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Macau Grand Prix
by Carlos Marreiros



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moves to Hengqin island

Lionel Leong Vai-tac:
a man with vision

Macau Grand Prix
celebrates 60 years





澳門格蘭披治大賽車
Grande Prémio de Macau
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The Way [Tao]

Originally, *tao* meant simply a 'course of action', perhaps a military one: The character combines 'foot' or 'to follow', with 'the leader'—a 'head' topped with the two plumes that were used in ancient days to signify the rank of general.

To Confucius *tao* became the 'way' of moral rectitude—the way we do what we do. It was Lao-tzu who interpreted Tao as the law, or truth of the universe, the oneness from which sprang the ten thousand things, each of which contains within it the law or *tao* of its own being. In Taoism, to see not only things but the *tao* of things, is to follow the Tao.

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

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US\$1 billion Fund to promote closer economic ties between China and Portuguese-Speaking Countries

By Luciana Leitão in Beijing

A US\$1 billion fund for promoting economic co-operation between China and Portuguese-Speaking Countries was formally set up in July this year.

The Fund, known as the China-Portuguese-Speaking Countries Cooperation and Development Fund (CPD), will further enhance the thriving business ties of the Portuguese-speaking block under the auspices of the Forum for Economic and Trade Co-operation Between China and Portuguese-Speaking Countries (Forum Macao).

The CPD was officially announced by then Chinese premier Wen Jiabao at the Forum's third ministerial-level conference in Macao in October 2010. It will focus on the financing needs of companies of the Forum's member states, said the official document of the Fund.

The ten-year Fund, with an initial outlay of US\$125 million, is to be jointly sponsored by the China Development Bank and the Macao Industrial and Commercial Development Fund.

Projects will be recommended by the Forum's Secretariat and governments of the Forum's member states. A CPD Fund management team will select projects, which will "support economic and trade exchanges between China (Macao included) and the Portuguese-speaking countries". Through such direct investment, the fund strives to "promote the social development of (Forum's) member states," the document said.

The Fund will finance business projects worth between US\$5 million and US\$20 million in areas such as agriculture and livestock, tourism, infrastructure, trade, education, health, natural resources and services. However, it will not support real-estate investment nor provide business guarantees.

The Fund can "flexibly adopt various models or portfolios through vehicles like equity or quasi-equity," the brochure said. This support could be in the form of direct investment in company shares, preferred stock, hybrid capital instruments and convertible bonds.

Projects should be located in China, including Macao, and Portuguese-speaking countries, with the exception of São Tomé and Príncipe and have "promising market prospects with rapid and steady growth potential and be able to generate good cash flow and profits."

The projects should also provide exit channels for the investments and promote local economic development and improve people's quality of life.





Brasília, Brazil



Luanda, Angola



Beijing, China

The decision to invest will be made by the Investment Commission, made up of professional representatives of the management team of the China-Africa Development Fund, based in Beijing. Investment for a single project will range from US\$5 million to US\$20 million and the holding period for each project will range from four to six years. António Inácio Junior, Mozambique's Ambassador to China, said his country had been calling for the creation of such a fund. "The Fund will fill a void

that now exists in our economic and commercial exchanges." With the Fund's objectives in mind, his government has identified for potential applications the sectors of infrastructure, agriculture, energy and communication.

Malam Sambu, Guinea-Bissau's Ambassador to China said he has already been approached by businessmen exploring how to use the Fund. For example, a Macao businessman has shown interest in opening hotels in Guinea-Bissau, he said.



Lisbon, Portugal



East Timor's investors and national companies might be interested in applying for fund money for use in projects at home, said Vicky Tchong, the country's Ambassador to China. "We are starting from nothing, so there are a lot of things our people could use. If they want to start their own chicken farm, work on an irrigation system or plant some crops, like mango plantations, (they could use the money)".

Carmen Amado Mendes, an assistant professor at the University of Coimbra, added that different Portuguese-speaking countries would have different priorities, when it comes to applications for the Fund. "For instance, in Angola, there is interest in having Chinese companies and workers to build infrastructure," she said.

By contrast, Chinese involvement of infrastructure in Brazil is not so visible and is generally "more confined to the exploration and transportation of natural resources and trading of oil and soy beans," she said. In fact, Chinese investment has grown so much in Africa that the Fund might eventually "strengthen the Chinese presence in the Portuguese-speaking world" more than the other way round. ■



Dili, Timor-Leste



Praia, Cape Verde



Maputo, Mozambique



Bijagós, Guinea-Bissau

Forum Macao needs a new strategy after a decade of success

The Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and Portuguese-Speaking Countries has been, for a decade, an important platform to promote close ties among its member nations - Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, China, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal and Timor-Leste.

Set up in 2003, the Forum has organised for its members trade fairs, high-level official meetings and training sessions on commercial matters such as customs, trade, and tourism and land development. Most events were held in Macao, where the Forum has its permanent secretariat and where it has held its three ministerial-level meetings, in 2003, 2006 and 2010. The fourth will be held in November this year. The Forum has, undoubtedly, contributed much to boosting the rapid-growing business and investment activities between China and the Portuguese-speaking nations.

In 2012, trade between China and Portuguese-speaking countries totaled US\$128.49 billion, a year-on-year increase of 9.6%. China exported US\$ 41.05 billion to Portuguese-speaking countries and imported US\$ 87.44 billion, primarily from Brazil, Angola, and Portugal, China's three largest Portuguese-speaking trading partners.

One recent example of how the Forum has helped to promote trade and investment was the success

of the three-day 9th Meeting of Businesspeople for Economic and Trade cooperation between China and the Portuguese-speaking Countries in East Timor in July this year. Seven letters of intent were signed between private companies from Portuguese-speaking countries and China. The event was held in cooperation with the Macao Investment and Promotion Institute.

In July this year, the Portuguese-speaking community received another boost. A US\$1 billion fund to promote co-operation and development among Forum's member countries was formally established.

A mandate to promote efficiency

Looking ahead, Portuguese-speaking diplomats and academics interviewed mentioned the need to consolidate the Forum's decade-long achievements and to map out a new strategy.

Antonio Inácio Junior, Mozambique's Ambassador to China, said that the Forum's new strategy should cover the "internationalisation of Chinese companies in Portuguese-speaking countries", with an eye not only for African markets but also those in South America and Europe.

Inácio Junior suggested that the Forum have its



Chang Hexi

own mandate, in the form of a statute, so that it can execute plans more efficiently. It should also set up a research office, for the study of markets, trade development and taxation matters. "The Forum is ideally placed to make proposals on support services and partnerships between China and Portuguese-speaking countries," he said.

The Forum has been working hard to meet new challenges. Chang Hexi, the body's Secretary-General, said that it is preparing a new action plan, with emphasis on areas such as governmental cooperation, investment, human resources and transportation.

Chang highlighted the many activities of the past decade, with successful events such as business meetings, ministerial conferences, business visits to China and seminars on the investment climate in Portuguese-speaking countries. Based on these achievements, "now it is the time to innovate, consolidate and diversify the areas of cooperation," he said.

Developing human resources

One area worth looking into is the development of



Rita Santos

human resources of Portuguese-speaking countries. João Garcia Bires, Angolan Ambassador to China, said, "As we speak the same language, it would be much better to have Angolans trained in Macao's establishments than in those in Beijing."

Malam Sambu, Guinea-Bissau's Ambassador to China, added: "we would like to see a timetable of the training courses and the timescale in which these are to take place, so that human resources can be allocated to the different ministries."

Rita Santos, the Forum's Deputy Secretary-General and Director of the Services Office of the Secretariat, said that the Forum would continue to have more personnel learning Portuguese. It will also have cooperation agreements between universities and institutes in Portugal and Macao, in sectors such as administration, human resources management and marketing.

Antonio Inácio Junior, Mozambique's Ambassador to China, said the Forum's next decade should serve to consolidate work done in the first ten years. He believes that now is the time to promote partnerships between Chinese and Portuguese-speaking countries' private companies and promote mutual investment and training staff.



Vicky Tchong

Helping East Timor

Vicky Tchong, East Timor's Ambassador to China, said Macao has served via the Forum as an important gateway, facilitating contacts between China and Portuguese-speaking countries like hers. However, the time has come to help the member countries to interact with each other," she said.

Tchong hopes the Forum would help East Timor eradicate poverty so that, over the next 20 years, "it becomes more self-sufficient, with improved living standards for its people". East Timor needs help in the development of human capital, the petroleum sector, agriculture and infrastructure. Carmen Amado Mendes, assistant professor of the International Relations Department at the School of Economics at the University of Coimbra, agreed that the Forum has helped to improve knowledge about China among Portuguese-speaking countries, thanks to business meetings and training courses arranged regularly in Macao for Portuguese-speaking businessmen.



Valdemar Carneiro Leão

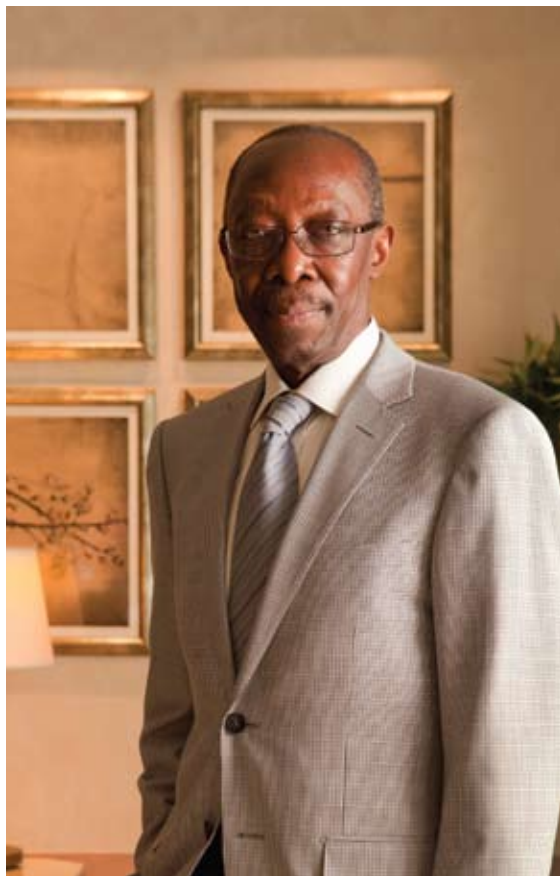
China Trade with Portuguese-speaking countries

China's business with Portuguese-speaking countries will continue to prosper, despite the global economic slowdown.

Since 2009, China has become Brazil's main trading partner, overtaking the USA and European countries. Brazil has a surplus with China but this is decreasing. "It also has to do with the fact that our accounting methods are not exactly the same as those of the Chinese," said Brazilian Ambassador to China, Valdemar Carneiro Leão.

Bilateral trade this year is dependent on various factors, noted the ambassador. "One is China's slower economic growth and the subsequent impact on oil and soya trade, as well as on commodities prices in general," he said.

Brazil sells raw materials and commodities while China sells manufactured goods to Brazil, which is not entirely to Brazil's liking. "It's our fault; it means we are losing competitiveness in our own industry, including in the South American market," he said.



João Garcia Bires

According to China's Customs figures, Sino-Brazilian trade amounted to US\$39.99 billion in the first six months this year, a year-on-year increase of 9%. Chinese exports amounted to US\$16.39 billion, an increase of also 9%, and imports reached US\$23.6 billion, a drop of 7.64%.

As a result, Brazil enjoyed a surplus of US\$7.2 billion.

Angola and Portugal

Angola has become China's number one trading partner in Africa. It all began with a loan from China to Angola for national reconstruction. Ambassador Bires recalled that it was Angola's first opportunity to promote its products in this part of the world.

The bilateral economic relationship developed quickly with China's acquisition of Angola's oil resources. "Oil aside, there are other products going from Angola to China. "We have pineapples, avocados and coffee, the last of which we are starting to see growing in some regions of China as well," said Bires.

China's financing efforts in Angola have been



António Inácio Junior

significant. "Today we have three railways working in Angola, thanks to Chinese financing and Chinese technicians," he said. "There'll be more investment opportunities in Angola, in the sectors of mining, agro-livestock, agriculture, and civil construction."

In the first semester of 2013, China Customs figures show that Angola and China's trade amounted to US\$ 17.92 billion, which is less 9.94 % than during the same period of 2012. Beijing exports increased 9.71 %, amounting to US\$ 1.84 billion, while Angola's exports decreased 11.75 %, amounting to US\$ 16.08 billion.

China's exports to Portugal include textiles, garments, shoes, plastics, acoustic equipment, steel products, ceramic goods and lighting equipment. Portugal's exports to China include electric condensers and replacement parts, primary plastics, paper, medicinal products, textiles and wine.

In the first half of the year, two-way trade with Portugal totalled US\$2.189 billion (7.39 % less), with China selling goods worth US\$1.413 billion (2.48 % less) and buying goods from Portugal in the amount of US\$776 million (16.11 % less).

Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau

The economic relations of Mozambique and China began many years ago, with China's "support to Mozambique during the war for independence", said Inácio Junior. Chinese investment in Mozambique is mainly in the areas of infrastructure, such as public buildings, roads and railways.

Trade between Mozambique and China totalled US\$707.89 million in the first six months of the year, which was a rise of 10.66 % year on year, according to figures published by the Chinese Customs Service. Between January and June Mozambique imported goods from China worth US\$532.39 million (+22.61 %) and exported goods to China worth US\$175.5 million (-14.59 %).

China has been a major trading partner of Guinea-Bissau since 1974. It started investing cautiously in the African country, but the pace has picked up recently, with more Chinese investment in basic infrastructure and public works. "Unfortunately, Guinea-Bissau does not have businessmen able to do the same in China," said Sambu.

He said that bilateral relations would grow fast in future. "Our country has a lot of human resources, diamonds, gold, oil and titanium, which are attractive to China." He hopes to see his country export to China more products, such as timber and cashew nuts while importing from it essential products, furniture, clothes, rice, bicycles and generators.

East Timor's trade with China has had a slow start.

"Almost 70% of our institutions were destroyed by wars. Our country has no industry; we depend a lot on imports for commodities," said Tchong.

"Since 2002, we started to import from different countries; China is our fifth largest trading partner. Many of our people did not have access to the Chinese market until last year," she said.

Since 2011, trade with China has increased, involving Chinese exports of construction materials and daily necessities. "Our exports to China were mainly concentrated on very small amounts of turmeric and coffee," she said.

Tchong said there are daily enquiries about investment in East Timor, though these have not led to any substantial projects yet. Still, China will "probably be the country to obtain the biggest project in East Timor", referring to the US\$ 4 billion construction of a national power grid.

In Cape Verde, small-time Chinese investors spearheaded bilateral economic relations, noted researchers António Escobar and Jorge Kimbamba Simões, in an article entitled 'Stage of Ambition'.

In 1999, a bilateral agreement for trade and economic cooperation was signed. Since then, China has heavily financed Cape Verde's state infrastructure.

Su Jian, Chinese Ambassador to Cape Verde, was quoted in the academic paper saying that other areas of bilateral cooperation include short-term training, medical assistance, technical cooperation and humanitarian aid.

