiers – first as invaders and then as refugees; Japanese soldiers; Communist guerrillas, and Hui and Cantonese merchants. Slowly the percentage of Li-controlled land went from around 100 percent to 55 percent, where it hovers today.

Most of the land that remains theirs is in the mountains and jungles of the central and southern part of the island – right where the new tourist boom is hitting the hardest.





## Development boom

The newest development in Sanya's tourism boom is the massive build taking place in Haitang Bay, just east of the famous Yalong Bay resort strip. Haitang Bay is the megalith to Yalong's stele. It has more land, bigger buildings, faster construction, more advanced infrastructure and a grander vision.

Yalong Bay brought Sanya onto the event circuit, with Miss Universe, BRICS, yacht club races, etc. But Haitang Bay is destined to be the next step: Think G8, for example.

And when the world's leaders do come, they can sit back and film local Li minority bamboo dances in eight separate minority villages that will be interspersed across the Haitang Bay development zone.

Contrast that with the last remaining strongholds of authentic Li life, deep in the Wuzhi Mountains north of Sanya. The destinations, the travel agents involved, and the people who go there couldn't be more different.

"When I came to Sanya in 1993, there was one bus for the whole southern part of the island," said Gansu native Caddie Lu, founder of Sunny Sanya. "And it ran whenever it wanted to."

Caddie worked in the tourism agency for more

than 10 years as a travel agent and in sales and marketing for the Gloria Regent resort. Then she started her own travel agency and hotel in 2006. She spent a year struggling to keep the business going because her plan was to market the "real Sanya" to a very different type of traveller than the ones we commonly see on the streets and beaches of Hainan.

"We had a very hard time. There were weeks when I had only one guest," she said. "But I knew there was a market for the type of hotel that was close to the beach, was clean, offered a good Western breakfast, had internationally trained staff, and was not off-the-scale expensive."

In effect, Caddie wanted to open the classic hostel you might find up and down Southeast Asia and in pretty much any town in Europe. The first hurdle she had to overcome were the tour groups who dominate the tourism market in Sanya.

One look around Caddie's hostel and you are convinced that indeed, the market she is targeting exists. Young Chinese couples, young foreign couples, a family of four (with grandma) and various single travellers busy with guidebooks and breakfast sit quietly in the garden of the small hotel. Some of them ask for tours, but most leave during the day and come back at night to relax in the garden and

# BRICS Leaders Meeting

2011年4月14日 中国 三亚

14 April 2011 Sanya China



check out the day's haul of photos.

"For me the best places to go are in the far west or into the middle where the mountains and rivers are," said 23-year-old Sichuan native Wang Qing, who was spending three weeks in Sanya, hostel-hopping. "The touristy places are not really for me. You don't really get to see the real Sanya."

One of Caddie's favourite tours is up into the Wuzhi Shan area, where she takes visitors to a Li minority village that is, as yet, relatively untouched (for better or for worse) by the modern tourism boom that is turning the beaches into luxury resorts.

"The lifestyle hasn't changed there much," said Caddie. "It's a good chance for people to see what this island was like before the tour groups took over. It's still alive, that old culture, and in my experience, that's what stays with people when they leave here."

## Surfer's scene

A surf scene is growing up along the hundreds of beaches and coves that have yet to be discovered by the resort industry. Annual events like the Surfing Hainan Open (SHO) help to solidify the scene and give it a measure of exposure. But surfing in Hainan still belongs to a small, tight-knit tribe of regulars, locals and ex-pats who want to enjoy Hainan's perfect climate, but without paying the high prices.

Local surfers have been staging the SHO since

before 2008, but it recently gained international attention in 2010 when several famous surfing champions and legends showed up to compete and network with the new scene. For many of them, Sanya is a reminder of the way things used to be in Hawaii and California during the 1950s and 1960s and parts of Europe in the early 1980s and 1990s. Without local help, it is impossible to find the beaches that are good for surfing, and most spots are only accessible via vehicle or on foot. Crews with surfboards on their heads and backpacks full of snacks trudge down dirt paths to reach an unspoiled beach where the waves are just starting to break in the right way.

