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China and Portuguese-speaking countries

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Sage [Sheng]

In the character for 'sage', 'divine', and 'holy', the pictogrammatic 'mouth' is preceded by the image of an 'ear', above the character for 'great' or 'artful'—a character that derives from the word for 'far north', the ultimate point.

This character shows that the sage is gifted in the arts of listening and speaking. But the listening comes first, because through listening one gains an understanding of the universe. Since the sage has found oneness with the universe, which is eternal, he too is eternal and therefore divine.

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

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to spread flood of tourists



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A Decade of Closer Ties

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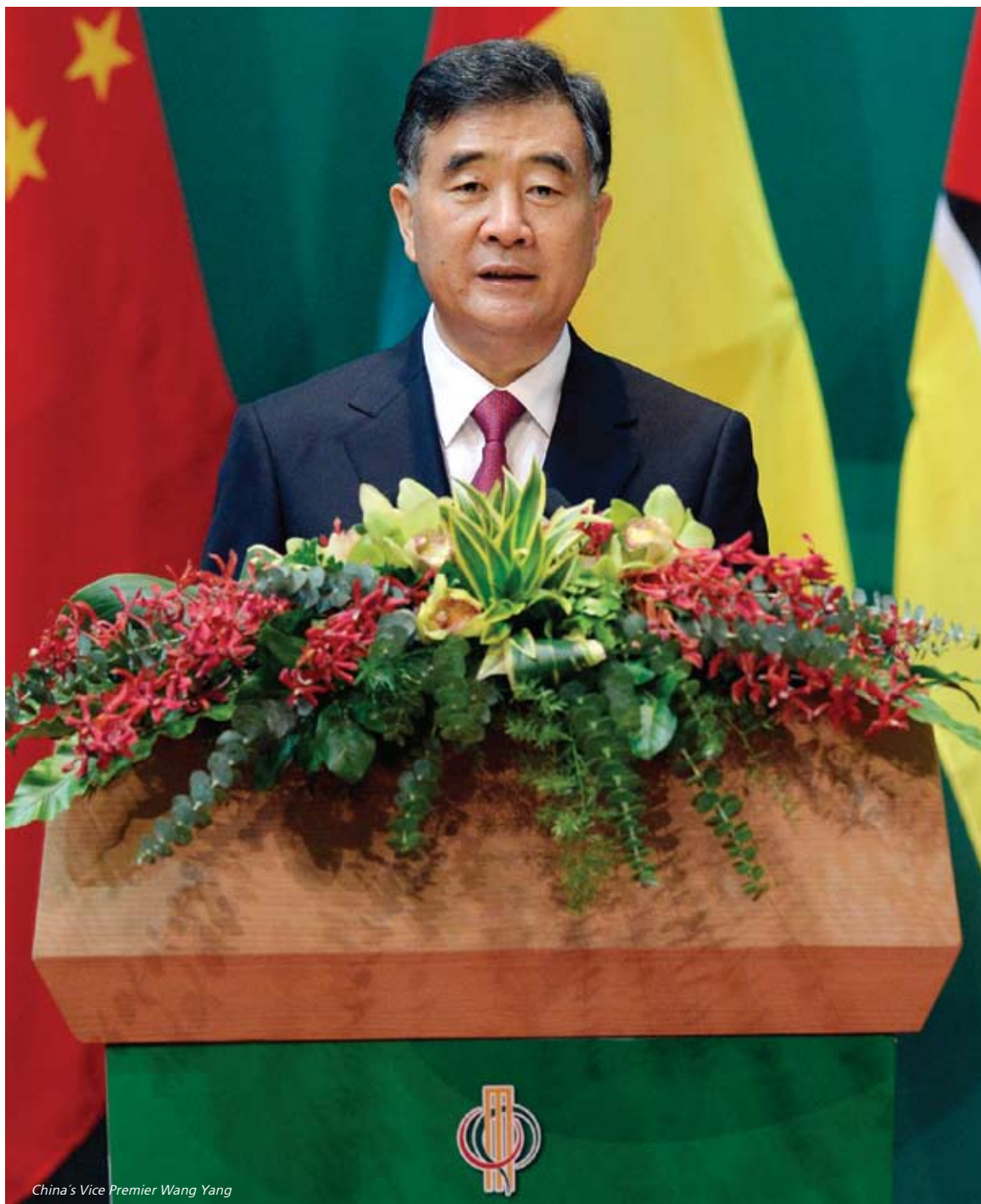
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新機遇
NOVAS OPORTUNIDADES



Forum of Portuguese-speaking countries adopts action plan

By Mark O'Neill



China's Vice Premier Wang Yang

China and seven Portuguese-speaking countries (PSC) adopted a three-year action plan at the end of a meeting on 5 November in Macao that includes the establishment of three new service centres in the city.

The SAR hosted the fourth ministerial meeting of the Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and the Portuguese-Speaking Countries which

looked back on the forum's first decade and set objectives for the future.

They include the new centres for the city – a local distribution centre for food products from PSC, an arbitration centre for commercial disputes between China and PSC and a business and trade service centre for small and medium-size enterprises from PSC.

The action plan, outlined by Gao Hucheng, China's Minister of Commerce, also said that Macao would host exhibitions and conventions to promote the markets of PSC. In addition, it includes cooperation projects between the members involving clean energy and the import and export of movies and music products.

"Macao has the advantages of language, culture and location," Gao said. "In promoting economic and trade relations between China and Portuguese-speaking countries, it has an irreplaceable and exceptional function. The action plan further reaffirms the importance of Macao's role as a platform.

(With these three new centres), I think Macao's distinctive functions will be reinforced."

In addition to China, the other members of the Forum are Angola, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Timor-Leste, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique and Portugal. The other PSC, Sao Tome, is not a member as it does not have diplomatic relations with Beijing; but it sent its Minister of Planning and Finance, who attended as an observer, as at previous meetings.

Eight measures to improve cooperation

The keynote speaker at the opening session of the Forum on 5 November was China's Vice Premier Wang Yang, who from November 2007 to December 2012 served as party secretary of Guangdong – one of the most important provincial posts in the country.

In his speech, he announced eight measures to boost cooperation between China and PSC, to be implemented over the next three years.

These are: The provision by China of 1.8 billion yuan in concessional loans to the forum's Asian and African members; sharing its experience with PSC in the development of special economic zones and development zones;

building one education and training facility, providing one set of radio, television and media equipment and developing one solar lighting project for each Asian and African member of the forum; arranging training sessions in China for 2,000 people from Asian and African members of the forum and providing 1,800 scholarships to students from PSC; sending another 210 medical professionals to the forum's Asian and African members over the next three years; setting up a Macao-based information-sharing platform to boost business ties in all sectors between China and PSC; discussing trilateral cooperation projects with the forum's Asian and African members; giving priority to education and training, agriculture, environmental protection, and new energy.

Wang said that China had provided US\$ 4 billion in concessional loans to PSC in Asia and Africa and waived 230 million yuan (US\$ 37.7 million) in government debt for members of the Forum. He set a target of trade between China and PSC in 2016 of US\$ 160 billion, compared to US\$ 128.497 billion in 2012. In the first eight months of this year, the figure was US\$ 86 billion, down 0.31 percent on the same period in 2011.

Portuguese-speaking countries representatives in the meeting





He said that China was the largest trading partner and largest export market of PSC. PSC firms have set up more than 800 enterprises in China, which has invested nearly US\$ 30 billion in PSC. A total of 1.6 million Chinese citizens had visited PSC.

More than 80 institutions in China are teaching Portuguese, while many Confucius Institutes are being established in PSC.

In his speech, Wang reminded the audience of the historical links between the two sides. "More than 600 years ago, a fleet led by Admiral Zheng He crossed the ocean and reached as far as Mozambique... More than 200 years ago, a group of tea farmers went via Macao and planted tea in Rio de Janeiro."

Promoting partnership

Rui Duarte Barros, Prime Minister of Guinea-Bissau, said in his speech that his country wanted to develop a true strategic partnership with China and that it was doing its best to improve conditions to attract and protect Chinese private investors.

Michel Temer, Vice President of Brazil, said that the establishment of a commercial services centre for small and medium-size firms from PSC was vital to

achieve the goal of bilateral trade of US\$ 160 billion by 2016.

Paulo Portas, Deputy Prime Minister of Portugal, praised the work of the forum, which he said demonstrated China's recognition of the global strategic significance of PSC.

Fernando de Araujo, Deputy Prime Minister of Timor-Leste, said that his country's stability was due to the support of the global community and bilateral partners, highlighting the fact that it saw China as one of its most important strategic partners.

"Our oil fund has US\$ 13.6 billion that can be used in the development of the country," he said. "We have established a plan for SEZs (Special Economic Zones) in Oecusse and Atauro and to develop the south coast as an oil base and for tourism."

Rui Manguiera, Minister of Justice and Human Rights of Angola, said that, as the forum continued to grow in scale and scope, it had already become indispensable in economic exchanges among member countries.

Humberto Santos de Brito, Minister of Tourism, Industry and Energy of Cabo Verde, said that his government had full confidence in the future of the forum.

Oldemiro Baloi, Foreign Minister of Mozambique, said that his country had greatly benefited from the scholarships offered by Macao and China since the founding of the forum. "They have improved the manpower of our country and promoted the country's sustainable development."

Attending as an observer was Helio Almeida, Minister of Planning and Finance of Sao Tome and Principe. He said that his country was considering a resumption of diplomatic relations with Beijing.

"At a commercial level, we have many contacts with China, mainly through Angola," he said. "Being a member of the forum would give us the possibility to access funds and other benefits."

History of forum

The forum was established in 2003, with its permanent secretariat in Macao. It has held four ministerial-level meetings in the city, in 2003, 2006, 2010 and the one this November.

It has organised for its members trade fairs,

high-level official meetings, and training sessions on commercial matters such as customs, trade, tourism and land development.

In July this year, a fund of US\$ 1 billion was set up to promote economic cooperation between China and PSC. The ten-year fund has an initial outlay of US\$ 125 million and will finance business projects worth between US\$ 5 million and US\$ 20 million in agriculture and livestock, tourism, infrastructure and services. It will not support real-estate investment nor provide business guarantees. Projects should be located in China, including Macao, and PSC, except Sao Tome and Principe.

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.

The initial capital is jointly provided by the China Development Bank Capital Corporation and the Industrial and Commercial Development Fund of Macao.

Photos by Macau Government Information Bureau



Vice Premier Wang Yang visiting a photo exhibition marking the 10th anniversary of the Forum

CPLP and forum complement each other

Among those attending the forum was Murade Isaac Murargy, Executive Secretary of the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP).