Carmen Amado Mendes



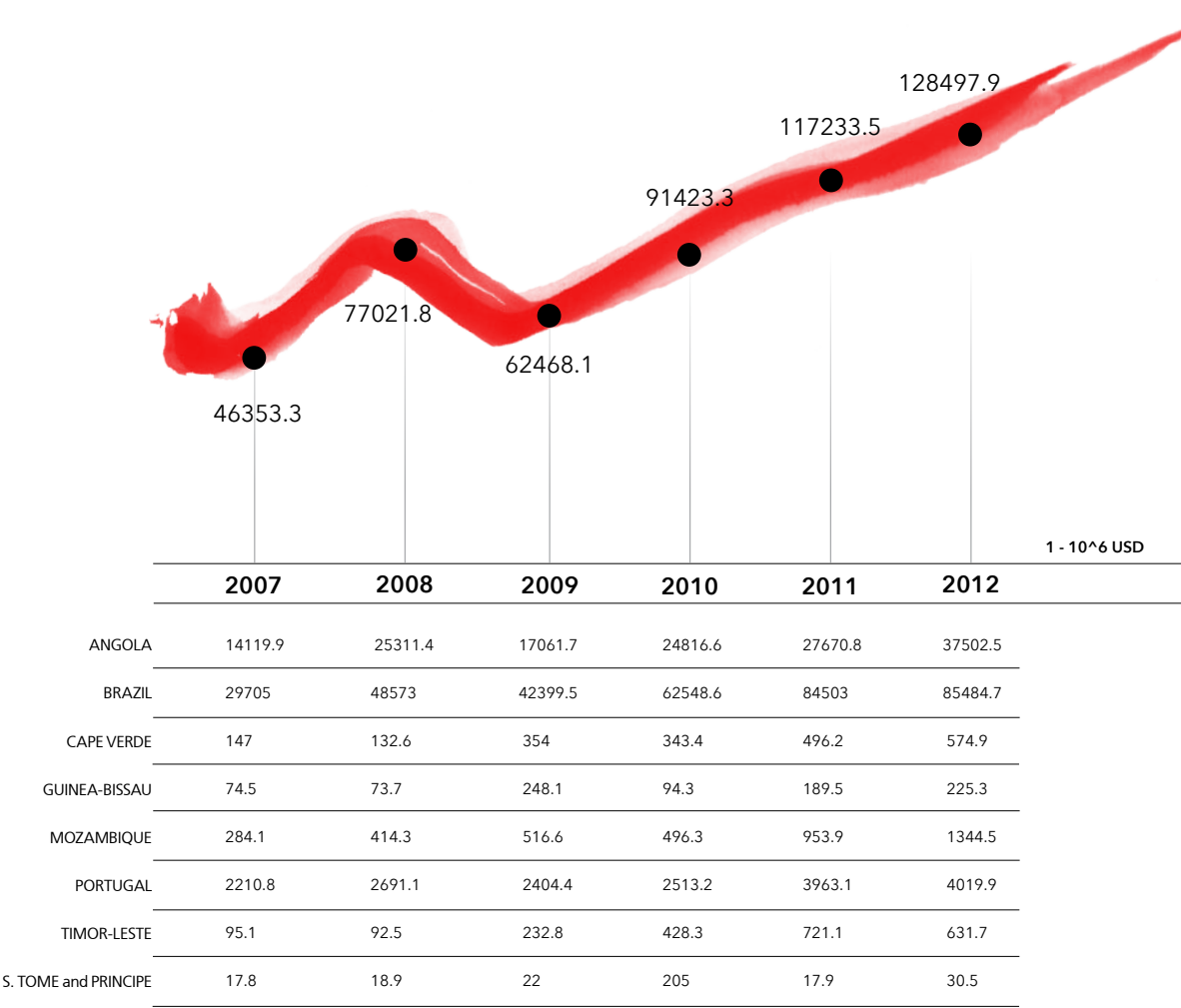
Macao 's role and impact

How does Macao fit in this fast developing Portuguese-speaking business community? Tchong noted that the Forum, with its secretariat in Macao, has helped to channel investment opportunities among Forum's member countries and in Macao itself as well. For example, at the last annual International Commercial Conference for Portuguese-speaking countries, Macao and Timorese

businessmen signed a purchase deal on coffee. She recalled that a local businessman expressed interest in investing in a coffee plantation in East Timor. Inácio Junior of Mozambique said that Macao's role is mostly as a platform, thanks to its historical, linguistic and cultural connection to his country. Macao could also do more to promote dialogue of all parties concerned. One success story of the cooperation between Mozambique and Macao is the creation of MozaBank.

Photos by Carmo Correia, Eneias Rodrigues, Gonalo L. Pinheiro, H lder Beja, Kostadin Luchansky, Manuel Cardoso, M rcia Gonalves and Rita Tudela

Economic Relations between China and Portuguese Speaking Countries 2007-2012



Source: China Customs





Building on Ambition

China helps build Cape Verde after independence

By Antonio Escobar and Jorge Kimbamba Simões

Poilão dam



National Assembly

Public infrastructures erected by China in Cape Verde, such as the government and presidential palaces, have become landmarks in the landscape and even part of the rich culture of the archipelago. Later this year, Cape Verdeans will be able to enjoy the most recent of these works: the National Stadium, which Chinese ambassador Su Jian describes as "the greatest construction after Independence" in the archipelago. It becomes reality – and a symbol in itself – at a time of dynamism in the ancient trade and economic relations, and of ambitions to raise it to new heights. New fields of cooperation are opening up in ports, industry, education and information technology.

The two countries have different stories of "success". On one side is a small and arid archipelago, part of one of the poorest regions of the planet. Without natural resources – at least those that enrich nations – Cape Verde was obliged to use other weapons. The key ingredients to its unlikely success include developing key sectors in tourism, services, real estate and infrastructure construction. In addition, remittances, political stability, openness to foreign investment and an open economy have played an important part.

On the other side is the second largest economy in the world, which many herald as the next global superpower. It is the most populous country in the

world and the third largest in territory – an economic giant.

So why is Cape Verde seen as "a faithful friend", as the Chinese ambassador to Cape Verde, Su Jian, put it?

Cape Verde and China celebrated 37 years of diplomatic relations on 25 April. It is a relationship of "mutual trust", "solidarity" and "friendship" that comes from the days of the archipelago's struggle for independence, and that has gained strength from the 90s onwards. The early Chinese traders to reach the island were essential in the initial push. The success of these pioneers showed Beijing that in the west coast of Africa was a politically stable state, open to the world and with a privileged geo-strategic position. Nowadays, China is an indispensable partner of Cape Verde, as demonstrated by the numerous ongoing projects, completed infrastructures, grants and financing awarded.

The relationship is cherished by both parties and the desire is to keep cooperation going. Beyond assistance from China, bilateral pacts and partnerships are now fostered between companies that have strengthened ties between the Asian economic giant and the small archipelago, which was once considered a "case study" of development in Africa.



Su Jian

But rather than diplomatic relations kick-starting events, the history of economic cooperation begins with investments by Chinese traders. The first Chinese store appeared in 1995, in Praia, and today it is estimated that more than 400 Chinese entrepreneurs reside in Cape Verde, according to the Association of Chinese Traders Yanzhao. In a 2005 study, researchers Heidi Østbø and Jorgen Carling stated that the conditions of Cape Verde in the 90s attracted many small investors. "The purchasing power was relatively high due to remittances that many Cape Verdean received from relatives abroad," they explain.

The high price levels benefited products from China at low prices, lower than those from Portugal and the European Union, and had an impact on trade in the archipelago. In the book "1999-2009: A Decade of Boost of the Sino-Lusophone Area" we read that "increasingly, a growing number of Chinese migrants are based in the archipelago, mostly originating from the region of Wenzhou in southern Zhejiang province, near the coast south of Shanghai." The impact on society and the economy of Cape Verde was evolving, reflected not only locally but also among Chinese migrants. "We must emphasise the importance that small Chinese investors had in drawing attention to the potential of the country."

China as a development partner

Stability, security and openness have been three key factors in the positive development of Cape Verde and China's presence in that process.

"It must be acknowledged that Cape Verde meets very favourable conditions for our country to maintain investment and cooperation, namely the social and political stability, good governance, professionally prepared technical staff, along with policy that favours foreign investors," says China's ambassador to Cape Verde. Su Jian explains that these factors have created a "favourable environment" for the Chinese community. From that point until the beginning of closer cooperation, it was just a small step: about three years.

In 1998 an agreement was signed to encourage investment and a year later, in 1999, the agreement of trade and economic cooperation between the two countries was established.

Since then, China has invested in building state infrastructure. The Government Palace, the Palace of the Assembly, the National Library and the National Auditorium are some of the emblematic works built by China in Cape Verde. Currently in progress are the redevelopment of the Palace of the Presidency of Cape Verde and the National Stadium, works





Praia Harbour

also financed under the cooperation agreements between the two nations.

Ambassador Su says that this cooperation has returned "significant" results, and that cooperation is not limited to the construction of infrastructure. "The essential forms of such cooperation can be identified in the execution of projects, short-term training, medical assistance, technical cooperation, supply of materials/equipment, scholarships, humanitarian aid, etc." The presence of China extends to various sectors. Besides the construction of infrastructure, the Chinese government has supported the development of health, education, the energy sector, telecommunications, transport, ports, the fishing industry and tourism.

New forms of cooperation

Chinese aid comes in many cases in the form of loans, accompanied by the training and deployment of technicians. Last year, the two governments agreed a loan of 51 million dollars, with interest at 2%, and a loan of 12 million dollars without interest for the construction of social housing in Cape Verde. These concessional loans illustrate one of the strategies used in the cooperation between the countries. In addition, in 2007 China also announced debt forgiveness amounting to 3.2 million euros invested in the territory.

In health, the touchstone of Chinese aid is the construction of the Center for Consultation and Maternity in Agostinho Neto Hospital, Praia. Besides the construction of this important infrastructure, the two countries have a 1983 protocol contemplating the presence of Chinese medical teams in Cape Verde, which started in 1984. The agreement was renewed with the completion of Agostinho Neto Hospital, which receives medical teams from China, renewed every two years. In addition, China has also provided medicines as well as medical and hospital equipment. Last year this same unit received equipment valued at 1.5 million dollars, allowing it to have an intensive care unit.

Another of the most outstanding works of this cooperation is in the field of energy, one of the strategic sectors for the Cape Verdean government, according to their plan for 2011–2016. The Poilão dam, delivered to the Government of Cape Verde in May 2006, is an important infrastructure for energy production and the development of agriculture. Last year the Chinese government also funded the construction of solar power stations in the city of Praia, an investment of about \$ 800,000. According to Ambassador Su Jian, there were still "training programmes for employees and Cape Verdean technicians in the fields of environment, energy, agriculture, etc".

Indeed, when investing in education and training, the Cape Verdean government also enlisted the help of their Asian "friend". Since 1996, several students from Cape Verde were accepted at Chinese universities. Between 2005 and 2006, about eight students were sent over, and between 2007 and 2008 their number had increased to 41. For Su Jian, China has formed "a group of young people who today contribute to the development of Cape Verde". It is estimated that about 100 Cape Verdean fellows are currently attending Chinese universities, and in April last year a new agreement for cooperation in higher education was signed, in this case focused on research, postgraduate studies and training for college teachers. In addition to these programmes, China has participated in the construction of major infrastructure for education and culture, such as the Auditorium and the National Library. Currently in the construction phase is the Sal educational complex, a huge professional school dedicated to tourism. The construction of a cement factory in Santa Cruz on the island of Santiago is another large investment. The production unit is being developed by China Building Material Industrial Corporation for Foreign Econo-Technical Cooperation, an investment that

is said be around 80 million dollars. Although the agreement is dated November 2006, construction has not yet started due to controversy about its location. Maio Island wishes to claim the installation of the cement plant for itself, as the plant will be fed from the exploitation of limestone – by a Chinese company – from that same island.

Recent cooperation agreements are also to be found in the military sector, and the ministries of Defence signed several agreements from the 90s onwards. China has been a major help in upgrading Cape Verde's military equipment in recent years. The military cooperation protocol signed in 2010 provided for a supply of equipment worth 1 million dollars. In July 2012 China provided logistical and communications material to the military of Cape Verde, in an agreement also providing a way for military officers from Cape Verde to receive military training in China. On 14 May 2013 a new protocol was signed providing for the donation of 50 million dollars in military equipment. This money is intended for the purchase of two patrol boats for the Coast Guard, the construction of a production unit of uniforms and the assembly of four modern gyms in different military bases in the archipelago.



Fortress of São Filipe

The patrol of the waters is a major issue for Cape Verde. The sea is one of the main resources of the country and a priority for the government. Cape Verde wants China to be a part of this project and Chinese interests in using the Cape Verdean ports are clear. Ambassador Su Jian highlights the "geostrategic" importance of Cape Verde, "its location and influence in Africa, and two steps from Europe and South America". The Ambassador highlighted the fact that China has already funded the purchase of scanners (by a Chinese company) for ports in Praia, S. Vicente and Sal, a technology that allows monitoring without intrusion into containers. The link in the ports sector goes even further. "The CNFC, the largest Chinese sea company, started repairing their boats in Cape Verde, and in 2009 opened an office in São Vicente, which operates fish transshipment and the exchange of sailors, along with the purchase of services and logistics materials to the fleet." He confirmed that the "CNFC is a customer and wants to be a partner of excellence for Cabnavé".

Last year two companies began negotiations, driven by the Cape Verde government, which had as its main objective the entrance of CNFC in the capital of Cabnavé, something that has not taken place as yet. A strategic project for the government of Cape Verde is the modernisation of the port of Mindelo, Sao Vicente.

ESAPOR – the company that controls the Cape Verdean ports – and the government have sought to find partners in China for this project. Even the Prime Minister of Cape Verde, José Maria Neves, went to China last year seeking investors.

Tourism is one of the most important sectors for the development of Cape Verde. It is a major contributor to positive development after independence and remains a good bet for the government. In the strategy outlined for 2011–2016, the Cape Verde executive aims to "attract foreign investment for tourism" as a priority. In 2012, China became number one on the list of the world's largest consumers of tourism, with around 83 million Chinese travelling the world. As Ambassador Su Jian tells us: "In recent years, the ambassador of Cape Verde in Beijing has organised several sessions to promote tourism in the Chinese market." In October 2007 China and Cape Verde signed a memorandum to "Level the Tourism Cooperation", which culminated in the inclusion of Cape Verde in the list of tourist destinations recommended by Beijing. China has collaborated with several projects launched to create new infrastructure for tourism in the region. This month it was announced that tourism professionals of Cape Verde, Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau will receive training at the Macao Tourist Office, from July to September.

Fisherman boats



Main Infrastructure Built by China in Cape Verde

Agostinho Neto Hospital, Praia:

Valued at \$ 4.5 million, the construction of the consultations area and maternity unit at Hospital Agostinho Neto was completed in October 2010. According to the Chinese ambassador to Cape Verde, Phase 2 of the works will soon be launched, also under cooperation agreements.

Poilão Dam, Ribeira Seca:

Located in the Watershed of Ribeira Seca, on the island of Santiago, the dam can store 1.2 million cubic metres of water and can irrigate 65 hectares of land. It is 26 metres high, 15 metres long and can store up to 1.7 million cubic metres of water. The structure fits in the framework of Technical and Economic Cooperation agreements, signed between the two countries, and the value of the project was around 3.5 million euros. It was delivered to Cape Verde in May 2006.

Educational Complex of Sal Island:

A huge vocational school, with a footprint of 21,000 m², with capacity for 1,800 students. Besides the building, the Chinese government will also provide equipment and furniture.

Government Palace:

The Palace of the Government of Cape Verde, along with the Palace of the Assembly, the National Library and the National Auditorium, is one of the most striking works by China, who have supported the renovation and construction of public infrastructure needed in the country.

National Stadium:

The new stadium will have 15,262 seats, a large electronic screen of 105 m², four towers of 50-metre floodlights, automatic sprinkler systems, lighting, audiovisual and sound equipment, as well as eight 400-metre athletic fields and a soccer field boasting international conditions. The project is valued at over 12 million.

Presidential Palace:

The works have not started yet but the agreement is already signed for the redevelopment of the Presidential Palace of Cape Verde, also known as Palace of the Plateau, and the official residence of the President.

Future Relations

With the impasse in the cement industry, the National Stadium and the renewal of the Presidential Palace are the most emblematic works in progress, with regard to Sino-Cape Verdean ties. The National Stadium is for ambassador Si Juan "the greatest work erected in Cape Verde after independence", allowing the realisation of "national and international level matches, competitions in athletics and football, as well as shows and cultural events, among other forms of concentration of the population".