Two long-time Hainan surfers, Brendan Sheridan and Dahai Zhang, anchor the scene. Both run surf shops that rent out equipment, offer tours and training and provide a focal point for the sport – Sheridan runs Surfing Hainan and Dahai runs China Surf Sanya.

Leisure-boat enthusiasts, who have their own annual event, are quickly joining the surfers. Hainan Rendez-Vous brings together the most famous makes of yacht in the world, including Azimut, Lagoon and Sea Ray. The event includes displays of the yachts, along with private business jets, gala dinners, events, and a smorgasbord of high living that resonates with China's newly established millionaires and billionaires. The event is staged every April, and this year's one will fall hot on the

heels of another momentous occasion for Sanya: The Volvo Ocean Race.

One of the world's most famous races, the Volvo Ocean Race is set to dock in Sanya for nearly a month, starting in February this year. It is perfect timing for wealthy Chinese people heading south for the winter.

"Sanya has excellent resources," said Tang Sixian, deputy director of the Sanya Tourism Bureau, as he listed reasons on both hands. "We have the safest, cleanest beaches in China; we have the best resorts and hotels in the area; we have great food, great roads, and we're going to have the best hospital

in the region over at Haitang Bay. Any high-level political or economic meeting will have Sanya on their list of possible destinations."

Every single facet of Sanya's development carries the same sense of anticipation. The beaches are ready – now it's time for the surfers to show up. The resorts are built – now let the families fill them. The Haitang Bay resort area's total capacity will double every 12 months for the next few years until more than 30 five-star resorts are fully operational, along with another 70 luxury hotels.

Now it's time for the G8 to set up a meeting in Sanya. ■

*Photos by Xinhua*



# Where tourism meets culture

By Hélder Beja

Photos by Eric Tam and Luís Almoster





Just next to St Paul's Ruins, the new Tourism and Cultural Activities Centre brings together Chinese tea, Portuguese cuisine and design, and a number of Made in Macao products. The Yellow House is attracting more and more people every day.

## New Tourism and Culture Centre

**One of the things most visitors want to experience when they come to Macao is this unique blend of Chinese and Portuguese culture that makes Macao such a special place.** The Government recently decided to create a brand new Tourism and Cultural Activities Centre (CACT) next to St Paul's Ruins.

The CACT, also known as the Yellow House, was opened in September 2011, and soon afterwards the authorities decided to invite two institutions to open their businesses there. Something About Tea, a traditional tea-house, and Lusitanus, a coffee shop run by the Portuguese association Casa de Portugal, where you can also find cuisine and design products, are the two biggest attractions inside the building.

But let's start from the outside. We visited the Yellow House a few days before Christmas, and found all the streets around St Paul's Ruins bustling with people. Some visitors were simply taking all the pictures they could of themselves posing next to the Portuguese-style building. Others decided to go inside. We followed them to floor B-1, the Macao

Creative Pavilion.

The Cultural Affairs Bureau and local creative groups jointly operate this space. It will host exhibitions and showcase to tourists the various cultural industries that the Government is trying to develop. This time Macao and Hong Kong designers have joined hands to create 16 unique red packets (the envelopes used to give the Lai See, a monetary gift, during the Chinese New Year celebrations). The sale of the red envelopes, marking the Year of the Dragon, is to raise funds for the ORBIS sight-saving mission in Nepal. Before this exhibition, floor B-1 was filled with creative products by many local artists, which were also on sale.

We climb the stairs to level B-2, where the Tourist Office has set up the Virtual Macao Experience with a tour of the city's World Heritage sites, as well as the newest areas such as the casinos in Cotai, and information about the different festivals held each year in Macao.

Displayed on the walls, visitors can find information about historical sites such as the A-Ma Temple, the D. Pedro V Theatre or the Mandarin's House, as well as locating themselves on a map of the city. On a big screen they can watch a video (narrated in different



Tea house - Something About Tea

languages) that introduces the old and new Macao to the visitors. Macanese cuisine, heritage and shopping are some of the subjects that the short film covers.

