

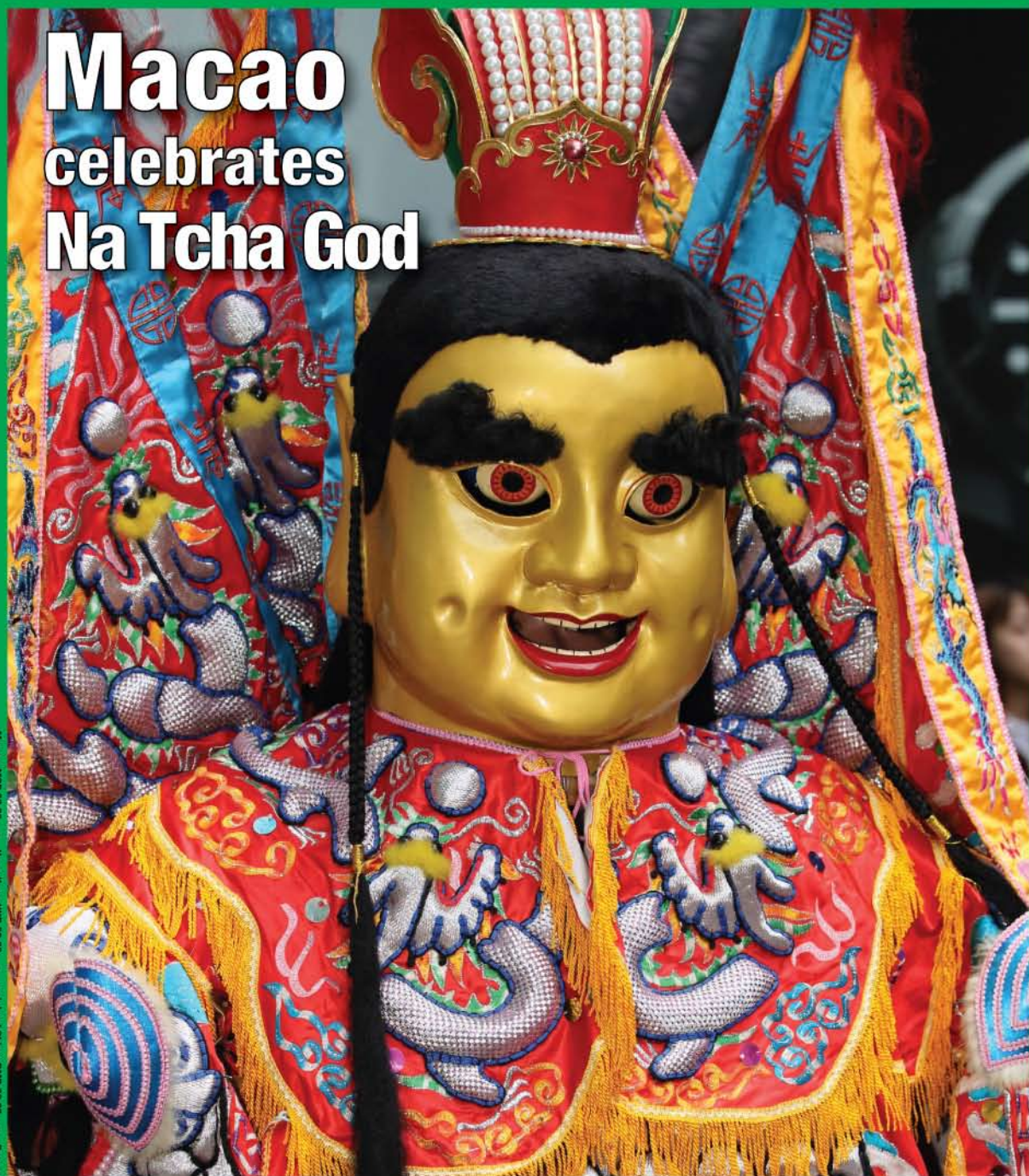
macao

JULY 2013

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Macao celebrates Na Tcha God



**A bet of a lifetime for
Filipinos in Macao**

**Dedicated athletes
swim to success**

**Nansha launches new area
as centre of PRD**

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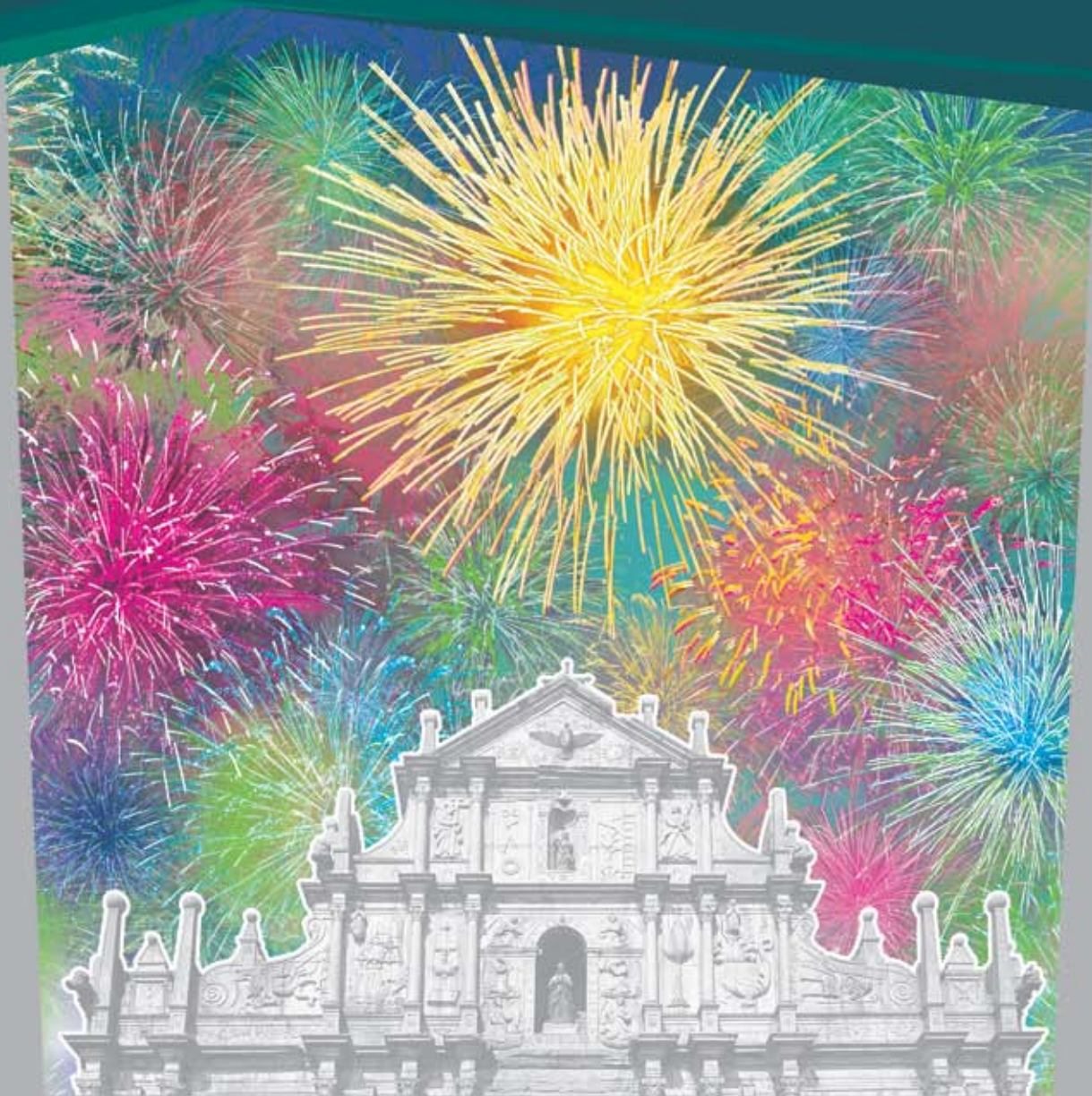


第 **25**th 屆
MACAU

2013

澳門國際煙花比賽匯演

25º Concurso Internacional de Fogo de Artificio de Macau
International Fireworks Display Contest



14, 19, 21, 28 / 9, 01 / 10

9:00 pm & 9:40 pm

旅遊塔對出海面 Baía frente à Torre de Macau
Sea Area in front of the Macau Tower



國際煙花比賽匯演
Concurso Internacional de Fogo de Artificio
International Fireworks Display Contest



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Glory [Hua]

In the early days of Chinese writing, the character for 'flower', hua, was a simple pictogram showing many blades of 'grass' on a stem. In time, 'flower' became a more complex character. But the original pictogram, and the word hua, were adopted to signify 'glory' and 'splendor'.

The Chinese combine this ancient character for hua with 'person' to signify 'the glorious people'—the people of China.

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



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Dragon Boat races become
top tourist attraction



Ivy On Kei Lei, silver medal at the 9th Asian Swimming Championships in Dubai (Second row. First from the left)

DEDICATED ATHLETES SWIM TO SUCCESS

By Louise do Rosário

Every week, dozens of young swimmers practise for hours in the Olympic Aquatics Centre in Macao.

Inside this modern, spacious facility, they swim under the watchful eye of top-class coaches. The training schedule is gruelling – three hours a day, six days a week. When a competition is near, the athletes practise in the mornings as well.

Such intensive training is commonplace for full-time athletes worldwide. But, in Macao, these swimmers are different: they are full-time students who have to go to school every day. They can only practise after school finishes, rushing daily from the classroom straight to the pool. Swimming is their passion, for which they have to sacrifice their personal time and to labour doubly hard to keep up their academic grades.

Hard work and discipline have enabled these students-cum-athletes to win many medals for Macao in recent years. They

started off by shining in small competitions and in niche race categories.

The crowning moment came in November 2012, at the 9th Asian Swimming Championships in Dubai. Ivy On Kei Lei, 22, won the silver medal in the 50-metre breaststroke event, the first medal Macao has won in such a high profile race and a very competitive category.

Macao was exhilarated, using hyperboles such as “breakthrough” and “historic” to describe the achievement.

Ma Chi Kun, president of the executive committee of the Swimming Association of Macao (Associação Geral de Natação de Macau), said that Lei’s achievement was a long-awaited dream come true for Macao. “It has taken us many years to get to where we are now. We have taken part in the event since 1992, in Hiroshima, Japan.”



Ma Chi Kun, Ivy On Kei Lei and Yang Jingli (left to right)



Champion Ivy On Kei Lei

Aquatic queen

Lei, who studies at the Macao Polytechnic Institute, humbly attributes her success to the support of her team.

She comes from a modest family in Macao, with loving parents who do not pressurise her on her academic studies or swimming career. She started formal training at the age of nine, after showing talent in the pool.

She has participated in international races since 2003, gaining her first individual Macao record in 2007. She has a busy life, with her calendar filled up with training and competitions. In the three months before the Dubai event, she took part in five competitions. She also spent the summer holidays in Shanghai in order to do more vigorous training.

Lei is passionate about the sport and does not regard the long hours of training as a sacrifice. "Training and taking part in competitions in different cities allows me to meet other athletes. I see more of the world and am delighted to meet like-minded people."

Lei's coach, Ying Jingli, a 27-year-old swimming champion from Shanghai, said the young swimmer had performed better than expected, despite a knee problem.

Macao came fourth in synchronised swimming in Dubai. Sharon Au leong Sin leng, who has participated in the same event three times over the years, said that the unity of the ten-member team had been good. It consists of both veteran and fresh faces, as there is a great turnover of athletes each year.

Synchronised swimming has a short history in Macao and has had problems in attracting enough talent.



Coach He Ya

He Ya, the coach, who came from Sichuan four years ago, said that the Macao team, the only non-professional one at the competition, has done well. "It is not easy for the athletes to balance school exams with swimming contests."

For the Dubai competition, the team had choreographed a performance entitled "Avatar", which lasted four minutes and forty five seconds, as required. As the title indicated, it was all about space heroes and aliens, just like the blockbuster film.

From small club to prime mover

Macao owes its success in producing world-class performers to its local swimming association. The non-profit making body was established as a leisure

club in 1956, to promote swimming as a healthy hobby.

Today, it is the prime mover in training athletes and organising major swimming events; and yet it has not forgotten its original mission to promote the sport amongst the local population.

In 2012, it had 18 affiliated clubs, 1,446 registered swimmers and over 100 coaches. It also has over 100 referees, 20 of whom have achieved international accreditation.

Last year, the association also organised six training courses, with 26 sessions each for the general public. Over 20,000 people, mainly youngsters, took part.

In 1988 and 1990, it joined two prestigious swimming organisations – Fédération Internationale de Natation (FINA) and the Asia Swimming Federation (AASF).



Sharon Au Ieong Sin Ieng

Such memberships provided the impetus to help the association make a big leap forward. Both federations have appointed the association to organise competitions and train referees.

Since the handover of Macao to China in 1999, the government has also actively promoted the sport and supported the association with funds and other resources.

In 2003, AASF invited Macao to organise the 3rd Asian Age Group Swimming Competition.

For the swimming association, it was a great test of its organisational abilities. It passed with flying colours, working closely with the government's Sport Development Board.

The event was held in August, just months after the opening of the 3,220 square-metre aquatic centre. The completion of 1,500-seat facility marked the coming of age of the sport in Macao. With pools of international standard, local athletes could practise and compete in a modern setting.

In October 2005, Macao held the fourth Asian Games. The swimming association was asked to provide referees – a recognition of its professional standards. Its athletes also participated in the races, providing invaluable competition experience in their home ground.

The association is aware of the limits of its part-time athletes and has picked carefully its battles for them to avoid competing head-on with world champions. This strategy has worked.

Awards and challenges ahead

At the first Asian Indoor Games held in Bangkok in 2005, Macao won seven medals for swimming – two gold, three silver and three bronze. It was the first time Macao's flag was hoisted at an international sports event – a moving moment for the athletes and their supporters.

In November 2009, Macao did equally well at the 8th Asian Swimming Champions in Foshan, China. It won two silver medals and two bronze.

In 2010, Macao came third in diving at the 16th Asian Games in Guangzhou.

Mak said that Macao's success in recent competitions has generated much pressure on the association to work harder. "The problem is that we have only a small pool of talent, given Macao's small population. There are many youngsters joining our training classes each summer, but very few are willing to endure the hardships of training."

Also, students face great pressure to pass school exams, making it difficult for them to give up several hours each day on a sporting activity, he said.

Still, he remains upbeat about the future. With the advance of technology and techniques in the area of sport, even a small city like Macao can produce top-rate athletes if it has the determination to do so. ■

Photos by Tam Kam Weng





Macao: The bet of a lifetime

By Filipa Queiroz

Filipinos make up Macao's third-largest resident community.

We met some of the pioneers from one of the world's biggest sources of migrants who now call the Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR) their home.





"Linguine aglio e oglio, spaghetti all'arrabiata e filetto ai funghi." The waitress jots down the order whilst Ronald Bartolome arranges the napkins and cutlery. "Cavichioli bianco to drink," adds the owner of La Cucina restaurant, in Taipa. His name gives him away. He is not Italian but he has a long-held love of the bel paese. Over a meal he told us his story, accompanied by homemade bread, prosciutto and parmesan cheese.

"I don't really eat a lot," he says. Born in the Philippines and a civil engineering graduate from Cordilleras University, Ronald came to Macao over 20 years ago. Although his country had recently become a democracy, the Asian financial crisis coupled with huge national debt and high levels of corruption, robbed him of his job and drove him to emigrate. "The construction industry had collapsed and I was just twenty-something years old. When



I arrived I had nothing, I just wanted to find an opportunity. I found one in construction but on the work sites themselves, as a labourer. I needed money to eat, after all. The problem was that I didn't have a work visa," he says.