The future promises further collaborations between private entities of the two countries. Besides the cooperation between Cabnave and CNFC, which is being encouraged by both

governments, other partnerships are in motion that are seen as beneficial to both sides. The Operational Unit for the Information Society (NOSI) of Cape Verde, has collaborated with the Chinese telecommunications giant HUAWEI (the second largest worldwide supplier of telecommunicationsequipment). This cooperation is essential for starting a cluster of information technology and communication projects in Cape Verde, with the inauguration of the NOSI Data Center expected soon.

Chinese cable television provider BOOM TV already services the island of Santiago and will soon reach the island of S. Vicente.

In the energy sector, a partnership is being promoted between Electra, the power and water utility in Cape Verde, and Goldwind, a Chinese company linked to renewable energy.

All these cases show that Chinese companies can enter the Cape Verdean market through cooperation. The opposite relationship may not be as visible. In 2009 Cape Verdean businessman Jorge Benchimol Duarte stated that "the programme of cooperation of China and Cape Verde is made between the two states, often steering clear of companies." When asked about these difficulties, the Chinese ambassador to Cape Verde replies: "According to statistics from China Customs, in 2012 bilateral trade between China and Cape Verde stood at 57 million dollars, an increase of 15.7% compared to the value of the previous year. " It further states that "to facilitate the entry of Cape-Verdean companies in the Chinese market, the Chinese government assured Cape Verde exemption from tariffs to 442 products" of export of the archipelago. In 2011 there was a 600% increase in Cape Verde exports to China, according to the observatory of the Portuguese-speaking countries. However it is worth noting that China does not appear in official statistics among the main export destinations of the archipelago, which are in Europe, especially in Spain and Portugal.

Downtown Praia

In July 2007, José Maria Neves, Prime Minister of Cape Verde, highlighted the modernisation of various sectors, including "roads, ports, airports, electricity, water, sanitation and telecommunications". In almost all sectors there was investment from China. The Asian giant invested about 210 million dollars in Cape Verde between 2000 and 2011. These figures place China clearly as a major development partner of Cape Verde.

It is certain that the "friendship" between the two nations is seen as beneficial by both sides, and that projects, agreements and intentions point to a continuation of this healthy partnership between the small African archipelago and the giant Asian sub-continent.

Ambassador Su Jian has no concrete numbers. "In recent years, Chinese companies have made investments in the sectors of telecommunications, construction, tourism, trade, fishing, among others. Private investment played a prominent role. Considering that the shapes of these investments were very diverse, it was difficult for a while to make a full calculation." However the diplomat sees this cooperation as "increasingly widespread", reaffirming that the partnership between the two countries is to continue. "The Chinese government has been encouraging and supporting companies and banking institutions of our country to strengthen mutual beneficial cooperation with Cape Verde." ■

Photos by Eneias Rodrigues



One College, Two Campuses

**Macao University opens
new campus on
neighbouring island**

By Ou Nian-le



The University of Macau, the oldest higher education institution in the former Portuguese enclave, began a move to a spacious new site 20 times the size of its previous campus on 20 July, turning a new page in the development of tertiary education in Macao. The new campus is located on Hengqin, a stone's throw away from Macao's Taipa island. "Our aim is to build a university to last for 100 years," said Rector Zhao Wei as he showed senior officials of the SAR government and journalists around the new site. "We will work hard to raise the quality of teaching and research and strive to help even more Macao high-school students go to university. "We will have the best-quality hardware and equipment and will build up medical, IT, energy and other research centres. We will develop pioneering materials to meet the needs of society, attract top-class faculty staff and train top-class talent," he said. Since the new campus on Hengqin Island in Zhuhai will be under the laws of Macao, Internet access will be the same as in the existing one. Internet and telecommunications services will continue to be provided by Macao companies, meaning students will be able to see YouTube and Facebook. It will be exempt from the restrictions of China; mobile phone services will be the same. If a crime is committed, Macao laws will apply.

The new campus is a milestone in the history of the University of Macau, which, since its foundation in 1981, has operated on a cramped site on a hill in Taipa, with no room for expansion.

Now it has a sprawling residential campus, covering 1.09 square kilometers. It has over 80 buildings and a built-up area of 800,000 square metres, plus eight faculties and 10 residential colleges, each with space for 450 people. The latter are modelled on world-famous universities like Oxford and Harvard, in which faculty staff and students live together, interact with each other and learn self-discipline and independence.

It is designed like riverside cities in the Lingnan region, with gardens, inter-linking corridors and waterways. It encourages walking, will provide 1,085 parking places for bicycles, as well as shuttle buses. The use of private cars will be minimised. It has 25,000 trees, 110,000 square metres of waterscape and 430,000 square metres of green space.

The students will number 10,000, of whom 80 percent will be from Macao. Zhao said that they have fixed a ratio of eight Macao students to two from the mainland. "The university should serve Macao students. More local students will stay in Macao."

Macao Chief Executive Chui Sai On (c.) during a visit to the university





Rector Zhao Wei talking to the press

History of the campus

It was in January 2007 that the university began to draw up a 10-year development strategy, with a plan for a new campus able to accommodate 10,000 students. In May that year, the university assembly and council discussed with then Chief Executive Edmund Ho Hau Wah the possibility of building a new campus on Hengqin, the island that borders the SAR, with a population at the time of only 4,000.

On 27 June 2009, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress in Beijing adopted a bill authorising Macao to have jurisdiction over the new campus, with a lease extending until 19 December 2049, the day when the 50-year "one country, two systems" of the SAR expires.

On 20 December 2009, then President Hu Jintao presided at a ground-breaking ceremony for the new campus. The architect was He Jingtang, who designed the China Pavilion for Expo 2010 in Shanghai; the cost of construction was 9.8 billion patacas, all from the SAR government. The government is paying the city government of Zhuhai, of which Hengqin is a part, 1.2 billion patacas to lease the land until 2049.

Just before midnight on 19 July 2012, a retaining structure of the tunnel that links the campus to Taipa partially collapsed, due in part to heavy rain over the previous two months. This delayed the construction process. Chau Vai Man, assistant co-ordinator of

the Infrastructure Development Office, said on the opening day that the tunnel's structure was now safe.

At midnight on 20 July, soldiers from the Guangdong border patrol handed over control to Macao police, who will have a station on the campus, as will the SAR's fire brigade and customs department. Water, electricity and gas will come from Macao providers; so will the food.

The only point of access is a tunnel from Taipa, 1,570 metres long, with four lanes – two for vehicles, one for pedestrians and one for a pipeline. It will be open 24 hours a day. To reach the campus, students, faculty staff and visitors do not need to pass through immigration control.

One side of the campus is the channel that flows between Hengqin and Taipa. The other three sides are closed, with fences and an artificial river, and patrolled by members of the PLA. There is no access from Hengqin.

The campus will be the "greenest" place in Macao, with a waterrecycling system and solar water heating. Instead of separate air conditioning in each building, it uses a large underground district cooling system.

Rector Zhao said that the old campus will remain a place of education and research and not be re-developed. Its library will be a community centre for continuing education, offering evening courses in law, education and business administration.

Moving in

The move to the new site will be gradual. “The new site has been a huge and complex project,” said Zhao. It involves moving more than 600,000 books.

“In August, we will have some of our staff, professors and students piloting operations on the Hengqin campus and beginning to live there. The first 2,000 students will take up residence in September. The university is busy moving teaching facilities to the new campus.” During the first semester of the 2013/2014 academic year, most courses will be conducted on the old site.

The new one has eight faculties – law, education, design, business administration, science and technology, social sciences, arts and humanities and health sciences.

Cheong U, Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, one of the guests on the opening day, said that the new campus would be in full operation and open to the public by February 2014. Cheong and the other guests were shown the new Wu Yee Sun library, the lake, the university hall, administration building and sports complex. The library was built with a donation of HK\$150 million from the Wu Yee Sun Charitable Foundation; it is named after this prominent Macao businessman.

The visitors also saw the central teaching building, student activity centre, university mall, house for post-graduate students and accommodation for the faculty staff. The university hall has 1,000 seats and state-of-the-art equipment, making for excellent acoustic effects.

The mall contains 10 commercial outlets, including a bank, restaurant, café, supermarket, pharmacy, bookshop, travel agency and computer shop. The student activity centre contains a large bookshop and a service for staff and students to order books.

The campus also has a medical centre; but it does not offer a 24-hour service for the time being.

It has two state priority laboratories – for analog and mixed-signal VLSI and quality research in Chinese medicine. It also has one scientific research base and more than 280 dry, wet, electronic and computer laboratories.





New experience

The size and modern facilities mean that studying on the new campus will be a different experience to that on the old site. All students admitted in or after the 2014/15 academic year will be required to live in a residential college during their first year; this will be a graduation requirement. In subsequent years, they can choose whether to stay in the colleges. It will cost a local student 12,500 patacas to live in a college for one year, and 20,000 patacas for non-locals. The university says that these charges are less than half the actual cost.

The university aims to recreate the academic conditions and inter-personal connections of the great residential universities of the world; the students live on the campus through the term, rather than returning to small apartments each evening as they do now.

"We want to educate the whole person and not only in his chosen subject," said Zhao. "We will use all 24 hours of the day for education, through sports, social interaction and extra-mural activities. Students will learn some music, arts and humanities. The university hopes that, by living and interacting with peers and academics, students will learn to think independently, develop their will and moral outlook and broaden their global perspective."

The teaching language is English, except for language courses.

As of 25 March this year, the campus had about 8,600 students; the number will gradually increase to 10,000 in the future, after moving to the new campus. Approximately 70 percent of the students are undergraduates; the rest are post-graduates. Of the undergraduates, the university will keep the ratio of local and non-local students at 8:2 but will adjust the ratio to 7:3 over ten years. As of the end of last year, the total number of full-time staff was 1,197, of whom 729 were administrative employees. It recruits its academic staff internationally and in future will increase faculty staff in line with its actual needs.

Open to Macao people

The new campus is not only for the use of faculty staff, students and visiting lecturers but also all the citizens of the Special Administrative Region. Once all the preparatory work has been completed, the government expects the campus to be open to everyone in February 2014.

This means that ordinary people can go there to enjoy the open space, gardens, lake and green areas – a breath of fresh air in an overcrowded city.

Cheong U said: "Our citizens can go to the new campus to see performances, listen to music, take part in athletics events and just go for a walk, enjoy the food and have a coffee. It will increase the living space for Macao people."



Photos by Eric Tam





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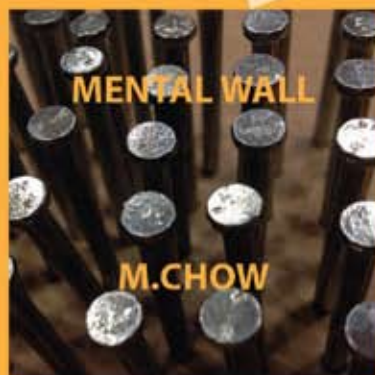
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Lionel Leong Vai-tac

A Man with a Vision

Successful Businessman and Community Leader in Tune with Macao's Growth

By Severo Portela

Macao has grown from a quiet enclave into a global gaming centre within a decade.

Businessman Lionel Leong Vai-tac, 51, has seized the opportunity for growth as his hometown develops, both in business and on a personal level in community affairs.

Leong made a timely switch at the beginning of 2009, moving away from his shrinking textile manufacturing business to start a large laundry facility to serve the major casino hotels of Macao. His state-of-the-art 200,000 sq ft cleaning operation in Coloane is among the largest in the world, generating annual revenue of over 150 million patacas.

In public affairs, Leong's record is equally impressive. He was elected as a deputy of Macao to the National People's Congress of China. He has been a member of the high-powered Executive Council for seven years.

He is also vice chairman of the Advisory Council on the Environment and Standing Director of Macao Chamber of Commerce.

Leong's interest in civil affairs was apparent as early as 1997, when he set up the think tank, Research Centre for Sustainable Development Strategies. "I care about the interests of the community. I try to do something, to be someone who can help. So I take up public office, for the people of Macao," he said. Flexibility and pragmatism appear to be Leong's strengths, as indicated by his approach towards business and public affairs. "I have a very traditional mindset, but I am also open-minded. There is no conflict," he said.

Despite his large public persona, Leong describes himself as "a family guy". "I really treasure quality time with my family, which is my backbone," he said.



Modest beginning

Leong comes from humble roots, with, in his own words, “no patrimonial or financial heritage”. His father was a municipal veterinarian for the former Leal Senado (municipal council).

In 1983, Leong graduated with a Bachelor in Mathematics in Canada and returned to Macao to work.

“At the time, companies did not have the need to hire someone with a computer science academic background. I was only able to work as a textile worker, earning a starting monthly salary of 1,200 patacas.”

It did not take long for the young, ambitious man to start his own business. In 1987, at the age of 25, he acquired a small textile factory of 30 workers. “I did not exactly buy it outright. The original owner believed in my expertise, work ethic and enthusiasm. He allowed me to pay him in 21 monthly installments.”

First business venture

Leong threw his energy into his business, at a time when Macao’s manufacturing industry was growing. By March 1999, his company, Seng San Enterprises, had grown into a 120,000 sq ft factory with nearly 1,000 workers and the capacity to produce a staggering three million pieces of garments a year. He was exporting denim jeans, jackets, shirts and vests to Japan, the United States, Italy, Germany, Canada, France, Korea, Singapore and Hong Kong. In its heyday, his company was manufacturing for international brand names like Armani, Hugo Boss, Evisu, A.P.C, Marc Jacobs etc. It even had a retail outlet in Savile Row, London.

Then came the global financial tsunami in 2008. Orders dried up and customers started to delay payment.

Leong’s business instincts made him look for greener pastures and quickly spotted the need for commercial laundry services for the fast-growing hotel sector.

His factory already had an in-house laundry facility, but the switch to a much-expanded operation required a conviction that such a service had growth potential.

In the beginning of 2009, Leong restructured Smartable Holding Limited, a 280 million pataca modern laundry operation in the industrial park in Coloane, a mere five-minute drive from Cotai, where all the new, big casinos are. The 24 hour round-the-clock facility was initially capable of serving over 20,000 hotel rooms and washing up to 75,000 pieces of uniform daily.

"People asked me why I made such a heavy bet on an industrial laundry unit. My answer is simple: because there are hotels which need this kind of service. If not, I would not have made such a big investment."

Economic diversification

Having successfully reinvented his business, from manufacturing to services, Leong can speak with conviction on a much-talked-about subject: Macao's economic diversification. For many years, the community has been discussing ways to expand the city's economy beyond gaming.

"When we talk about diversification, we have to consider our pool of talent, capacities, areas of expertise and other advantages. What is our edge?"

To this rhetorical question, Leong raises one example: facilities management. "Where do we find sizeable management of water, energy and other utilities? They are inside the 24-hour non-stop mega casino-resorts located mainly in the Cotai Strip. City of Dreams, Galaxy, the Venetian and others. I am pretty sure that those being trained to manage big utility units there will be called on to work on the mainland some day. China needs people with such skills."

Looking back, Macao's growth into a boom city has occurred in the blink of an eye. Since it opened its casino market to foreign bidders in the early 2000s, the city has emerged as "a leisure and travel destination for punters and families as well. Macao is also now known for its fine dining, top entertainment, and of course, its casino business," he said.

China's support for Macao is naturally crucial to the city's success. "First, there is no legal gambling elsewhere in China. Second, Beijing has allowed Chinese people to travel more freely worldwide, including to Macao."

Macao is now the biggest gaming jurisdiction in the world, with Las Vegas a distant second.

A word of caution

With such an achievement, Leong cautions: "We have been successful in building our brand (as a premier gaming destination). Such success is dependent not on one person or any particular company (but on the efforts of all)."