The CPLP was founded in July 1996 by the seven PSC; Timor-Leste joined after gaining independence in 2002. It is an inter-governmental organisation with its headquarters in Lisbon, which promotes cooperation, especially in culture, education and fighting poverty. Murargy, who took office in July 2012, is the seventh executive secretary.

In an interview during the forum, he said that it and his organisation should complement each other.

"The CPLP, which is more focused on politics and diplomacy, and the forum, which concentrates on trade and the economy, should complement each other to open the way to new and bigger business opportunities.

"We cannot forget that all the Portuguese-speaking countries that are part of the forum are CPLP members and so it makes complete sense to boost that relationship in order to create bigger and better conditions for everyone involved. We all have something to gain."

He also called for three-way cooperation between China, Brazil and Portugal to work in Portuguese-speaking African countries and Timor-Leste.

"The members of the forum have shown great understanding and openness to that strategy, which could better coordinate interests and bring more benefits to Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa and Asia.

"There is a consensus for that to happen and I am certain that we will move ahead in that direction following the decisions made at the ministerial meeting of the forum that has ended in Macao," he said.

He praised the ministerial meeting of the forum, saying that it would drive a new phase in China's relationship with the Portuguese-speaking nations.

"The platform set up by China, in Macao, has allowed for cooperation between the members of the forum to be increasingly efficient and more effective.



Murade Isaac Murargy

Photo Mécia Gonçalves

Over the last few years, the forum has helped not only to create economic and trade relations, but has also had an important role in training staff for Portuguese-speaking countries. This is an aspect that we cannot forget and that we should encourage," said the ex-ambassador.

Born in Maputo in May 1946, Murargy received a law degree from the Faculty of Law in Lisbon and joined the government in 1976. He served as the permanent representative of his country at UNESCO in Paris and then the United Nations in Geneva.

From 1995 to 2005, he was secretary-general of the Mozambique Presidency.

Between 2005 and 2012, he was ambassador of Mozambique to Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela, based in Brasilia.

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The Three Gorges in Yichang, China



Portuguese and Chinese Companies Team Up For Energy Development

Firms work on joint ventures
to open up energy sector in
Africa and Brazil

By António Escobar in Lisbon



Energy development is crucial for developing countries, especially those that are witnessing rapid economic growth. China has seen great strides in boosting its energy production – and now Chinese firms are looking beyond the country's borders to make similar efforts in overseas markets. They often do this by teaming up with companies from other countries, such as Portugal.

Chinese firms are finding that such links can lead them to Portuguese-speaking nations in Brazil and Africa, in particular Angola and Mozambique. Brazil is a relatively more mature market, while the African countries provide great potential in particular for hydropower, despite difficulties involving legislation and investment guarantees. Joint Portuguese-Chinese ventures are therefore very much on the cards, based on the Portuguese cultural connection and Chinese financing. Both sides are able to offer expertise.





Chinese firms forge links in Portugal

Chinese companies have already started moving into Portugal. In December 2011, China Three Gorges Corporation (CTG) bought a 21.35 percent stake in the main Portuguese power company EDP in a privatisation exercise in response to the country's financial crisis. The Chinese corporation beat off competition from German and Brazilian companies, paying 2.7 billion euros to become the largest shareholder in EDP.

The president of CTG, Cao Guangjing, hailed the deal, saying that it would be beneficial to both parties, "especially in international markets". EDP's president, António Mexia, said the deal would give the Portuguese energy firm greater financial muscle, as well as creating a new bridge for the Chinese firm to Portuguese-speaking countries.

In June this year, the EDP administrator responsible for managing the partnership with CTG, João Marques Cruz, told the publication *Dinheiro Vivo* in Lisbon that the Portuguese company was interested in directing CTG towards the Brazilian market. He said his firm already had a presence in Brazil, adding: "It is normal for large Chinese companies that focus on hydropower,

like Three Gorges, to be drawn to Brazil."

The administrator also stated that when it comes to joint investment, "the rule is that it happens in a market in which EDP has a presence" and that the companies are studying various projects with priority in Brazil and Africa.

Another example of a major Chinese corporation buying into a Portuguese energy supplier took place in February 2012, when the State Grid Corporation of China – the country's largest energy supplier – acquired a controlling 25 percent stake in the Portuguese company REN for 1.4 billion euros in investment and credit. This in turn opened the door for the State Grid Corporation to become involved in a major project in Mozambique.

Chinese electricity giant, Sinohydro, is also establishing contacts and forming business partnerships in Portugal. The Chinese firm has expressed an interest in building dams in Portugal. It has established contacts with the Portuguese electricity supplier Endesa Portugal. The Lisbon-based newspaper *Expresso* says Sinohydro has been trying to form partnerships with companies that already have concessions to build dams in Portugal. These also include EDP and Iberdrola.

These talks are likely to pave the way for using these partnerships as a bridge to Portuguese-speaking countries in the southern hemisphere. The president of Endesa Portugal, Nuno Ribeiro da Silva, confirmed these partnership links to Macao magazine, as well as Sinohydro's intention to take advantage of existing relationships in Portugal to move into the Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa. "We talked with them and they expressed this intention clearly," he said.

Chinese firms move into African countries

Sinohydro has already stated its clear intention to invest both in Portugal and former colonies, particularly in South America and Africa. China Three Gorges Corporation will also become involved in Africa, given that investments in Mozambique and Angola are on EDP's agenda for 2015.

A researcher with the Singapore-based S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Loro Horta, said there were several reasons for interest from China. "The Portuguese side has the market knowledge and culture," and companies such as EDP are "at the forefront in renewable technologies". He said Portugal may be useful to China and "could become a 'hub' for the Chinese in Western Europe".

He continued: "Although it is not large, Portugal has some advantages in areas such as technology, renewable energy, telecommunications and civil engineering. Portuguese construction companies have a global presence, well beyond the Portuguese-speaking countries in the world. From Guyana to Israel, Portuguese construction companies have gained immense contracts. In contrast, many Chinese companies are criticised for alleged lack of quality."

Cao Guangjing from CTG and António Mexia from EDP





Cahora Bassa dam

In terms of Sinohydro's involvement in Portugal, the researcher said this allowed the company to become familiar with the European market while opening doors to lucrative markets such as Brazil and Angola.

There are also benefits for Portuguese companies. With China Three Gorges' purchase of a stake in EDP, the Portuguese company gained strong financial backing. As Antonio Mexia said, CTG's entry gave added muscle and access to new funding sources. "We strengthened our capital resources by 2,000 million euros," the EDP president stated in a company publication.

The president of Endesa Portugal spoke about the "relative ease with which Chinese companies are able to finance themselves".

An unquenchable thirst for electricity

The energy market in Africa is coveted for its huge potential. Figures released by international institutions show that two thirds of people in sub-Saharan Africa have no access to electricity. This is a continent with large reserves of natural resources for energy production. There is a structural gap, as well as a large untapped market.

A recent report published by The Economist, in partnership with the African Capacity Building Foundation, highlighted that a lack of infrastructure in Angola and Mozambique constitutes a significant obstacle to economic development and investment. The situation is changing, however. Mozambique, thanks to the Cahora Bassa dam, which was built



in the 1970s, is now a major producer of electricity, even exporting much of its power to South Africa. The report states that investment, especially in hydropower, may turn Mozambique into the main regional energy supplier, and Africa's largest supplier.

Electricity demand in Mozambique is expected to increase by about 14 percent per year, and demand through the regional Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) will increase by around 1,500 megawatts a year between 2012 and 2020, according to recent analysis by consultants Frost and Sullivan cited by the website Luso Monitor. Mphanda Nkuwa, a new power facility project, will come on stream in 2019 and 2020, providing 5,000 megawatts from 2020 onwards.

At the moment, transmission is a problem. Electricity generated at Cahora Bassa, for example, has to be routed to Mozambique through South Africa at a higher cost, since there is no direct link from the dam to the capital Maputo. That is set to change with help from the State Grid Corporation of China, which plans to invest US\$1.7 billion in a project in the south-central region to transmit energy produced at Cahora Bassa to major consumption centres. In 2009, the Export-Import Bank of China pledged to finance expansion at Cahora Bassa.

The battle for influence in Africa

China's role in developing Africa has been well documented. That is most likely why United States president Barack Obama unveiled his "Power Africa" initiative in July. Obama used a visit to the continent to announce a US\$7 billion project aimed at increasing access to electricity in sub-Saharan Africa. Mozambique is part of this plan through the search for new oil and natural gas reserves and the construction of related infrastructure. In this race for influence, actors such as Portugal do not want to fall behind.

The president of Endesa Portugal, Ribeiro da Silva, considered investment in Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa from two perspectives. He said those countries had raw energy in the form of oil, gas, large hydroelectric potential and conditions for the production of biofuels. He also said they had "great potential for consumption growth" because of the small number of people with access to electricity and the key need for energy access. "We all know that the issues of electricity supply are critical to the development of these countries," he maintained.

The chairman of EDP's supervisory board, Eduardo Catroga, also said there were market opportunities for his firm. "Demand is developing in the most dynamic economies, such as Latin America, Africa, Brazil and certain countries in Asia. EDP must be open and awake to these opportunities."

Loro Horta stressed that with the rapid growth of Angola, Mozambique and Cape Verde there is a need for "infrastructure to support this growth ... The energy sector in Mozambique, for example, still has plenty of room to grow. In Angola the situation is similar".



Cahora Bassa dam

EDP's chairman pointed to the regulatory difficulties in providing electricity for Angola and Mozambique, but added that his firm would still become involved. "We are now giving this process priority, so that we can have more growth options from 2015 onwards," he confirmed.

Potential risks

The president of Endesa spoke about the risks involved in investing in Angola and Mozambique, particularly in hydroelectric development. Da Silva noted that investors were mostly interested in oil and natural gas. Only when they had explored those areas, he said, would they consider renewable energy and hydropower. He noted that a poor electrical distribution network could produce uneven energy levels, adding that some consumers did not pay for

their electricity, implying that certain consumers were effectively 'stealing' their energy supply. But he also noted that a lack of regulation meant that charges could be set at a level that compensated for the investment.

According to Endesa's president, national companies in Angola, Mozambique and Cape Verde are subsidised, which lowers prices to levels that make it uneconomical for a foreign organisation to make an investment. He said the authorities would have to provide safeguards for investors.