Then one day as he was walking past an Italian restaurant, he was made "an offer he couldn't refuse", as Don Vito Corleone would say. An Italian family was opening a chain of restaurants in Macao

and needed staff. It was the beginning of a story that lasted well over a decade. "We would go to the market together, we worked together in the kitchen, I learned a lot and a new door opened up to me," says Ronald. Over the course of 16 years he learned a bit of everything, including cooking.

When the story came to an end, he decided to stay in Macao and set up his own business, thereby adding to the city's growth. "It took me a year to figure out what to do. Then I started looking for investors from mainland China, the United States, Macao and Hong Kong." By chance at a lunch in Macao he met the owner of the Hopewell Centre (Hong Kong), Gordon Wu. "It was a matter of confidence and good relationships," he says. In fact this was essential for the rest of the journey, particularly in terms of customers. "Some of the people I served as children now they bring their families and children to my restaurant," says Ronald fondly.

La Cucina was founded eight years ago on Rua do Pai Kok, in Taipa Velha, its door strategically facing Cotai. Five years later the second restaurant opened, in Hong Kong. The menu includes a mission statement: "The humble beginning of a dream that is way beyond imagination. The vision of a long-lasting relationship based on trust. La mia cucina, la tua cucina."

"This is my idea of Italy," says Ronald between forkfuls of pasta. He chose everything in the restaurant, from the cutlery, stone statues and paintings to the design of the air conditioning system and lighting. "Everything you see here I created myself. I'm very proud, of course."

All the members of staff at La Cucina are Filipinos. Ronald has taught them everything, including understanding the Italian in the recipes. "The feeling of being on the other side is amazing," he says. "But I think I have adapted well to how people think, particularly the way they do business, and that gave me the opportunity to learn to dream big. I think that anybody who arrives here with passion, or willingness to do something good and to innovate, can go far. I usually say that I learned to do business in an Italian way, with a Chinese mentality and Philippine ingenuity," he explains.

Ronald has three children, all of whom live and study in the Philippines – two in Medicine and one in Engineering. The only family member he has nearby is his brother, who managed the Hong Kong restaurant.



Danilo T. Ibayán

Nothing ventured, nothing gained

"Most of the Filipinos that come to Macao come on their own first and find a job, and if it works out and they feel it's worthwhile, they will send for the rest of the family," explains Danilo T. Ibayán, the consul-general of the Philippines in Macao, who met with us at the consulate. Since it opened in 2009, hundreds of requests for assistance with passports and visas have been made each year. Beforehand everything had to be dealt with in Hong Kong.

It is estimated that there are 11 million Filipinos living outside the country. According to the latest figures from the MSAR government there are 17,000 Filipinos in Macao. Nine thousand and seventy two have an identity card and permanent residence permit. Sixty five percent are women.

They make up the third largest resident community in Macao after local residents and the mainland Chinese, who total 72,000 people. More than half are domestic servants (51 percent), with the second largest slice working in hotels and restaurants (21 percent), 13 percent working in the retail sector and 8.5 percent in the gaming sector.

Around 20 residents have small businesses such as shops, supermarkets and small beauty parlours. "But there are also many working in schools and universities," notes Danilo Ibayán. According to figures from the consulate, there are 94 Filipino university lecturers teaching in Macao.

Portia Aquino and Peggy Assunção are both teachers working at the Macao Anglican School. They met with us in one of their classrooms, sitting on tiny chairs, surrounded by brightly coloured pictures. Portia is a teacher and Peggy is a teaching assistant. But this was not always the case.

"I came to Macao because of my husband who was a pilot in the Philippines, but he lost his job because of the crisis," says Portia, who at the time managed the family business, a recruitment agency. "It's ironic isn't it? I dealt with placing Filipino workers in other countries such as the United States, the Middle East or Taiwan, particularly nurses and doctors." But one day her husband was hired by AirMacao and it was her turn to leave the country, together with the couple's three children, as they wanted to stay together. They arrived in 1999.

Peggy arrived a lot earlier, in 1983. She was 23. "I came with my band. I was a singer," she explains. "I didn't know anybody, I had no friends here," she adds. She soon found that opportunities in the territory's music scene were not as big as expected. "I already sang in Manila, which is a very prosperous area, but at the time I wanted to explore, and our manager brought us here. It was a great adventure, but there were not a lot of hotels at the time." She did not find a future path for her career, but there was something else that made her stay. "I met my boyfriend, who became my husband, and he is Macanese," she says.

Peggy sang a few times but when she had children she decided to give it up. She closed off her inner Ella Fitzgerald for ten years and focused on her family and adapting to her new life, in which her greatest obstacle was not knowing the language or being understood.

Portia had her fourth child in Macao. She had been happy as a housewife, but when her son went into nursery school she decided to go with him. "I was sick of being at home so I offered to help here at the school. I liked children and I had spare time." She started working as a teaching assistant and when they asked her about becoming a teacher she did not hesitate. She took an Education course online with a university in the Philippines to add to her Business Management degree, and was promoted.

Peggy says that it was "the feeling of seeing Macao develop and become more dynamic" that made her feel she had to "come out of my shell". But music is always with her. "Here I teach the children to sing and do some shows for them every so often."

Both Peggy and Portia's children study outside of Macao. "Mine told me that Macao had too many distractions. I agreed and I think it's good that he has to be more independent over there. Here everything is easy, everything is close by." She makes a point of saying that Macao's cultural diversity has made her grow as a person, just as it has improved her language skills. Nowadays, as well as English and Tagalog she speaks Chinese and Portuguese and was awarded certification by the Oriental Portuguese Institute (Instituto Português do Oriente).



Gualberto Cabungcal

Unequal opportunities

Portia and Peggy are a minority in the community and they know it. "It is difficult watching our countrywomen work so hard and so far from their families because they need to. Even though on the street they look happy, we know they suffer a lot," says Portia. "I feel bad because many of them are graduates and nurses yet here, they accept anything, as they have no work and don't want to go back to their country empty handed and 'lose face'."

According to the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), migratory flows around the world are likely to increase, with the last three decades seeing the number of immigrants around the world doubling. There are more than 50 million Asian migrants, 45 percent of whom are women, particularly from Bangladesh, Myanmar, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Laos, Nepal, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Vietnam.

The main destinations for Asian migrants are other Asian countries and, although the purpose female migration was, for a long time, to enable families to get back together, it is now mainly done for work. Women started emigrating alone and seeking out

traditionally female jobs (domestic work, cleaning, taking care of older people, the sex industry) largely because they became aware of their rights in societies where constraints were placed on their emancipation.

Consul-general Danilo Ibayan says that safety and the transport system are some of the benefits of working in Macao. He adds, however, that although many domestic servants are employed in private homes and are provided with accommodation, this is not the case for the majority, who work part time and have difficulty paying rent due to price rises driven by inflation and real estate speculation. "The minimum wage for domestic servants in the Philippines is US\$400. When they come here with working contracts to authenticate, if the proposed salary is less than that I won't sign it. There have been three cases like that, for which I didn't sign," Danilo Ibayan explains.

"I was lucky," says Gualberto Cabungcal. "Many of my friends work as drivers or in construction, or they wait tables, but in my time there were many people like me who came to work in the training sector." Gualberto is a trained architect and was hired to work as a designer at a company called

Construções Técnicas. The company has since closed, and now he has the equivalent job at Chinese company Top Builders Group.

"My best friend, my neighbour in the Philippines, came here for work and called me to ask if I wanted to come and work with him. I thought: "If they have a place for me, why not? It's an opportunity," he says. He arrived in February 1989. He worked with "a lot of Portuguese" and his first project was the construction of the Conde São Januário Hospital. His partner, Daisy, arrived a few months later to work as a pharmacist. Her boss helped her buy the house where they have lived for over 20 years and where they brought up their children – Ana Margarida, studying Portuguese Language, and Michael Angelo. "We named him after the painter. I'm a frustrated artist but I'd like him to be different," he explains, pointing to the pictures by the young artist hung on the walls.

Painting is one of the activities Gualberto runs at the Quezonianos Association. Wabbet, as everyone knows him, is the president of the Filipino association, one of over 50 in Macao. "We introduced the Pahiyas Festival to Macao, in 2003," he says. Pahiyas is a celebration originally from Lucban, in Quezon province, and is held on 15 May in honour of San Isidro Labrador. "He is the patron saint of workers and we are all workers here," he explains. The strong link to religion is characteristic of the community, and the enormous statue of Christ that Wabbet has in his living room, leaves us in no doubt.

Returning home?

Wabbet explains that despite ties to his roots, which he likes to keep alive, he has no plans to return to the Philippines, except as a tourist. "We changed our nationality. It was a timing issue: when my daughter had to sort out her papers to study in Portugal for a while we all decided to request Chinese and Macao nationality," he explains, producing two identity cards. "See, we even have Chinese names."

Wabbet's family visits often. Last week ten members of the family stayed in his home. "They enjoyed it a lot! It's a dream come true for them because they could not visit Macao any other way," he says.

Ronald Bartolome wants to continue being part of Macao's growth and will continue to focus exclusively on work and trying to enter the Chinese market, opening more businesses in Hong Kong and, perhaps, in Singapore. He will always maintain the Macao brand. Might he ever leave? "No. Macao is my home."

Portia and Peggy want to return to the Philippines one day. "My heart will always be there," says Peggy. "Our home is there. This is a second home – it's where we work, earn money to educate our children. We have to like Macao and life is peaceful here," says Portia. "But of course if my husband retires he will want to go back, and I only came here because of him," she adds.

Peggy says that her husband, despite being Macanese, "likes the Philippines so much that he would be happy to retire there."

"Of course most people dream of going back," says Danilo Ibayán. "Unless they were born here or have built a home here. Some request Chinese citizenship and marry members of other communities. They are the most successful," the consul says, "because they reach another level within the community."

But for Danilo Ibayán, Macao is not what you might call a land of opportunities. He says that when he thinks of a land of opportunity he thinks of "changing to a better lifestyle, without difficulties". He cites the United States, Canada and Australia, as examples. "They are countries where almost nobody is native and they have pro-immigration laws, unlike Macao," he explains.

The government of the Philippines recently issued an official warning urging citizens to think carefully before packing their bags to look for work in the MSAR, because the time has passed when it was easy to find work around here. The Law to Hire Non-Resident Workers has also changed, and the priority in work terms is given to residents.

However, taking into consideration the figures and the diverse areas in which the Filipino community has set itself up, Consul Ibayán gives assurances that "their contribution to Macao's economic progress is significant". Meanwhile, they share their culture and experience and plant seeds for the future of the territory. Over 2012 and 2013 (up till April) 157 Filipino children were born in Macao, which is an average of 13 babies per month. ■

Photos by Gonalo L. Pinheiro



Former chairman of the NPC Standing Committee Wu Bangguo (c.) with Macao Chief Executive Chui Sai On (l.) and other guests during a gala dinner marking the 100th anniversary of the Macao Chamber of Commerce in Macao

Multiple Roles

Chinese Chamber of Commerce helps shape Macao history for a century

By Mark O'Neill



When the Chinese Chamber of Commerce (CCC) celebrated its 100th anniversary, it was appropriate that its president and guest of honour were sons of former presidents and members of two of the most prominent families of Macao.

The event was held at the Macao Tower on 8 January, 100 years to the day since the institution was founded by businessmen who wanted a body to represent their interests.

Since then, it has played an important role in the city's history, as a bridge between the Chinese community and the colonial administration, a mouthpiece for its businesses and as a civic organisation promoting charity work and education. It was also a bridge between the central authorities in China and the colonial government.

Since World War II, two families – the Ho and the

Ma – have dominated the leadership. Ho Yin was president from 1950 to 1983 and his son, Edmund Ho Hau Wah, the first Chief Executive after the 1999 handover, is honorary president of the CCC. He was Guest of Honour at the anniversary dinner.

Ma Man Kei became a director of the CCC in 1948 and succeeded Ho Yin as president in 1984. He remained one of its leaders until 2010, when he retired due to poor health. It is his son Ma lao Lai who is now president and who chaired the anniversary event.

Also in attendance were Francis Tam Pak Yuen, Secretary of Economics and Finance, along with directors, members and friends. In his speech, Ma said 100 years was a short time in the history of the Yangtze river. "But, as a civil organisation, we have held our place through a century and moved forward in line with the development of the times. We have earned the respect of society and the public for our service and contributions in promoting the economy in many ways."

In January, the Post Office issued a set of four stamps to commemorate the anniversary, with portraits of chairmen of the chamber.

Last year, Ma received the Golden Lotus Flower Honourable Medal on behalf of the Chamber from Chief Executive Fernando Chui Sai On in recognition of its services to the city.

Since the end of the Portuguese era, it has played a more political role, advising on the Basic Law that governs Macao after the handover and serving as an intermediary between its people and the central government.

Of the 12 Macao deputies in the National People's Congress (NPC), five are from the chamber. Of the 35 in the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, 20 are members of the chamber.

Founding the Chamber

Before 1911, the businessmen of Macao did not have an organisation of their own. When they needed to discuss matters of common concern, they gathered at Kiang Wu, the city's first Chinese-funded hospital.

It was a period of revolutionary change, the last days of the Qing dynasty. Chinese people around the world were creating new institutions to make a better future for themselves and their country.

In 1911, a group of businessmen led by Shiu Ying Chau decided to set up an organisation to represent their interests. On 14 December 1912, it received the approval of the colonial government as the Macao Chamber of Commerce.

It was formally established on 8 January 1913, with Shiu as its first president and seven other directors; they opened a provisional office in the Tung Sin Tong, the city's largest Chinese charity organisation.

The Department of Industry and Commerce of the Chinese government also approved its registration as the Macao Overseas Chinese General Chamber of Commerce. In 1916, it was officially renamed the Macao Chinese General Chamber of Commerce.

After several years, it moved its office to Number 4, Rua do Pagode, in an estate owned by the Hong Kung Temple Council.

In 1930, the members decided the office was too old and small; they agreed to raise funds and purchase premises at 18 Largo do Senado, a better location in the city centre. There they organised exhibitions to promote the products manufactured by their members.

Wartime relief

In 1941, the president was Kou Ho Ning, the city's pawnshop king and one of the two men who held the gambling franchise. That year the chamber set up a commercial information department and commercial school; they lasted for one year.

After the fall of Hong Kong to the Japanese in December 1941, a flood of refugees came to Macao, from the British colony and the mainland. The population tripled to 450,000, a record level. While many were housed in schools, government buildings and private homes, thousands had no alternative but to live on the streets and in the parks. The price of rice soared from seven–eight patacas per 50 kg in 1941 to 400 patacas; it took 10 days' wages for an ordinary worker to buy one jin (0.5 kg) of rice.

Families sold their children in exchange for food; there were cases of cannibalism.

In this critical situation, the Chamber of Commerce joined the Tung Sin Tong and other civic and religious organisations to provide rice, corn, potatoes, clothing and tents to the thousands of homeless people.



Ma Iao Lai (r.) with the Golden Lotus Flower Honourable Medal presented by Macao Chief Executive Chui Sai On

Ho Yin – the other Governor

In the spring of 1947, the Chamber established the Mandarin research class.

For 40 years, one man played a dominant role in the life of the Chamber – Ho Yin. He arrived in Macao in 1937 just before the fall of Hong Kong in December that year and became a manager of the Tai Fung Bank.

After World War II, he and his partners expanded the bank's business and went into restaurants, cinemas, buses, taxis, aviation and water supply; they also obtained a licence from the government to import gold.

He became the most powerful businessman in Macao and expanded into politics and civil affairs. He was appointed a member of the standing committee of the NPC in Beijing and vice-chairman of the Macao Legislative Assembly.