As a seasoned businessman who has witnessed many economic cycles, Leong warns that good times do not last forever. "We have to explain to people that what we have in Macao now is not a gold rush like the mining boom in San Francisco in the 19th century.

"We have to be prepared, alerting our younger generation to different scenarios, including not-so-good ones. It is important to have transparency, telling people what is going on and explaining to them the alternatives," he said, stressing that "bad days" might come as far as the economy is concerned.

Leong notes that Macao's fast growth in recent years has strained the city's infrastructure, public facilities, transportation and other services.

"We must have sustainable development, to meet the expectations of the community as far as issues like air quality, water quality, water treatment, garbage collection and sewage treatment are concerned. Macao people have high environmental standards and concerns about their quality of life in general."

Opportunities in Hengqin

Among Macao's many challenges is the shortage of land.

The development of the adjacent 106 sq km Hengqin New Area in Zhuhai might offer more space for Macao to embark on new ventures. The University of Macau has been the first to seize the opportunity, building its campus in Hengqin.

Leong believes Hengqin can attract investment, expertise and human resources from Macao, in the areas of leisure, entertainment, hospitality services and the management of large facilities.

"The new area has been designated as a model of co-operation and innovation. It is a new platform for the upgrading of industries on this side of the Pearl River Delta," he added.

Political reform

Political reform in Macao is another subject which Leong has spoken about on many occasions. To him, any reform to make the current system more representative has to consider three factors.

"First, any political reform has to abide by the Basic Law of Macao. Second, Macao must pursue such matters in its own way and at its own pace, regardless of what is happening in Hong Kong and elsewhere. Finally, I support the formula of 'plus 2 plus 2'." This refers to the legal amendment made in 2012, which expanded the number of deputies of the Legislative Assembly from 29 to 33. Two new deputies indirectly elected from business and profession-based electoral groups. The other two directly elected.

Leong calls for the building of a broad consensus in political reform, so that people from all sectors will be represented. "Politics is the art of compromise. In Macao, in particular, I would say unequivocally that compromise is a practical necessity." ■

Photos by Gonalo L. Pinheiro



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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.

2013/07/31

Government paid MICE nearly 40 million patacas last year

The Economic Services Bureau (DSE) said on Tuesday that it subsidised local organisers of conventions and exhibitions – collectively known as the MICE sector – to the tune of nearly 40 million patacas last year.

The bureau is also planning to subsidise international conventions and professional exhibition organisers by up to 75 percent for part of their expenses, such as for accommodation or transport costs.

DSE Director Sou Tim Peng said that last year the government received 81 proposals from local MICE organisers with 78 of them receiving a government subsidy which totalled nearly 40 million patacas.



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2013/07/31

Nearly 221,000 motor vehicles clog streets

Macao's number of licensed motor vehicles rose five percent year-on-year to 220,591 at the end of June, the Statistics and Census Bureau (DSEC) said.

Scooters and other types of motorcycles accounted for 53 percent of the total number of motor vehicles.

The number of new registrations of motor vehicles increased eight percent to 8,994 in the first half.



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2013/08/04

**China wins FIVB Volleyball World Grand Prix
Macao leg**

The three-day FIVB Volleyball World Grand Prix Macao 2013 ended with China beating the Netherlands 3–1.

In Pool D of the World Grand Prix, held in Macao, Bulgaria and the Netherlands took second and third place respectively with two wins and one win, while Cuba lost all three of its matches.

This year the FIVB World Grand Prix will return to Japan for the first time in four years. Twenty teams are competing in the 2013 World Grand Prix.



2013/08/09

Non-local workers make up 1/5 of population

Non-local workers accounted for 20.5 percent of Macao's population at the end of June, according to data released by the Statistics and Census Bureau (DSEC).

Non-local workers totalled 121,194 at the end of the second quarter, an increase of 6,478 quarter-to-quarter.

Macao's population rose to 591,900 at the end of the second quarter, 5,600 more than at the end of the previous quarter. Based on Macao's land area of 29.9 square kilometres, its population density stood at 19,795 people per square kilometre at the end of June.



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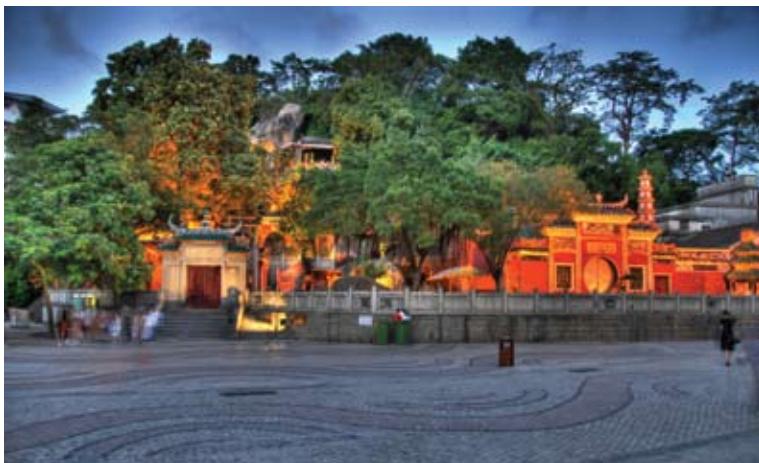
2013/08/13

Lawmakers pass cultural heritage bill

After 10 months of discussions between government officials and members of the Legislative Assembly's 3rd Standing Committee, lawmakers finally passed a government-initiated cultural heritage bill in an article-by-article vote during a plenary session before the current legislative term ends.

However, several lawmakers raised concerns on a few aspects of the bill, namely on the article relating to a future cultural heritage council, as lawmakers wanted to know how the government would appoint its members and the kind of powers the council would have.

The bill will become law on 1 March next year.



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2013/08/26

16.7 million visitors in 7 months, up 4.3 pct

Macao recorded 16.7 million visitor arrivals in the first seven months of the year, up 4.3 percent year-on-year, the Statistics and Census Bureau (DSEC) has announced.

Mainlanders, Hongkongers and people from Taiwan accounted for 63.2 percent, 23.7 percent and 3.3 percent of all visitor arrivals respectively.

While mainland visitors rose 10.4 percent, those from Hong Kong and Taiwan dropped 3.8 percent and 10.5 percent respectively. Some 44.4 percent of all mainland visitors were from Guangdong.



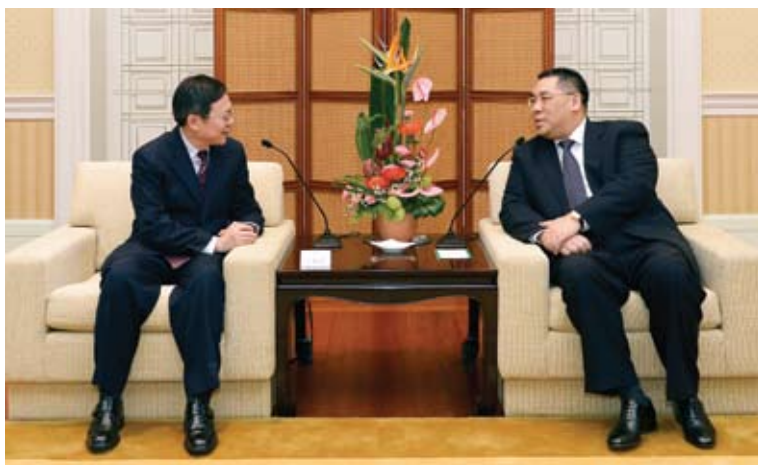
2013/08/27

Macao Chief Executive Fernando Chui Sai On meet Wang Yu-chi, head of Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council (MAC).

This was the first time that an MAC head met a Macao chief executive.

Chui said that he had discussed several issues including tertiary education during his meeting with Wang, according to a statement released by Chui's office.

The statement also said Chui believed that people from Macao and Taiwan would further improve communication and co-operation.



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2013/08/30

Macao promotion across mainland China to attract visitors along Beijing-Guangzhou high-speed rail

The Macao Government Tourist Office (MGTO) hosted seminars in Wuhan and Changsha to increase visits to Macao from the neighboring regions and cities along the high-speed railway line between Beijing and Guangzhou, according to a statement by the office.

Co-organised by MGTO and China International Travel Service (Macao) Ltd., the "Macao Tourism Seminar" was held in Wuhan and Changsha on 28 and 29 August respectively.

During the seminars in Wuhan and Changsha, "MGTO promoted Macao tourism and high-speed rail tours to local trade partners, hoping to experience the convenience of the Beijing-Guangzhou high-speed railway line and entice more visitors to Macao from the neighboring regions and cities along the rail route," said the office.



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2013/08/31

Twenty groups start campaign for directly elected seats in Legislative Assembly

A two-week campaign for the Macao Legislative Assembly started Saturday and ends at midnight on 13 September.

There are a total of 20 groups comprising 145 candidates vying for 14 directly elected seats in the direct elections.

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



2013/08/31

Macao in the 12th National Games of China

A Macao delegation was present in the 12th National Games of the People's Republic of China held in Shenyang , in the northeastern province of Liaoning , from 31st August to 12th September.



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2013/08/31

Macao investments in China worth US\$ 320 million in the first seven months of 2013

The Ministry of Commerce of China approved in the first seven months of this year 167 new investments in the mainland by Macao enterprises.

The investments are worth US\$ 320 million, 3.2 % more than in the equivalent period of last year.



2013/09/02

GDP grows 10.2 pct in Q2, 10.5 pct in H1

Macao's gross domestic product (GDP) grew 10.2 percent in the second quarter year-on-year in real terms, the Statistics and Census Bureau (DSEC) has announced.

Real GDP growth in the first half stood at 10.5 percent. First-quarter growth amounted to 10.8 percent in real terms.

A DSEC statement attributed the second quarter's growth mainly to an 11.1 percent increase in exports of services. Exports of gaming series grew 10.2 percent, while exports of other tourism services rose 17.5 percent in the second quarter (if not stated otherwise, all figures mentioned below refer to year-on-year changes in real terms in the second quarter).



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2013/09/02

China and Macao sign 10th supplement to CEPA

China and Macao signed a supplement to an economic agreement on Friday to further enhance trade exchanges between the Special Administrative Region of Macao and the Chinese mainland.

The Supplement X to the Mainland and Macao Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA), representing the 10th expansion since 2004, was signed by Vice Minister of Commerce Gao Yan and Secretary for Economy and Finance of Macao, Tam Pak Yuen. The new supplement, which will become effective on 1 January next year, would further relieve restrictions and facilitate trade in services between Macao and the Chinese mainland in a wide range of areas such as legal, financial, health, tourism, sports and the social services sectors.

Secretary for Economy and Finance of Macao, Tam Pak Yuen, said the targets of CEPA had been met and the agreement should be seen as a success. He re-iterated that essentially all products made in Macao entering the mainland now enjoyed zero tariff treatment.



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2013/09/03

Casino receipts hit US\$ 3.85 billion in Aug

Macao casinos' gross receipts rose 17.6 percent year-on-year to 30.7 billion patacas (US\$ 3.85 billion) in August, the second strongest monthly figure after March's 31.3 billion patacas, according to official data released by the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau.

In the first eight months, the casino sector's gross revenues rose 16.2 percent year-on-year to 231.7 billion patacas (US\$ 28.95 billion).

Casino receipts in 2012 reached 304.139 billion patacas (US\$ 38 billion).



Macao celebrates Hungry Ghost Festival

In Chinese tradition, the 15th day of the seventh month in the lunar calendar (August) is called Ghost Day. The seventh month in general is regarded as the Ghost Month, in which ghosts and spirits, including those of the deceased ancestors, come out from the lower realms.

The Ghost Festival, also known as the Hungry Ghost Festival or Yu Lan, is a traditional festival celebrated by Chinese in Macao and many countries on the 15th night of the seventh month (14th in southern China).

On the 15 day, the realms of Heaven and Hell and the realms of the living are open; both Taoists and Buddhists perform rituals to transform and absolve the sufferings of the deceased.

Intrinsic to the Ghost Month is worship of ancestors: the traditional filial piety of people extends to their ancestors, even after their death.

Activities during the month include the preparation of food offerings and the burning of incense and joss paper, in a papier-mâché form of items such as clothes, gold and other fine goods for the ancestor to use in the after-life.

These items are believed to have value in the after-life for the deceased relatives, similar to their use in the human world. People burn paper houses, cars, bank notes, servants and televisions to please the ghosts.

Elaborate meals are served with empty seats for each of the deceased in the family; they are treated as if they are still alive.

During the evening, incense is burnt in front of the doors of the household. In Chinese culture, incense stands for prosperity -- so families believe that, the more they burn, the more prosperous they will be.

The Buddhist origins of the festival can be traced back to India; but later it adopted Chinese cultural overtones.













澳門

Macao

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Macao fashion design hits Hong Kong

By Helder Beja



澳門生產力暨科技轉移中心
CENTRO DE PRODUTIVIDADE E TRANSFERÊNCIA DE TECNOLOGIA DE MACAU
MACAU PRODUCTIVITY AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER CENTER



To Hong Kong, in style

Several local designers took part in Hong Kong Fashion Week for the first time.

It was an opportunity to show and prove the quality of Macao's designs.

Lei Meng Sang is a man in a world mainly made up of women, at least in Macao. The young local designer, with his ZICS label, was one of the representatives of Macao at Hong Kong Fashion Week 2014 – Spring/Summer Collection Fashion Show, in July. MaConsef, ZICS, Nega C and Nubiano, all local brands, took part in the Macao Fashion Parade, organised by the Macao Productivity and Technology Transfer Centre.

It is not every day that a young designer gets to present his work at an international event, which gathers together 17,000 buyers from 74 countries, and 1,250 exhibitors from 21 countries and regions. Lei Meng Sang knows this, and sees his participation in the event as "an excellent opportunity for Macao's designers to raise their profile and make contact with the international circuit".

Lei Meng Seng's ZICS label is one that focuses on dark colours, in line with the designer's own dress sense. In the small workshop where he spoke to Macao magazine, in an industrial building in the north of the city, where a number of fashion designers have work spaces provided by the Government, Lei is dressed in black from head to toe. "The fashion world is used to having male designers. There are big names in international fashion who are men," said Lei.

The collection he showed in Hong Kong, created especially for women and focusing on vertical and geometric lines, was well received. Dark colours remained, but black gave way to grey. "Black and its variations, is the most elegant colour – it is the one I like most. For me it's the colour that makes most sense for my clothes."

Lei Meng Sang studied Fashion at the Macao Productivity and Technology Transfer Centre, and it was after that that he decided to create his own label, ZICS. He has collections for each season and sells his pieces in some shops in the territory. Having his own store is an impossible dream at the moment, as is working in fashion on a full time basis – Lei has another full time job and makes use of every spare moment to focus on fashion, which is his great passion.



Reaching customers

Reaching people and potential buyers is another of the challenges facing the designers involved in the small local industry. Having a boutique on one of Macao's busiest streets is one option – and was the one chosen by Isabella Choi.

Nega C is a small store in the north of the city. Inside, Isabella Choi has dresses and shoes that she has designed. For Hong Kong, the young fashion designer prepared a collection "with the concept of construction and reconstruction". As she explained, "We used old clothes to create new things. It's like going from zero to one hundred possibilities. That's our concept. It's a concept for menswear evolving to women's wear."

The designer is just 26 years old and opened her Nega C boutique about a year ago. Before that she studied at Kingston University in the United Kingdom. "I got interested in fashion when I was quite young, when I was in middle school. I think to some degree I was affected by my family background, because they are in the manufacturing industry. My mum was very interested in fashion design as well, when she was young," Choi added.

In 2010 Isabella Choi returned from London and set herself up in Macao. She worked in a factory linked

to the fashion industry and a while later decided to open her own store. Now her customers are mostly tourists from the mainland, although she does also have some local customers. With her team of five people that work with her, the fashion designer makes items that range in price from 500 to 2,500 patacas. Shoes are one of her specialities.