He also said that both Endesa and EDP had been studying the "legal framework for the production of renewables" in Angola and Mozambique, and that "there must be a legal framework that gives comfort" to ensure companies will be "remunerated for the power added to the system". ■

Photos by Xinhua news agency and Macaulink



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Step by Step

**Macao launches walking tours
to spread flood of tourists**

By Ou Nian-le



正宗鳳城

龍城

紅

龍城

紅

正宗鳳城

夏季大減價
全場3件





Ruins of St. Paul

At the end of September, the Macau Government Tourist Office (MGTO) launched four walking tours to enable visitors to learn more about this historic place and spread the flood of people away from the city centre.

Macao is one of the most popular cities in the world. In the first nine months of this year, it attracted 21.9 million visitors, an increase of five percent over the same period in 2012, according to the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC).

During the recent Golden Week holiday alone (1–7 October), there were 896,847 visitor arrivals, an increase of 5.7 percent over the same period a year earlier. This was more than the population of 592,000, who live in an area of 29.9 square kilometres, one of the most crowded places on earth.

This flood of tourists has brought great prosperity but led to overcrowding and inconvenience in the areas where they most like to go – the city centre and the main tourist sites.

On 27 September, the MGTO launched the four tours ahead of Golden Week, one of the major holidays in mainland China. They take from one to two hours and lead the visitor to different areas where they can explore the city's history, art and culture.

"We introduced the four routes, as a first stage,

to encourage tourists to visit different areas of the Macao peninsula and relieve the burden of the tourist areas in the city centre," said Isabel Augusto, head of the MGTO's tourism product and events department.

"Each route goes through different areas of Macao with a unique theme, to meet the varying needs across the market. The project is expected to transform gradually the traditional sightseeing patterns in Macao and divert visitors into different streets and neighbourhoods so that they can gain a multi-faceted understanding of Macao.

"Our ultimate goal is to divert tourists from the overcrowded tourist areas and encourage them to explore lesser-known communities. This will also help to revitalise tourism development and improve the business environment in different communities in the city. We believe that we will give tourists a more enjoyable experience, enhance their satisfaction and prolong their stay," she said.

DSEC figures show that the average visitor stays for one day.

Augusto said that her department would collect the opinions of the tourists and the public over the first three months and make a detailed review and analysis at the end of the year.



Changing tourist habits

Currently, 65 percent of visitors come from mainland China, followed by Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea and Japan. The most popular itinerary is to gamble in the casinos, eat in some of the many different restaurants and go shopping in the giant hotel complexes, shopping malls or outlets in the city centre around Senado Square. With an average stay of one day, that is as much as you can do.

The outcome is booming business for the casinos, restaurants, shops and hotels on their route – and an enormous number of people in a limited number of locations where the visitors go.

One of the most crowded places is the area between Senado Square and the New Lisboa hotel. As a result,

city residents find the streets packed and hard to walk on; they find it difficult to get the attention of staff in their favourite shops that are crowded to bursting and to find a seat in a restaurant.

The MGTO initiative aims to spread the visitors around a wider area and bring their spending to more shops and businesses. With local associations, it has also launched a project named “Macau Awareness Campaign” to raise public awareness of tourism in order to enhance the quality of the city’s tourism resources and create a more welcoming environment.

“These [measures] can provide joyful experiences for tourists and local people and help build Macao into a World Centre of Tourism and Leisure,” said the MGTO.

Grand Lisboa Hotel





春風靜秋水明貢士波臣知中國有聖人伊母也力

萬派朝宗

后德汪洋

海日紅江天碧樓船鳧艘涉大川如平地唯德之休

A-Ma temple

Preparing the tours

To prepare for the four routes, the MGTO worked closely with other government departments.

The routes are as follows: “A Tour of Historical Trails”, setting off from Avenida da Praia Grande to Praça de Ponte e Horta; “A Tour of Nature and Creativity”, a walk from Kun Iam Temple to St Lazarus Church; “A Tour of East Meets West”, which starts from Senado Square and ends at Maritime Museum; and “A Tour of Arts and Culture” from Macau Fisherman’s Wharf to the A-Ma Temple. The tour maps are available in different languages including Chinese (traditional and simplified), English and Portuguese.

The tours take between one and two hours; the visitor can choose to walk as far as he wants. They offer a glimpse into the city’s rich history, culture, art and creativity.

A task force between the MGTO and other departments is building signposts or maps at the start and end of the routes; public transportation is available at both ends.

The office is promoting the routes through different advertising channels including WeChat, SMS, the MGTO website, social networking sites and printed publications. It has also produced videos for the four routes which enable visitors to experience the tours virtually and enjoy the scenery along the routes on its website.

In addition, it has invited overseas travel agencies and media to look at the routes and encouraged travel consultants to consider adopting them in their planned schedules. It also plans to introduce smartphone applications for the routes.

Welcomed by industry

The new initiative has been welcomed by the city’s tourist industry, which wants to find ways to persuade people to stay longer than one day.

Andy Wu Keng Kuong, chairman of the Macau Travel Industry Council, said that the market would decide if the routes achieved their aims. “Any route, any tourist products are a good thing, because they give visitors more choice,” he said. “The key is how to balance the market and design different routes for different segments of the market. Macao has many tourist postcards. Show them to the visitor and let them choose.”





A-Ma temple



Kun Iam temple

He said that, since the walks take one to two hours, they will help to persuade people to extend their stay and that two days would be more suitable.

"The lower end of Avenida de Almeida Ribeiro is very crowded with tourists and the upper end is quiet. If we could direct the flow of people and vehicles to the upper end toward Ponte 16, taxis and buses could move more easily and we would not increase our capacity," he said.

He added that, if the walks could attract enough tourists, small and medium-size businesses on the routes would provide appropriate services because this was a commercial opportunity. "On the longer walks, the government should increase the number of rest stops and soft drink machines. Not every tourist will have the physical strength for the walks. It will mainly be young people."

Alex Lao, chairman of the Macau Travel Agency Association, said that Macao's tourist industry must support and promote the new initiative. "Tourism operators and those in the culture and creative industries must work together to provide tourist, cultural, creative and financial services along the routes."

The industry is a major employer in the SAR. According to the DSEC, there were 197 travel agencies at the end of 2012, up from 186 a year earlier. They employed 3,670 people, an increase of nine percent; their revenue in 2012 was 5.97 billion patacas, a rise of eight percent year-on-year.

Visitors positive

Reaction among visitors was also positive. A young woman named Zhu, from Wuhan, said that the new routes would help tourists understand Macao and give them the pleasure of walking and the chance to see things on their own. "I hope that buses will be provided, to help those who are unfamiliar with the routes."

A gentleman named Lau from Hong Kong said that he often visited Macao, mainly to sample its different foods. "I did not know about the new routes. I hope that you do more promotion and take measures to attract more people to come. Through these walks, we can understand the special characteristics of different areas and feel the warmth of Macao people."

A visitor from Guangzhou said that she had only visited St Paul's Ruins and the A-Ma temple. "We are very interested in the four routes. Through this experience, we can learn more of the local culture. Tourism is not only about shopping. In this way, Macao can develop another identity than that of a gambling centre."

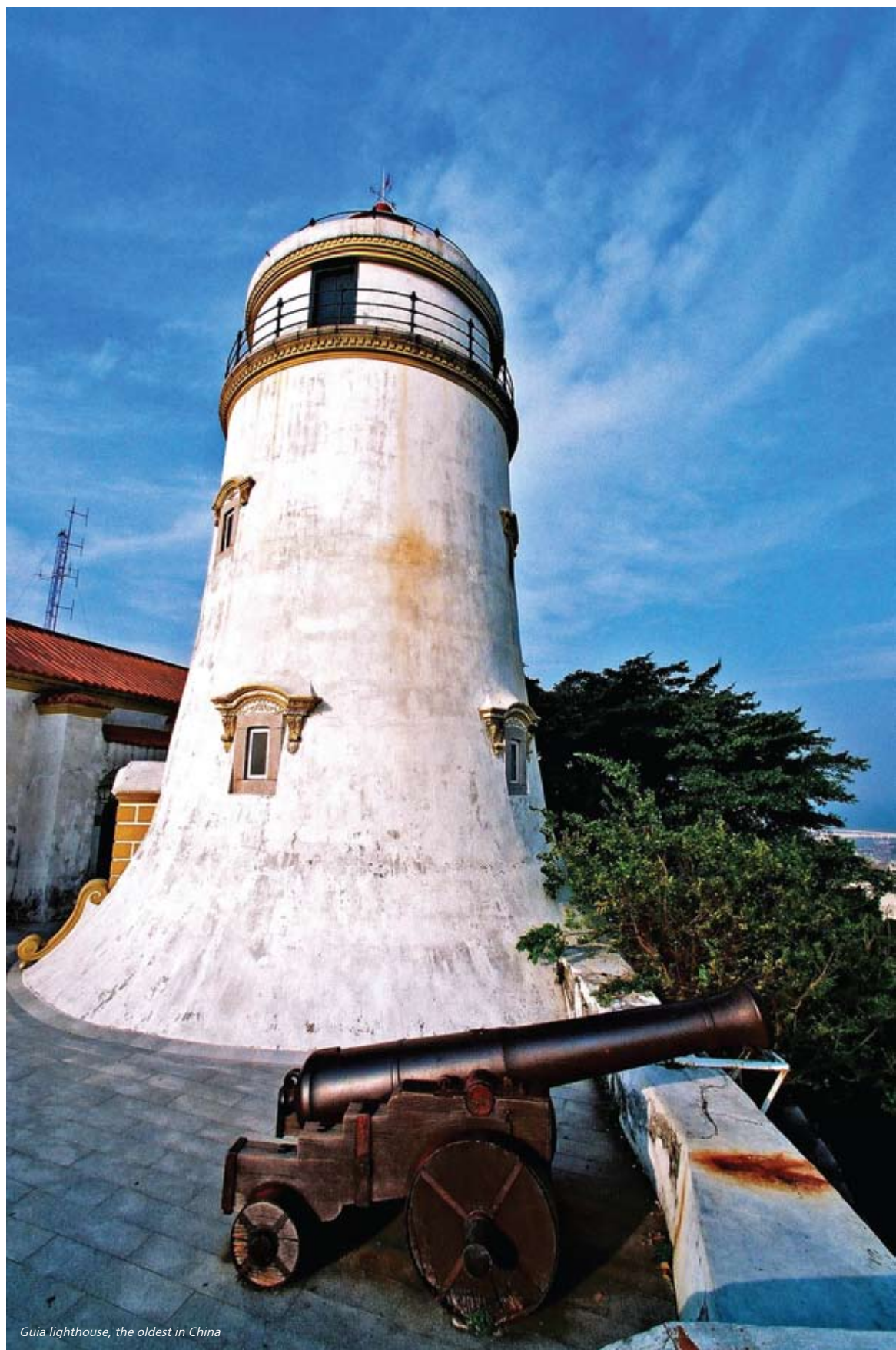
After its review of the initiative at the end of this year, the MGTO may decide to open additional routes in 2014 and reveal more secrets of the city to the visitors.