Going up again, to the ground floor, we find the 'M in M' shop, which offers a wide range of products made in Macao, ranging from clothes to ceramics, from computer accessories to jewellery. Even the local people will be surprised by the amount of items produced in the city.

## Portuguese flavour

Lusitanos, on the first floor, is the Portuguese touch inside the Yellow House that invites tourists to "Find Portugal in Macao". The Government Tourist Office decided to invite Portuguese association Casa de Portugal to open a coffee shop, and the result is Lusitanos. You can try a Portuguese espresso ('bica')

or the famous Portuguese egg-tarts (pasteis de nata), often whilst listening to someone playing the Portuguese guitar.

The visitor is treated to Portuguese TV, a Portuguese chef and Portuguese (or Portuguese-speaking) waiters. This floor also offers a speciality gourmet shop with a good variety of wine, tea, coffee, cheese, olive oil, honey, sausages, olives and regional sweets, as well as a handicrafts and design area to display and sell works of art, handcrafted goods and products designed by local and Portuguese artists.

"It's going very well. Every day more and more people come here," Casa de Portugal vice-president Carlos Couto tells Macao magazine. According to Couto, who is an architect by trade, "this is the first real showcase for Portuguese products in Macao", and it is an opportunity that no company can miss out on.



Lusitanos



Made in Macao



## Tea traditions

On the second and final floor, the teahouse Something About Tea has a curious catchphrase: "To you, from you, with you". Here, it is all about relaxing with a cup of the most typical of Chinese drinks. The company running the place is the same one that runs the Tak Seng On Pawnshop downtown, which is also a heritage site in the city centre.

This is a Chinese-style tea art showroom, where visitors can find out about the traditions of tea and taste different teas and popular snacks, as well as learn more about the city. The space provides a comfortable venue for tea-related seminars and demonstrations of different methods of tea preparation. The Tourist Office ensures that these initiatives will be held here, to allow visitors and locals to interactively learn and enjoy the culture of tea, and even purchase some of their favourite types of tea, handcrafted goods and souvenirs.

## Increasing publicity

The Yellow House is in an amazing place if you are thinking about doing business, as it is next to Macao's biggest picture-postcard site – St Paul's Ruins, with thousands and thousands of people passing by every day. Things are not that simple, however. At the moment there are still many people who stare at the building and do not understand what they could find inside. They may even take a look at level B-1, but the question is how to convince them to go up to Lusitanos and Something About Tea.

Already both venues seem to have an answer. They want to come outside, to publicise their products on the street, to invite people inside. The teahouse did it before Christmas and the results were immediate, with many tourists going upstairs to try the tea. Lusitanos is preparing to do the same. Carlos Couto says that these first few months without complete exposure to the public were also a good opportunity to train the staff and improve the quality of the service. Now is the time to visit, he says.

As in most parts of the city, where Chinese and Portuguese culture and people live side by side, the Yellow House promotes the feeling that the two can be the best of neighbours. ■



Macao creative



# Chinese Zodiac Dragon



## Personality

Occupying the 5th position in the Chinese Zodiac, the Dragon is the mightiest of the signs. Dragons symbolise such character traits as dominance and ambition. Dragons prefer to live by their own rules and if left on their own, are usually successful. They're driven, unafraid of challenges, and willing to take risks. They're passionate in all they do and they do things in grand fashion. Unfortunately, this passion and enthusiasm can leave Dragons feeling exhausted and interestingly, unfulfilled.

While Dragons frequently help others, rarely will they ask for help. Others are attracted to Dragons, especially their colorful personalities, but deep down, Dragons prefer to be alone. Perhaps that is because they're most successful when working alone. Their preference to be alone can come across as arrogance or conceitedness, but these qualities aren't applicable. Dragons have tempers that can flare fast!

## Health

Considering their hard-working nature, Dragons are healthy overall. They do get stressed and suffer from periodic tension/headaches, likely because they take so many risks. Dragons could benefit from incorporating mild activity into their lives. Yoga or walking would be good as these activities can work both their minds and their bodies.