Analysing the situation that the fashion industry is facing in Macao, Isabella Choi is measured but optimistic. "I think there's still a lot of room for development. All the designers are working really hard, because this is quite a difficult industry to survive in Macao. Most of them are working on it as a part-time role, but I think they are all working really hard, waiting for a chance to succeed," she said.

Macao is still essential to her creative process. "I grew up here and I always think as a traditional Chinese that this influences a lot of my work. In England I saw so much architecture, art and music. I think these two elements joined together to form my style." It was this unique style that the Macao youngster took to the Hong Kong catwalks. "Hong Kong Fashion week has more international buyers and more people who are interested in fashion design. It's a good opportunity to see if our brand standard is up to scratch. It's quite a challenge for us," she said.



Carlos Wong, Ng Sao Chan,
Esther Leong, Isabella Choi,
Theresa Hoi and San Lee
(Left to Right)

Night style

Fashion often goes hand in hand with parties and social occasions. Evening dresses are one of the most popular clothing items, and in Macao one woman is exporting hundreds of them to the United States. Ng Sao Chan, who owns the Nubiano boutique, took 15 of these dresses to Hong Kong Fashion Week, where they were displayed with all the usual elegance of modern day models.

"My first objective was to promote the Macao brand, and the design products made in Macao. I go to Hong Kong Fashion Week every year to show my work. The difference is that this time I took part in a show," said the designer about taking part in one of the world's biggest international fashion events. Born in Fujian, Ng arrived in Macao in 1988. At the time the textile industry was still strong in the city and she worked in different factories as a seamstress. "It was impossible to study [Fashion] at the time. I learned from a tailor and studied nothing else," she said, to explain how she learned the different techniques of her trade. "I've had this interest since the age of eight, and I've always enjoyed making clothes. At that time, in 1970, I was starting out and since then I haven't stopped."

After some failed attempts to set up a store in Macao, Ng Sao Chan got in touch with a US buyer in 2001. "He asked me to make high quality evening dresses but not in large quantities. I'm not a good manager. I have a factory in Guangzhou that makes my clothes but I only control the quality of the materials, I don't deal with the accounts," the designer laughed.

Ng has reasons to smile. The business is going well and, every year, hundreds of evening and wedding dresses travel from Macao to some of the biggest cities in the United States. "I sell more dresses to America than I do here in Macao. Here, 50 percent of the customers are locals. There are also tourists and customers from the other communities that live in Macao," says the businesswoman, who is able to be competitive enough to survive in a global market.

Nubiano was one of the local brands highlighted at the Hong Kong Fashion Week show. At the end of the event, Giselle Lam, Miss Hong Kong in 2011, said she wears a number of evening dresses made by Ng Sao Chan and noted how elegant they were.

Macao's fashion designers were able to showcase themselves in the neighbouring region, and the audience's reaction was good. Now the local industry just needs to become more profitable.

And in style.

Photos by Eric Tam and Gonalo L. Pinheiro



Ng Sao Chan



San Lee



Isabella Choi





The Macau GP storyteller

Every major event needs someone to write about it.
The Macau Grand Prix found its voice in Philip Newsome.
His words are an impressive account of 60 adventurous years
and a testimony of love and speed.
The GP couldn't have found a more perfect mouthpiece
because Newsome is a dentist.

By Nuno G. Pereira





Love of cars at an early age

"I don't know anyone who, as a child, ever dreamed of being a dentist! Certainly I didn't and it was only later on when I was in my teens that I began to see dentistry as a possible 'sensible' career. Equally though, I never dreamed of being a racing driver. It never entered my mind. I was always interested in cars from a very early age, not to race them but more just a love of road cars." This is Philip Newsome's answer to how he became a car enthusiast.

Born in 1952 in Yorkshire, Philip Newsome graduated as a dentist in 1976, from the University of Leeds. He also started his career in England, but all that would change just 10 years later.

"A very good friend of mine, a dentist with whom I had worked in the United Kingdom, came out to work in Hong Kong in 1983. I always said I would come and visit him and I did in 1985. I planned my trip so that I could take in the Macau Grand Prix that year, having first read about the event two years earlier, when Ayrton Senna won the inaugural F3 GP. I enjoyed myself so much, in both

Macao and Hong Kong, that when a job came up with the University of Hong Kong, a few months later, I jumped at the chance of coming out to work in this part of the world. As with many people, I only intended to stay for two or three years but ended up staying."

Newsome likes to put his passion into words. He has written books about dentistry, but more surprisingly, has written even more about the Macao GP.

"When I came to Macao, I was immediately captivated by the place and tried to see if there had been a book written about the history of the GP, as I had heard famous names had raced there in the past." He saw the lack of writing on the subject as an opportunity. "When I found out that there was no such book, a seed was planted in my brain and in 1992 I published my first book on the GP: 'Colour and Noise'. Since then I have published four more books on racing – all related to Macao in some way, including the biography of Teddy Yip. I do think I bring some of my academic background to the books and therefore I do like to think my books are well researched and well written."



1954



1983

Noise and speed

With so much time dedicated to the racing world, Newsome might be seen as a frustrated driver. But his love of cars doesn't stretch to getting behind the wheel. In fact, he has never taken part in a single race.

"Strange as it might sound I simply never had any desire to race myself. I suppose I began to get really interested in motor racing when James Hunt became successful in the mid 70s. He was such a character and I think it has always been the characters involved in the sport that have attracted me to it. I didn't go to my first F1 GP until 1982. Sadly that was the Belgian GP at Zolder in which Gilles Villeneuve lost his life. I guess, like a lot of people, I became hooked by the sheer spectacle of it all, the noise, the speed, the glamour."

One era captures his love for the races more than any other. "The early to mid 80s were the best years, with ridiculously powerful turbo cars; brilliant, charismatic individuals such as Prost, Senna and Mansell; and traditional, distinctive circuits (unlike the sanitised same-same circuits we see today). I think that, also unlike today, the cars looked different from one another and designers had far more freedom to come up with revolutionary, 'quantum leap' designs."

Newsome recalls his fascination with cars at an early stage in his life. "For as long as I can remember I have had an interest in motor racing but never really

wanted to try and become a driver – too little talent and too expensive. But I did not want to sit in the stands and just watch the cars go by so I decided to try and find stories I could write up in magazines. That way I could get press passes, be in the thick of the action and meet people."

One of his first stories was based around motor racing legend Stirling Moss. "More correctly about his father, Alfred Moss. He was a dentist and also a keen racer. He was in fact one of the first English drivers to take part in the Indy 500 in the mid 20s. Once I had written that article, it kind of opened doors for me and I was able to get passes as I had wished."

Gaining access to restricted areas always leads to some initial awe. What had the biggest impact on Newsome's arrival in the paddocks, being near the amazing drivers he admired or the amazing beauties that always appear in that area?

"I find the characters involved in the sport quite fascinating. Of course, an added bonus is the many attractive women who seem to appear at most motor racing events. But I think that most involved in the cut and thrust of motor racing barely notice the pit lane beauties as they are just too busy trying to win the race! In fact, as I have become more involved in writing about the sport I have become increasingly fascinated by the incredible levels of focus, teamwork, organisation, dedication, persistence and sheer talent that go into make a successful racing team."

CARLOS H. DA SILVA
LEAL SENADO
MACAU
TELEPHONE: (Exc. 3911)
Res. 2701

12th May 1954.

Mr. P. du Toit,
Diocesan Boys' School,
Mongkok,
Kowloon,
Hong Kong

Dear Mr. du Toit,

I'm writing to you on a
recommendation from Mr. Frank d'Almada and
do hope you will not mind the liberty I'm
taking.

I learn that you are the soul
behind the organization of Rallies and other
motoring events in Hong Kong and would certainly
appreciate your advice and experience on the
following:

A number of enthusiasts is trying
to hold what we call in Portuguese a "Prova de
Regularidade", which might I suppose be translated
as a "Regularity Trial" in English. This consists
of a number of laps (from 3 to 5) around a chosen
road circuit (of from between 4 to 8 miles) and
the driver who goes round in the most regular
manner (the time lapsed in each lap to be as
nearly equal to each other as possible) to be the
eventual winner. The snag is, we don't know how
to handicap the different cc Classes and within
each class how to classify similar though not
equal times. Do you?

Mr. d'Almada also gave us some
information (supplied by you) on Treasure Hunts.
The idea is highly attractive if it is what we
suppose it might be, so we would appreciate it very
much if you were to tell us exactly what a Treasure
Hunt is in the first place. And a few examples
would certainly help too.

I'm sorry to give you so much
trouble and hope you will excuse me. Thank you so
much.

Yours sincerely,

Carlos H. da Silva

The letter that launched the Macau Grand Prix

Some of the great F1 champions had unforgettable performances at the Macau GP. Because of that, the Asian race built a unique aura around it as the "GP of future champions". Newsome agrees with this reputation. "It was already clear when I first came in 1985 (since Senna's win) that Macao was a proving ground for future champions. The simple fact that it brought all the best young drivers from around the world, to race against each other for the one and only time in the year, meant that anyone who did well in Macao stood a very good

chance of going a long way in the sport. The fact that so many top drivers across all categories of the sport are Macao 'graduates' also speaks volumes." Besides writing the books about the GP, Newsome has made another major contribution to the history of this race, as he was involved in the creation of the Macao GP Museum. "During the research for my first book about the Macao GP, I amassed many photographs covering the whole history of the event. I guess it was only natural that the people putting together the museum asked me to come onboard and help them work out how to present the key moments of the GP's history and to provide them with images to use in the museum."

He is also an avid collector of GP memorabilia. "My favourite item is undoubtedly the letter written in early 1954 by Carlos da Silva inviting Paul du Toit (widely regarded as the father of the GP) over from HK to discuss the possibility of holding a Regularity Trial around the streets of Macao. This was the first time that any mention of a motor sport event in Macao appeared in print and for obvious reasons this piece of paper is of huge historical significance."

Ayrton Senna

When someone appears, year after year, at an event as intense as the Macau GP, it seems only natural to remember favourite moments. Newsome doesn't see it that way. "Funnily enough, I don't think I have any particular favourite GP moments. My favourite moment every year is arriving in Macao a day or so before the event kicks off and sensing the great excitement and

tension amongst teams and journalists, while watching on as this builds and builds up over the next four days. One regret I do have is that, as Macao has grown over the past decade, the opportunity for drivers, press and fans to congregate has lessened to such a degree that, away from the track, the various groups never really get together socially. This wasn't always the case and, in years gone by, it was very common to find yourselves chatting with a driver or team boss at one of the small number of watering holes that existed in Macao in those days."

What about favourite drivers? "I don't think I have a favourite driver. I admire all different types of drivers from those who are quite aggressive such as Lewis Hamilton to the more controlled variety typified by Alain Prost. Only a small number of drivers really capture one's imagination though and this is why Senna is still revered by so many, including myself. There was something almost other-worldly about him and his aura shines as brightly today as it ever did."



Ayrton Senna in the Grand Prix museum

The new book

You are writing the new book about the 60 years of the Macao GP. What kind of surprises can the readers expect?

"It is not really a book of surprises in that the history of the event has already been written. I cannot produce a surprise winner! As with all my other books on the Macao GP, my aim is simply to document the events as they happened and put

these into the context of what had gone before. Any event as complex as the Macao GP that is 60 years old has an awful lot of history and I feel it is my job to edit these events into a readable story that covers all the main points. Many people ask me why I haven't covered this or that and I can only say that my goal is to produce a manageable book. If I included everything that had ever happened in the Macao GP the book would end up being a few thousand pages long!" ■

Photos by Eric Tam and courtesy of Macau Grand Prix





1954



1958



Grand Prix museum remember Michael Schumacher

"One of my best memories"

Michael Schumacher, winner of 1990 Macau Grand Prix

The German legend talked with Macao magazine about his unforgettable victory at Circuito da Guia, in 1990, and how the GP clearly helps to increase the popularity of motor racing in Asia.

By Nuno G. Pereira



Michael Schumacher F3 in 1990 MGP

In its almost-60-year history, the Macau GP has seen high emotion and plenty of rivalries played out, peaking in the momentous events of 1990. Mika Hakkinen, the reigning British F3 champion of that year, had the victory in the bag near the end of the second leg. He won the first one very comfortably and only needed to keep second position behind Michael Schumacher to win the Macau GP title.

But Hakkinen – who would be F1 champion in 1998 and 1999 – wanted first place and tried everything to pass his rival. On the last corner of the last lap, Schumacher exposed an opening for Hakkinen to pass. Then, in order to take the lead, the German driver closed the opening and knocked his rival out of the race. Even with his car damaged, Schumacher was able to pass the chequered flag and become the overall winner.

In 1990, Schumacher wasn't yet a famous name. The triumph in Macao was one of the first glimpses of things to come. With seven F1 championships now under his belt, he's still the record holder of the most impressive motor racing competition the GP has ever seen.

Career highlight

His victory in the Macau GP of 1990 is considered by many experts as the best race ever in Circuito da Guia. What does Schumacher remember about those incredible laps of the second leg? "It was quite a while now, but I remember it to be an extremely difficult race, especially as I had to drive the last lap without a rear wing. We weren't expecting to win this race, as Mika had the

superior car, but when we did, we all felt we were experiencing a highlight of our careers."

The victory gave Schumacher an extra boost of confidence, but is it accurate to say it was a turning point in the German driver's career? "Macao then was part of a 'package' of two very cool races, together with Fuji, so winning both that year clearly gave me a lot of confidence. I would probably not see it as a turning point, but I regard it as one of my best memories."

GP loved by all racing drivers

Many F1 champions have had great races in Macao, increasing the international reputation of the event. Many people linked to the races even see the GP as like a lucky charm for drivers, especially those who win there.

Does Schumacher share this opinion? "Well, let's put it this way – if you are a great driver, you tend to win some races, wouldn't you agree? And the great drivers also tend to win the important races. If they were not good, they would not come out as great drivers, so all in all I'd say it works both ways."

The role of the Macau GP in Asia keeps getting bigger. The German champion agrees. "Macao certainly is one of the very special events in the global racing calendar, which is why I see its role as more than simply to lend support for racing in the Asian region. All drivers love to go there, as it is a real challenge to drive, and very often it is combined in some way with Japan. The Macau GP has clearly helped to increase the popularity of racing in Asia. And still does."

Chau Kong and his wife Au Leong Vai Han





Singing Stories

Music festival presents traditional
Cantonese story-songs

By Frank Xie

When Au Kuan-cheong was born, he had a congenital eye disease and could not see clearly. His parents took him to see a fortune teller, wondering what profession their son should follow.

"I want to be a singer of Naamyam songs," said the young boy. By great good luck, the fortune teller was himself a Naamyam master and took the boy on as an apprentice.

From 24–26 October, visitors to the 27th Macao International Music Festival will have the opportunity to listen to Au and other practitioners of an art form that is unique to the Guangdong province of south China.

It is one of 22 programmes during the festival, which runs from 2 October to 3 November. The annual event attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors to the city. It includes a mixture of Chinese and Western music, folk, popular, jazz and classical and goes to World Heritage sites in the city, including the Dom Pedro V Theatre, Mount Fortress and St Dominic's Church.

The performers come from all over the world – mainland China, Taiwan and Macao, South Korea, the United States, Germany, Portugal, Spain, Russia, Austria, Serbia, Latvia, Lithuania and Norway.

Au Kuan-cheong with Naamyam songs



It opens on 2 October with Macao's first staging of a Wagner opera, *Das Rheingold* (Rhine Gold), by the Latvian National Opera, to mark the 200th anniversary of the birth of the German composer. *Das Rheingold* is the first opera in the cycle *Der Ring des Nibelungen* (the Ring of Nibelung).