Photos by Xinhua news agency



碑亭



Guia lighthouse, the oldest in China

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History on Display

Macao opens new museums
to showcase rich heritage

By Mark O'Neill



Every day thousands of people visit the ruins of St Paul's, Macao's most famous tourist attraction. Few of them notice a small temple and museum next door devoted to a deity who is beloved by local people.

This is the temple of Na Tcha, built in 1888 to thank the deity for helping to protect the city from epidemics. Each year, on the eighteenth day of the fifth month of the lunar calendar, devotees take part in two large parades through the city to celebrate the god's birthday.

Last year a museum, funded by the city's Cultural Affairs Bureau, opened next to the temple, to explain the history of Na Tcha and display artifacts related to him. It is one of several new museums planned, built or already opened, to showcase the city's rich cultural heritage and enable visitors to better understand its remarkable history.

"Na Tcha is loved by local people," said Jacob Cheong, the architect who heads the bureau's department of cultural heritage. "We have two temples dedicated to him in Macao and there are others in Taiwan, Sichuan and Malaysia. Devotees come here from Hong Kong for the parades."

When builders were digging the foundations for the museum, they found a segment of stone foundation that turned out to be part of St Paul's Cathedral. Confirmed as such by archaeologists, it is now on display. St Paul's was one of the largest Catholic churches in Asia at the time; it was burnt down in a fire in 1835.

"The church was very large and the temple very small," said Cheong. "One was built next to the other. There was no conflict between the two. Though the temple was built after the Jesuits were expelled, people with different religious beliefs have co-existed peacefully, side by side. That is how it has always been in Macao."

St Paul's was never rebuilt. In 1762, the King of Portugal banned religious orders, including the Jesuits, to whom the church belonged, from his empire. The Company of Jesus (Jesuits) was restored in 1814.

The life of Na Tcha

Na Tcha had a short but eventful life. He was born more than 3,000 years ago, before the Zhou dynasty (1046–256 BC). He was the third son of Li Jing, a



general of the city of Cheng Tang Guan. According to legend, his mother was pregnant with him for three years; so, when he was born, he was already a large boy. He grew up rapidly, was intelligent and mischievous.

At one point, when he was a boy, he saw a man humiliating women, and decided to punish him. He hit him and, without meaning to, killed him. Unfortunately, the victim turned out to be the son of the Dragon of the Eastern Sea, who demanded punishment.

To spare his parents from blame, the boy cut his own meat and bones and gave it to them. Touched



Na Tcha museum

by this filial piety, a deity used leafs from a lotus flower to create a new body for Na Tcha. He became a great warrior, with a spear in one hand, bracelets on his arms and wheels of fire on his feet. He appears frequently in Chinese folk tales and legends, as a figure of justice and righteousness. The first temple to him as a god was in Sichuan; he is a Taoist deity. Temples in his honour were built in other cities in China. He was called upon for help in times of plague, to cure sick children and perform exorcisms. In the middle of the 19th century, Macao was ravaged by epidemics. The residents did not know how to protect themselves. One man had a dream,

in which he was told by a child dressed like Na Tcha that everyone should mix water from a mountain stream with Chinese medicine to save themselves. The temple was built in 1888 by the residents, to express gratitude to Na Tcha and ask for his help in the future. It is a simple, one-room building measuring 8.4 metres long and 4.5 metres wide. It is painted grey with protective ceramic animal figures on the outside. In 2005, it became part of Macao's World Heritage site. It was the second temple in his honour in the city; the first temple was built in the Chisan district, said by some to be constructed in the mid-17th century.



Still surviving today is the rock that many believe to be the place where Na Tcha once appeared. It is located under the temple's square pavilion that was built in 1898.

Cheong said that his bureau discussed the idea of the museum with the temple's management committee. They welcomed the proposal. So the bureau hired an architect, Andre Lui, who designed the museum in what used to be the committee's store room. The improvement work for the courtyard was done at the same time as the museum project.

It was during the preparation of the site that builders found the stone foundation used in building St Paul's.

The museum introduces the history of Na Tcha and shows bronze and wooden lithographs which are blessed and given to devotees. There are also inscriptions that can be used to predict the future and altars used in the different ceremonies. There is a video that shows the parades and ceremonies connected to the god.

One of the two parades on his birthday starts with burning incense in the temple and is followed by a lion dance team escorting a statue of him through the streets of the city. A second parade starts later from the temple, with groups honouring three different gods; it includes a golden dragon guard and celestial beauties scattering petals.



Zheng Guanying museum

Zheng Guanying

The second new museum, due to open in 2014, is dedicated to Zheng Guanying and will be in front of his former family home, the Mandarin House.

Zheng Guanying (1842–1921) was a native of Xiangshan, now Zhongshan, in Guangdong province. His family had lived in Macao for generations. At the age of sixteen, he went to Shanghai where he worked for 20 years, in foreign firms and companies set up by the Qing government.

He saw at first hand the profound influence of Western business, medicine and religion on China and pondered on how his country should respond to it.

After moving back to Macao, he wrote *Words of Warning in Times of Prosperity*, published in 1894. It had a profound impact on Chinese intellectuals and officials.

From 2002, the Cultural Affairs Bureau spent eight years and 43 million patacas on a painstaking reconstruction of his former home. More than 300 people were living there; 80 percent of the structure had been damaged after his family had moved out by the 1960s and decided to rent the space.

In February 2010, the bureau opened the house to the public. With more than 60 rooms and a total area of 4,000 square metres, it is the largest private house in Macao and has become a popular tourist attraction.

Cheong said the Macao Museum had many documents on the life of Zheng but that the Mandarin House did not have the conditions suitable to display them. "So the museum will be a modern building, three storeys tall, with the equipment and temperature controls needed to show the documents and other materials on Zheng's life."

The land belongs to the government; the bureau is paying the cost of the building, designed by a local architects' firm. "It will be a different style to the Mandarin House but will be in harmony with it. It will be free and open both to the scholars and the general public," he said.

Restoring Macao's oldest Chinese theatre

The bureau is also assisting a private company in the restoration of Macao's oldest Chinese theatre, which opened in 1875 for the staging of Cantonese opera. It was later turned into a cinema but closed in 1992; the site has been little used since then.

"Its condition has deteriorated but the building is still intact," said Cheong. "The private company is providing most of the capital. We are providing a plan and supporting them. The restored theatre will be for Cantonese opera and other cultural activities. During World War II, many famous artists came here from Hong Kong and Guangdong, both of which were under Japanese occupation.

"We have a responsibility to support Cantonese opera. It is part of the culture and heritage of Macao. Many people like it, especially the elderly. Now there are many groups here that are training young people. It is also receiving more attention in Hong Kong and Guangdong," he said.



Macao's oldest Chinese theater

The theatre opened in 1875, with investment from a wealthy Macao family – that of Wong Luk and his son Wong Dei – with a stage surrounded by three banks of seats. It became the most important venue in the city for Cantonese opera and was close to the red light district of Rua da Felicidade. In 1925, the grandson of Wong Luk installed projections to enable the theatre to show films; the first was the black and white film, *The White*

Sisters. Films became its principal business, with Cantonese opera becoming secondary. In 1957, the Wong family sold the theatre to another company.

The number of Cantonese opera performances diminished; the venue showed classic and pornographic films. It closed its doors on 21 August 1992. Since then, it has been used as a warehouse and then a parking lot.

Weddings and puppets

The bureau has other museums in the planning stage.

One will show the marriage and wedding customs of the different communities who have lived in Macao – the Chinese, Portuguese and Macanese. This will be near the ruins of St Paul's.

Another will display wooden puppets, of which the city has an enormous collection, from different parts of the world.

Cheong said that the bureau is restoring two large warehouses in what used to be a ship repair yard and will use them as exhibition spaces.

The shipbuilding industry in Macao began in the late Qing dynasty and lasted for more than 100 years. The peak of the industry was in the 1970s and 1980s, with over 1,000 people employed in building wooden vessels. No ships are made here now, however.

Visitors can gain a sense of this industry at the Maritime Museum, which opened in June 1990 at 1, Largo do Pagode da Barra, opposite the A-Ma temple.

All these new museums will help visitors and residents alike gain a deeper understanding of Macao's remarkable history and diversity. ■

Photos by Eric Tam





Serenity in art



Through his art, Fortes Pakeong Sequeira has found a way to express his rebelliousness. This young man, who already has a number of exhibitions to his name, is one of the most promising artists on the local scene.

By Luciana Leitão



Sequeira is one of Macao's most successful young artists, with collectors both in and outside the territory. Having found the peace he was looking for through bringing painting and music together, he tells Macao magazine his story. Sequeira believes he has always had art in his blood. As he was growing up, he expressed

himself by doing graffiti on the street. Together with a group of friends, he decorated the walls of the territory, drawing whatever was on his mind.

Between the ages of 13 and 18, Sequeira became lost and lacked direction. "I was bad," he recalls. Unhappy with his life, he ended up straightening



Fortes Pakeong Sequeira

it out by becoming a student again and returning to art. He graduated from the Arts School of the Macao Polytechnic Institute, specialising in graphic design.

As president of Art for All (AFA), he gained the confidence he needed to grow as an artist. "James Chu helped me a lot," he says. Chu, the

Macao-born artist who established AFA, gave him a studio in the association's building, where he spent his time creating, and helped him to promote himself by organising exhibitions. Since then, he has had several exhibitions in Macao, Beijing and other cities in mainland China, as well as Hong Kong, Tokyo and Singapore.



Unique style

You only have to look briefly at his work to see what makes it unique. Sequeira's style is the result of his experience as a graffiti artist as well as of his profession as a graphic designer. But when you ask Sequeira directly what his style is, he is vague. "I just draw what comes into my head, without thinking about it," he says. "I let my imagination flow."

Inspired by daily events, he became known for his black and white works of art. But he has since perfected his technique and now prefers to include colour to break up any potential monotony. Once again, he does not do this consciously. "Perhaps I'm happier now," he suggests.

As he has become more experienced and gained a number of regular collectors of his work, particularly in Hong Kong and Taiwan, he has begun to receive consistent orders. "But, when I receive them, I only accept them if I can decide what to do," he says. He is often given theme suggestions and accepts them, but will not accept restrictions on his imagination.

Painting as a spectacle

Sequeira, who is particularly well known for his live painting sessions, says that he is not bothered at all by the presence of an audience, and that nothing disturbs the process of transferring his imagination to the canvas.