## Career

Dragons prefer leading to being led. Jobs that allow them to express their creativity are good choices. Some good careers include: inventor, manager, computer analyst, lawyer, engineer, architect, broker, and sales person.

## Relationships

Dragons will give into love, but won't give up their independence. Because they have quick, sometimes vengeful tempers, their partners need to be tough-skinned. Dragons enjoy others who are intriguing, and when they find the right partners, they'll usually commit to that person for life.



## Dragons and the 5 elements

### Metal Dragons – Years 1940 and 2000

Metal strengthens this already strong sign. Metal Dragons are more determined and they'll fight for what they believe in. They enjoy the company of those who feel mighty enough to challenge their beliefs. They're true leaders and usually find plenty of others willing to follow.

### Water Dragons – Years 1952 and 2012

Water calms the Dragon's fire. Water Dragons are able to see things from other points of view. They don't have the need to always be right. Their decisions, if well-researched, are usually better since they allow other's to become involved.

### Wood Dragons – 1904 and 1964

Wood Dragons also are willing to entertain the opinions of others. Their artistic side is strong, and Wood Dragons enjoy being creative and innovative. They get along with others, but will always be the dominating force.

### Fire Dragons – 1916 and 1976

A Fire Dragon's emotions can flare instantly. Fire Dragons put themselves on pedestals, and because they react quickly and recklessly, they sometimes make wrong decisions. Fire Dragons need to slow down and keep their tempers in check as that's when they're best.

### Earth Dragons – Years 1928 and 1988

More rooted in the ground, Earth Dragons make better decisions because they act more rationally. Earth Dragons are level-headed and able to control their behaviors. They're more supportive of others, but they prefer being admired by others.

# Almanac | Year of the Dragon



RAT

1948 1960 1972 1984 1996



OX

1949 1961 1973 1985 1997



TIGER

1950 1962 1974 1986 1998

## Time for audacity

The signs of the Rat and the Dragon belong to the same family, so natives of the former will feel "at home" in this year of the Dragon. It is time to be a little more ambitious and not simply to survive, especially because one of the year's influences, "the general's star", favours the brave more than the fearful. It is important to nurture a network of personal relationships, that is, with family, friends and workmates. By nature, the Rat has a tendency to survive rather than to live. This is often a great advantage as it means that the Rat takes best advantage of opportunities that come up without exposing itself too much. But this may leave great potential untapped that, the Dragon, for example, offers. The overall tone of almanac forecasts is positive. Those born under this sign should take advantage of that, setting demanding targets and not remaining passive. The financial prospects are good. In professional life there is talk of progress and promotion, and that striving for ambitions will be rewarded. In situations of difficulty, help will come from others: the "noble men" (guiren), mentioned by the almanacs. Finally, in the realm of love, the dominant note is stability.

LOVE +++

WORK +++

MONEY +++

HEALTH +

## Work rewarded

Three very positive "stars" are on the horizon for those born under the sign of the Ox, suggesting a year with great potential. These are the Star of Heavenly Happiness, the Star of Prosperity and the Star of Lucky Virtue. Above all, the almanacs say, the Ox will have the almost magical power of transforming potential problems into opportunities. The outlook promises success and happiness, to such an extent that, according to astrologer Sung Siu Kwong, the Ox will be one of the signs to benefit most this year. It is worthwhile to work and take risks. However, relationships with others may be disturbed by a tendency towards conflict. For better or worse, the overtone for the year will be stability, given the boosted presence of the Earth element, which is common to both the Ox and the Dragon (the sign of the year). The route to success will come much more from effort and merits than from mere strokes of luck or help from other people, according to astrologer Peter So, for example. Or rather, despite a positive outlook, progress may be slow but steady.