From 1950 to 1983, Ho Yin was elected president of the board of directors of the CCC for 18 terms and became known as 'the Chinese governor of Macao', active as an intermediary in disputes.

In 1946, he helped to secure the release of Fu Tak long, one of the then owners of the gambling franchise, who had been kidnapped while resting at a temple. He also negotiated a resolution of an armed conflict between Chinese and Portuguese soldiers at the Border Gate in 1952.

On 8 May 1966, he survived an assassination attempt. After visiting the greyhound racing stadium with a friend, he was climbing into his vehicle in the car park when an assailant threw a grenade. He was thrown wounded to the ground and rushed to the Kiang Wu hospital. At the scene, police found three fragments of the grenade – but, despite their best efforts, were unable to arrest the culprit.

Ho played an important role in solving civil unrest in December that year. Influenced by the Cultural Revolution and dissatisfaction with the colonial government, residents started demonstrations. On 3 December, they pulled down the statue of Vicente Nicolau de Mesquita, a famous Macanese soldier, in the city centre and burnt documents in the Leal Senado. In response, the security forces killed six people and injured more than 200; the government declared a curfew.

It was a critical moment in Macao's history; its status and social stability hung in the balance.

Ho Yin led the representatives of the Chinese community to visit the wounded in hospital and negotiate with the Portuguese on behalf of Beijing. On 28 January 1967, the Portuguese government issued a formal apology. It was the start of de facto Chinese control of the colony.

Ho was able to broker an agreement and prevent further violence because of the high regard in which he was held by the two governments.

1966 - Ma Man Kei (2nd from left) and Ho Yin (4th from right)



He saved his most dramatic moment for last. In 1983, when he was being treated for cancer in New York, rumours spread in Macao that the Tai Fung Bank which he had founded in 1942 was in financial difficulty. Depositors began to withdraw their money.

Ignoring the advice of doctors and family, Ho left his hospital bed, flew to Hong Kong and returned to Macao to take personal charge of the situation. With the aid of a large share purchase by the Bank of China in Beijing, he was able to avert the crisis and save the bank.

He died on 6 December that year, at the age of 75.

Ho was active in charity work in Macao and in his home town of Panyu, Guangdong province, contributing to schools, hospitals and other projects. He directed the work of the chamber for 33 years and was president when he died of cancer, on 6 December 1983.

In 1948, he donated a reading room at Bajiaoting, Praia Grande, to the chamber, in memory of his late mother. This was officially opened on 1 November 1948; it has nearly 20,000 volumes and 90 foreign

and domestic newspapers and magazines. The public use it today.

Ma succeeds Ho

Ma Man Kei succeeded Ho as president of the chamber in April 1984.

Born in Guangzhou in October 1919, he moved to Hong Kong after the city fell to the Japanese. He set up a trading company of which he was general manager.

After Hong Kong fell to the Japanese in 1941, he settled in Macao, where he founded trading companies and went into finance.

During his long career, he has held many posts in social, business and sporting organisations in the city, including the CCC. Photographs from December 1966 show him walking at the side of Ho Yin, visiting the wounded in hospital.

He played an active role in drafting the Basic Law for Macao and the negotiations over the handover. He was a vice-chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference from 1993 to 2013.



Chinese Chamber of Commerce reading room

Business and education

In spring 1949, the Chamber set up a commercial training class that included book-keeping, calculation by abacus and how to write letters.

In the 1950s, it established two schools. In 1951, it set up a school in Ilha Verde to teach reading and writing. This later expanded into the Ilha Verde Primary School, which in the 2012/2013 year has nearly 400 students in 18 classes.

The other, in 1954, was an evening secondary school. In 1983, this was expanded into a high school. In the 2012/2103 school year, it has nearly 300 pupils in 11 classes.

In the 1950s, the Chamber played an important role in helping Chinese firms get around the trade embargo imposed by the West after the country's entry into the Korean War. It sold Chinese products in Macao and abroad.

It also helped to promote the Canton Trade Fair that was held twice a year from 1957, the most important shop window for Chinese goods after the foundation of the People's Republic.

At the end of 1958, it worked with others to ask Guangdong province and Zhongshan county for their help in solving the problem of Macao's drinking water. Through hard work, it achieved a solution.

It also helped those who wished to return to the mainland during the Ching Ming festival to sweep the graves of their ancestors. It assisted them in completing complicated visa procedures and sent a team to accompany them.

In 1973, Ho Yin proposed the demolition of its building and construction of a new one of 15 floors;

the chamber would use some and rent out the rest. But the government considered it a protected building and refused.

Instead, in May 1987, the government provided over 1,000 square metres in the Zape area for the Macao Chamber of Commerce Building, with 19 floors. It was inaugurated on 28 July 1991 by the Governor of Macao, General Vasco Rocha Viera and the director of the Xinhua News Agency.

The old premises at Largo de Leal Senado were re-developed as China Commercial Building. An office building, it officially opened for use on 15 January 1996; the chamber owns four floors and rents them out.

In 2010, at its 68th general meeting, the Chamber elected Ma lao Lei as president. It increased the leadership team from 21 to 32 and the number of directors from 110 to 153. By the end of 2012, the Chamber had 3,000 institutional and individual members, of whom 120 were institutions.

In an interview on the anniversary, Ma said that the chamber would do an even better job in helping to fulfil the objectives of the 12th Five-Year Plan and turn Macao into a world centre of tourism and leisure and a platform for trade and commerce between Macao and the Portuguese-speaking countries.

"We will also work hard to promote the economic development of Macao, improve the living standards of its people and its social stability. We will work closely with industry and commerce to present to the government their reasonable demands and opinions ... and work for good relations between management and the labour force and promote a stable and harmonious society," he said. ■

Previous CCC building






Se potăbilită
fumar în
spațiile
interioare
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de
încălzire


A
interdicție
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spațiile
interioare
și
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ale
edificiilor
de
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A Larger Assembly

Legislature to get 4-seat
boost after September ballot

By Christian Ritter



The Macao Legislative Assembly will see its number of seats increased from 29 to 33 after direct and indirect elections in September, giving the city's residents four more representatives to voice their concerns and suggestions.

Together with the executive (government) and the judiciary, the legislature is one of the top three organs of Macao's political system. The president of the Legislative Assembly (AL) ranks second among the special administrative region's 13 principal officials, after the chief executive and before the president of the Court of Final Appeal (TUI).

Macao's executive-led political system, including a unicameral legislature, took shape in the early 1960s when a Legislative Council was set up by the city's then Portuguese administration. The legislature's name was changed to Legislative Assembly in the early 1970s, a designation that continues to this day. Portugal's anti-colonial Carnation Revolution of 1974 resulted in the promulgation of the Macao Organic Statute in 1976 that resulted in the formation of the legislature's "three-tier" structure that continues to date. Legislators are directly elected by popular vote and are indirectly elected by association representatives. Legislators are appointed by the head of government (i.e. by the governor until Macao's return to the exercise of Chinese sovereignty at midnight on 19 December 1999, and by the chief executive of the Macao

Special Administrative Region [SAR] ever since).

The Macao Organic Statute elevated the political status of the Legislative Assembly by turning it independent from the government and giving it a president elected by its members. Before 1976, the legislature was presided over by the governor. Moreover, the legislature shared its legislative powers with the governor, who had the power to enact decree-laws, until the 1999 change in administration.

The Macao Basic Law, which replaced the Macao Organic Statute on 20 December 1999, gave the Legislative Assembly the monopoly to legislate. However, due to the city's tradition of an executive-led political system, the post-1999 government retains the exclusive right to propose bills on the legislative election system and the budget as well as any possible changes to Macao's political structure and the government's operations.

Back in 1972, the Legislative Assembly had 14 members, five of them directly elected by a small body of voters, eight indirectly elected by representatives of public entities, the business sector and cultural and "moral" interests, and one local Chinese person appointed by the governor. All the directly or indirectly elected lawmakers had to be Portuguese nationals and be fluent in Portuguese. Macao's legislature was dissolved in the wake of the 1974 Carnation Revolution.

Legislative Assembly 1987



After promulgation of the Macao Organic Statute in 1976, the number of legislators was increased to 17 – six directly elected by registered voters, six indirectly elected by representatives of business and community associations, and five appointed by the governor. The elections were based on continental Europe's proportional representation system.

First elections

Macao's first elections after the Carnation Revolution in Lisbon were held in 1976. While Chinese citizens who had lived in Macao for more than five years were theoretically allowed to register as voters, the tiny electorate of 2,846 voters was practically restricted to local Portuguese and Macanese for whom there was no five-year minimum residency requirement.

A political row between Governor Rear-Admiral Vasco Almeida e Costa and Legislative Assembly President Carlos Paes d'Assumpção in 1984 resulted in the legislature's dissolution by Portuguese President Gen. Ramalho Eanes at the request of the governor.

Almeida e Costa also changed the election law to grant equal election rights to Portuguese and "other nationals" living in Macao, "namely Chinese". The new law stated that any resident over the age of 18 – Portuguese, Chinese or foreigners – had the right to vote. This finally led to local Chinese residents' active participation in the electoral process. The legislative elections of 1984 involved 28,970 voters.

Voting Reform

In the wake of the Macao Organic Statute's revision in 1990, the Legislative Assembly's number of members was raised to 23: eight directly elected and eight indirectly elected lawmakers, plus seven appointed by the governor.

For the first time, the city's labour and professional sectors were included in the indirect election process, thereby reducing the political clout of the business sector.

The 1990 reform measures also included the substitution of the d'Hondt method for allocating seats in the legislature with a system that continues to be unique to Macao: instead of only using the divisors of one and two as the d'Hondt method

does, the "Macao system" also uses the divisors of four, eight, etc. The allocation system makes it almost impossible for any group to win more than two directly elected seats, thereby promoting greater diversity in political representation in the legislature.

However, some civic groups have tried to beat the system by fielding their candidates in more than one list of candidates, which proved successful for the first time in the 2009 direct election which enabled one group to win three seats by running with two separate lists.

There are no political parties in Macao but there are civic associations that form ad hoc "lists" of candidates before each election.

With the change in administration in December 1999, all the legislature's appointed members were replaced, but the directly and indirectly elected members were allowed to take the so-called "through-train". They had been elected or appointed in 1996.

In line with the Macao Basic Law, the number of lawmakers was increased for the 2001 elections to 27 – 10 directly elected by popular vote, 10 indirectly elected by association representatives and seven appointed by the chief executive. The 2001 elections drew 83,644 voters.

Based on the Macao Basic Law, the legislature's number of members was raised to 29 in 2005: 12 directly and 10 indirectly elected lawmakers and seven appointees.

More Seats Again

In November 2011, Chief Executive Chui Sai On announced that his government would gauge public opinion on possible changes to the method of electing the legislature, based on the Macao Basic Law's Annex III allowing the election system to be changed after 2009.

The Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) in Beijing gave its green light to the Macao government's initiative in December 2011. However, it stressed that any possible changes must be approved by a two-thirds majority of the legislature.

After a string of public consultation sessions on the matter, the Legislative Assembly in May 2012 passed the so-called "+2+2 mainstream option", according

to which two directly elected and two indirectly elected lawmakers will be added to the legislature in the next elections, which later were scheduled by the government to take place on 15 September 2013.

All permanent residents aged at least 18, irrespective of place of birth and nationality, have the right to vote. The minimum age to stand for election stands at 21.

Unlike in Hong Kong, Macao does not have different geographical constituencies for the direct legislative election by popular vote. The Macao Special Administrative Region – comprising the Macao peninsula and the islands of Taipa and Coloane as well as the Cotai land-reclamation area – functions as a single constituency. Neither does Macao have Hong Kong-style functional constituencies. The indirect legislative election is based on hundreds of associations representing a wide range of business, labour, cultural, educational, social welfare, professional, religious, sport and other community interests. Registered associations' designated representatives vote in the indirect elections.

Customarily, indirect election candidates have run uncontested after going through an "intra-association" selection process.

Apart from its powers to enact, amend, suspend or repeal laws, the Legislative Assembly has the exclusive right to decide on taxation matters and to examine and approve the government's annual budgets. The legislature also holds public question-and-answer sessions involving government officials. Much of the lawmakers' work takes place in committee meetings behind closed doors where detailed discussions take place about bills and current affairs before their final article-by-article vote in a plenary meeting that is open to the public.

In terms of the legislature's composition, Article 68 of the Macao Basic Law and Paragraph III of Annex I of the Sino-Portuguese Joint Declaration on the Question of Macao state that the majority of the Legislative Assembly's members shall be elected. Analysts have said this implicitly means that for at least 50 years from 1999 it would be unconstitutional to do away with the legislature's segment of appointed members. ■

Present Macao Legislative Assembly



規矩繩

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Macao celebrates *Na Tcha*

Photos by Manuel Cardoso



Na Tcha, a character in Chinese myths and legends, is depicted in 16th-century novels as having the magical ability to dispel devils.

He is often portrayed as a child with almighty powers riding on Wind Fire Wheels to drive demons and disasters from the face of the earth.

Because of these special abilities, Na Tcha is called upon for help whenever there is a plague, a sick child or the need for an exorcism. Indeed, Na Tcha is a well-established deity in folk lore and is the patron of children.

The Na Tcha customs and beliefs of Macao stretch back more than 300 years.

The legend has not only combined with folk myths, it has blended into local customs and culture, developing its own unique style.

Whether legend, birthday or ritual, Macao's cult of Na Tcha has significant differences from those in neighbouring regions. Its rituals and ceremonies are very traditional.

Festivities related to Na Tcha were suspended in Macao for some three decades due to political factors but they have returned in full in recent years.

In addition to building altars for worship, other local

folk activities include parades, children dressed as legendary and modern heroes suspended above the crowd on the tips of swords and paper fans, the making of Na Tcha lucky charms and their use in divination, a firecracker-grabbing race, the distribution of 'peaceful' rice as a gift, and Chinese opera performed for the gods and goddesses.

The Feast of Na Tcha is on the eighteenth day of the fifth lunar month (June).

Two parades are organised on that day.

One starts with a worship ritual with incense in the Na Tcha Temple near the Ruins of St Paul's. Afterwards, the lion dance team escorts the Na Tcha statue and the dancing lion "caiqing" or "plucks the greens" along the route of the parade in Macao.

Another parade called the "Prince Na Tcha Parade" starts from the Na Tcha Temple. The parade consists of the groups of Jinzha, Muzha and Na Tcha, along with a golden dragon guard, celestial beauties scattering petals, and so on.

As a part of the World Heritage Monuments in the Historic Centre of Macao, the Na Tcha Temple near the Ruins of St Paul's is a perfect presentation of the mix of oriental and occidental cultures in Macao.





廟古山柿

三十三天哪咤太子保安

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三十三天哪咤太子保安









Na Tcha Temple







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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.

macauhub comprises a team of professionals in Asia, South America, Europe and Africa who produce information in the three languages about southern China, including the nation's economic powerhouse of Guangdong, the special administrative regions of Macau and Hong Kong, as well as the Portuguese-speaking countries of Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal, Sao Tome and Principe, and East Timor.

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

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

2013/05/30

GDP rises 10.8 pct in 1st quarter

Macao's gross domestic product rose 10.8 percent year-on-year in real terms in the first quarter, the Statistics and Census Bureau (DSEC) announced.

This year's first quarter GDP growth was the highest of any quarter since the same quarter a year ago, which showed a year-on-year expansion of 18.5 percent. In the fourth quarter of last year, GDP was up 8.5 percent.

GDP for the whole of last year rose 9.9 percent in real terms.

GDP reached 94.6 billion patacas in the first quarter of this year, a nominal decrease of 3.5 percent on the previous quarter.

A DSEC statement attributed the 10.8 percent growth in the first quarter to rising exports of services, private consumption expenditure and investment.