In 2010, for example, he was invited by AFA to do live drawing at the Beijing Art Fair for five days. In that same year, the Cultural Institute invited him to represent the Macao pavilion, with live drawing sessions at the 6th China International Cultural Industry Fair in Shenzhen and the 3rd International Cultural Industry Fair in Xiamen. He also painted live at the International Art Fairs in Tokyo, Taipei and Singapore. "I've also done it, for example, in Macao for the Fringe festival, and it went very well," he adds.

Always seeking new ways of expressing himself, Sequeira more recently took part in the unityGate 2013 project, at which he painted during an Amalgama Dance Company (Portugal) show.



Surrounded by music and dance, he felt "inspired". The project was carried out in two stages: the first took place in Macao from 14 to 30 June and the second between 13 and 30 September in Portugal. The meetings ended on 28, 29 and 30 September with shows that also presented Revival, which was the work he had done in Macao and Portugal. As well as an exhibition on 30 September in Portugal, Sequeira also painted live and on stage together with the dancers. "It's different," he says.

As well as painting, there is another art form he is not willing to give up - music. He is a composer, lyricist and lead singer of metal rock band Blademark and is used to improvising not only art, but music too. He has recorded several albums and performed in a number of concerts.

Sequeira is always seeking new ways of exploring his art and says that painting and music are indistinguishable in his continuous search for growth. And they are equally important in his life. "I like both, in the same way," he says.

Sequeira is now leaving his studio at AFA for another place where he can also play with his band as a way of bringing these two worlds perfectly together. ■

Photos by Eric Tam







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2013/09/26

Macao is the seventh favourite destination for Chinese travellers

Macao is the seventh favourite destination for Chinese travellers, according to a survey released by daodao.com, TripAdvisor's customised Chinese brand.

Mainland tourists' top destination continues to be the neighbouring region of Hong Kong, followed by the island of Phuket in Thailand, Taiwan, Bangkok, Paris, Dubai, Macao, Seoul, Singapore and Bali.

The survey indicates that the Chinese travel boom has benefited destinations in Southeast Asia, including countries such as Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines. Half of the fastest-growing destinations for Chinese tourists lie in the tropical nations to China's south. Only two are located outside of Asia, namely New York and Paris.



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2013/09/30

Macao 'ready to help Portugal'

Macao is ready to help Portugal overcome its severe economic crisis, Alexis Tam Chon Weng, chief-of-cabinet of the Macao chief executive's office, said in Lisbon during the 2nd Macao-Portugal Joint Committee meeting.

Tam, who headed the Macao delegation, also said that Macao was ready to organise investment promotion delegations from the mainland, and to pay for fact-finding visits to Portugal, stressing that Macao could help Portugal attract investors from mainland China.

According to a statement by the Macao Government Information Bureau (GCS), Macao and Portugal had signed five cooperation deals in Lisbon the previous day, covering education, environmental protection, consumer rights, and tourism.

Portugal pledged to assist Macao in the training of Portuguese-language teachers and consumer dispute arbitrators. Both sides also agreed to strengthen cooperation in cultural-heritage preservation and the development of Macao's culture and creative industries, according to the GCS statement.



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2013/10/04

France won the 25th Macau International Fireworks contest

SAS BREZAC Artifices, from France, won the 25th Macau International Fireworks contest followed by China and Switzerland in the second and third ranks. Ten teams, from Asia, Europe, America, Oceania and Africa, joined the event this year, including fireworks companies from Spain, South Africa, Switzerland, Korea, Portugal, Australia, Italy, Canada, France and mainland China.

Four of the teams have won the championship in past Macao contests.



2013/10/20

Hend takes Macau Open

Australian Scott Hend claimed victory at the Macau Open as the golf tournament's star draw Ernie Els was forced to content himself with third place.

Hend finished the tournament with a three-stroke victory.

Lahiri's blistering fourth-day performance thrust him into second while four-time Major champion Els shared third with the Philippines' Elmer Salvador.

Hend currently ranks the 179th best player in the world.



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2013/10/24

21.9 million visit Macao in Jan–Sept, up 5 pct

Macao recorded 21.9 million visitor arrivals in the first nine months, a year-on-year growth of five percent, the Statistics and Census Bureau (DSEC) said.

Visitors from the mainland and South Korea rose by 12 percent and 5.8 percent respectively, while those from Hong Kong and Taiwan dropped by 4.5 percent and 9.5 percent.

In September, the number of visitors rose 7.9 percent year-on-year to 2.3 million. Same-day visitors accounted for 50.5 percent of the total.

Visitors from Guangdong accounted for 25 percent of Macao's total number of visitors in September.



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2013/11/04

Macao casinos produce record-breaking US\$ 4.6 billion in October

Macao's casino industry shattered its single-month gaming revenue record in October when the market produced US\$ 4.6 billion in pre-tax winnings.

The Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau said the results were a 31.7 percent increase over the same period in 2012.

In 2012, Macao – the world's largest gaming market – produced a record US\$ 38 billion in gaming revenues. Through October, the region nearly topped that amount – producing US\$ 37.13 billion in just 10 months.

Macao's gaming revenues in the first ten months of this year – 7 times bigger than Las Vegas – are up 18.4 percent over the same period of 2012.



2013/11/04

Vice-Premier Wang praises Macao government

Vice Premier Wang Yang said on Monday that the work of the local government was being recognised by most local residents and that the central government also “totally” acknowledged the work of the local government.

According to Xinhua News Agency, Wang made the remark during a meeting with Chief Executive Fernando Chui Sai On.

During the meeting with Chui, Wang said that the central government had approved a new Macao-Guangdong border checkpoint, which will include a 450-metre-long covered bridge over the Duck Channel which runs along the Macao-Zhuhai border.

Xinhua said Wang told Chui that the local government “should do everything possible to do the two major jobs [APEC Tourism Ministerial Meeting and setting-up of the new border crossing] well.”



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2013/11/05

University of Macau's Hengqin campus inaugurated

Chinese Vice Premier Wang Yang attended the inauguration of the Hengqin Island campus of the University of Macau (UM).

The inauguration, officiated by Wang, Chief Executive Fernando Chui Sai On, UM Rector Zhao Wei and National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference Vice Chairman Edmund Ho Hau Wah, was held in the brand-new University Hall on the campus.

Chui said in his speech that the new campus “embodied” the central government's support for Macao's education and the success of the Macao-Guangdong cooperation model. Chui suggested the university take advantage of the campus's facilities to educate more professionals for Macao by enhancing education and research levels.



macao newslne macao newslne

2013/11/17

Alex Lynn wins Formula 3 Macau Grand Prix.

The English pilot, racing for Theodore Racing by Prema Powerteam, started on pole position and held off the challenge of last year's winner, Portuguese António Felix Da Costa (Carlin), over a gripping 15 laps.

Brazilian Pipo Derani (Fortec) was third after Italian Raffaele Marciello (Prema) crashed four laps from the end.

Behind them, and finishing fourth and fifth, were a pair of Brits. First of the pair was Threebond with T-Sport's Alexander Sims who held off the best placed rookie and fastest lap setter Jordan King.





5th cultural week of China and Portuguese-speaking countries in Macao

Photos by Manuel Cardoso



















Plain Sailing

A high-angle, close-up shot of a modern, white, aerodynamic yacht. The yacht has a curved, futuristic design with a large, curved windshield and a red flag with a white emblem on the side. It is sailing on a dark, choppy sea under a bright, hazy sky at sunset or sunrise. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. The yacht's hull is white with dark accents, and it has a small mast with a flag.

**Zhuhai becomes
yachting centre in China**

By Mark O'Neill in Zhuhai



Ferretti Group agreement with SHIG - Weichai Group

In June, one of the world's most famous makers of luxury yachts signed an agreement to invest more than three billion yuan to build its Asia-Pacific headquarters on Hengqin island. It will include a marketing and service centre, a yacht club, a navigation school and annual yacht exhibition.

The decision by the Ferretti Group of Italy is a milestone in Zhuhai's efforts to become the premium yachting centre of China, from design and manufacture to the first choice for sailors in the Pearl River Delta to race and moor their boats. The city is already home to one of the biggest yacht manufacturing centres in China. Established in 2002, the Pingsha Yacht Industrial Zone has 18 producers, six supporting firms and 30 trading companies, with a total investment of US\$ 300 million.

In 2012, its production was worth 1.39 billion yuan, with exports of US\$ 74.5 million, increases of 19 percent and 16 percent respectively over 2011. The main export market is the US. The target for 2015 is to double output to three billion yuan, with boats ranging from 17 to 300 feet.

Initially, the manufacturers aimed at the export market; but they are increasingly looking at the

home market. By the end of this year, 960,000 Chinese people will have over 10 million yuan in assets; among them, 60,000 have assets of over 100 million. They are the growing potential market for yacht manufacturers.

In April 2013, China had 46 yacht clubs with 6,404 berths; berths are in short supply.

"The target is to become China's largest yacht manufacturing base, with high status in the world, inviting significant yacht tourism in China, with a renowned exhibition and sales centre," said the Investment Promotion Bureau of Jinwan district, of which Pingsha is a part.

The market is extremely competitive. Other coastal cities have targeted yacht manufacturing as a priority sector; they include Dalian, Qingdao, Xiamen, Guangzhou and Haikou and Sanya on Hainan island. More than 20 cities now organise an annual yacht exhibition.

In addition, foreign manufacturers increasingly target the Chinese market, which they see as one of the most promising in the world. Some sell from their shipyards at home and others are investing in factories in China. They are major competitors for the yacht-makers of Zhuhai.

Ideal for yachting

Zhuhai has ideal conditions for yachting. It has an average temperature of 23 degrees Celsius, allowing for the use of yachts almost throughout the year. It has 146 islands and a coastline of 690 kilometres. It is close to Macao and Hong Kong, which have more than 10,000 registered yachts, and is in the Pearl River Delta, one of the richest areas of China.

So it was no surprise that the city government selected the sector as a priority industry in 2002. It designated the Pingsha Yacht and Leisure Tourism Zone for this purpose; it was designed to accommodate 21 manufacturers.

The best known local company in the zone is the Sunbird Yacht Company, founded on 3 January 2003. It initially targeted the domestic market and started exports in 2008. That year, it produced its first 80-foot luxury yacht. In 2010, it listed on the Shenzhen stock exchange. In 2012, it reported total revenue of 582 million yuan, an increase of 46.9 percent over 2011.