LOVE ++

WORK ++++

MONEY +++

HEALTH +++

## Flying tiger

First of all we have to take into account a consensus amongst the Chinese almanacs: This year of the Dragon does not involve any major contradiction between the energy of these two signs. But the outcome is clearly positive and in 2012 Tigers should see a time of progress, in which efforts are rewarded. Secondly, a year of movement and action is expected. The probability of journeys, mainly for professional reasons, is high. The dominant predisposition is related to foreign contacts. According to astrologer Joey Yap, this feeling of movement and travel points to good opportunities for Tigers to examine their lives and try to see the big picture, asking: What situation am I in and what can I do to improve it? They should ask the question in all honesty, without being afraid of the answer, even if at first it seems impossible to fulfil. The trend towards movement and hyperactivity may be seen as inconvenient at certain times, but Tigers should accept all challenges brought by the Dragon.

LOVE ++

WORK ++++

MONEY +++

HEALTH +++



**RABBIT**

1939 1951 1963 1975 1987



**DRAGON**

1940 1952 1964 1976 1988



**SNAKE**

1941 1953 1965 1977 1989

### **Relaxing**

For some Rabbits, the year that is now ending involved tension and was demanding. Now will be a time to gather up ideas, recharge batteries and face the future. As there are no "positive stars" they will have to count on their own strengths. The key to 2012 will be psychological. Many of the possible problems will result from a defective and negative focus on events rather than on their objective reality. As a result, astrologers such as Joey Yap underline the importance of finding a healthy view of life. There's nothing like "coming above ground" – for example travelling or visiting unusual places – for a view of life to become clearer and uncluttered by negative emotions. Contact with new ways of thinking and a relaxed discussion of points of view can also allow for a fresh outlook. If this recommendation is followed, the result of the year will clearly be positive, particularly in the second half of 2012.

**LOVE ++**

**WORK +++**

**MONEY ++**

**HEALTH ++**

### **Positive outcome**

The Chinese almanacs predict that this year will be somewhat unstable for all Dragon natives, particularly in terms of love. The sign's energy and that of the year are of a similar nature, which, in traditional Chinese philosophy means some tension. Love will be the most affected area. For the professional life, most of the almanacs forecast the possibility of progress, with a rise in power and status. But, some warn, Dragons should not try to change jobs of their own accord. That change will only be positive if it is the result of an invitation, or rather, at the calling of others, rather than of oneself. In the financial field, projections are also positive in most of the almanacs, with forecasts of "unexpected gains" despite a predisposition towards increased spending, partly as a result of travelling. Although there will be a climate of instability, astrologers expect Dragons to reach the end of the year with a clearly positive outcome in their lives.

**LOVE ++**

**WORK ++++**

**MONEY +++**

**HEALTH ++**

### **Heavenly happiness**

The good news is that Snakes can count on the "lucky stars" to accompany them in this year of the Dragon. The Heavenly Happiness "star" tends to create a positive state of mind, which will bless both practical matters and relationships with other people and the route to happiness. It is the promise of a successful love life. Another aspect of the year's outlook is a result of the Sun "star", which by its nature holds a promise of success. Everything will shine more clearly, and opportunities will come up unmistakably. Some astrologers consider that this will be a good opportunity to try for success "outside" (abroad, for example) as the light from the Sun is far-reaching. Love lives will be successful. Single people may begin a lasting relationship, and an existing relationship may progress into marriage. Finances may be the most troubled or unstable area of life. In professional life, there may be an increase in power and status. Astrologer Rocky Sung Siu Kowng forecasts that the second half of the year will be easier than the first.

**LOVE ++++**

**WORK ++++**

**MONEY ++**

**HEALTH +++**

# Almanac | Year of the Dragon



**HORSE**

1942 1954 1966 1978 1990



**GOAT**

1943 1955 1967 1979 1991



**MONKEY**

1944 1956 1968 1980 1992

## A calm year

It is said that those born under this sign are, by nature, prepared for great "rides". It will not seem strange, then, if 2012 feels tame to them. According to the almanacs this will be a time of serene and regular progress, which, for fiery types will seem almost the same as standing still. Forecasts agree that there will be professional progress and that Horse natives will have the power to transform possible obstacles into factors of good luck. Progress will be decisive and they will have the opportunity to put their talents to the test. In terms of love life, the apparent cold shower of a calm and drama-free life may be felt more obviously. The general tone will be one of stability, which can be both a positive and a negative thing, although, for married people, this is basically good news. Stability will leave an excess of energy, which can be used to improve family life and personal life. Finally, in terms of finances, the overall note will be one of progress.