Exports of gaming services grew 8.9 percent, private consumption expenditure was up 10.2 percent and investment rose 13.8 percent.



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2013/06/10

Chui Sai On pledges new forms of cooperation and exchanges with Portugal

During the Day of Portugal, the Chief Executive of Macao praised the contribution of the Portuguese community in Macao, pledged support for Portuguese companies in the territory and guaranteed new strategies of cooperation with Portugal.

"The relationship between the Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR) and Portugal has existed for a long time and is based on ties of close friendship. The Macao Government has given great

importance to cooperation and exchanges between Macao and Portugal. Since the establishment of the SAR, the language, culture, traditions and customs of Portugal have continued to live in Macao," said Chui Sai On.

Chui said that Macao will continue to respect multiculturalism and promote the economy by creating better living and working conditions for its people, including the Portuguese.

The Chief Executive also noted that the government will strive to support the participation of Portuguese companies in the development of Macao's economy.

The General-Consul of Portugal in Macao, Vitor Sereno, had said before that "Macao needs the help of the Portuguese, Portugal needs help from Macao. We have known each other for centuries. We have common values that unite us, and that union will make the difference."

Victor Sereno also defended the need to create new opportunities and exchanges and noted that Portugal is now "focusing on strategic partnerships with Macao, namely the language, technical and scientific cooperation, industry and commerce".



2013/6/15

Piano Recital by Sequeira Costa Commemorates Day of Portugal

After an absence of over ten years from the Macao stages, Sequeira Costa presented a piano recital in the Macao Cultural Centre, entitled "The Return of the Master", with works by Bach, Beethoven, Vianna da Motta, Áureo de Castro and Chopin.

The concert was organised by the Macao Casa de Portugal in partnership with the Consulate General of Portugal in Macao and Hong Kong and the Instituto Português do Oriente, to commemorate the Day of Portugal, Camões and the Portuguese Communities. Sequeira Costa's connection with Macao dates back to as early as 1953.



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2013/06/17

Fr. Lancelote passes away, aged 89

Father Lancelote Rodrigues, popularly known as Macao's "refugee priest", died in Kiang Wu Hospital.

Fr Lancelote, who would have been 90 years old on December 21, was known for his amiable and sociable personality and refugee relief work since the late 1940s.

Born in Malacca in 1923, he moved to Macao at the age of 12 to study at the local seminary. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1949.

Fr Lancelote became a UN representative for refugees in Macao, and he helped to resettle more than 8,000 Vietnamese refugees in different countries around the world.

Chief Executive Fernando Chui Sai On expressed his deepest condolences in an official statement. Chui praised Fr Lancelote for his refugee relief work and social welfare activities.



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2013/06/19

TDM receives US\$ 24.4 million subsidy from government in 2012

Public broadcaster Teledifusao de Macau SA (TDM) received more money from the government in 2012 than ever before, allowing the company to hire more workers and change to high-definition television.

Its subsidy rose by 10.7 percent last year to 194.8 million patacas (US\$24.4 million), according to the company's annual report.

The government gave TDM a further 7.2 million patacas for its capital budget, which reached 20.13 million patacas.

TDM spent 10.28 million patacas of its capital budget on switching to high-definition television broadcasting and on digital production equipment.

TDM says it replaced obsolete equipment, improved its network and increased its production and acquisition of information, sport and entertainment programmes.



2013/06/20

250 Macao pupils take space class with Shenzhou 10 astronaut

It was an unusual science lesson for some 250 local primary and secondary school children as they learnt how things move around in outer space through a real-time class taught by female astronaut Wang Yaping all the way from the nation's Tiangong 1 space station.

In a first of its kind, the space lesson given by Wang of the three-member Shenzhou 10 crew, was beamed to some 60 million school children in the nation.

Besides the 250 children who watched the live broadcast in the bureau's youth centre in Areia Preta, pupils from 10 other local schools watched it in their own schools.

During the 50-minute class, Wang taught children about motion in a microgravity environment and the surface tension of liquid.



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2013/06/24

CITIC pays US\$1.2 billion to buy 79 pct share in CTM

Hong Kong-listed CITIC Telecom International announced that it paid about US\$1.2 billion (9.6 billion patacas) to buy 79 percent of local telecom operator CTM with the transaction to acquire the stake officially approved by the local government at the end of last month. CITIC said that CTM would invest about 1.2 billion patacas in the coming three years to improve its services, including the construction of a 4G network and the development of "Digital Macau".

Taking into account the original 20 percent share that CITIC owns in CTM, CITIC now owns 99 percent of CTM as the company's controlling shareholder.

CITIC Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer Norman Yuen Kee Tong, who is a member of the newly-established CTM board of directors, said that CITIC acquired 51 percent of the shares from Britain's Cable and Wireless and 28 percent of the shares from Portugal Telecom (PT), adding that it paid about US\$ 1.2 billion for all the shares.

According to previous new reports, the local government's postal service will continue to own CTM's remaining one percent share.



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2013/06/24

2.3 million visit Macao in May, up 9.1 pct

Macao recorded 2.34 million visitor arrivals last month, an increase of 9.1 percent from the same month last year, the Statistics and Census Bureau (DSEC) said.

The daily average for visitor arrivals stood at 75,565 in May.

Same-day visitors accounted for 51.7 percent of the total.

Mainlanders and Hong Kong citizens accounted for 63.6 percent and 23.1 percent of all arrivals in May respectively. In the first five months, the number of visitor arrivals rose three percent to 11.8 million.

Mainlanders accounted for 62.9 percent of the total. The number of long-haul visitors from the US (72,768), Australia (46,833) and Canada (31,115) all suffered year-on-year declines.



2013/06/26

Fund for Development Cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries officially set

The Fund for Development Cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries, with starting capital of US\$1 billion, was officially established on Wednesday, the Macao Government Information Bureau said.

Promoted by the Chinese government along with the China Development Bank and the Macao Industrial and Commercial Development Fund (FDIC), the operation and management of the Fund will be the responsibility of the China-Africa Development Fund, which is part of the China Development Bank, as it has vast experience in investment management.

The value of the first package of funding is US\$125 million, which was provided by the China Development Bank Capital Corporation Ltd (US\$75 million) and the FDIC (US\$50 million).

According to the official statement, the Fund will focus on the investment and financing needs of companies from the Chinese mainland (including Macao) and from Portuguese-speaking countries. It will focus on supporting Chinese companies to enter Portuguese-speaking markets and attracting companies from these countries to China.



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2013/06/28

Safety will be paramount, Macao Grand Prix chief guarantees

Macao Grand Prix coordinator, João Costa Antunes, said that safety will be top of the agenda as the Macao Grand Prix celebrates its 60th anniversary in November this year.

"Safety is always our first priority," said Antunes, who has been the MGP coordinator for the last 25 years.

To mark the diamond jubilee, an extended programme will take place over two weekends, 9–10 and 14–17 November.

"In the 20 years since [it's inauguration], the stature of the grand prix has grown to such an extent that race programmes now include two FIA events, in addition to the motorcycle grand prix and a trio of international races," added Antunes.



macao newsline macao newsline

2013/07/01

Casino receipts reach US\$ 3.54 billion in June

Macao casinos' gross receipts grew 21.1 percent year-on-year to 28.27 billion patacas (US\$ 3.54 billion) according to the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau.

June recorded the second highest year-on-year growth rate of any month so far this year, after March's growth rate of 25.4 percent.

It was the fourth consecutive month that the casino sector's receipts topped 28 billion patacas.

The casino sector's total gross revenues rose 15.3 percent year-on-year to 171.4 billion patacas in the first half of the year.





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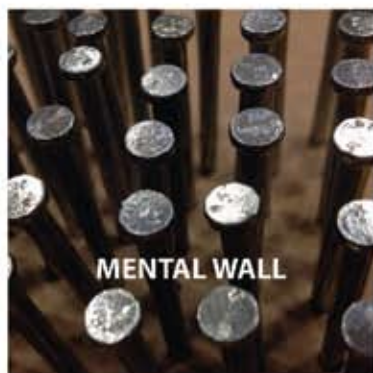
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Two-way Traffic

Macao and Taiwan serve as
booming tourist markets for
each other

By Mark O'Neill



Macao people go to Taiwan for plastic surgery and to pick fruit and grapes on a farm. Taiwan visitors come to Macao to celebrate their weddings and explore the hidden parts of the city.

This is the new face of tourism between the two places, which have become very important sources of visitors for each other. Last year 1.07 million people from Taiwan visited Macao, its third largest source of tourists. In the other direction, 110,000 Macao people went to Taiwan, staying an average of four–five days and spending US\$230 a day.

Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes, director of the Macao Government Tourist Office (MGTO), is devoting much energy to the Taiwan market. “This is a special year, with the 25th Macau International Fireworks Display Contest in September and the 60th Macao Grand Prix in November.

“Taiwan people come here for many different activities – to see the House of Dancing Water, to attend art and music events, go shopping and enjoy special Macao food,” she said in an interview. “This year we will do in-depth research to understand

why Taiwan people come here and how we can serve them better.”

The numbers have fallen since a peak of 1.3 million in 2008 and the start of direct flights between the island and the mainland that year. It meant that Taiwan people did not need to use Macao as a stopover.

“While the overall figure has fallen, the number staying in five-star hotels increased last year by 9.5 percent from 2011,” said Senna Fernandes. “This means that they spent more. Many of those who came for the stopover spent very little time here.”

MGTO figures show that last year 414,718 Taiwan people stayed overnight, an increase of 2.6 percent over 2011. The average length of stay was 1.76 nights. “In the future, there is space to develop,” she said. “We want to develop new products for different segments of the market – students, married couples, the silver age (retired people) and companies. We have beautiful and luxurious entertainment places. Some people go to see and enjoy them but they do not bet. It is different to before.”



Helena de Senna Fernandes, director of the Macao Government Tourist Office (MGTO)

Direct flights from Taichong

Last year, direct flights began between Macao and Taichong, the biggest city in central Taiwan. Now there are 126 direct flights a week between Macao and the island, including Taipei and Kaohsiung, but not Hualien, the largest city on the east coast. Four airlines – three from Taiwan and Macao Airlines – serve the routes. They are Air Macau, TransAsia Airway, Mandarin Airlines and Uni Air, a subsidiary of Eva Air.

“Many people come from Taichong,” said Senna Fernandes. “There is a big population there. The direct flights make it very convenient for them. We would like more flights. The airport has space to grow and extra parking places.”

Shopping is one attraction for Taiwan people. “Macao is a free port, with no import tax except on cars and hard liquor,” she said. “There is no tax on luxury goods or wine. These items are cheaper than in Taiwan. Macao has built new shopping malls offering better environments and more choice.”

New casino in Matsu

In July 2012, the residents of Matsu voted to allow the building of casinos on the offshore island. It will be the first gambling project in Taiwan. According to the island’s media, more than 10 international operators have expressed interest in developing Matsu, including Melco Crown of Macao and Bill Weidner, a former executive of Sands.

Asked what impact this will have on Macao, Senna Fernandes said: “There are many things that are unclear. What controls will there be? Who will be allowed to enter the casinos? In South Korea, for example, Koreans are not permitted to enter, while citizens of Singapore have to pay to enter the casinos there. It is hard to say.”

On 13 May, Lu Chang-shui, the new director of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Macao, said that Macao had long and extensive experience in the gaming industry, while Taiwan needed to work hard to build up the necessary conditions for real development. “The mode of gaming development in the two places may not be the same.





Taipei

"There are concerns over competition between the two places but Macao need not worry about that," he said.

Taiwan popular with Macao visitors

Going the other way, Taiwan is a very popular destination for Macao people. Last year, the number of travellers from Hong Kong and Macao exceeded one million for the first time, an increase of 24.3 percent over 2011. They are the third largest source of tourists, after the mainland and Japan. Of them, 110,000 came from Macao.

"Our target for this year is 120,000," said Wang Chun-bao, director of the Hong Kong and Macao bureau of the Taiwan Visitors Association. "They stayed an average of four-five days and spent an average of US\$230 a day, including accommodation, eating and shopping but excluding air tickets.

"To visit Taiwan, you need a passport. In Macao, 300,000 people have a passport. A third of them went to Taiwan last year. They can apply for a visa online. If they were born on the mainland, they must apply in writing. From the second time onwards,

they can apply online, without limit," he said.

He said that Macao people liked Taiwan because it had a pace of life like Macao's, slower than in Hong Kong. Each year 2,000 Macao people go to the island to study, ranking first among outside students.

Their graduation in June is a major event for their families, with many members going. It means that thousands of Macao people have strong personal links with Taiwan, to classmates, teachers and friends; many speak good Mandarin.

Tourism is a priority industry in Taiwan. Counties all over the island arrange events to attract visitors. The authorities would like to spread them more evenly, attracting them to stay not only in hotels but family-run guest houses which offer a better way to experience the life and customs.

Wang took a group of Macao people to Nantou, where they visited a chocolate factory and an organic farm where visitors can pick fruit and grapes and experience a rural lifestyle. Medical tourism is also expanding.

"Many of Macao's doctors of Western medicine trained in Taiwan. About three percent of Macao visitors go



Macao

there for plastic surgery, medical examinations and other check-ups. Insurance is an issue. Policies cover Hong Kong and Macao but not Taiwan. If coverage were extended to Taiwan, more would go," he said. The title of a popular book by a mainland weekly news magazine is that the most beautiful thing in Taiwan is its people. Wang said that this was a selling point. "If you need help or support, people will give it to you. We believe that, if you do good, you will be rewarded. The further south you go, the warmer the welcome will be."

Diversification

Bringing more visitors from Taiwan and offering a wider range of attractions is part of MGTO's strategy to diversify away from dependence on gambling and the mainland market. It has targeted Russia, India and South Korea as markets with big potential. On 1 January this year, the MGTO opened a representative office in Moscow; Senna Fernandes went there in March to open the new office formally and attend a tourism exhibition. On 21 March, she jointly hosted an event

in the city with the Hong Kong Tourism Board to promote the two cities as a single destination for Russian travellers.

"Last October we signed a visa-free agreement with Russia. Last year 180,000 Russians visited Hong Kong and 26,844 came to Macao, an increase of 62 percent over 2011. Russia is one of the most sought-after markets in the world in terms of tourism potential," she said. "For Macao, Russia is the fastest growing emerging market."

The MGTO is considering the opening of an office in the eastern part of Russia; for its residents, holidays in Asia are cheaper and easier than going to Europe.

In July, the Venetian will host the International Indian Film Academy Awards, the same venue as in 2009. The three-day event will celebrate 100 years of Indian cinema and feature Abhishek Bachchan, one of the most famous names in Bollywood. He has received three Filmfare Awards for acting, a National Award as producer and is one of the highest paid actors in India; his wife is an actress and former Miss World.

"The celebrity effect was very good for Macao," Senna Fernandes said. "India is a very big market. We can do more." Last year Macao attracted 150,825 Indian visitors, compared to 170,000 in 2011 and 10,000 in 2003.

In August 2012, her predecessor, Joao Manuel Costa Antunes, took part in a joint promotion in India with the tourist offices of Hong Kong and Guangdong province; they visited Chennai, Mumbai and New Delhi.

The number of South Korean visitors has also risen sharply, reaching 440,000 last year, an increase of 11.5 percent over 2011 and compared to 38,281 in 2003. Direct flights began in 2012 between Macao

and Busan, the country's second largest city, adding to the direct service from Seoul. Koreans are not allowed to bet at the casinos in their country; Macao is the nearest gambling venue for them.

"Parts of some South Korean television series have been filmed in Macao. We have done promotions there on the Net, in shopping channels and with an exhibition of photographs. The South Koreans easily accept new ideas. Their community is growing in Macao, with restaurants and coffee shops."