Other tenants of the zone include Zhuhai Jianglong Shipbuilding Co, Tricon Marine and Zhuhai McConaghy, a subsidiary of McConaghy Boats of Australia. The company was founded in Sydney

in 1967 by John McConaghy. In 2006, it opened a facility of 2,500 square metres in Pingsha; it has since expanded this to 10,000 square metres, to make yachts including Olympic Class Elliott 6m to Volvo 70 and America's Cup racers.

One of its vessels was a 140-foot Adastral Trimaran, built for a Hong Kong client for long-range ocean voyaging. It was custom-built, with a carbon fibre superstructure and light oak cabinets for the interiors. There are carbon fibre hatches, port-lights, ladders and hinges, to make the vessel extremely light. It has accommodation for six crew members and nine guests, with a lounge area, dining table and navigation station.

Initially, the Chinese firms made vessels following designs from abroad. But they have gradually developed their own research and design capability. Also under construction in Pingsha is the Southland Yacht Club. The Zhuhai Southland Group is investing 600 million yuan in the project, which has a land area of 80,000 square metres and a water area of 220,000 square metres. It will include berths for 600 yachts, a marine sports activities centre, a five-star hotel, resort hotel, a yacht club and exhibition area, and a repair and maintenance dock. It aims to be the largest such club in south China and a venue for international meetings and conferences.



Jinwan- Zhuhai yachting centre near Macao



Yacht Pershing 72

Local leader

The most famous local brand in Pingsha, Sunbird, now has three factories – in Zhuhai, Yuanjiang in Hunan and Foshan in Guangdong – and is able to build 1,000 boats a year. Since its foundation, it has sold more than 10,000 vessels at home and in 18 countries and regions abroad, ranking first in China. In its report for the first half of 2013, the brand declared income of 255.8 million yuan, an increase of 32 percent over the same period in 2012, and post-tax profit of 29.96 million yuan, up 12 percent. It said that the market was extremely competitive, with foreign yacht-makers setting up sales networks and taking a market share in China.

Of the sales, 40 percent were commercial yachts and 56 percent special yachts. Special yachts are those ordered by the military or other departments of the government, for fire-fighting, border patrols, anti-flooding and other special purposes. Sunbird has a 47.5 percent market share for this kind of vessel in China; for 2013, it expects special yacht orders of 500 million yuan.

It has 1,800 employees, including 300 Research and Development technicians and designers.

Ferretti project

The agreement announced by the Ferretti Group in June marks the next step in making Zhuhai a yachting centre. It aims not only to be a place of design and manufacture but also a centre for yacht sailing for leisure. This is one of the most popular pastimes of the wealthy in Hong Kong and Macao and increasingly on the mainland.

The group signed an agreement with Hengqin New Area and Shizimen Holdings to invest three billion yuan in the Ferretti Yacht Asia-Pacific headquarters in Hengqin.

It will include a waterside recreational commercial complex, including a marketing and service centre to display new products, an area for trial rides and piloting, a club for ship owners, a navigation school and a public yacht club. In addition, the group will co-host a global yacht exhibition with the Italian Yacht Club each year in Hengqin.

The company was founded in 1968 by two Italian brothers to make luxury yachts and is a famous name in the industry.

In January 2012, Weichai Holding Group, a subsidiary of Shandong Heavy Industry Group, paid

178 million euros for a 75 percent of Ferretti. Under the terms of the agreement, Ferretti will retain its existing management as well as its headquarters and production facilities in Forlì in Italy. Zhuhai is competing with Shenzhen and other cities in the Pearl River to welcome the yachts – over 10,000 of them – from Hong Kong and Macao. As from 1 January 2011, owners have been able to apply for a licence in Zhuhai without giving up their original one from where they are from. Previously, they had to give up their original licence as well as take their boat to Zhuhai for the authorities to assess and photograph. Because of these rules, only two of the owners had a licence in Zhuhai.

Gree yacht club

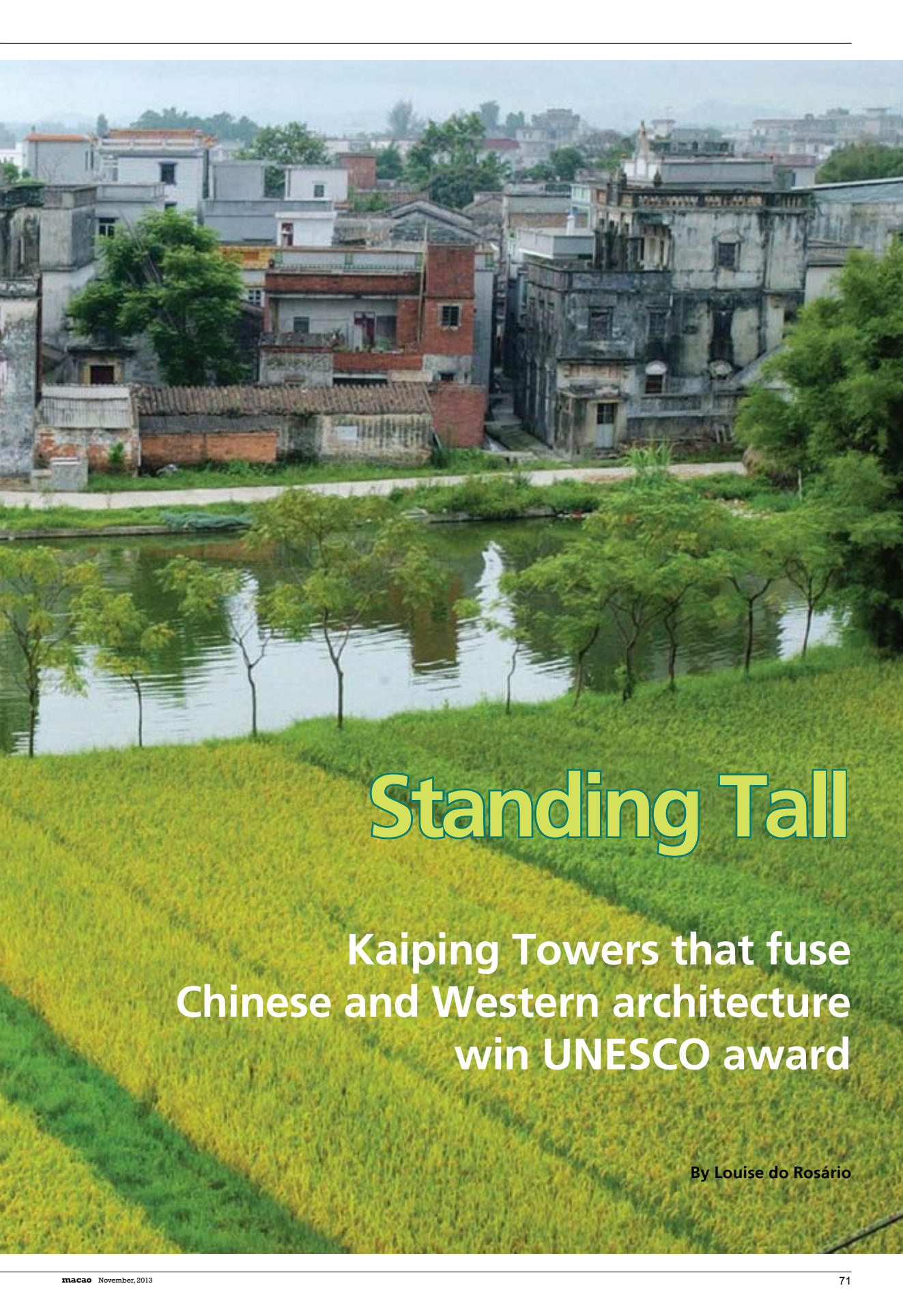
Ferretti and Southland are not alone in building yacht clubs. The property section of Gree Real Estate, the property arm of the Gree Group, a Zhuhai firm that is one of the world’s biggest manufacturers of air conditioners, also plans a yacht marina and club as part of a major property project. Gree Coast contains 6,800 apartments and is nearing completion in the Tangjia district of the city, on the shores of the Pearl River. The cheapest unit is 18,000 yuan per square metre and the average price

is 24,000 yuan. “We will start work on the marina in 2014, with 220 berths and a club on the shore in front of the building,” said Yan Yan, a sales representative for Gree Coast. “We are aiming at owners outside the mainland, especially Hong Kong and Macao. It is hard for them to find berths there. Very few of the buyers of our apartments, from the mainland, will have yachts.” She said Zhuhai had over 100 islands and that, on two of them, Gree Real Estate has built hotels where yacht owners can stay while berthing their yachts. The company sees enormous potential in developing Zhuhai and its waters as a yachting centre. It is investing two billion yuan in Donggao island, 30 kilometres to the southeast of the city and considered to be one of the most beautiful among the 146 in Zhuhai. It has three excellent beaches, with facilities for surfing, scuba diving and sailing. It has a land area of 4.7 square kilometres, a population of 400 and four useable roads. Gree Electronics reported revenue in 2012 of 100 billion yuan, with a net profit of nearly 7.4 billion yuan. Set up in March 1985, it has used profits from its electronics business to diversify into trade and real estate, becoming one of the leading property developers in the city. ■

sunbird







Standing Tall

Kaiping Towers that fuse
Chinese and Western architecture
win UNESCO award

By Louise do Rosário

A picture of Fang Yun-wen, dressed in a smart Western suit with a waistcoat, greets visitors to his imposing six-storey home in Kaiping in western Guangdong. Next to his picture are photographs of his three wives – a local lady, a Chinese-American from New York and the third one from Hong Kong. From the roof, you can see fruit orchards and rice paddies glistening in the hot summer sun. Fang's home is one of the 1,833 Kaiping diaolou (towers) which UNESCO declared a World Heritage Site in June 2007.

His first wife and two sons lived in the tower; each son had a floor to himself, with his own kitchen. Fang visited but never lived here. After he died in New York in 1935, his body was brought back for burial in his native land.

His profile is typical of those who built these imposing structures. Born in 1878, he left at the age of 11 for New York, where he worked in the restaurant business. He earned enough to build the tower and support three families in a comfortable condition.

"There used to be 3,400 towers in Kaiping, with the first built in the late Ming dynasty (1368–1644)," said tour guide Wu Mei. "The largest number was built from the mid-1850s. It was a period of chaos and disputes over land between local people and those who had come from outside."

The towers had three functions – as homes, as a defence against bandits and as protection against flooding.

From the 1860s, thousands of people left Kaiping to seek their fortune abroad – building roads and railways and digging for gold in the United States, Canada and Australia. They also went to Hong Kong, Macao, the Philippines, Malaysia and the United Kingdom. Their three main professions were the restaurant business, barber shops and laundries.