It will be performed in German, with Chinese, Portuguese and English subtitles; the opera lasts two and a half hours, with no interval.

The festival closes on 1–3 November with *Miss Saigon*, a full-scale Broadway production by McCoy Rigby Entertainment. This is a romantic tragedy charting the love story between an American soldier and a Vietnamese girl, separated during the fall of Saigon.

Naamyam

Cantonese Naamyam means the "southern music" of Guangdong province. It is an art form with a history spanning hundreds of years. The songs were originally sung by blind artists, a form of musical story-telling whose lyrics told of the hopelessness of the poor. They were performed in Cantonese, the language of Guangdong, as well as of Macao and Hong Kong, and of millions of overseas Chinese whose ancestors migrated from the province.

Before the first half of the 20th century, it was a popular form of entertainment in Guangzhou and Hong Kong, in places such as restaurants, teahouses, brothels, opium dens, clubs and private households. The singing is accompanied by an instrument like the guzheng (zither), erhu (bowed lute in the shell of a coconut), yangqin (hammered dulcimer) and wooden clappers. The singer or a fellow musician plays the instrument.

The songs were adapted from well-known historical events, legends and fiction. They could be extremely long, with hundreds or even thousands of lines, requiring several hours to perform.

One of the most famous practitioners was Dou Wun, a blind man, who arrived in Hong Kong in 1926 from Guangdong and began a career lasting 50 years as a professional. His last major series took place over three months at the Fu Long Teahouse in Sheung Wan, Hong Kong, in 1975; they were recorded and turned into six CDs. He passed away in 1979.

Like Cantonese opera, Naamyam has struggled to survive in the era of television, Hollywood films, popular music, Internet computer games and the variety of modern entertainments now on offer. The audiences today are mostly people over 50 who are familiar with the stories and legends they hear. They are foreign to most young people.

Miss Saigon musical



Intangible heritage

"I have been a professional singer for 60 years," said Au, who performs in Hong Kong as well as Macao. "As a young man, I had a singing teacher. I would like to have young students myself but I don't. Some people over 50 want to learn." He gives a class once a week, in addition to regular performances, in Macao and Hong Kong.

He and other performers continue to work thanks to the support of the SAR government, especially the Cultural Affairs Bureau and the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau.

In 2009, Naamyam was inscribed on the Tentative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of the Special Administrative Region, and in 2010 on the National List of Intangible Culture Heritage.

On 25 October Au and his Chinese Opera Association will perform the "Song of the Exile" and "The Rendezvous of Twin Stars".

The evening before, Chau Kong and his wife Au leong Vai Han will be performing. "Like Au, I have been singing since I was seven or eight years old," Chau Kong said. "When I was a child in Macao, it was very popular in my neighbourhood. Performances could last seven to eight hours or even three days.

"It is a tradition that has lasted hundreds of years,

using mostly old songs. I am the fourth generation in my family to sing," he said. "To be more precise, it is story-telling, rather than singing."

He and his wife, also a performer, have been together for nearly 60 years. She has played a key role in his career. While he was studying Naamyam, his wife was a more senior apprentice than he. They have passed their passion for the art on to their children; their daughter likes it so much that she recently published her first Naamyam CD. "I am a leader of a community theatre and accept students," Chau Kong said.

Unlike Au, he is not a professional performer and works as a craftsman during the day. He decided that, to make the genre more popular, he would compose shorter pieces, some as brief as five minutes. He has written two pieces on the heritage sites of Macao, which he and his wife will perform on 24 October. The other piece will be "The Night Mourning of Pak Fu-yung".

"The SAR government is supporting each troupe of Naamyam singers, because it wants to support traditional culture," he said. He hopes to make changes to the art to make more young people interested in it. "This festival with my revised songs is the first trial. We are optimistic about the future of Naamyam and hope to contribute to it as far as we can."

Aida by the Latvian National Opera





Fado singer Joana Veiga

Queen of Fado

The three nights of Naamyam are being performed in the Mandarin House, together with a traditional art form from another country – Fado from Portugal.

A form of music that was born in the middle of the 19th century, it was performed at social events, indoors and out, and during holidays. In the 20th century, it spread beyond the borders of its native Portugal and there were professional performers of it.

The most famous was Amalia Rodrigues, known as the “Queen of Fado”. Born into a poor family in Lisbon in 1920, she grew to become the country’s most famous star – an internationally acclaimed artist and singer. Her career spanned 55 years, featuring songs in Spanish, French, English and Italian as well as Portuguese. At the time of her death in 1999, she had received more than 40 decorations from all over the world, including the Legion d’Honneur from France.

She put Fado as a musical genre on the map of world music.

It will be performed from 24–26 October by a group of four musicians and vocalist Joana Veiga.

Korean prodigy

Another highlight of the festival is South Korean violin soloist Chung Kyung-wha, who is playing a recital of works by Beethoven, Schubert and Faure, with American pianist Kevin Kenner.

She is one of Asia’s leading violinists. Born in 1948 into a musical family, she began playing the violin at the age of six and left home to study at the Juilliard School in New York at the age of 13. Her “tiger” mother decided to move the whole family there; all the siblings played classical instruments and three became professional musicians. Her mother sold the family home in Korea to buy her a Harrison Stradivarius violin, so that she could compete in the Edgar Leventritt Competition in 1967.

She finished joint top with Pinchas Zukerman, a remarkable achievement at that time for a woman and an Asian. This was the platform for her to start a music career in Europe and North America, working with the world’s finest orchestras. She has a wide repertoire from Beethoven to Tchaikovsky and Berg.

Her government awarded her the Medal of Civil Merit in 1972 and the Ho-Am Prize for the Arts in 2011. She now lives in South Korea and is chair professor of music at Ehwa University in Seoul. In 2006, she stopped playing because of a finger injury and the deaths of her mother and sister. She resumed performances in November 2011.

Chinese music

As usual, the festival includes Chinese music. On 22 October the Shanghai Chinese Orchestra, conducted by Wang Fujian, will present "Jiangnan Charm, Splendid China" at the Grand Auditorium of the Macao Cultural Centre.

Four days later, at the same venue, the Macao Chinese Orchestra will perform a programme of favourite melodies from China's classic films

and television dramas. They will be joined by two performers – Cui Rui, vocalist, and Zhou Tingting, playing the erhu.

On 18 October, the famous Mount Fortress will host a concert by Taiwan singer-songwriter Deserts Xuan and her band Algae, entitled Pyrojewel.

Born Chang Xuan in Taiwan in May 1981, she started composing when she was 13. She wrote her first song, "Baby", after a row with her mother, and began to perform on stage when she was 16. By the age of 19, she had written over 100 songs – but had to wait five years for the release of her first album in 2006.

She has enjoyed growing popularity in Taiwan and mainland China and has released four albums.

This year's festival also includes an outreach programme, with workshops, master classes, lectures and backstage tours, with the aim of stimulating public interest in the arts. ■

Photos by Eric Tam and and courtesy of Cultural Affairs Bureau



Deserts Xuan and her band Algae

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建筑环境

From Beijing with Art

Old factory in Beijing
becomes nation's art hub

By Catarina Domingues in Beijing





1988
北京



798 district

"798, 798!" the bus lady screams in Chinese, waving a little yellow flag out of the bus window. A crowd gets off bus 401 to start a new journey around 798 Art District.

Created from the walls of a former state-owned electronics factory, 798 is way more than just a number; it is a symbol. The ex-libris of Chinese art, 798 is a decade-old dream of Chinese artists and the tourist route off the beaten track, away from the Great Wall and the Forbidden City. Otherwise known as Dashanzi, 798 has been home to AFA since 2011, when the Macao-born association opened its gallery at China's most notorious art district.

Robert Bernell first discovered 798 when he was looking for a place to run his business in 2001. At the time, Beijing local authorities were moving factories outside the city, leaving industrial areas empty. A Texan native, Bernell was the computer programmer and translator behind the website chinese-art.com. He went to visit the old abandoned 798 state-owned electronics factory, ending up at a Muslim canteen that sold steamed buns. Designed and built in the

50s by East German architects in the Bauhaus style, the complex had fallen into decline and ceased its production in the late 80s and 90s. When Bernell looked at the rotten roof, the old walls and the broken windows he asked: "Do you have something else?" They said no, he says, as "they clearly wanted to get rid of me, but I rented the place anyway." Bernell became the first foreigner to set up a shop in the area.

Bernell signed the contract, committing him to 0.6 jiao per square metre a day, and rebuilt the place. When completed, Bernell started using it as the headquarters of a publishing and translation house, Timezone8 Art Books, which doubled up as a book and coffee shop. When he moved in, only a small percentage of the factory spaces at 798 were occupied. "We had to keep our fingers crossed and try to be on the pulse of what was going on with contemporary art, so we had a lot of artists visiting us and we helped them move into 798," noted Bernell, recalling how the Chinese art scene was changing dramatically.

"There was a shift in Chinese policy towards culture. In 2001, the government was somewhat ambivalent about contemporary art and culture and was worried it could have a subversive effect on society. But it decided to allow a certain degree of freedom for art to flourish in a place like 798." The Chinese government's aim was to raise "a creative class, which could generate value-added products and develop a place for people to find creative talent. 798 became a very important part of that strategy," the art consultant explained.

Artistic refuge

"In the beginning, 798 was quiet and independent. Thanks to the levels of freedom it enjoyed it was more avant-garde, perhaps poorer yet very suitable for young emerging artists," says Fang Fang, who established the Star Gallery in 2005. A former journalist with a degree in Art History from the Central Academy of Fine Arts, Fang had been buying and investing in young emerging artists for two years when he arrived at 798. "Many of the upcoming Chinese artists touched the same topics and I found some interesting cartoon elements

in their work," said Fang, who decided to make the cartoon aesthetic amongst Chinese artists his competitive advantage. "But back then, artworks with cartoon elements were hard to sell because they were relatively new in the Chinese art scene, which was more dedicated to traditional fields such as academic painting," said the gallery owner. The first exhibition shocked many people, and in the first eight months Fang only sold one single work. "At that time, few people bought art," he recalled.

In 2006 everything changed and Chinese contemporary art boomed internationally, its prices skyrocketing as major art buyers turned their attention to it. In 798, the emptiness of the former factories with their high ceilings and towering chimneys was invaded by artists who set up their studios and galleries in the space. The place was abuzz with daily events.

"Unless you live on another planet, you know that contemporary Chinese art is as hot as Beijing in August," wrote Donald Morrison in a travel story for the New York Times in 2008, referring to the unparalleled boom that Chinese Contemporary Art experienced at the beginning of the 21st century.

Fang Fang





Robert Bernell

Small seed, big money

By 2012, a handful of seeds could sell for 100 thousand patacas at 798. That's how much Bernell got when he sold a jar of Ai Weiwei's hand-crafted porcelain sunflower seeds at his bookshop. "Anything that Ai Weiwei creates is immediately sold. Ai Weiwei had offered the seeds to Bernell as a friendly token at a time when the art consultant was struggling to keep his bookstore alive amid fierce competition with online book retailers.

Ai Weiwei wasn't the only Chinese contemporary artist attracting worldwide attention and making millions with his art. Works by the likes of Zhou Chunya and Yue Minjun cashed in millions of dollars whenever they got sold or auctioned. China became the principal market for art and antiques for the first time in 2011 with sales that make for 30% of the global market, according to a report by The European Fine Art Foundation published this year. Industry insiders explain how they make millions operating in a niche market. "The contemporary art market is but a small fraction of the Chinese art market, and emerging artists are a niche within contemporary art. But even if only three or five people are interested, I will survive," said Fang Fang, who could already move into a bigger gallery after

his first year at 798. In the course of seven years, Star Gallery has held more than 50 exhibitions and worked with brands like Nike and Absolut Vodka, setting new precedents for cooperation between the business world and private galleries, which has raised 798's profile and fees.

"Our business is running well," confirmed Anita He, from the local branch of Singaporean-based Yang Gallery. The gallery occupies a space of 540 square metres and is nine metres high, retaining its original German Bauhaus design. The Beijing branch mainly sells Chinese contemporary artworks to private collectors, investment banks, luxury companies and contemporary art foundations. "Chinese contemporary art is more realistic. The first time you look at the works, you can understand what they're trying to convey, whereas Western art is more abstract," observed He, trying to explain the appeal for local art works.

Although the trend is not consensual, Robert Bernell believes the panorama is changing and that Chinese artists are moving towards more abstract art. "There is a new movement towards more conceptual art that is less figurative and more concerned with what's currently happening in China," noted Bernell, talking of how Chinese contemporary artists are more engaged with society, culture, tradition and philosophy.

Art for All

Judy Li was eager to contemplate innovative art. "The collectors and the audience are tired of deep and complex topics. We want to offer the public some fresh air. If I visit the galleries nearby, it feels like all images are the same: cartoony, featuring Mao Zedong and politics," said Judy Li, the manager of the Macao association Art For All (AFA) branch in 798.

With exposed pipes breaking through the white walls, AFA's Beijing three-storied space is a good reminder of the industrial roots of the art district. Unlike the early settlers, AFA first introduced Art made-in-Macao to mainland China and set up an exchange platform between the two places in 2008, from a studio nestled in a different art district. "It was only in 2011, when we believed we had a well-established brand that we decided to expand to 798, one of the most important art hubs in Beijing and in China," recalled James Chu, artist and AFA's president.

AFA holds about six exhibitions a year. The art works of Carlos Marreiros, José Drummond or Lai Sio Kit have already covered AFA's walls. In 2012, Bazaar Art Magazine, an international art publication in China, included AFA in its list of "The Top 100 Galleries in China". AFA ranked 77 and was the only

gallery from Macao to make it into the list. "Macao is just a tiny city with 530,000 people, and our full time artists number less than ten," noted Chu. "It was an honor."

A non-profit association funded and co-sponsored by the Macao government and the private sector, AFA also aims to generate commercial income in Beijing. "So far we have not been able to make a profit or balance the expenses by selling art works alone. Promoting Macao's art is also one of our priorities," said Chu who wished the gallery had more resources to invest in promotions. AFA believes it has contributed to the contemporary art and promotion of Macao artists beyond borders, participating in art fairs and exhibitions in countries like the US, Malaysia, Singapore, Japan and Portugal.

Commercialisation: myth or truth?

Originally billed as an artistic arena and window into Chinese culture, 798 is now strongly criticised for yielding to commercialisation and the mainstream. "They start out as unattractive areas with poor infrastructures, with big but cheap spaces. The artists move in, and only later do the real estate developers arrive.

Judy Li - Art For All



With them come the Pradas, the Guccis and the designers who want to be associated with contemporary art. The rents go up, the artists move out, the art district dies and becomes a chic place to hang out. That's the life trajectory of all art districts since the beginning of art districts and this is written in stone," explained Bernell, whose bookshop closed to give way to a sushi bar.

798 was no exception. Souvenir shops, boutiques, design studios, fashion and BMW car shows now dominate the compound, attracting an ever increasing number of tourists. "In terms of foot traffic, Dashanzi is third only behind the Forbidden City and the Great Wall," added the art consultant. The development of 798 became a two-edged sword for the artists, the industry insiders said. "Back in 2001 their main complaint was that they weren't able to engage with society, they weren't able to be seen, their voices couldn't be heard. They kind of achieved their dream, but commercialisation is what then became threatening to the artists," noted Bernell.

New real estate plans to transform 798 into a

residential area have been met with complaints from its tenants. Private studios and art galleries closed while shops popped up like mushrooms. "Many artists moved out of 798 because between 2005 and 2006 the rental fees went up," noted Federica Beltrame from Italy-based Galleria Continua, recalling many artists' personal tales. As one of the first non-Chinese galleries to be established in 798, Continua built up a solid reputation and became one of the long lasting galleries surviving the evolution of the art cluster. "The regular price is about five to six yuan per square metre, but we are only paying half of that because we were one of the early arrivals," said Beltrame, who isn't surprised that rents at 798 went up four times in a decade.