In late April, the MGTO organised the 'Macao-Korea Travel Mart' in Seoul and Busan, for the fifth consecutive year. ■

Moscow - Russia





South Korea promotion



Bollywood in Macao



Inauguration of Nansha new area

Growth Point

Nansha launches new area as centre of Pearl River Delta

By Ou Niar-le and Frank Xié



On 19 June, the city of Guangzhou inaugurated the Pearl Bay project in the new area of Nansha, which it sees as an engine of growth and a platform for co-operation with Macao and Hong Kong.

The event was marked by a large gathering of people in Pearl Bay, the first phase of the new area, attended by senior officials from the Guangdong and Guangzhou governments, Hong Kong and Macao and the central government. Macao was represented by Francis Tam Pak Yuan, secretary of Economy and Finance.

"We will do everything to attract outside investment," Nansha district Communist Party secretary Ding Hongdu told the gathering. "We will improve the policy system, promote reform and creativity and make a new national strategic base for Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao to

co-operate in every way and create a modern new city looking to the future."

He announced that 33 different projects would begin that day, involving a total investment of 58.6 billion yuan, including commercial buildings and infrastructure projects.

Nansha sees the people and companies of Macao as playing an important role in its future. It wants to be a national sales centre for goods from Portuguese-speaking countries and attract tourists from Macao as well as professionals from there to train its people in this industry. It also wants to co-operate with Macao in culture, creativity and logistics.

It wants to attract high-level professionals from Macao and Hong Kong, especially in law, accounting and exhibitions and conventions.

Approval of New Area

It was on 9 September last year that the State Council approved the Nansha New Area, the sixth such zone in China, after Pudong in Shanghai, Binhai in Tianjin and others in Chongqing, Zhejiang and Gansu. It is the first in southern China.

Nansha is the most southerly district of Guangzhou city, lying along the Pearl River; it has a total area of 803 square kilometres, of which 570 are land and 233 are water. It has many advantages as a place of development.

According to the 2010 census, it had a population of 260,000, the lowest of the city's 10 districts and a density of 493 people per square kilometre; it was the lowest of the 10, compared with 34,239 people per sq km in Yuexiu, the historic centre of the city and the most densely populated.

Consequently, Nansha has a natural environment that is largely un-spoilt, with a wetland of 10,000 mu (670 hectares), a forest mountain range, a forest park of 1,200 hectares and a golf course built on a mountain ridge.

It was created as a separate district only in 2006, when it was separated from neighbouring Panyu. Its development as an industrial area began with the opening of the Guangzhou Nansha Export Processing Zone, with a total planned area of 1.36 sq km.

In 2011, the zone had a GDP of 57.1 billion yuan, up 13.05 percent over 2010. During the period, it had exports of US\$4.02 billion, up 13 percent on 2010, and imports of US\$6.65 billion, up two percent.

The main industries in the zone are shipbuilding, making it one of the three major construction bases in China, with annual output capacity of over three million tonnes a year; heavy machinery; automobile, parts and components; IT and computer chips; and oceanology.

The zone also has a major port, with 20 deep-water berths for containers, automobiles, petrochemicals and grains. It is China's largest auto export point and has more than 40 routes to Europe, North America and Africa; 20 of the world's top shipping companies operate there.

Nansha has an excellent geographic location, in the middle of the Pearl River Delta, 41 nautical miles from Macao and 38 nautical miles from Hong Kong. Within a 70-km radius, there are five international airports—Macao, Hong Kong, Guangzhou, Shenzhen and Zhuhai.



Links with Macao

Dong Ke, a member of the standing committee of the Nansha District, briefed journalists on its links with Macao. "We have 460 Hong Kong and Macao enterprises in Nansha, including 100 Macao joint ventures.

"We pay great attention to small and medium-size enterprises from Macao and would like to co-operate with them in three areas – logistics, culture and creativity and as a platform with Portuguese-



Nansha city model

speaking countries.

"We hope Nansha can become a national sales centre for the whole of China for products from these countries.

"We want to bring to Nansha some of the more than 20 million tourists who visit Macao. But our facilities are inadequate. We hope that Macao can provide professional training in tourism. We have set up a task force with this objective. We also hope to set up with Macao an international arbitration

centre," he said.

Another link is a 63-year-old state farm, the Guangzhou Ruiguang Food Company, which started to supply one truck of organic food each day to Macao this year. The farm, with 31,000 mu (2,070), was set up in 1950 to give employment to 200,000 overseas Chinese people from southeast Asia who had returned home after the foundation of the new state. It signed an export produce agreement last year with Macao.



Promoting the new area

After the State Council decision last September, the city government prepared detailed policies for the future of the area. On 13–15 May, Guangzhou Mayor Chen Jianhua went to Hong Kong and Macao to promote the area and explain its future direction.

“The district should enjoy the same preferential policies as its counterparts in Shanghai and Tianjin,” he said.

In Macao, the Guangzhou authorities signed seven contracts worth 17.05 billion yuan with businesses in commercial services, logistics and cultural innovation. In Hong Kong, they signed 17 agreements with state-owned firms and foreign and private companies, as well as higher education and research institutes. The deals, worth 234.8 billion yuan, involved high-end services, finance, energy, culture and film and television.

The Nansha Development Plan places great importance on deepening co-operation with Hong Kong and Macao in all sectors and speeding up institutional innovation, to build a business environment in line with Hong Kong and Macao, in which international practices are adopted.

The plan states that Nansha will strengthen key economic sectors such as commercial services,

scientific and technological innovation, education and training, maritime logistics and high-end manufacturing; achieve liberalisation of trade in services with Macao and Hong Kong; and introduce measures to facilitate investment by small and medium enterprises from the two SARs.

Last October, the National Development and Reform Commission issued a circular on the area’s future. It said that Hong Kong and Macao financial institutions should set up operations and develop business in the area. “Qualified Hong Kong and Macao institutions will be allowed to establish joint ventures in securities, securities investment and fund management.”

It also said that Hong Kong and Macao firms should be encouraged to set up ventures in shipping industry funds, financial leasing and insurance in the new area. “Conscientious efforts will be made to study the possibility of Hong Kong and Macao granting one-year multiple entry visas to residents of the Nansha New Area as well as mainland residents investing or working there,” it said.

In addition, the area should research into how to establish joint educational bodies between the mainland, Hong Kong, Macao and ‘world-famous colleges’.



Yacht Club

On 18 June, the visitors were taken to one of the area's tourist attractions – the Nansha Yacht Club, the largest of its kind in south China. It is home to 120 yachts and has 352 berths; it involves an investment of 250 million yuan. The Pearl River Delta is the home of a large number of Chinese and foreign yacht builders.

The club aims to promote the culture of sailing and water sports, a new pastime for Chinese people. Each year it organises sailing training courses for young people, to popularise the sport.

In October this year, it will host a four-day Nansha Bay International Boat Show, exhibiting yachts, powerboats and sailboats by domestic and foreign manufacturers. A similar event in 2012 ran for three days and attracted more than 50 exhibitors and over 60 vessels and 15,000 visitors. A total of 17 vessels were sold, worth more than 100 million yuan.

This year's event will include a lifestyle section showing a wide range of high-end products, including private jets, luxury cars, wine, high-end furniture and garments and other luxury goods.

The new area wants to set up a terminal for international cruise ships at the yacht club: it is currently conducting an environmental assessment of the project.

The yacht club is one of many investments in Nansha of the Fok Ying Tung Group, named after the district's most famous son, whose English name was Henry Fok and who lived from May 1923 to October 2006. He was vice-chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference from March 1993 and one of the most powerful Hong Kong people in the politics of the PRC.

His group is the biggest outside investor in Nansha, where it has been active since 1986. The projects include highways, bridges, passenger and cargo ferry terminals, an information and technology park, a hi-tech development park, a golf club with two 18-hole courses designed by John Jacobs of Britain, tourist projects, a middle school, an education and training centre, a science museum and Nansha World Trade Centre.

Henry Fok visited the area hundreds of times. His son, Ian Fok, chief executive of the group, attended the ceremony on 19 June. ■



Yacht Club

澳門

Macao

理想的會議展覽舉辦地
THE IDEAL MICE DESTINATION

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A World Tourism and Leisure Centre Equipped with World-class Convention and Exhibition facilities
- 位處大珠三角地區，地理位置優越
Advantageous location in the Greater Pearl River Delta region
- 政府提供鼓勵會展優惠政策
The Government provides preferential policies to encourage the development of the convention and exhibition industry
- 貿易投資促進局提供會展競投及支援“一站式”服務
IPI provides “One-Stop Service” for MICE Bidding and Support in Macao

會展競投及支援“一站式”服務 “One-Stop Service” for MICE Bidding and Support in Macao

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協助申請會展活動激勵計劃	◆ Assist in the application for the Convention and Exhibition Stimulation Programme
協助於本局參與之活動 (澳門境內外) 進行宣傳推廣	◆ Provide publicity and promotion opportunities in local and overseas events participated by IPI
協調與本澳相關政府部門聯繫	◆ Co-ordinate and liaise with Macao government departments
協助在澳成立公司開展會展項目	◆ Assist Macao Companies to develop MICE projects
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澳門貿易投資促進局

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Growing in Economic Strength

Oldest trade fair tells story of China

By Mark O'Neill

On 5 May, China's largest and oldest trade fair closed its 113th meeting in Guangzhou. It was attended by 203,000 foreign businessmen who signed a total of US\$35.54 billion in export orders.

The Canton Trade Fair first opened its doors in April 1957 in the Sino-Soviet Friendship Building in Guangzhou; just 1,200 people came from outside the mainland, all by invitation, and 1,000 of them were from Hong Kong and Macao.

For the next two decades, it was China's only window on the world, a place where foreigners could come to see and buy the country's products. It was the only opening of a closed economy and a vital source of foreign exchange for the government. When they went home, those lucky enough to get an invitation recounted what they had seen and heard about this secret country – and their listeners were full of envy and admiration.

The fair remained open during two decades of political campaigns, a beacon of economic normality when millions were throwing their energy into

political struggle. In the reform era after 1978, the fair has grown dramatically in scale, the number of products being exhibited and of buyers, with people coming from all corners of the world.

This growth has reflected the dramatic changes in China as it has become the world's top exporter and second largest economy.

Today, even though other cities hold major exhibitions of their own products and those of a particular industry, the Canton Fair retains its place as the largest in the country. It has become one of the biggest trade fairs in the world, in terms of variety of goods and of buyers.

This is because of its history and infrastructure; the organisers have built larger and larger halls to accommodate the merchandise and the city of Guangzhou provides the financial services, hotels, restaurants and entertainment that the foreign clients need.

The history of the fair is the history of modern China.

Barter trade

After the Communists took power in 1949, they modelled the economy on that of the Soviet Union. The country conducted most of its trade through bartering with other Socialist countries via bilateral agreements negotiated between governments and without using foreign exchange. During the 1950s, China conducted more than 80 percent of its trade in this way; only foreign trade corporations under the Ministry of Trade and Foreign Co-operation were allowed to do business with the outside world.

But many people in the Chinese diaspora and the non-Communist world were interested in the country's goods. So the Ministry of Foreign Trade and the Guangdong provincial government decided to hold a trade fair twice a year in Guangzhou, the city closest to Hong Kong and Macao; Guangdong is the ancestral home of most Chinese people living abroad.

The first fair, known at the time as the Chinese Export Commodities Fair, was held in April 1957 in the Sino-Soviet Friendship Building (which boasts an area of 18,000 square metres). Thirteen foreign trade corporations exhibited 10,000 products, 80 percent of them agricultural, and signed deals worth US\$86.86 million. All the 1,223 visitors came

by invitation only; more than 80 percent were from Hong Kong and Macao and the rest from 19 countries, mainly in Asia.

From then on, the fair was held twice a year, in spring and autumn, in different venues. In 1959, it was held in the Qi Yi Road Exhibition Hall, which had space for 40,200 square metres of stalls. It hosted the event until 1974.

Ups and downs

The first 30 years of Communist rule were full of political campaigns that seriously disrupted economic life.

But the Canton Fair continued to operate every spring and autumn throughout these tumultuous years. It provided the most important link between Chinese business and the outside world, especially those countries not covered by state trading agreements; it was a vital source of foreign exchange during a period of great scarcity. In 1973, the fair accounted for 50 percent of China's foreign trade earnings.

To show its importance, the top leaders from Beijing attended, including Premier Zhou Enlai, who went eight times, Zhu De and Dong Biwu, as well as senior officials from the Guangdong government.





In February 1972, Beijing and Washington normalised their relations through the Shanghai communiqué, enabling American business people to attend the fair for the first time; 44 attended the 31st session that year.

In 1974, the event moved to a new and enlarged venue, the Liuhua Exhibition Centre, covering 110,500 square metres, later to be expanded to 170,000 square metres. It was the longest serving venue, until 2008.

End of monopoly

China's reform and open-door policies began at the end of the 1970s. This meant an end to the state monopoly on foreign trade; in the 1980s, private companies sprang up and foreign investors arrived. Many state companies were sold to the private sector. The Canton Fair continued to play a major role; it adapted to the new realities by admitting non-state companies and widening the range of products on show. What it offered was a single venue at which foreign buyers could see many goods and conduct business at the same time. It was, and is, especially useful for people from distant countries who do not come to China often and have no permanent office here. It is a one-stop shop where they can

get everything done, with translation, financial and advisory services available.

By 1987, the number of visiting delegations reached 100 for the first time; in 1993, the number of exhibitors reached 1,472. That year, export orders to the US reached US\$1 billion for the first time. In 1994, the total volume of orders exceeded US\$10 billion; by 1995, the percentage of manufactured goods had reached 86 percent, compared to 20 percent at the opening fair in 1957.

In 1997, IT products were displayed for the first time – and a working group set up to handle complaints about intellectual property rights, especially trade marks, patents and copyright. The fair launched its own website in 1999 – www.cantonfair.org.cn.

Entry into WTO

After more than 15 years of negotiations, China joined the World Trade Organisation in December 2001. It was a milestone; it gave the country better access to foreign markets and to a great extent depoliticised trade disputes. In the 12 years since, China has gone from being the sixth largest to the second largest economy in the world. In 2009, China overtook Germany and became the world's largest exporter.



The Canton Fair has played a significant role in this growth. To keep pace, it re-organised the event, providing more space and more products. To accommodate it, the government built the largest exhibition centre in Asia, the spectacular Pazhou complex in downtown Guangzhou.

It has 16 indoor exhibition halls with a total area of 160,000 square metres, and outdoor sites totalling 220,000 square metres; it includes large space for meetings and negotiations.

In 2007, foreign products were introduced for the first time; at the first session of the International Pavilion, there were 629 stalls, covering more than 10,000 square metres, with 314 foreign companies from 36 countries and regions, including Macao.

In 2008, the Pazhou complex went into full operation and the Liuhua site went out of use, after 34 years. The number of industrial categories was increased to 50, to allow more specialisation.

Changing economic order

The most recent fair, the 113th, closed on 5 May after 15 days. It attracted 202,766 people from 211 countries and regions. It had stalls selling everything from household electrical appliances to machine hardware and tools, consumer goods to home decorations and textiles and garments to medical supplies.

The orders reflected the changes in the world economy, with those from the European Union, the United States and Japan falling from a year earlier, while those from the Middle East and the BRICs – India, Brazil, Russia and South Africa – increasing. Liu Jianjun, the fair spokesman, said that short-term orders of less than three months accounted for 48.6 percent of the total, three-six months 35.1 percent and above six months only 16.3 percent. “This reflects the influence of the financial crisis,” he said.



"Buyers are cautious in placing orders, while Chinese companies fear an increase in the price of raw materials and fluctuations in exchange rates. They do not dare to make long-term orders."