By the end of the 19th century, they had begun to amass savings; after the First World War, with economic expansion in many countries, their fortunes steadily improved. In their adopted countries, however, they did not achieve the social recognition they had hoped for. The United States and Canada introduced legislation to restrict or ban Chinese immigration.

In 1882, the US passed the Chinese Exclusion Act, which banned immigration of Chinese labourers and prevented those already there from becoming



citizens. It was not repealed until 1943. These laws made it very difficult for Chinese men in the US to find a wife – they outnumbered Chinese women by 26–1.

Blend of East and West

Many decided, instead, to contribute to the well-being of their ancestral villages; they returned to live there, married local women and built these striking tower houses as a sign of their success. They were built in the middle of villages, as a place to keep valuables and take refuge in the event of attacks by bandits. They were made of concrete and steel, with thick walls and



bars over the windows, stronger and safer than the other houses around them.

Fang's home has a door made of two plates of German steel – the highest quality available at the time. On the roof there are lookout posts to survey the landscape, with holes to drop stones or fire bullets at intruders. There is also a gong to alert the village to an attack. It has a secret escape route via a rear wall; others had routes through tunnels in the basement.

The architecture blended traditional Chinese styles with that brought by returnees from their new countries. These included Greek, Roman, Baroque, and Byzantine styles. People call Kaiping a 'museum of modern architecture'; there are bricks from Italy,

toilets from Germany and ashtrays from Britain.

The tallest is the Ruishi tower, boasting nine storeys, built in 1923 from reinforced steel. Its owner was Huang Bi-xiu, who made his fortune from banking and Chinese medicines in Hong Kong. He built the tower to protect the life and assets of his family in Kaiping. He spent HK\$30,000 on cement, steel rods, glass and timber, all imported from Hong Kong. The first floor has large reception rooms; the second to sixth floors contain dining rooms, bedrooms, toilets and a kitchen. The furniture is traditional Chinese. For its opening, Huang spent HK\$10,000 on five days of feasting and invited everyone in the villages and those who were staying with them.



The Fangshideng Tower was built in 1920 with contributions from local villagers. Five storeys high, it is called the 'light tower'; it had an enormous searchlight like that of a lighthouse and an alarm bell from Germany that could be heard for more than five kilometres.

The towers proved to be effective places to store guns and ammunition, torches, searchlights and police alarms. They did not come cheap; one, built in 1925, cost 12,000 silver dollars, the equivalent of 480,000 yuan in today's money. They became a symbol of prestige and wealth of the family; people competed to build larger and better ones

"The migrants also made a major contribution to education," said tour guide Wu Mei. "In the early Republican period, they funded 597 of the 600 schools here."

Between 1900 and 1931, 1,648 towers were built. Over the same period, most of the villages were rebuilt; in just 30 years, funds from overseas Chinese transformed the rural landscape of this part of Guangdong.

Repelling bandits

This influx of wealthy people attracted the attention of the bandits who raided, robbed and kidnapped. Between 1912 and 1930, 71 incidents of banditry were recorded.

One of the most famous raids occurred one night in December 1922. A gang of more than 100 attacked the Kaiping Middle School, where many children of the wealthy returnees were studying. They planned to kidnap the headmaster and over 20 pupils and hold them for ransom. As they passed a tower in Chikan village, however, they were spotted; the tower had been built by a returnee who had brought a police alarm, searchlight and guns back from the US. He set off the alarm, fired at the gang and alerted the residents. They were able to rescue the headmaster and students, capture more than ten of the gang and drive away the rest.

The towers were not always successful deterrents, though. At three in the morning on 19 January 1949, a band of 80 armed with pistols and swords

attacked the three-storey Cong Jian Lou, which had been built by a returnee from the US hoping for a quiet life at home. The two doors of the towers were built of steel; it took the bandits more than half an hour to break them down with steel hammers, knives and fire. Five women, one of them pregnant, and one child were killed in the fire.

Migrants

Kaiping borders three counties – Enping, Taishan and Xinhui. Together they are known as the ‘four counties’, which were the main source of Chinese migrants to North America, Australia and Southeast Asia. Wu said that today Kaiping has a population of 700,000, while there are 750,000 people who originate from the area spread across 69 countries in the world.

Building of the towers reached its peak in the 1920s and 1930s, when there were more than 3,000. As local security began to improve, it became unnecessary to build such elaborate structures. The depression of the 1930s slowed the flow of

money; then came the war against Japan from 1937 to 1945. Between 1943 and 1947, immigration restrictions in the US and Canada were abolished, with the result that many Chinese moved to North America. The last tower was built in 1948.

The establishment of the People’s Republic of China in 1949 halted banditry and improved flood control. This removed the role of the towers.

Wu said that about 1,000 were destroyed during the Cultural Revolution (1966–76), where the Red Guards were encouraged to attack anything old and traditional. “Destruction during wars was limited because this is an isolated place,” she said.

Others fell into disuse, with their owners living abroad and no family members able or willing to look after them. In the reform era since 1978, most young people have moved away to find work in the booming cities of Guangdong or elsewhere on the east coast. Those who stayed prefer to live in a new home with modern conveniences. “Only ten percent of the towers have people living in them, the descendants of the original owners,” said Wu. “They all belong to individuals.”







World Heritage Site

It was in June 2007 that UNESCO named the Kaiping Diaolou and Villages as a World Heritage Site.

The UNESCO citation states: "The Diaolou ... display a complex and flamboyant fusion of Chinese and Western structural and decorative forms. They reflect the significant role of émigré Kaiping people in the development of several countries in South Asia, Australasia, and North America, during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and the close links between overseas Kaiping people and their ancestral homes. The property inscribed here consists of four groups of Diaolou, totalling some 1,800 tower houses in their village settings." It was the first World Heritage site in Guangdong province.

The designs are a mixture of styles from China and the West, reflecting the history of their owners; they also brought back items from abroad, like furniture, gramophones, gaslights and steel suitcases.

"Each of the 1,833 towers is different," said Wu. "Some owners used foreign designers after inviting bids. Others used architects from Guangzhou or from the local area." There is no collection of buildings like this anywhere else in China.

The World Heritage designation has been a mixed blessing. It has made Kaiping famous around the world and attracted many tourists; last year four million Chinese and 670,000 foreigners came. It has become popular as a site to make films and television series. The township of Chikan in Kaiping has a film studio, where many scenes were shot for the *Grand Master*, by Wong Kar-wai, Hong Kong's most famous director; released in January 2013, it stars Tony Leung as Wing Chun Kung Fu master Ip Man.

Chikan has 600 homes built in the first two decades of the 20th century with money from those who had migrated overseas. It is an ideal site to shoot films set in that period.

The downside is that the towers cannot be destroyed or altered. That makes it difficult, if not impossible, to turn them into shops, restaurants or boutique hotels; this would involve modern wiring, computer systems and other necessary alterations.

Some will be preserved, therefore, and treasured for the tourists. Most will be left to decay, with no-one to take care of them. ■

Photos by Xinhua news agency



Nunca fez censos a China que estendera.



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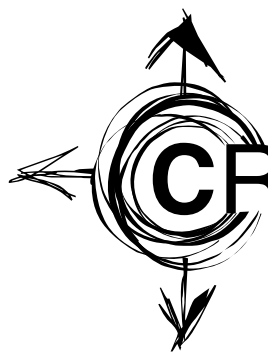


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Mass Painting

Entrepreneur turns oil paintings
into global industry in Shenzhen

By Mark O'Neill

Dafen Village





Zhang Wenmin

Zhang Wenmin sits at his desk with a big smile on his face, surrounded by his paintings. The cheapest ones sell for just 15 yuan and the most expensive for tens of thousands.

"One day I did ten Baltic Sea pictures. I lined them up together and, while the paint was drying on one, I worked on the next. When I had done the finishing touches on the last one, the paint had dried on the first and I went back to it."

Welcome to Dafen Village, in a northern suburb of Shenzhen, which produces more than 60 percent of the world's annual output of oil paintings, sold in China and around the world. More than 10,000 painters work here, with the value of their production last year reaching two billion yuan.

"If you become famous, you leave and sell to galleries and auction houses in Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong," said Zhang. "Here this is commerce, it is not fine art."

Around his shop is a labyrinth of streets and alleyways that are home to 1,200 galleries, workshops, studios

and retailers selling the paint, paper, stone and other items the artists need. There are also cafés, bars and restaurants where you can take a rest between purchases. As you walk, you can see many of the artists at work.

Their pieces can be found in hotels, doctor and dentist waiting rooms, reception halls, clubs, airport lounges and private homes from Dallas to Dublin, Malmo to Melbourne.

The pictures can be copies of anything – from da Vinci, Van Gogh, Rembrandt, Gauguin, Salvador Dali, Andy Warhol, the cafés of Montmartre and New York to photographs of Johnny Cash, Marilyn Monroe, Elvis Presley, Chairman Mao, Hu Jintao and Xi Jinping.

A famous image of Deng Xiaoping in a beige chair holding a cigarette above a white tea cup sells for 6,000 yuan: another one of him with a wry smile while he plays bridge – his favourite pastime, ahead of watching the Premier League – goes for 3,000. Prices are negotiable.

For the first 20 years, the main markets were in Europe and North America, including Walmart, the world's biggest retailer. Now, due to the economic crisis in the West and the appreciation of the renminbi, domestic clients predominate. So the painters have turned their hand to misty lakes, jagged mountain tops, pagodas, chubby children and other themes preferred by Chinese clients. Dafen is a triumph of entrepreneurship and hard work, not beauty and creativity. It has become the world factory for oil paintings as other cities in China have done for shoes, shirts, furniture and iPads.

Village founder

The 'father' of Dafen is Huang Jiang, a native of Sihui, part of Zhaoqing city in Guangdong province. On a wall close to the entrance is a large photograph of him, a biography of him in Chinese and English and photos of him meeting national leaders who have come to see the village.

Huang lost his father at a young age and received his education in Guangzhou. His mother, a primary school teacher, passed on to him her love of art. In 1966, he graduated from high school with marks good enough to enter the city's Zhongshan University – but the Cultural Revolution started and,



Huang Jiang, village founder



like millions of other students, he was sent to work in the countryside – a village in Huadu, a suburb of Guangzhou.

After four years, he decided to escape to Hong Kong and try his luck there. He worked on a construction site, as a decorator and a bartender in a night club; he went to painting classes during the daytime.

He started to paint and sell his own works. While the average person earned HK\$1,000 a month, he was able to take home HK\$3–5,000. He was a commercial artist, selling to clients both in Hong Kong and in Europe and North America.