**LOVE ++**

**WORK ++++**

**MONEY +++**

**HEALTH ++++**

## Passing the time...

A basically stable year, without a great deal of drama, be it positive or negative. Despite this, there will be great potential in the professional sphere. Employees may be given positions of greater responsibility, and enjoy greater power and status. Those who work for themselves will see their value recognised. However, astrologer Sung Siu Kwong says that this will not be the best time to try to change jobs or start a business. Change should not be initiated. In terms of energy, the overtone will be a boost to the Earth element, which is the element shared by the Goat and the Dragon (the sign of the year). Earth means stability and credibility. Natives of the Goat will be seen as trustworthy. But an absence of change will be seen as bad news for those who want to begin a new relationship – this will be difficult. On the other hand, this will be good news for those who want to hold on to what they have. In terms of finances, great strokes of luck are not to be expected, but this may be a year of progress, the good results of which will show up later.

**LOVE ++**

**WORK ++++**

**MONEY ++**

**HEALTH ++**

## Green light

For Monkeys this will be a "green light" year. They can and should try to complete their projects, as the year's energy and that of their sign belong to the same astrological family. As with everything in life, they will have two paths from which to choose: Standing on solid ground they could simply do nothing and just enjoy life, or they could take the initiative and sow the seeds of success and happiness. Obviously the second course of action is the only one that should be recommended. All initiatives will be surrounded by favourable circumstances. In everything, it is worth trying hard, as long as it is done in a consistent and realistic way. And, as recommended by Mak Ling Ling, they should focus on what they are best at, rather than seeking opportunities indiscriminately. Relationships with other people will see moments of tension and suspicion but, essentially, the outcome is positive. Attention should be paid to friendship and family life, as well as the more human side of professional and business relationships. There may be an increase in power and status. In financial terms, those who work for themselves or earn their income based on how much they work will tend to benefit the most.

**LOVE ++**

**WORK ++++**

**MONEY +++**

**HEALTH ++++**

**ROOSTER**

1945 1957 1969 1981 1993

**DOG**

1946 1958 1970 1982 1994

**PIG**

1947 1959 1971 1983 1995

**Time to crow**

All signs have a partner in the Chinese zodiac. The Dragon is the partner of the Rooster, which foretells a good year for most natives of this sign. This will be a year of exceptional potential, in which dreams can come true. This will not be a good year to sow seeds. Any seeds need to have been sown previously. Now is the time to reap, and everything depends on what was sown in the past. Given that the Rooster and the Dragon are a pair in the zodiac, this is the year for Rooster natives to meet their ideal partners – be it in love, friendship or in business. On the other hand the so-called guiren ("noble men") will appear – people with power who will help them in decisive moments. Benefits will be greatest for the love life of both single and married people or those in a stable relationship. Exceptional opportunities may also appear in professional life and in business. People will be the key element of this year. The rest will follow.

**LOVE ++++****WORK +++****MONEY +++++****HEALTH ++****Year of change**

The year is dominated by the natural opposition in the zodiac of the Dog and the sign of the year: the Dragon. This foretells of change for those born under the sign of the Dog. For some astrologers this is just a fact of life (without being positive or negative in itself), resulting from the "clash" between the two signs, whilst others believe it has a negative influence. Above all for those who are in a stable and satisfactory situation, any change tends to be seen as a negative event, when in fact that is not always the case. It all depends on the pre-existing situation. For those who are in a "stalemate", which requires a change, this year of the Dragon may bring good news. Natives of the Dog should react flexibly to the changes that occur. Despite this climate of some instability there are some forecasts of professional progress, partly due to an influence that provides the power of transforming problems into opportunities and success.