Among the hottest items were needles, surgical gloves, face masks, and other medical supplies; in the first three days, sales of these items rose 92 percent from the previous fair to US\$12.75 million, a reflection of the global concern about avian flu and other infectious diseases.

The next fair, the 114th, will be held at the same venue in October this year.

History turns full circle

The fair's premier position in China is history turning full circle.

During the Tang dynasty (618–907 AD), China was the richest and most technologically advanced nation on earth and a major exporter of silk, lacquer ware and porcelain.

Guangzhou was the centre of a 'maritime silk road', the sea equivalent of the land routes across central Asia that took Chinese goods to the Middle East and Europe. Chinese and foreign ships transported these products to southeast and south Asia, Mesopotamia, the Middle East, the Arabian peninsula, Ethiopia and Somalia.

The city was home to over 100,000 foreign merchants, including Persians, Arabs, Hindu Indians, Malays, Sinhalese, Khmers, Cham, Jews and Nestorian Christians from the Near East. The foreigners lived with their families and had their own restaurants, meeting places and places of worship.

In 748, Jian Zhen, the Chinese monk who would take Buddhism to Japan, described Guangzhou as a bustling mercantile centre with large ships from Borneo, Persia and Java 'with spices, pearls and jade piled as high as a mountain'.

Since 2000, history has repeated itself. The city is again home to tens of thousands of foreigners, including Asians, Arabs, Africans and Caucasians. Like the Persians and Malays of the Tang dynasty, they have come because it is the 'factory of the world'. Most make their living from buying goods made in Guangdong and other parts of southern China.

The Portuguese were the first Europeans to arrive by sea, in 1514. They had set up a monopoly on foreign trade by 1517. Later they were expelled from the city and in 1557 granted the use of Macao as a place for trade.

By the mid-18th century, Guangzhou had again become one of the great trading ports of the world. The imperial government allocated an area of the city called the 'Thirteen Factories' where foreign companies, mainly from Europe, were allowed to establish warehouses and offices. It was the only place in China where foreigners were allowed to live.

It retained this monopoly on foreign trade until the First Opium War of 1839, which resulted in the opening of other cities in China. One of them, Shanghai, surpassed Guangzhou and became the country's most important port and industrial centre. Hong Kong overtook it as the major port for southern China.

The fair has helped Guangzhou regain its place as one of the world's major trading cities. ■

Photos by Xinhua



Aggressive port expansion in Southern China



Guangzhou to grow at expense of Hong Kong

By Thomas Chan



The Pearl River Delta has the world's largest group of ports; they have served the region's industrial powerhouse well for decades. Hong Kong is the largest container port in this cluster, leading Shenzhen by a narrow margin. Guangzhou is third, followed by Foshan, Zhuhai and Zhongshan.

This pecking order is likely to change soon, as Guangdong plans to spend a massive Rmb 28.7 billion over the next three years. The money will be spent on the third phase of Nanshan harbour, container terminals at Yantian port in Shenzhen, container terminals in Gaolan port in Zhuhai and a coal terminal in Quanwan port in Huizhou. With so many more port facilities, their operators will need to cut rates to keep customers.

Hong Kong has the most to lose, as its costs are the highest. The recent strike at its Kwai Tsing container terminal has already led more customers to divert their cargo to other ports in Guangdong – a trend which started before the current unrest. Hong Kong is losing competitiveness because of its reluctance to build new capacity. Its ninth terminal was built

after a long delay; the proposed 10th terminal is still on the drawing board and is far from construction. This contrasts with the rapid expansion of the ports in the Pearl River Delta. Hong Kong also suffers because it has no railway connection, a rarity among major ports around the world. Its PRD rivals, including Shenzhen, Guangzhou and Zhuhai, all have railways, which mean a bigger hinterland to bring cargoes.

In recent years, the number of container trucks coming to Hong Kong port has been declining. Trans-shipment has grown as a percentage of the cargo trade, which relies on supplies of container cargoes from the western part of the PRD and further upstream on the West River; but this brings less added value to Hong Kong port. In 2012, river cargoes accounted for 28 per cent of total cargoes. Shenzhen is trying to overtake Hong Kong. In 2012, Hong Kong's cargo declined from 24.384 million TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units) to 23.117 million while Shenzhen's increased from 22.571 million TEUs to 22.941 million. Shenzhen is less than one per



cent behind Hong Kong. With the expansion of its capacity in the years ahead, Shenzhen will overtake Hong Kong and become fourth in the world; it has a huge capacity for expansion in its western port area. For decades, Hong Kong has relied on Dongguan, once the biggest manufacturing base in the delta, for cargo business. Now this industrial heavyweight is losing steam, as much processing production has moved elsewhere.

If Dongguan's decline continues at the current pace, Hong Kong will see an even sharper decline in cargo traffic. Hong Kong is already relying more on trans-shipment business from elsewhere, such as the western part of the delta and the upstream area of the Xi Jiang (West River).

The rise of Hong Kong and Shanghai ports

Since the 1980s, Hong Kong has been the main port of Asia, thanks to the rise of China as the factory of the world. Its main rival then was Singapore, whose port served the fast developing manufacturing

industries of neighbouring Southeast Asia.

Then there was the comeback of Shanghai, which grew into the largest port in the world in 2002 and has held the position since, overtaking Hong Kong and Singapore in both tonnage and in container business. Shanghai, Singapore and Hong Kong have become the hubs of the world's largest port clusters. Shanghai covers eastern China and extends its feeder ports along the coast and to Taiwan. Singapore is the port of Southeast Asia, while Hong Kong is that of southern China, in particular the Pearl River Delta.

Together the ports of China have come to dominate world shipping and port markets, racking up more than 20% of global port business. In 2011, they accounted for seven of the world's top ten ports in terms of cargo volume and six of the top ten container ports. Competition among them has resulted in many new facilities, like the new port Shanghai built in the Zhejiang area and the world-class port which Shenzhen has created over the last 20 years.



Hong Kong rose to become the world's largest container port from the 1980s to mid-2000s because of the economic expansion of the delta. In recent years, the south is still ahead of Shanghai and its hinterland, the Yangtze River Delta, in terms of port traffic volume.

Guangzhou makes a comeback

In the Pearl River Delta region, probably because of complicated institutional arrangements, with 'one country two systems' and special economic zones, Guangzhou, the capital city, has been unable to reassert its leadership and centrality in port business. So it was Shenzhen which developed faster, securing its position as the 4th busiest container port in the world in 2003.

That year Guangzhou lagged behind as the 23rd busiest container port with volume only one eighth of Hong Kong and one fourth of Shenzhen. In the late 2000s and early 2100s, it became the 6th or 7th busiest port in the world, rapidly catching up with Hong Kong and Shenzhen. It is also the largest port in the Pearl River Delta region in terms of

cargo traffic volume, surpassing by a large margin Shenzhen, Yantian and Hong Kong combined. It is more diversified than the container-focused Hong Kong; and it will be better equipped to cater to the diversified imports and exports of the Pearl River Delta region. The city is undergoing a radical structural transformation from world factory to a world-class metropolitan region focusing on services.

Little consolidation of ports in delta region

In recent years, port clusters in the world have undergone a process of consolidation and reorganization. The most notable example is the integration of the Japanese ports in Tokyo Bay, Osaka Bay and Kobe.

The Chinese authorities, including the Guangdong provincial government, are also talking about better development of the coastal ports and of those in Guangdong.

However, in the most recent planning document "Opinions on the development of the coastal ports during the 12th Five-year Plan (2011-2015)", there was little evidence of consolidation of Guangdong ports in the near term.



The document, issued by the province's Bureau of Transport and Communications, talks vaguely about division of labour with Hong Kong port. But, in practice, there is little co-ordination even among the ports of Guangzhou, Shenzhen and Zhuhai.

The stated objectives of the planning document are to develop the coastal ports of Guangdong into the 'Asia-Pacific centre, North-South hub and gateway to the Pearl River'. But the policy orientation is not for integration; the development plan of integration of ports of the Pearl River Delta region is yet to be formulated. It is for individual development of the ports in a hierarchical order. Guangzhou, Shenzhen and Zhanjiang will be the top ports in the province; the authorities will also promote the expansion of the second-tier ports of Zhuhai and Dongguan Humen and the third-tier ports of Shantou, Zhongshan, Jiuzhou, Maoming and Jieyang.

In the Pearl River Delta, the aim is to set up two clusters of ports, one in the Bay area of the Pearl River -- Nansha and Huangpu in Guangzhou, the western port area of Shenzhen, the Wanshan port of Zhuhai, Humen in Dongguan and Hengmen of Zhongshan; the other is Yamenkou of the west bank of the Pearl River,

including the Gaolan port of Zhuhai and the Yinhu port of Jiangmen. The plan seems to lack any concrete measures and policies for co-ordination; we should therefore not expect them to cooperate. Competition relying on local initiatives will be the rule.

Such a competition backed up by local government resources, with financial and policy support, will favour the major ports with better resources. So the main beneficiary will be Guangzhou despite the unfavourable geography of its ports that face serious problems of silting. Ideally, the western port area of Shenzhen should be the focus of container port business in the whole region. Competition from Dongguan and Guangzhou ports does not make for the greatest efficiency.

The multiplication and expansion of so many ports in such a small region in the estuary of the Pearl River is against the conventional wisdom of economy of scale and scope. It will hurt regional competition in the dynamic world of shipping and port business, especially as it faces the formidable challenge of the ever expanding Shanghai port system; its boundary has extended to cover ports in Taiwan as well as those on the neighbouring coast. ■





Painter with the Trademark Smile

Art museum brings
Yue Min-jun exhibition
to Macao

By Mark O'Neill



A downtown Macao poster promotes Yue Min-jun exhibition

If you walk past the New Lisboa and the Portuguese school in downtown Macao, you can't fail to notice a striking poster on the side of a building. It features a man with a broad smile and a hint of irony – the trademark of Yue Minjun, one of China's most famous contemporary artists.

His works, old and new, are the subject of a major exhibition that opens in November at the Macao Museum of Art, the first of its kind here or in Hong Kong. It promises to be the museum's most popular show of the year.

"This year Yue is having a retrospective in France," said director Chan Hou Seng in an interview. "It would have been easier to bring the same exhibition here. But that would not have been a challenge for us. Ours will have representative works and new ones. Visitors will feel as though they are in his large studio."

Yue has become both famous and fashionable; his pieces sell for millions of US dollars. "As a gift to the people of Macao, he has agreed to sell the museum a piece measuring two metres high at a price people would be willing to pay – several tens of thousands of yuan – far less than its market price."

Born in 1962 in Daqing, the biggest oilfield in northeast China, Yue has made his name with oil paintings, showing himself, in different settings, frozen in laughter. His 'Hat' collection shows his grinning face wearing a variety of hats – a chef's hat, a Special Forces beret, the helmet of a British policeman and a Catwoman's mask. 'Execution', painted in 1995, shows four men wearing only underwear being shot by a row of policemen, with a wall of Tiananmen square in the background.

Yue said that the viewers should not link the painting to the student protests of 1989 in Beijing but said that the event had been a catalyst. In 2007, Sotheby's sold it at auction in London for US\$5.9 million, the most expensive work of contemporary Chinese art at that time.

The laughing portraits express a black humour towards the spiritual emptiness of the contemporary world; the smile has become a brand.

The Yue exhibition will be one of 28 that the museum is hosting this year, showing local, Chinese and foreign artists, as part of its mission to be a 'world art museum'. Last year it attracted 174,000 visitors, an increase of 30 percent over 2011.



Macao Museum of Art director Chan Hou Seng (centre) in the studio of Yue Min-jun in Beijing

Meet chaos with a smile

Yue's style attracts some people and repels others. Chan likes it. "Our society is confused, unequal and unjust. Smiling is one way to deal with it. I feel good when I see Yue's work; it means that the world has hope."

So he decided to invite him to have an exhibition at the museum. He first met him at the opening of an art exhibition in Suzhou during the summer of 2012. Also present was Zhang Xiaogang, another famous modern talent. Of the two, Chan chose to invite Yue.

The museum staff and Yue made contact over the Internet; Chan and his colleagues went to his studio in Tongzhou, outside Beijing. "It is a very large room with a high ceiling, containing a lot of works. The discussions were very easy. He has been very reasonable and co-operative."

At the end of last year, Yue visited the museum and took many pictures with his mobile phone. "He was very satisfied with the size and layout."

Yue will attract a bigger audience than Zhang. Born in 1958, Zhang is also one of China's best-known modern painters. In April 2011, his triptych oil painting, 'Forever Lasting Love', of half-naked figures in an arid landscape suffused with mystical symbols, sold for US\$10.1 million in Hong Kong, a record auction price for a contemporary artwork from China.

Zhang's most famous works are the Bloodlines series – stylised portraits of Chinese people, usually with large dark pupils, posing stiffly like in the family portraits of the 1950s and 1960s.

His style is more severe and abstract than that of Yue, whose work is humorous and closer to people. It will attract a large audience to the museum.

First Empire of France

One of the major Western exhibitions hosted by the museum this year was 'Treasures of the Imperial Palace' – 125 pieces from the palaces of Napoleon Bonaparte. It ran from mid-April to mid-July

In 1804, Napoleon staged a coup d'état and crowned himself Emperor, founding the first French Empire. At its height, his empire included 860,000 square kilometers – a large part of continental Europe.

After the revolution of 1789, many palaces of the

executed king Louis XIV were pillaged and their contents sold or stolen. As emperor, Napoleon commissioned a wide range of pieces to fill his new palaces – oil paintings, tapestries, furniture, table clocks, candelabras, chandeliers, vases and busts, which were of both practical and artistic value.

Chan and his colleagues had the idea for this exhibition several years ago, following visits to Paris and meetings with the French consul in Hong Kong. "The First Empire is a very attractive period and got our attention. There was more to Napoleon than politics and the military.

"He was a very sensitive man and had opinions on cultural things. He was very interested in the items being made for the emperor and gave his opinions about the designs. There are elements from Greece and Egypt. Each item has his imprint. You must not use simply your eyes to see them but also understand the background," he said.

The pieces were finely designed and finished, examples of the best craftsmanship in Europe at that time. They decorated the reception rooms and private apartment of the Emperor and his family in different palaces. The exhibition showed the décor of these palaces with great precision and gave the public access to the intimate lifestyle of the imperial family.

Most of them came from the Mobilier National, founded in 1663, as the agency responsible for storing and maintaining furniture and tapestries from the palaces of France. Also on show was the throne of Napoleon, created in 1804 of mahogany, using silk, velvet and gold embroidery, with the letter 'N' woven in the back. The French Senate loaned the piece to the museum.

There was a tapestry from the Gobelins Manufactory, woven in wool and silk between 1809 and 1815, that shows Napoleon receiving the representatives of the army after his coronation in 1804.

The influence of Greece, Rome and Egypt – where Napoleon made a military expedition in 1798 – is evident in the pieces, with realistic sculptures symbolic of the power of ancient Rome and olive branches, a symbol of Greece. A table clock featured the ancient Egyptian sphinx.

The styles chosen by Napoleon flourished after his death in 1821 and became the fashion for the wealthy and noble class of Europe. They created a range of beautiful ornaments and furniture.



Exhibition "Treasures of the Imperial Palace" of Napoleon Bonaparte



Macao Museum of Art director Chan Hou Seng

Cultivate knowledge

The museum has a floor area of 10,192 square metres over five storeys, of which 4,000 is exhibition area. It opened in 1999 and is the largest museum of arts and cultural relics in Macao.

It aims to reflect the particular character of Macao, the culture of the Orient mixed with Western civilisation. On the fourth floor it has Chinese painting, calligraphy and ceramic rooms. On the third are early Western paintings and Macao artworks.