Even so, Bernell believes that 798's commercialisation is shrouded in myth. "In the beginning there were possibly twelve artists living and working here. Nowadays, there are six; it is not that there has been a massive exodus. Those who moved all became very successful and have 1000 square metre studios these days."

Federica Beltrame





Chen Ke

This year, Fang Fang from Star Gallery is moving to Qi KeShu Art District: "It is three times bigger and about the same price," said the gallery owner. Many young artists confirmed that they are looking for studios in other art villages like Caochangdi or Jiuchang, where the calm atmosphere, away from crowds, is also a plus.

The Chinese Frida

"798 is a nice place for the galleries but not for an art studio – it's too expensive and noisy," said Chen Ke, a 33-year-old artist represented by Star Gallery. Born in Sichuan Province, Chen grew up as an only child in a small town. After finishing an MFA at the Sichuan Institute of Fine Arts, she moved to Beijing, motivated by the lack of art scene in her hometown.

Chen rented a studio in Jiuchang Art District in Beijing, located south of 798 and, similar to what happened to the latter, she witnessed the transformation of the cluster. "In the beginning only artist studios and galleries were here. Now, the rent is becoming more and more expensive," she noted, explaining how design shops and coffee houses are also popping up amongst the galleries and studios at Jiuchang.

Chen is Star Gallery's golden card. Fang Fang described her as "the most wanted artist by the collectors, the most popular painter of our time" and talked of her work as "socially engaged".

Dressed in a blue, oversized smock, Chen epitomises a generation of young artists who have made a name for themselves and have managed to make a good living out of their art work. She remains loyal to a certain artistic honour: "The most important thing is not that your work has the highest price tag in the market. I was the best paid artist of my generation in 2007 and that didn't make me happy."

Chen's work is as cryptic as she is: "I would call it child-work. You grow up but you can still keep a childish spirit," the artist explained. "I like to use cartoon elements because they are merely a simple way to express myself." Those who look closely will also see that Chen's work combines elements of traditional Chinese paintings with features from the Western masters. More recently Chen has been inspired by Frida Kahlo's life and personality. "Frida's work is very emotional and very realistic," observed the artist, who discovered that she shares other personal aspects with Kahlo such as a husband who is a painter and a father who is her biggest inspiration.

"After moving to Beijing my work became darker, heavier. Here everybody feels small, the city is so big, so overwhelming. I feel lonely, under pressure. Chinese development has been extremely fast,

many things have disappeared too quickly and it is hard to keep hold of some of those things. Memory and feelings are all that are left for one to hang on to," explained the young artist.

Photos by Catarina Domingues



Yang Gallery





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International circus lifts curtain on China's Orlando

By Mark O'Neill







On 20 November, 3,000 spectators will crowd into a brand new auditorium in Hengqin in Zhuhai for China's first international circus festival, featuring 120 performers and 60 animals from 18 countries. The curtain will rise not only on a circus to be held every day of the year but also China's most ambitious tourist project – the Ocean Kingdom, involving an investment of 20 billion yuan by the Chimelong Group, a private company based in Guangzhou. The first of its ten theme parks is due to open at the end of this year.

It aims to attract 20 million visitors a year and surpass the resort which the Walt Disney company is building on 963 acres in the Pudong district of Shanghai, with a total investment of 29 billion yuan. It is due to open in December 2015.

"It will be the Orlando of China, and will become the new benchmark for the theme park industry," said Su Zhigang, the chairman of Chimelong.

A first in Asia

It is the most ambitious tourism project ever undertaken by a Chinese company. Like Disney in Shanghai,

it aims to attract not only millions of mainland visitors but also tourists from South Korea, Japan, India and other countries in Asia and further afield. As foreigners go to the US to take their children to Disney World in Florida, so they will bring them to Ocean Kingdom – that is the hope of Su and his team at Chimelong.

It will be unlike anything in Asia – ten theme parks, 12 luxury theme hotels, three 18-hole golf courses, two yacht clubs, a science centre, shopping malls and an international convention centre. It will have the world's largest aquarium window, through which visitors can see ten 40-foot-long whale sharks in a six-million-gallon tank; they are a threatened species and the world's largest fish. There will be penguins, polar bears, spotted dolphins and Chinese white dolphins. The aim is to give visitors a close-up view of these marine creatures and a deeper understanding of their habitat.

"Ocean Kingdom's role serves not only to entertain and to thrill, but also to bring the projected millions of annual visitors closer to marine animals and their stories. The immersive, high-tech, themed environments will bridge the often

wide gap between humans and their underwater neighbours, generating a deeper understanding of these creatures and a call-to-action to join conservation efforts for them and their habitats,” said a statement by PGAV Destinations, the company based in St Louis, Missouri, that is the lead strategist, planner, designer and product developer for the project.

The plans for rides include the world’s tallest Ferris wheel at 210 metres high, a German-designed MACK water coaster, a MACK super splash and a ride through a rain forest with a bird’s eye view. Several large stadia will host marine performances by Beluga whales, dolphins, sea lions and walruses. There will be a cable car that circles the entire resort area. “It will allow guests to sit back and relax while enjoying the sea breeze and a full view of the ten theme parks, in the words of Chimelong.

The site will be home to the Chimelong Dolphin Hotel, with 1,888 rooms; the company calls it the “largest environmental hotel in China”, with rooms, restaurants and retail space built around water.

Big gamble

This spectacular investment represents an enormous gamble by Chimelong. The two main risks are access and whether visitors will come more than once.

Hengqin is an undeveloped island, with a population of about 10,000. In August 2009, the State Council approved it as a special economic district, the third in China after Pudong in Shanghai and Binhai in Tianjin. It covers 106 square kilometres, more than three times the size of neighbouring Macao.

Since 2009, the island has been the site of a construction boom, with workers racing to build roads, lay drainage pipes and telephone lines and complete the infrastructure needed for a modern city. The island aims to support a population of 280,000 by 2020.

Ocean Kingdom is on the bottom tip of Hengqin. The question is whether this infrastructure will be able to bring in and look after 20 million visitors a year to the new site; in other words, 55,000 people a day.

Ocean Kingdom plan



Shanghai Disney Resort will not have this problem. It sits in the southeast corner of Shanghai, a city with 24 million people and a sophisticated transport infrastructure already in place – airport, road and rail. Chimelong is betting that tourists in Macao, Hong Kong and Guangdong will choose to spend an additional day or two in Hengqin. In 2012, 28 million visitors went to Macao, an increase of 0.3 percent over 2011; of them, 25 million were from the mainland, Hong Kong and Taiwan, up 0.4 percent, while the number of non-Chinese visitors fell 0.5 percent.

Guangdong itself is a major tourist market. It is one of the richest provinces in China and, in 2012, more than four million of its people went abroad for a holiday.

Of the mainland visitors to Macao, the majority passes through Zhuhai; they arrive by air, car, bus or the new high-speed train service from Guangzhou South station that started at the end of 2012. Many gamble in Macao but stay in hotels in Zhuhai, which are substantially cheaper than those across the border. Chimelong aims to persuade these visitors to extend their stay in the city in order to visit Ocean Kingdom.

Another element in its planning is the bridge being built between Hong Kong, Macao and Zhuhai, which is due to open in 2016 and will halve the travel time from the current 60–70 minutes.

For Ocean Kingdom to reach its ambitious targets, the transport system must be in place to deliver tens of thousands of visitors a day from Hong Kong, Macao and Guangdong and enable them to leave smoothly.

But the main ring road around Hengqin was completed only at the end of 2012. The basic infrastructure such as roads, telecommunications, gas and sewage pipelines are not all in place.

The other bet is that visitors will come more than once. Many theme parks in China have closed because they failed to persuade tourists to repeat their visits. Chimelong officials say they will change the shows and exhibits regularly, to attract people to come a second or third time.

Circus

It is fitting that Chimelong is starting its new resort with the circus. It has spent 300 million yuan on its circus city in Hengqin, with a total built-up area of 50,000 square metres; of this, 8,000 square metres house the circus pavilion, with seating for 3,000. The roof has been completed and the equipment is being installed for the festival, to run from 20 November until 1 December.

It is a national event, announced on 21 August in Beijing at a joint news conference hosted by the Ministry of Culture, the Guangdong provincial government, the Zhuhai city government and the Chimelong Group.

The circus festival chairman, He Ningka, who is also Mayor of Zhuhai, said that they had chosen 30 items from 18 countries, including China, Canada, Russia, France, the United States and Germany, with 150 performers and 60 animals, including horses and elephants.

After the festival is over, the venue will stage a circus



every day of the year. The circus has been one of the secrets of success of Chimelong's other main project – a tourist resort in Panyu, a suburb of Guangzhou. It includes 'Chimelong Paradise', an international circus, a safari, water and crocodile parks, hotels and restaurants.

The Panyu resort aims to attract 15 million visitors in 2013, compared to ten million in 2008; that would place it on a par with Greece, which ranks 17th in the world as a tourist destination and ahead of South Korea, which attracted 11.1 million foreign visitors last year. It was the success of the Panyu resort that enabled Chimelong to win the contract for Hengqin.

Think Big

For its Hengqin project, Chimelong hired major US design firms, PGAV Destinations and WATG, for two major parts of the project, the Ocean World and the Ocean Hotel.

Since its foundation in 1945 in Honolulu, Hawaii, WATG has become one of the world's leading design consultants for the hospitality, leisure and entertainment industries. It has worked in 160 countries and territories across six continents, designing hotels and resorts, many of them in China. It aims to provide both design and sense of place and also commercial success.

PGAV worked on the Grand Aquarium in Hong Kong

and the Terracotta Warriors Museum in Xian. It has created theme park attractions for Universal Studios, Six Flags, Sea World and Busch Gardens.

Hengqin's place in the Delta

Ocean Kingdom will be the second major project to open in Hengqin. The first was the new campus of the University of Macau, built on a site nearby of 1.09 square kilometres at a cost of 9.8 billion patacas, which opened in September.

The zone has ambitious plans for the future, to develop financial services, culture, health, high technology and Chinese medicine as well as tourism. At present, it has 56 projects under way with a total investment of 226.3 billion yuan.

Most experts believe that, of these sectors, tourism is the most viable and that Hengqin can serve as a complement to Macao. While gambling is banned, it has spare land to build hotel complexes, golf courses, swimming pools, leisure centres and other facilities for which there is no space in Macao. "Gamble in Macao, relax in Hengqin" is the slogan.

In July this year, Shun Tak Holdings, the flagship of casino mogul Stanley Ho Hung-san, paid 721 million yuan for a site of 24,000 square metres in Hengqin; a few minutes from the Cotai Strip, the project will include offices, hotel accommodation, commercial space and service apartments. ■

Ocean Kingdom location in Hengqin island





Mozambican Tourism: A game of challenges and opportunities

Growth of the Mozambican economy, at an average of seven percent per year, is having an impact on the country's tourism. In some cities, the hotel occupancy rate is around 90 percent, with dozens of new units in the pipeline for the near future, involving investments of millions of dollars. The sector is facing serious challenges, but the opportunities are even greater.

By Emanuel Pereira in Maputo



Polana Hotel in Maputo



Mozambique at the moment is all about potential. Whether you're talking about the agricultural or the natural resources sector, the services sector or transport and communications, the opportunities are immense. Tourism is no exception.

At the turn of the millennium, a new ministry responsible for the sector was opened, proving the government's interest in its development and regulation. In 2004 a Master Plan was put in place for the area, which comes to a close at the end of this year. Although the strategy outlined by the Ministry and its partners mainly focused on developing leisure

tourism, in fact large investments in the country, particularly in the natural resources sector, have given the country a new and vast niche market. Nowadays, business tourism is the clear leader in attracting people to Mozambique.

"The tourism scene in Mozambique has changed. We were once a leisure destination, where big investments were being made. Now, with the discovery of natural resources, we are in business tourism," said Rui Monteiro, the president for tourism of the Confederation of Economic Associations, an umbrella organisation for associations operating in the sector.



Matemo island in the Quirimbas archipelago

Although the latest information from the Mozambican government does not distinguish between different types of tourism in terms of revenues, in 2012 foreign tourists brought in around US\$248 million for Mozambique, which was seven percent more than in the previous year.

Noor Momade is president of the Association of Travel Agents and Tour Operators of Mozambique (AVITUM), an organisation with 64 associated members and 83 potential members, according to Momade. Describing the current visitors to Mozambique, Momade says that the first group consists of “businessmen looking for investment opportunities”. After that are “participants in conferences requiring short-term services, as well as those involved in projects in the country”.

According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Mozambique’s gross domestic product (GDP) for 2012 totalled around US\$14 billion. In line with these figures, the tourism sector comes out as accounting for around three percent of the State’s revenues. However, there are those who disagree with this figure.

“Tourism cannot be contributing only three percent of GDP. It has to be a lot more. There are difficulties in getting the exact information. Mechanisms need to be set up that allow Mozambique to understand the real revenues,” said Quessanias Matsombe, chairman of the Mozambican tourism Federation (FEMOTUR) and hotel sector businessman.

How interesting, though, is tourism to investors or to those seeking Mozambique’s development? In 2012 alone, investments totalled US\$640 million, and the number of available beds rose from 38,400 in 2011. The potential is there to create over 1,500 jobs, in what is regarded as the fourth most popular area for both national and foreign investors, in terms of the amount of investment made. All of this is happening in a country where the casual-work sector is the biggest employer, with a per capita income of US\$634. It therefore stands out that 43,000 people are employed in the tourism sector, especially considering that over half of them are women.

Hello Maputo! Hello Mozambique!

Maputo, the country's capital and the entry point for most of the people visiting Mozambique, is still the country's largest business centre. Although most companies' business activities are carried out in other provinces, such as extensive coal mining projects in the central province of Tete, many choose to house their headquarters in Maputo.

Figures from the Tourism Observatory for the City of Maputo, an organisation established in 2011 to "watch the tourism market and its trends closely" showed that in 2010, 57 percent of visitors to the Mozambican capital had arrived in the country "on business", 34 percent due to "events and conferences", and just 10 percent for "leisure tourism, family visits and safaris", said the programme's coordinator, Helga Nunes.

A tourist's average stay in the Mozambican capital, the observatory said, is seven days. The city also has the largest number of hotel units in the entire country, particularly in the mid to high segment. The cost of a room starts, in general, at over US\$100 per night, and can climb to over US\$300.

Although some critics are concerned about the growth of business tourism, it is clear that this type of tourism is an important contribution to the development of professional activities, such as handicraft production. A study by UNESCO showed that, in Maputo alone, this activity employs over 700 people and brings in revenues of US\$1.5 million.

"I don't think there is a problem with using business tourism to a positive advantage, because this sort of tourism leads to handicrafts sales," said Federico Vignati, author of the recently published book, "The Economy of Tourism – How to promote jobs, income and prosperity in Mozambique".

There is, however, the idea that business tourism may become an expensive mistake for the country when mega projects are no longer the Mozambican economy's driving force.

"In terms of business, the city's hotels are so important that we are all running after business tourism, and casting leisure tourism aside. One day we will look around and find that we need it, because it will sustain communities," said the CTA representative.

Meanwhile, the geographic proximity of Maputo with South Africa (around 100 km), the fact that it



has the country's largest airport and, of course, the cosmopolitan nature of a city that allows visitors to sample local cuisines, for example, make the Mozambican capital an attractive destination for tourists in comparison to the rest of the country.

However, the challenges along this destination's road to excellence are many and include the city's maintenance infrastructures, which are still far from ideal. Waste collection remains a problem, the roads and pavements need to be repaired, traffic is heavy at the start of the day and is becoming a real issue.



Mozambique island girl

New road infrastructures may go some way to relieving this pressure, including the “Maputo Circular” currently being built by the China Road and Bridge Corporation.