**LOVE ++****WORK +++****MONEY ++****HEALTH ++****Irresistible...**

If there is a particular relationship between the sign of the Pig and good luck, that will be the case once again in 2012. The "lucky stars" that lead astrologers unanimously to declare a happy year are in the Palace of Life. The most important of those (symbolic) "stars" is one that enriches relationships with other people. This starts with love, where it is possible to have good news, both for single people and those who are married. However, even in other aspects of life, such as the professional area and business, natives of the Pig will be more enchanting than usual and their capacity to influence others will be increased. As well as this they will always have people to guide and help them. They should follow their natural instincts for socialising and getting close to others with a view to a healthy social life. The more they do this in an unselfish way, the greater the probability of positive events occurring. They will be fully in tune with "qi flow" (universal energy). This will also be a good year to take a short break and look around to refresh their view on life.

**LOVE ++++****WORK +++++****MONEY +++****HEALTH +++++**



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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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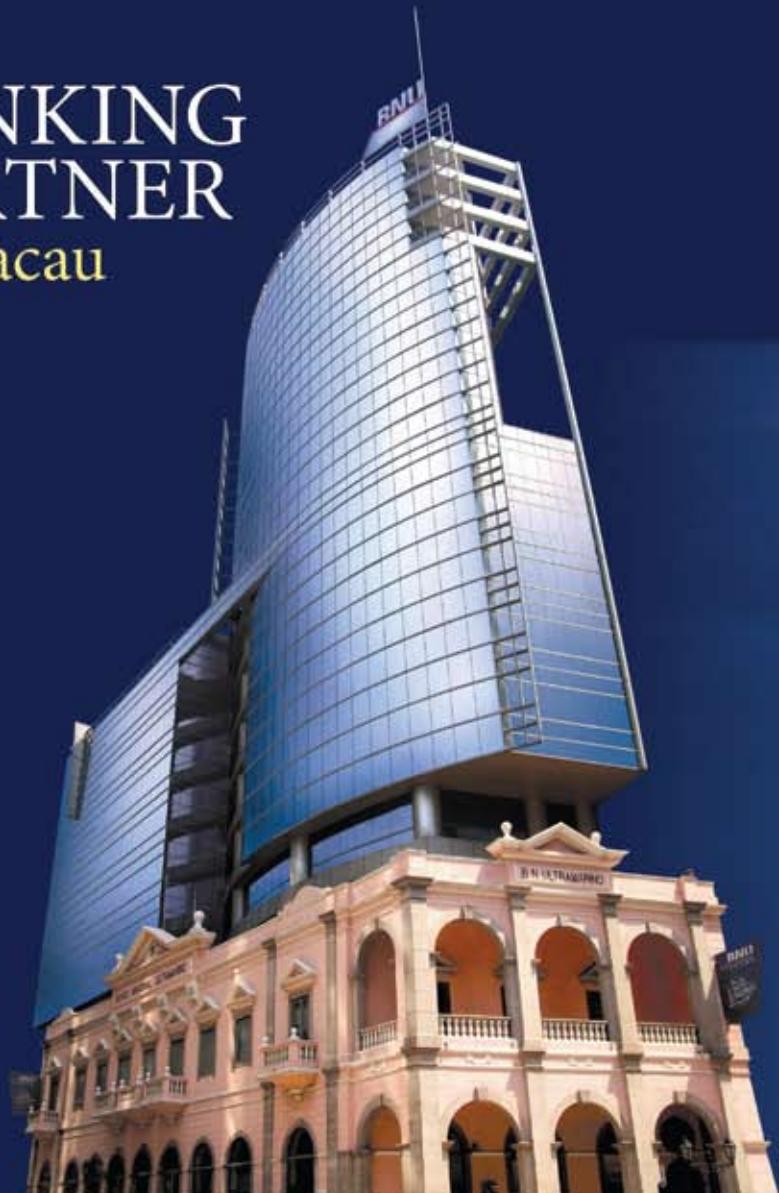
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