On the second is a large exhibition space – where the Napoleonic pieces were displayed – with additional exhibition space on the first and ground floors. It has a well-equipped auditorium which can hold more than 100 people, for seminars, films and lectures on art and architecture.

A studio on the ground floor holds artistic activities and art classes for children. Of the 174,000 visitors last year, about 60 percent were from Macao; the others came from the mainland, Taiwan and Hong

Kong, with a few Caucasians. More than 500 people took part in the courses it arranged; this year it is putting on a further 25 courses, for 416 students.

“The purpose of our classes is to cultivate knowledge among the students, to encourage an interest and active participation, so that they enjoy the works,” said Chan. “Our aim is not to increase the number of visitors as such; that is not scientific. But we want to improve our service and education. We are investing heavily in this, so we explain carefully each of the pieces.

“This was the case with the Napoleonic pieces, so that more people know about him. Each item has a detailed explanation.

“For example, we did an exhibition of Qing dynasty jade. We put a lot of effort into explaining what it represents. This means a better harvest for the visitors; they not only see the beauty of the piece but also the content and background. If they do not absorb this, we have not been successful,” he said. ■

Photos by Carmo Correia, Xinhua and MAM courtesy

MACAO YEARBOOK 2012

Macao Yearbook 2012 is the regional almanac published by the Government Information Bureau of the Macao 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 2011. 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 2012, 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.

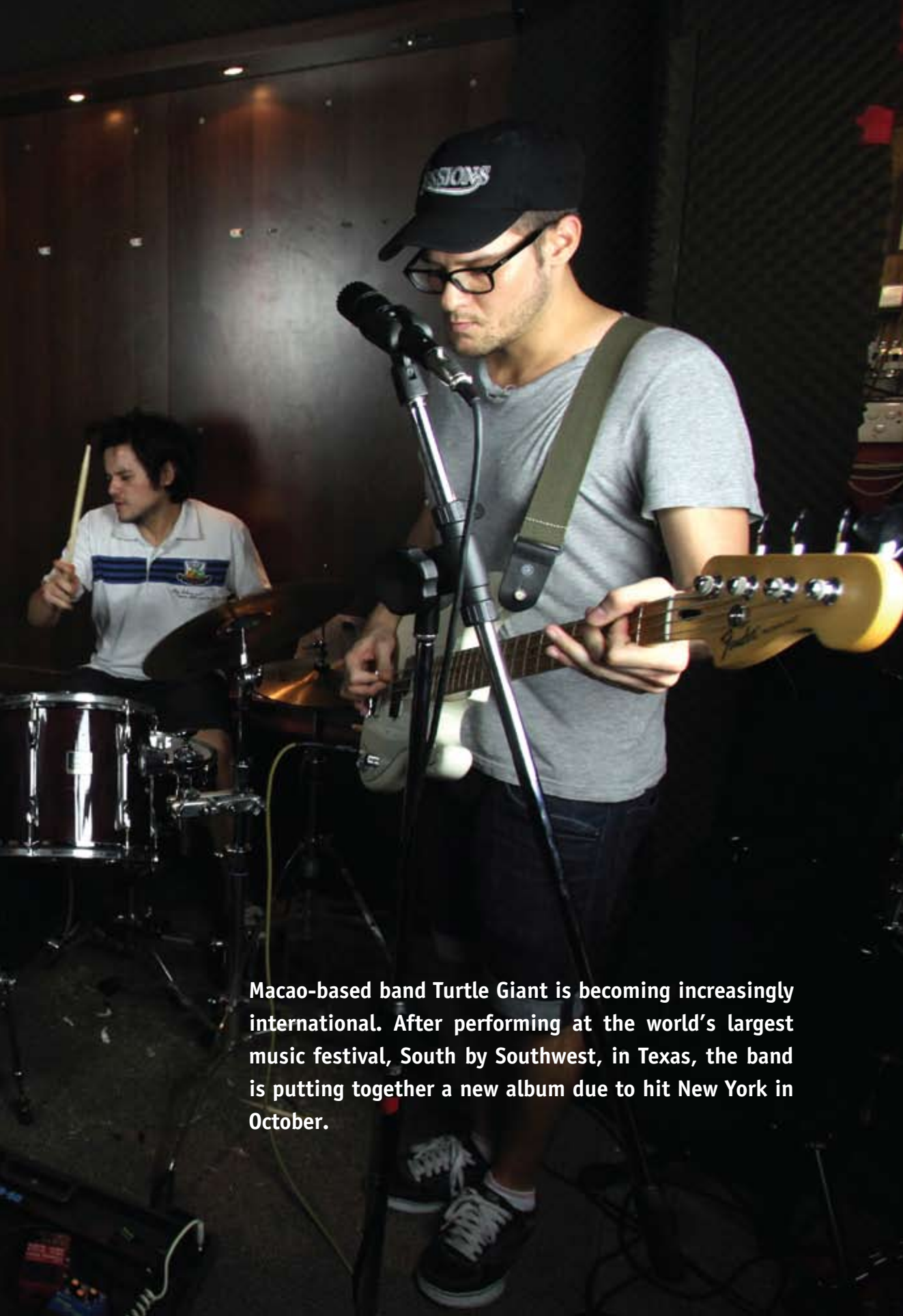
In Hong Kong, the three separate language editions of Macao Yearbook 2012 are on sale at the Commercial Press (HK) Ltd bookshops.



Pitch Perfect

Can the Turtle become a Giant?

By Hélder Beja



Macao-based band Turtle Giant is becoming increasingly international. After performing at the world's largest music festival, South by Southwest, in Texas, the band is putting together a new album due to hit New York in October.



Beto Ritchie, Fredji Ritchie and António Conceição (From left to right)

Last year in Singapore, Turtle Giant took to the stage at the Music Matters festival, one of the most important festivals on the Asian circuit. Macao magazine was there to watch Beto Ritchie, Fredji Ritchie and António Conceição let rip with the purest of Indie-rock chords, attract new fans, enjoy the applause, and contact producers and musicians who would point them on their way to other musical festivals.

The performance was followed by several other concerts in the region, as well as winning first place in a band competition in Hong Kong, giving concerts in Taiwan and a number of cities in Southern China, not to mention opening up the possibility of a tour of

the United States and Canada. In the US there could be no better start than South by Southwest (SxSW), the world's biggest music festival, in Austin, Texas – and that's exactly where Turtle Giant started.

This Macao-based band has a fascinating family tree: two brothers, Beto and Fredji, were born in the United States to a Brazilian-Chinese family, and came to Macao as small children, before returning to America, Brazil and back to Macao again. The third band member, António Conceição, is from a Portuguese and Chinese family, and was brought up in Macao. After studying in Portugal, he returned to live once again in the city where he was born.



Following the release of an album and an EP, the band took part in SxSW last March. "It was very good. To play at South by Southwest was an experience in itself. It was really interesting to see other bands, and the audience, and to understand how the festival works," says guitarist and vocalist Fredji Ritchie, sitting at a snooker table in the games room of the building where the band rehearses, in the centre of Macao. At the festival in Austin, Turtle Giant were complete outsiders in a line up including performers such as Nick Cave, the Yeah Yeah Yeahs and Green Day. "There are a lot of bands and you're fighting for your place in the sun. If you are not

that well known, it's rough. It's a week of non-stop music... That was a bit crazy," Fredji admits. The trip to the US also made it possible for the band to have a concert recorded live by Seattle-based radio station KEXP. It was broadcast in several cities across the country and made available online. "We met a lot of people and that was very good. We even played at a house party with a Texas-style barbecue. Leaving Macao and going to the US, where there are so many people in the music industry, was very cool."

Indeed, leaving Macao is something that Turtle Giant will continue to do in the near future. Another visit to the United States is planned for October, this time to the CMJ Music Marathon, in New York. By then the band should have a new album ready to launch. "Our plan is to record it at the Dom Pedro V Theatre, to ask the Macao Cultural Institute to lend us the theatre for about ten days, so we can go back and make another record there in September and have something newer to take to New York," says drummer Beto Ritchie. The band's drummer says that the band will be recording at the Dom Pedro V Theatre again because that's the legendary Macao venue, built in 1860, where Turtle Giant recorded their last EP, last year.

Creative freedom

Turtle Giant started in 2009 in Sao Paulo, at the time featuring just Beto and Fredji Ritchie. That was where the first album, "Feel to Believe", was born and launched in 2011 with songs including 'Feel To Believe' and 'Something That You Need'. It was followed by a tour of Spain, particularly Catalonia. Back in Macao the Ritchie brothers decided to invite António Conceição, with whom they had worked on other projects, to join the band. The musician, who is also known for his solo work in O Monstro, is now an important member of the band and a great defender of the way the 'Turtles' manage their career, without being tied to contracts or labels. "Working without a structure means working more slowly. It has its advantages: we don't have commitments, nobody puts pressure on us to launch anything or to write something like 'We Were Kids', a song from the 2012 EP "All Hidden Places", which has gained considerable popularity. "It is not certain that the next album will be anything like 'All Hidden Places' and that's a very good thing – for nobody to



tell us what to do," says Conceição, whose talent on the guitar is a great bonus for the band. Even more striking is his cavernous voice, distinctive in the melancholic register of particular songs, and on other pure rock tracks.

The disadvantages of working without the great machine of a label behind it include the difficulties involved in publicising their work. "Our songs are not well known anywhere, says Beto Ritchie. "Things get known much more slowly than the speed at which we work. We launched the EP a year ago and only now is it starting to be heard.

"All Hidden Places" has been well received by critics in the US, driven by the band's American tour. The special vinyl edition is on sale online at the band's official website (turtlegiant.com) and presents a more mature Turtle Giant, with a more developed sound that is difficult to classify, but reminiscent of bands like Tame Impala, Wolf Parade and a number of others. The songs 'Gold Tooth (Killer)' and 'Germany I & II' are good examples of this.

Despite what Beto Ritchie says, however, not all of the Macao band's songs are unknown to the general public. Songs from their first recordings, such as 'Beat Through', 'Sunlight' and 'All for the Taking' have been used in US TV series that are broadcast all over the world, such as 'One Tree Hill', the 'Ghost Whisperer' and '90210'.

Selling a song for TV use is one of the options to reach greater audience numbers, though it is not always the best. Fredji explains that "the deal of putting a song on the TV is good for the band's exposure, but it has a price, of course. You give a percentage to the companies. So we decided that the song 'We Were Kids' would not go on the TV. It was a song with great potential for that, but we wanted to keep hold of it, and find a better opportunity for it."

'We Were Kids' was one of the Turtle Giant songs that had a video clip made for it, which was directed by António Conceição, who has experience in video. It had some impact, which is encouraging the band

to have another go. "I think it would make more sense to have a new video when we launch the new single, close to the album launch, or after the album launch. We are thinking of making a video for the song 'Tonto', a new track on which the band sings in English and Portuguese, Conceição explains.

Asia and beyond

Even though they are all able to, singing in Portuguese is not something that Turtle Giant usually do. English is the language that the band typically uses despite being based in Macao. "It doesn't make a lot of difference where the band is from, but being from Macao helps to build up a good story because we have a sound unlike the music that comes from China," says Beto Ritchie. António Conceição has a more distanced opinion. "Personally it is not something that we are concerned about,

like being the ones that come from a small place. We want to be known for our music, not because of the struggle we are having with leaving Macao for the US. I even think it's a little paternalistic for people to talk about how we are from China, from a place where nothing is going on. But it happens: it happens with us, it happens with Carsick Cars [from Beijing] and others. There are people who are doing good things and I don't think their music should be more popular because it comes from far away."

Although playing in America and Europe is part of Turtle Giant's plan, their immediate interest is on continuing to tour Asian countries. Playing concerts around Macao is now "easier" says Fredji, as the band's track record means that "more people are seeking it out". Their contacts are often also the same. "For example, in the US we closed a concert in Shenzhen, with a producer who organises Music Matters in Singapore."



António Conceição says that one of the band's wishes is to perform at Fuji Rock, in Japan, and Beto adds that the Laneway Festival, which travels through Singapore, Auckland, Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne, is another ambition. As well as this, "playing at interesting venues in cities like Shanghai, Beijing, Taipei, Tokyo and Manila", is also on the cards for the band.

For as many concerts as they perform, for the time being, Turtle Giant's musicians will have to continue with jobs other than music. "We'd like to have the option of not doing other jobs, because normally we work to pay the band's costs, as it's very expensive to travel, make records, pay radio companies," says Beto. Their day jobs "on the one hand take up our time, but on the other, they bank roll the band's ambitions", the drummer explains. "If we didn't do this, we would have to depend on an investor and we wouldn't like that."

Turtle Giant's new record is on its way and, if all goes well, the trio will go into the studio again soon. Although Fredji and António Conceição are the band's main songwriters, the creative process is a three way thing. "Even though just one of us brings along an idea, we end up moulding the songs based on the dynamic and input of all of us," Conceição says.

The end result only takes shape just before getting into the studio. "When you have something scheduled, like recordings, the band starts to move and things start taking shape. That's how the creative process works when we have a deadline," says Fredji Ritchie. Creativity is often improved by pressure, and these young men, who are from Macao but could just as easily be from Brooklyn, are no exception to that rule. ■

Photos by Gonçalo L. Pinheiro



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No Ordinary Park



**Macao garden is museum of history
and place of leisure for the present**

By Mark O'Neill

It is just before six o'clock in the morning and still dark, yet a small crowd of elderly people have gathered at the gate of Macao's most famous garden. As the doors swing open, they walk in, line up in an orderly rank and begin their morning exercises.

Welcome to Lou Lim Ieoc Park, the only garden in Hong Kong and Macao built in the Suzhou style, an extravagance of trees, ponds, pavilions, rock sculptures and small walkways. It is an oasis of tranquility surrounded by high apartment buildings and the incessant drone of cars and scooters.

As the sun rises, so the park fills with people. Some

perform Tai Qi and others follow exercises led by a teacher. Some drink tea from tiny cups from pots they bring themselves and others swing the cages of their birds to give them the morning air. By nine o'clock, the atmosphere fills with the sound of Cantonese opera from two of the pavilions.

"The park is very popular with the residents of the area, especially those who are retired," said Leung Yung-sing, eating a bun on a brief stop on his way to work at a nearby shop. "They use it to exercise, to sing, to knit and to relax. How different it is when it was first built, for just a single family."



He was sitting in front of a one-storey house painted in yellow with classical columns that used to be the home of the Lou family after which the park is named. It has wooden floors and, at the front, a long wooden corridor which looks over a large pond. That is where, a century ago, the members of the Lou family used to sit during the long summer evenings and survey their large domain. In those days, there were no high-rise buildings to block the view nor the noise of motor cars – only the clip-clop of horses' hooves on the paving stones and the breathing of the rickshaw boys as they pulled



their wealthy clients.

The Lou family chose a design that took 21 years to build and spared no expense. They asked two famous architects from the neighbouring county of Xiangshan to make a Suzhou garden.

It was based on the 200 private gardens built in Suzhou, Jiangsu province, between the 11th and 19th century, mostly by scholars. The design features are constructed landscapes that copy natural scenery of rocks, hills and rivers with carefully placed pavilions and pagodas.

UNESCO has listed them as a World Heritage site, calling them 'the most refined form of garden art', with elegant and subtle aesthetics.

The result is the opposite of the sweeping lawns and neat flower beds preferred by the rich and nobility of Europe – a maze of narrow paths, giant weeping willows, elegant pavilions, lotus ponds and, everywhere you look, rock sculptures.

"Chinese people like stones and trees," said Wong Lam-ming, a schoolteacher who often visits. "This is their idea of beauty. The park is well used today. Its size nowadays is half of what it used to be when the Lou family lived here."