Another attraction of the region, which could increase the number of tourists in Maputo, is Kruger National Park in South Africa, a nature reserve covering an area of around 20,000 square kilometres, where tourists can go on safari and see the famous “Big Five” (lions, leopards, elephants, African buffalo and rhinoceros). Over one million

tourists visit the park every year, making it very worthy of Mozambican tour operators’ attention.

“From the tourist’s point of view, Maputo could be better than Johannesburg (as it has beaches, for example). So, the best gateway to Kruger may be Maputo rather than Johannesburg. And it not a negative thing that tourists may come to Mozambique just to visit Kruger,” said Federico Vignati.

However, although Kruger is seen as an opportunity, it is still an enormous challenge for the local authorities.



Gorongosa National Park

Environmental conservation: The good and the bad

"It makes me sad to see hundreds of rhinoceros killed in Kruger, when thousands of dollars could be earned through their conservation," said researcher Federico Vignati.

Poaching in Kruger is having alarming social implications in Mozambique, whose border meets the South African reserve at the Great Limpopo Cross-border Park, which is also partly in Zimbabwe. The number of animals killed by Mozambican poachers, particularly rhinos, is of concern to the South African authorities, who are now shooting suspects as a preventative measure.

"They now shoot first and ask questions later. They are shooting Mozambicans who, unfortunately, are only the henchmen," said Rui Monteiro, of the CTA, adding that this situation is driven by "the appetite of certain markets for products like ivory".

According to Monteiro, his organisation is trying to get the country's tourism ministry to work with the defence ministry, "to help the border guards, who

have been unable to respond to the problem (of poaching)".

And the conflict doesn't end there: "We also have illegal logging in forests, along the borders, particularly in the north of Niassa province," he said. Yet, Mozambique has more than just negatives to show the world in terms of environmental conservation, with its Gorongosa National Park as the new oasis for environmental conservation in Africa.

At the end of the 1970s, Gorongosa was one of the most bio-diverse areas in Africa, but because of the Civil War that began in that period, it was practically decimated.

Like a phoenix, Gorongosa has risen from the ashes since 2005, via the Gorongosa Restoration Project, funded by US multimillionaire, Greg Carr, the inventor of voice mail.

Carr's philanthropy provided funding of US\$36 million for the Gorongosa National Park, which in 2011 received around 7,000 tourists, an impressive number as, according to Federico Vignati, it is still very difficult to access this region of central Sofala province.

Exploring Mozambique can be “tiring”... and expensive

Considered by the Globe Spots website to be the second-best destination to explore in 2013, in a list of 10 destinations, Mozambique is still a difficult country to visit, even if only for its size of over 800,000 square kilometres.

The road infrastructure is in many parts poor and the overland transport system leaves a lot to be desired. Anyone travelling with time on their hands can discover the country's roads by travelling in the famous “chapas” (vans with around 18 seats), “machibombos” (small buses) or buses. It is the cheapest way of getting around the country, but also the most “tiring”.

If, however, visitors choose to travel by air, they should be prepared for some extraordinarily high costs. On this particular point all tour operators and tourism associations in Mozambique agree: domestic flights have to become cheaper so that the destinations can be more competitive.

“Nothing can justify the exorbitant prices and the monopolistic stance of our flagship airline,” said

Noor Momade, of AVITUM, referring to state airline Linhas Aéreas de Moçambique (LAM).

“If we want to develop tourism in Mozambique, travel agencies and tour operators should have a special relationship with LAM, and work together to create promotional packages to encourage at least Mozambicans and residents to visit their country,” he said.

As well as the cost of domestic flights, which are easily over US\$500 (flying south to north), the country is also held to ransom by another monopoly, that of Portuguese airline TAP Portugal. TAP is the only airline offering direct flights from Europe, which, after South Africa, is the biggest source of foreign tourists for Mozambique.

In the last two years, new players such as Ethiopian Airlines and Qatar Airways have started competing with TAP, sometimes offering better prices, although with a number of stop-offs, for the same routes.

“If we think of a journey from Europe, destinations such as the Maldives, Bahia or Costa Rica are seven or eight hours away and we are 11. Those three hours make a difference, even in terms of price,” said Rui Monteiro.

Museum of Natural History – Maputo



Creation of tourist hubs essential to make sector competitive

"In any part of the world, where tourism is considered important for the country's development, there are areas set aside and developed for that purpose. Choosing three tourism hubs is, in my opinion, Mozambique's big challenge at the moment," said Quessanias Matsombe.

Given the high costs of air tickets, the proposal defended by the representative of FEMOTUR seems to please a number of sector players, as it could open up the way for package tours, which include internal flights, thus allowing Mozambique to be more competitive as a destination.

"There is not enough money to do everything at once. Although we are talking about domestic tourism, in practice, if we have three or four destinations we'll be talking in national terms. Not all the provinces have to be developed for tourism," said Federico Vignati.

At the moment "sun and sand" are Mozambique's main argument for competing in the tourism market with other countries in the region, in the leisure tourism area. In a few months Nampula province, in the north of the country, will have a new airport – Nacala International Airport – and there are high expectations that the new facility may help reduce the price of air travel in the country.

A few kilometres from the city of Nacala, the Island of Mozambique – without a doubt one of the most successful destinations in the country not only because of its historical heritage, but also because of the region's natural setting – will perhaps be one of the places that will benefit most from the new airport.

The recent establishment by the Mozambican government of the Mossuril tourist area seems to have been done with the new airport facility in mind. The area is in the Nampula region, which includes two deserted islands – Crusse and Jamali – with high quality beaches, and where luxury hotels will be built.

Promoting Mozambique across the world, making it a competitive destination and implementing sustainable tourism that will benefit the country are, in the short and mid term, the greatest challenges of the Mozambican tourism sector. If the tourists smile at Mozambique the way its hospitable people do, then the future is certainly promising. ■

Photos by Mécia Gonçalves







Ho Si-lo



Beacon in the Dark

Lighthouse keeper
honoured for
20 years' service

By Mark O'Neill



After sunset, a piercing light shines across the waters of Macao, stretching 20 kilometres into the darkness. It is a compass to guide the hundreds of ships, large and small, that ply the crowded waters of the Pearl River. It is invaluable during typhoons and rough seas.

This light from the Guia Lighthouse has shone every night for the last 103 years. For the last 21 years, the man behind the light has been Ho Si-lo, a tanned and slender man whose athletic frame belies his 62 years. "Only when I have turned on the light can I go home with my heart at ease," he said.

In December 2012 Ho was one of two public officials honoured by the Chief Executive for their services to the city with a 'Medal of Dedication'. Since then, this modest man has become well known to Macao residents thanks to the publicity surrounding the award. When they see the light shining in the night, they now have a face to attach to it.

Since the Marine and Water Bureau assigned Ho to the lighthouse in 1992, he has dedicated his life to it. He maintains the equipment in good working order and insures that the light shines as it should. Every day of the year, he goes there to raise the SAR flag on a pole next to the lighthouse at eight in the morning and to lower it at six in the evening.

Tough life

Ho was born in the district of Xinhui in western Guangdong in 1950, the third of five children. The family was poor; his father ran a small grocery store that was taken over by the government. Ho graduated from primary school after six years and went to work on the farm. "We planted rice, vegetables and other crops. We did everything. It was a commune."

Ho and his fellow workers received a monthly salary of less than 20 yuan and had no days off, except for public holidays and when bad weather prevented them from working. "Life was very difficult."

His parents passed away; like many others, Ho made the decision to seek a better life in Macao, where a female cousin was living. After telling his family, he took the bus to Zhongshan and crossed the border illegally at night. There he found refuge with the Catholic charity Caritas, thanks to the generosity of the founder of its Macao branch, Father Luis Ruiz Suarez.

Born in Spain in 1913, Father Ruiz joined the Jesuits

in 1930 and came to Macao in 1949. He spent the rest of his life serving needy people in the city, establishing the Casa Ricci Social Service, which later became Caritas. His Chinese name was 'Lok Sanfu' (Father Lok).

Ho lived in the Caritas centre for six years, helping to look after the children staying there. "Father Lok gave us food and enabled us to live." He took in people from the mainland, as well as refugees from Vietnam and Thailand. In 1990, the priest helped Ho obtain a Macao identity card. "I am extremely grateful to him," said Ho. Father Suarez died in Macao in 2012, at the age of 97.

During his time at Caritas, Ho developed a love of walking, which he has maintained to this day. He did not ride a bicycle, nor take buses or taxis. Even when he made the journey to Taipa, he would walk and take the boat.

Life in the Lighthouse

In 1992, he joined the Marine and Water Bureau; in July that year, he was assigned to the Guia Lighthouse, working with an older man who was later transferred to another post.

For 21 years, he carried out the duties alone. Only in 2013 was a colleague assigned to help him, because of his age.

Each morning he wakes at six at his modest apartment close to the border with Zhuhai. After breakfast, he does the 35-minute walk to the lighthouse. At 91 metres, it is the highest point in the city, which means a steep climb for the last stretch. Even in the heat of the summer, Ho maintains his walking habit.

At eight o'clock sharp, he raises the green flag of the SAR on a flagpole next to the lighthouse. He even does this on Saturdays and Sundays; he has to make the journey twice on those days, for which he is paid overtime.

He switches on the light according to a schedule given to him by the city's Meteorological Office, which calculates the time of sunrise and sunset; it is later in the summer than in the winter.

The lighthouse plays an especially important role during the typhoon season, where it hoists signals that show the ferocity of the storm. These range from 'black rain' to signals one to ten; there are different signals for each of these. During this season, Ho is helped by colleagues from the Marine and Water Bureau.

Over the last ten years, many residents and tourists have come to visit the lighthouse and the wonderful view it offers over the city; Ho has also become a guide to them. Visitors can enjoy the bird's eye view of the city centre, the bridges to Taipa and the enormous reclamation that will eventually form the end point of the bridge to Hong Kong under construction.

Ho leads a simple life. "I am accustomed to my life at the lighthouse and am very happy to do it. I am very satisfied and do not feel that it is difficult." He never gambles in the casinos; but he once bought shares in a bank at the same time as other people, but lost money. He rarely goes to other parts of the city. "I feel that the Macao I see from the lighthouse is the most beautiful."

He does not drink or smoke, nor even take tea or coffee. He drinks hot water.

Award

Ho was delighted to receive the public service award at the end of 2012. He was recommended for it by his superiors in the Marine and Water Bureau.

"I was happy. I felt very honoured, but the honour goes to everyone in my department and not only me." He will retire in 2016, when he reaches the age of 65. His successor has already been chosen. Since arriving in Macao, Ho has rarely visited his hometown in Xinhui and does not plan to retire there. He will stay with his wife in their modest apartment in Macao; they have no children.

Thanks to the years of walking, he is in excellent health.

Rich history

The lighthouse stands at one of the most historical places in the city, part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is at the top of the Guia hill, the highest point on the Macao peninsula.

Between 1622 and 1638, the Portuguese built a military fort and chapel there, after an unsuccessful attempt by the Dutch to capture Macao. Financed by the citizens of Macao with Antonio Ribeiro as Captain of Artillery, construction began in September 1637 and was completed in March 1638, when DC Camara Noronha was commanding officer.



Macao Chief Executive honoured Ho with the "Medal of Dedication"

The chapel is called the Chapel of the Holy Mother of the Guia. In 1998, during routine conservation work, frescoes were uncovered, showing Western and Chinese themes.

The lighthouse, named after the location, was built in 1864 and 1865, the first Western-style lighthouse in East Asia and on the China coast. It started operating on 24 September 1865. It was designed by Carlos Vicente da Rocha, a Macao-born Portuguese man, on the orders of Governor Coelho do Amaral. Originally, the light beam was lit by paraffin, operated through a wooden wheel and a rope to rotate the lantern.

In 1874, the lighthouse was damaged by a typhoon and stopped operating for over 30 years. Repairs included the installation of mirror reflectors and it went back into operation on 29 June 1910; it has been in operation since then, using electric light since 1971.

It is a 15-metre high tower with a radius of seven metres at the base, narrowing upwards. It has a simple rustic exterior. At the top, there is a circular observation platform, seven metres in diameter, where the lantern is installed.

The area is now a park that is popular with joggers and visitors. Until the middle of the 19th century, however, it was a military area, closed to the public. The Portuguese built barracks and tunnels within the fort and placed cannon. Many of the soldiers were from the colonies in Angola and Mozambique.

The military began to leave in 1962, and the area opened to the public in the 1970s. In 2001, the government opened one of the tunnels as a museum, displaying evocative historical photos, including military parades and a Japanese officer in a spotless white uniform visiting the city during World War II.

Photos by Eric Tam and courtesy of Government Information Bureau



macao ^{next} magazine ^{issue}



Who found Australia first?



Macao opens new museums to showcase rich heritage



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Entrepreneur turns oil paintings into global industry



Foreign believers revive Islam in Guangzhou



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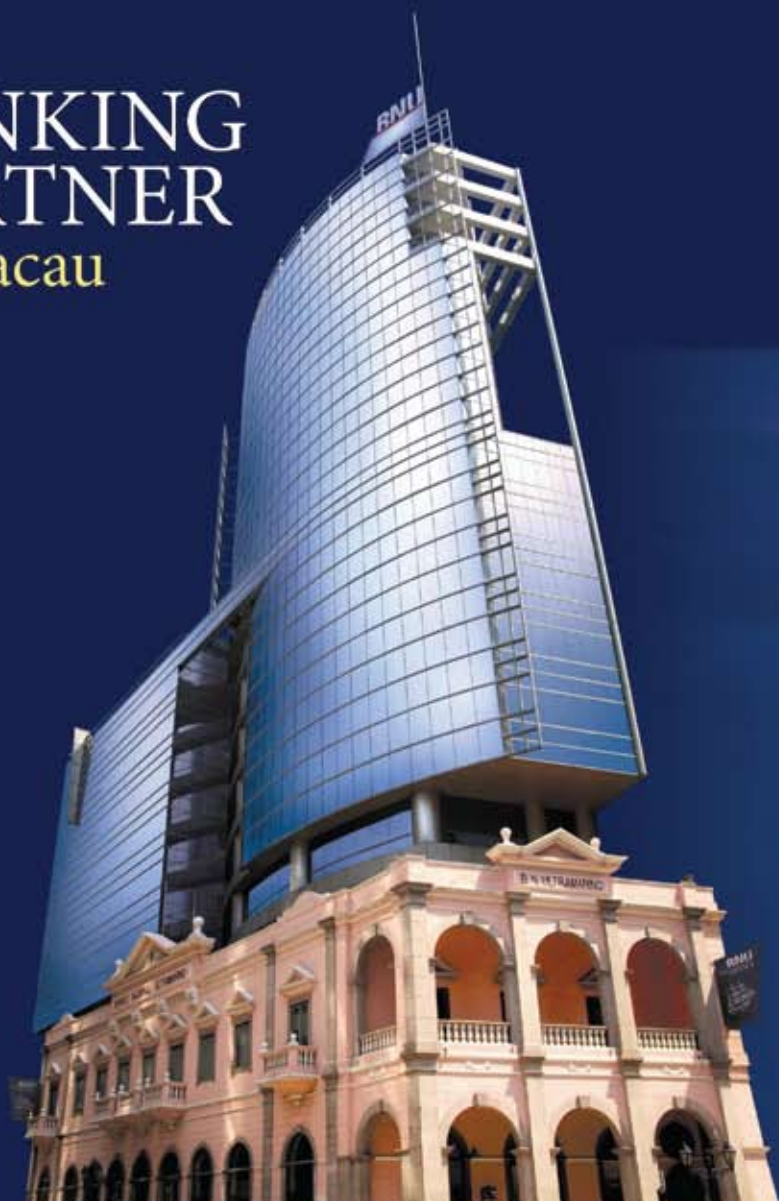
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