Visitors gain a sense of the past from visiting the long Sam Tong pavilion close to the entrance. This was built as a spacious room for the Lou family to receive visitors in and now houses an excellent collection of 290 family items donated to the government in 2009; they once belonged to Lou I leoc, a younger brother of Lim leoc after whom the park is named.

Work of two decades

The park is on land that was originally used for growing vegetables in a village called Longtian. A wealthy Chinese man, Lou Wah-siu, also known as Lou Kao, acquired it in 1870 as a private garden. Lou Kao means 'ninth Lou', because he was the ninth child of the family.

Later, his eldest son Lou Lim-ieoc invited Liu Ji-liu and Liu Xianlian, two scholars from Xiangshan, to design a garden in the style of those in Suzhou; he called it Yu Yuan (Yu Garden).

Building began in 1904 and was completed officially in 1925. It is the largest private garden constructed in Macao, and the most spectacular. The garden was called both 'Lou's Garden' and 'Ninth Lou's garden'.



Inside the garden were two buildings. One was a single-storey residence for the Lou family, the other what is now the long Sam Tong pavilion.

The most famous meeting there was in May 1912; it was the first visit of Dr Sun Yat-sen to Macao after the Xinhai revolution in October the previous year. Lim-ieoc and his brother were close to him and had supported him during his revolutionary struggle. The family invited more than 100 of Sun's Chinese and Portuguese friends, including the Governor and religious leaders; he thanked the brothers for their support. There is a photograph in the pavilion of this meeting as well as a phonograph with a recording of the voice of Dr Sun.

In 1920 Lim-ieoc gave HK\$9,000 for the purchase of an American aircraft, the Curtis HH-16, which he gave to Sun.

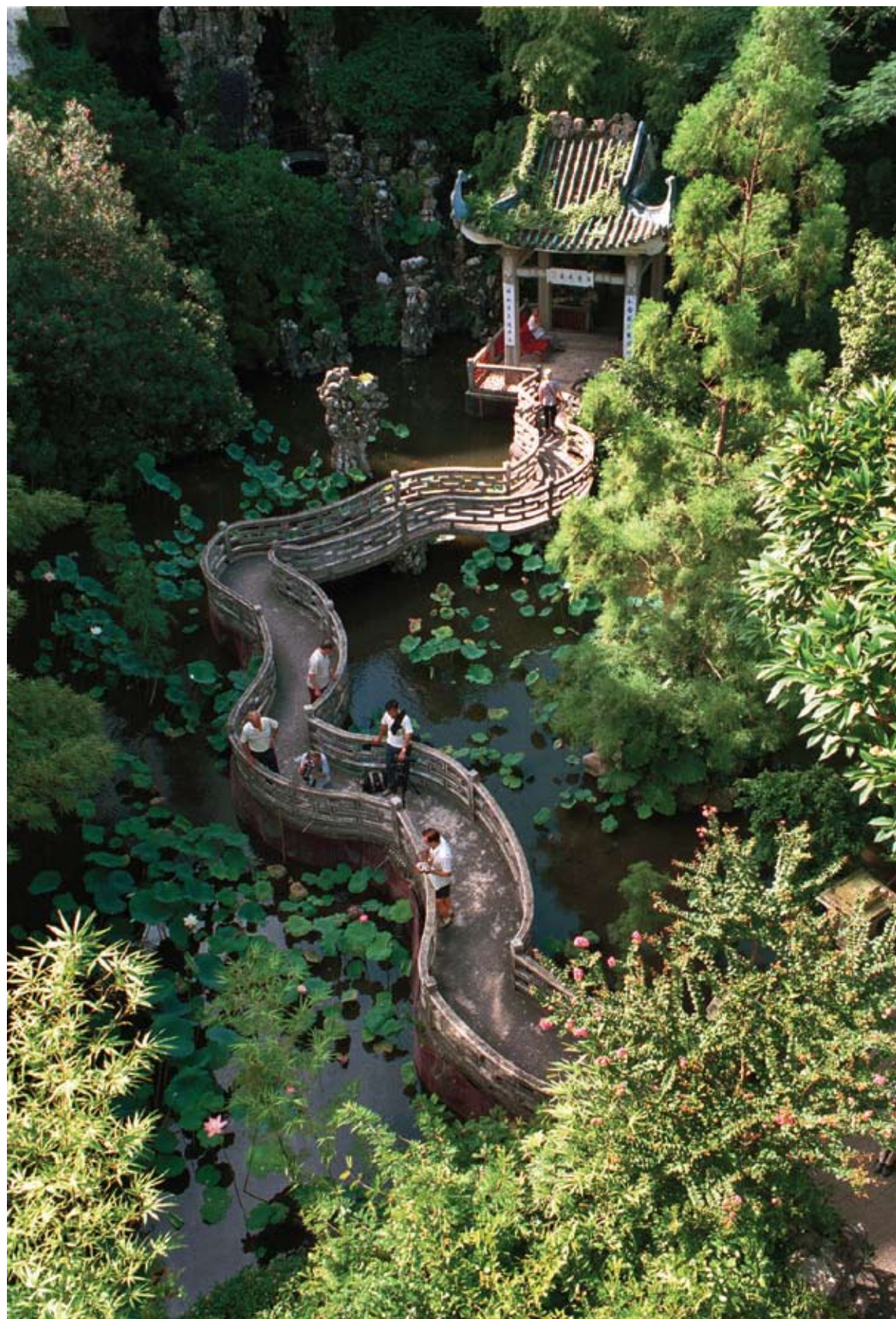
In 1927, Lim-ieoc died and, ten years later, the family lost the gambling franchise. It could no longer pay the high costs of maintaining the garden and the houses and sold part of the site.

During the anti-Japanese war of 1937–1945, the Pui Ching school evacuated from Guangzhou to Macao. It rented the pavilion as a library and held classes in the garden. After the end of the war, the school returned to Guangzhou and part of the park was used by a primary and secondary school.

In 1952, Ho Yin, one of Macao's most prominent citizens, acquired the park and allowed two middle schools to continue to use parts of it. In 1972, he donated the park – or sold it at a low price – to the government.

Half of the park was given to the Macao Pui Ching school, whose buildings and exercise grounds are now on the other side of the fence; the other middle school moved to a different site.

On 28 September 1974, the government opened it to the public; at 1.78 hectares, it was less than half the size of the original Yu Yuan. It was decided the park would be named after Lou Lim-ieoc, because of his many contributions to Macao society. In 1992, it was selected as one of the eight major attractions of Macao.



The long Sam Tong pavilion was used as a classroom by the Leng Nam Primary School; later it was turned into the floral and fauna specimen room of Leal Senado and the offices and warehouses of government departments.

In 2010, the government did large-scale reconstruction of the pavilion to restore it to its original form and re-opened it in 2010. It now houses the permanent exhibition of the life of Lou I leoc.

In one corner of the garden is the Tea Culture Museum of Macao; boasting an area of 1,076 square metres, it is the first museum in the SAR devoted to tea.

Lou Kao

Lou was the first 'gambling king' of Macao. He was born into a modest family in Xinhui, Guangdong province, on 11 October 1848. In 1857, the family moved to Macao to seek its fortune.

He started in finance, opening a private bank in 1867. Then he went into pork imports, buying pigs in Guangdong and selling their meat in Macao. He bought an opium franchise from the government, which made him his first fortune. In 1882, he obtained a gambling licence in Macao, for fan tan and the 'white pigeon'.

In 1889, he built the mansion in the centre of the city that carries his name; a UNESCO heritage site, it is a popular location for tourists. He became a generous philanthropist, funding hospitals, schools and charities for the poor in Macao and the mainland.

On 11 November 1906, he took his own life by hanging himself over a beam in his mansion, at the age of 59; he was saddled with enormous debt after he won a gambling concession in Guangdong province that was later cancelled.

Lou Lim Ieoc

It fell to his eldest son Lim Ieoc, then 28, to take over the family business. It was he who oversaw the completion of the park.

He ran the gambling operations in Macao and branched into a theatre, silver, pharmaceuticals and pawn-broking. He was a major shareholder in the Nanyang Tobacco Company and the Bao Xiang Bank.





In 1913, he served as the first chairman of the Macao Chamber of Commerce. He was, like his father, a major philanthropist, giving money to Kiang Wu Hospital, where he served as a chairman for four years. He set up a Confucian school to provide education to the poor at primary and secondary level and served as its chairman. Like his father, he received awards from the Chinese and Portuguese governments.

His scholarship and accomplishments exceeded those of his father.

One photograph in the pavilion captures him at the height of his fame in Macao. It is 1925; in the garden he is receiving awards in recognition of his contributions to society. He is seated in the middle of a gathering of more than 100 people, including the Governor, religious leaders and the most important citizens of the colony, Portuguese and Chinese. Everyone is dressed in their best outfits and Lim leoc is proud and happy.

When he died on 17 June 1927, he was only 49. Flags in Macao were flown at half-mast. His body was taken to the White Cloud cemetery in Guangzhou, where more than 1,000 people attended the funeral, including the wife of the Macao governor. A wealthy Guangzhou businessman, who was a close friend of the family, paid for the building of an elaborate tomb.

In 1937, the gambling franchise of the Lou family expired and was put up to public tender. Another company won it and the fortunes of the family began to decline.

In the park today, only the name and the objects in the pavilion remind people of the wealth and fame of the Lou family. Their house has become a site for exhibitions. Teacher Wong described the feelings of most Chinese people with the popular saying: 'Wealth does not survive three generations.'

Photos by Manuel Cardoso





Rowing to the beat of the Drum





Dragon Boat races become top tourist attraction

Photos by Manuel Cardoso and Eric Tam



Every year hundreds come to Macao in June to watch and take part in the annual Dragon Boat competition – they join the more than 50 million who race every year, in events from Sydney to Lisbon.

This year a total of 48 teams took part in the 2013 Macao International Dragon Boat race in the Nam Van Lake.

Indonesia's National Team won the open category for the second consecutive year. Second was China's Nanhai Jiujiang and third was the Philippine Army team.

In the women's category, China's Nanhai Jiujiang retained their title for the third time. Macao finished sixth in the open category and fifth in the women's category.

In the modern era, Dragon Boat racing has only recently evolved as a sport; it has captured the imagination of many people. It is celebrated every year on the fifth day of the fifth moon (month) of the Chinese lunar calendar.

It has a long and rich history, with the traditional races held in southern China for over 2,000 years. The dragon is an essential part of the event; each boat has an ornately carved dragon's head at the bow and a tail in the stern and is painted with

scales. The paddles represent the dragon's claws. It's quite common to see 20-seat boats, 10 to 50 plus paddlers, in addition to the drummer and the sweep.

Historians have different versions of how the races began.

Originally, the boats were used for religious purposes as a way to appease the rain gods. Later they celebrated the life of Qu Yuan, a great warrior poet, who committed suicide in the river Mi Lo in Hunan province, as a protest against the political corruption of his day.

To commemorate his sacrifice, people began to organise Dragon Boat Festivals in his memory. Since then, they have become an important part of Chinese culture, representing patriotism and group harmony.

According to one legend, when news of Qu's drowning became known, local fishermen launched boats in a race to be the first to recover his body. This is how dragon boat racing was born. The furious splashing of paddles and banging of drums were used at that time to keep the crews in time with each other; their origins lie in their bid to scare fish and other river creatures from defiling Qu's body.



In one version, the fishermen began to throw rice into the river as an offering to Qu Yuan, to nourish his spirit in the next world. But, one night, Qu appeared in a dream to one of the fishermen; he told him the fish were eating the rice offerings and that, to prevent this, the rice ought to be wrapped in silk – later replaced by bamboo leaves – called Zongzi or Doongs. The making of these rice cakes has become an important part of the festival.

In another interpretation, according to Andrew Chittick, a professor of East Asian Humanities at Eckerd College in Florida, the races were “initially a military exercise” in the Hubei area, home of the state of Chu; they took place during the solstice, when the river was at its highest. “Small boats were an important part of warfare. Then they turned it into a spectator sport.”

To make sense of how the water dragon gets into the

story and why the dragons were carved on the boats, we need to go back further in time – more than 6,000 years – to the earliest dating of a figure of a dragon found within the boundaries of modern China.

“One of the most important mythical creatures in Chinese mythology, the dragon, is the controller of the rain, the river, the sea and all other kinds of water; it is a symbol of divine power and energy ... In the imperial era, it was identified as the symbol of imperial power,” writes An Deming, PhD, a professor of folklore at the Institute of Literature, at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing, and co-author of the Handbook of Chinese Mythology. “In people’s imaginations, dragons usually live in water and are the controllers of rain.”

Dragon Boating is a wonderful team sport with a rich history and a bright future. It is also a very social activity and great fun!



Chief Executive Chui Sai On
with the Indonesia National Team















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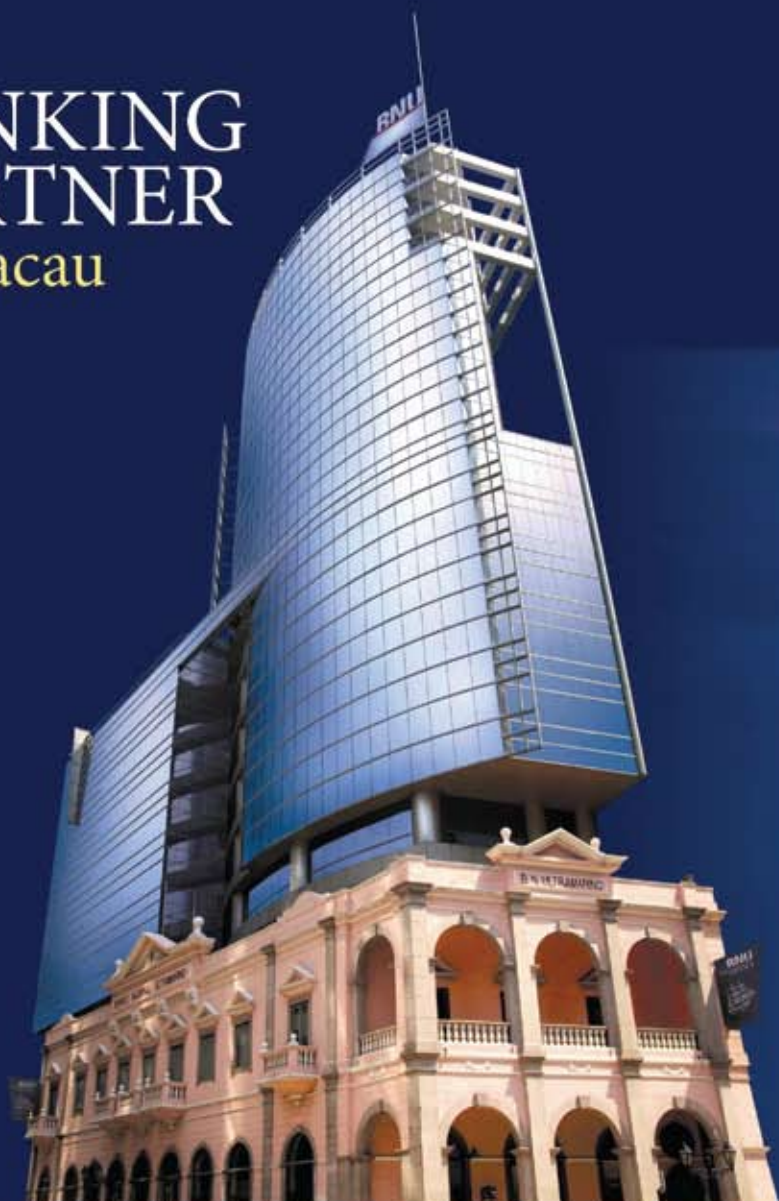
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