In 1981, through the introduction of a client in Macao, he opened an oil painting factory and started giving classes in Jinjiang city in Fujian. Within a year, the project failed but he developed friendships with the students he taught there.

In 1982, he opened an oil painting factory in Guangzhou, to fulfil the orders he had obtained in Hong Kong from clients in Europe and North America.

The business flourished. In 1986, like thousands of other entrepreneurs, he moved to Shenzhen, to take advantage of China's largest special economic zone (SEZ). He moved his factory to a site in the Lowu district in the city centre. But he found the rents and the cost of paying and housing his 26 apprentices too high and decided to look for a cheaper site.







Dafen project is born

It was in August 1989 that Huang and his colleagues found Dafen. It was a poor village with an area of 0.77 square kilometres; its 300 residents earned an annual salary of less than 300 yuan growing rice, pineapple and lychee. They welcomed the artists – they saw an opportunity to improve their incomes and the quality of life in the village.

The benefit for Huang was that rent and living costs were very low and it was only 30 minutes' drive from downtown Shenzhen. New painters he wanted to bring in from outside did not require a SEZ entry permit either.

That is how the Dafen model was born. Huang lived, worked and slept alongside his apprentices; everyone did mass production of oil paintings. He

was the manager and chief of sales, going to Hong Kong to meet clients and take orders.

In Renaissance Europe, an artist needed several months to complete a masterpiece – but not in Dafen. Huang ordered his employees each to do a part of the reproduction and work on several pieces at the same time, for maximum productivity. He paid according to output; the more you did, the more you earned.

Word spread and more people came; they rented space in the village and worked all hours of the day and night.

Production grows

In 1992, he got his biggest order to date, from an American buyer – 350,000 copies of two oil



paintings measuring 8cm x 10cm. He had one month to complete the order and earned five-to-six yuan for each copy.

In 1994, he received an order from New Zealand – 55,000 copies of an oil painting of 24cm x 36cm, also to be completed in one month. The profit was 20 yuan per copy.

By now, he had 2,000 people working under him; overtime was essential to complete the orders. From 1992, he stopped painting himself and became a full-time manager, taking orders from Europe, North America, South Africa and Asia and ensuring their smooth execution. Since his English was not so good, he had to rely on his wife as interpreter.

As the scale of the business grew, his apprentices asked to leave Huang's firm and set up on their own. He did not oppose them, reasoning that they would

help to increase the overall turnover of Dafen. In 1997, two of the 26, Wu Ruizhou and his brother Wu Ruiqiu, made such a request. Huang agreed and gave them 3,000 yuan in start-up capital; now they run one of the biggest companies in the village. Some left to go to Beijing, Shanghai and other cities; some stayed in oil paintings, others invested in new businesses, like property. Now only six of the original 26 remain in painting in Dafen.

The success of the model attracted painters from all over China to settle in Dafen. Others came to set up galleries and open shops to provide raw materials to the painters. The majority of the paintings went to overseas markets, especially in Western countries. The proximity of the village to Yantian Port and Shenzhen airport made shipment abroad quick and convenient.

Generals and foot soldiers

Zhang Wenmin remembers the early days. "When I came here in 1993, there were just 100 painters. By 1998, there were 500, and now there are more than 5,000. A few of them left, but more arrived." In 1999, the first painting market was established in the village.

One of the arrivals was Yuan Luo, who sits in a small stall in a corridor of shops, in front of a portrait he painted of Steve Jobs. "It took me one week to do it and costs 2,000 yuan. I admire him. He created something really new." There are also portraits of ex-Prime Minister Zhou Enlai and a Buddhist monk, who passed away at 106; they are two other people he admired. He did all three portraits from photographs.

He used to be a designer. After he moved to Dafen, he became a full-time painter. "The life of painters here is hard. The prices are low and competition is fierce. It is the large companies that make money." For its first decade, the village grew without outside input; the local government regarded it as a 'wild animal'. But, as the scale of production and export orders increased, the government became involved. It invested in improving the roads and infrastructure of the village. In April 2002, the painters took part in the Canton Trade Fair for the first time.

In 2005, turnover reached 200 million yuan, of which 90 percent was exported to Europe, North America and the Middle East.

In November 2006, the painters showed their works at the Asian Culture Center in Manhattan for the first time. In 2007, the city government invested in a Dafen Art Museum, the largest of its kind in Shenzhen, as a venue for the works of the painters in the village and from outside. It built 268 apartments and rented them to artists for a modest fee, to offset the problems caused by the high rents in the city.

The 2008 international financial crisis was a major blow. Orders at the Canton Trade Fair in October that year were a miserable 1.08 million yuan, compared to 30 million at the previous fair six months earlier. In December 2010, the village held its first International Oil Painting Exhibition & Trade Fair and Oil Painting Art Festival. Sales reached 655 million yuan, of which 380 million came from abroad.

The next stage will be construction of an Oil Painting Industry Complex, which is included in the 12th five-year plan (2011–2016) of Shenzhen; it will cover 16.6 hectares in the first phase and a further 30.29 hectares in the second phase. The official target for sales is five billion yuan by 2015.

The success of Dafen is the story of the entrepreneurship and hard work of Huang and his 26 apprentices and the many others who followed their example. It is also a story of Shenzhen, which provided him, like other entrepreneurs, with the environment in which to achieve his ambitions. Just as millions of people around the world walk to the office wearing Chinese shoes, they see all around them the work of the Dafen painters. ■

Photos by Agence France-Press and Louise do Rosário



MACAO YEARBOOK 2013

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The Oriental Mecca

Foreign believers revive
Islam in Guangzhou

By Louise do Rosário



Guangzhou mosque - the oldest in China





It is midday on Friday outside a modest green building in Guangzhou that houses the body of the first Muslim missionary to China, who arrived in AD 650.

The faithful queue up to pay their respects – Pakistanis, Hui Chinese with small, trim beards, Africans with white prayer caps and Chinese Uighurs in dark suits.

“Saad ibn Abi Waqqas was sent here by the Prophet Mohammed to convert the Chinese,” said Ma Guoxing, a native of Ningxia in northwest China who has lived in Guangzhou for over ten years. “He is famous all over the Islamic world and people come from everywhere to honour him.

“At our mosque here, we get 7–8,000 people every Friday, sometimes up to 10,000. Half of them are non-Chinese. The foreigners have revived Islam in the city. We do not have enough mosques now.”

Close to the tomb is a mosque built by the city government in the 1990s. The crowd is so large that the imam has piled prayer mats on the surrounding steps and paving stones for them to use.

“It is my religious obligation to pray on a Friday,” said Muhammad Lamine, a native of Senegal who lives in Angola and comes to China regularly to buy goods to export. “I feel comfortable in Guangzhou. The imam recites in Arabic, the universal language.



In Islam, we are all brothers, whatever language we speak."

He is one of the thousands of Muslims, from Africa, the Middle East and south Asia, who live in Guangzhou or come here regularly for business. They have rejuvenated the Islamic life of the city. The Islamic Association of Guangzhou counts 30,000 foreign Muslims and 80,000 Chinese ones, from Guangzhou and other areas, especially the north and west. That means a doubling of the city's Muslim population since 2008.

It has only four mosques, not enough to meet the demand. The government strictly controls the construction of new religious buildings.

Arab restaurants and Halal meat

The past ten years have seen a large influx of Muslims attracted by the surge in China's foreign trade since its entry into the World Trade Organisation, in 2001. Guangdong is the factory of the world and Guangzhou the front shop of this factory. Merchants earn a higher profit by placing orders themselves here, in Shenzhen, Dongguan and other production centres in Guangdong than by buying goods through middlemen.

The merchants either pay regular visits, like Lamine who has been coming to the city for more than ten years. Or they set up home here, with their families.

They mainly buy clothes, shoes, cosmetics and consumer goods, including mobile phones, computers, televisions and other electronic goods. The influx was accelerated by 9/11, which made it harder for Muslims to obtain visas to the United States and other Western countries amidst the heightened anti-Muslim sentiment. In Guangzhou, such hostility is absent; foreign Muslims feel welcome. "People in Turkey buy Chinese clothes, shoes and other goods, as do people everywhere in the world," said Ekrem Turkoglu, a Turk who has lived in the city for more than two years with his family.

"It is easy to live here. If you have money, everything is easy. My children speak Chinese at school and Turkish at home. I want them to learn Arabic, to read the Koran. But three languages – that is too much work!" he said.

To cater to this influx, a large number of Arab and Turkish restaurants selling food prepared according to Islamic regulations have been established in Guangzhou. Two are owned by a family from Yemen who has been living here for ten years.

"There are many of these restaurants now in Guangzhou and other Chinese cities," said Turkoglu. "This is a very important issue for Muslims. I do not dare to eat in a Chinese restaurant. The food there may contain pork or meat that is not killed according to Islamic rules."

This limits social contact between Muslims and Chinese, for whom pork is a central part of the diet; pig fat may also be used to cook vegetables and other dishes. Many Muslims follow the ban on alcohol, which can be an additional obstacle to social contact.

Guangzhou people welcome the visitors, as long-term residents or regular travellers.

"Guangzhou has a tradition of being an open city," said Wang Minghong, a taxi driver. "We welcome foreigners to come here as long as they behave properly and respect the law. The Arabs mostly do trade and buy Chinese goods to export to their home countries. That is good for our economy."

The welcome is more muted for the thousands of Africans who have made their home in Guangzhou. Drivers complain that they sometimes do not pay the fare and jay walk in front of them in a dangerous way and that their way of life is too different to that of Chinese people. "Arabs have a better reputation," said Wang.

Arrival of Missionary

Even before Abi Waqqas arrived in Guangzhou, Arab merchants had established trading posts in the city.

Abi Waqqas was a maternal uncle of the Prophet and one of his first converts. According to Chinese Muslims, he arrived here in AD 650, 18 years after the death of the Prophet, as the first missionary to China and part of a dramatic expansion of the new religion.

He and his delegation sailed across the Indian Ocean and the South China Sea to reach Guangzhou. Then he travelled overland to Changan, now Xian, capital of the Tang dynasty (AD 618–907).



He brought gifts and was well received by Emperor Gaozong, whose government was watching with intense interest the rapid expansion of Islam around the world.

After making his own investigations, the emperor gave his approval to the new religion, saying that it was compatible with the teachings of Confucius. He allowed Waqqas the freedom to propagate the religion and to remain in China.

This set the tone for the good relations between the Arab world and the Chinese state – Imperial, Nationalist and Communist – for the next 14 centuries.

In Guangzhou, Waqqas built the first mosque in China with a free-standing minaret; it is one of the

oldest mosques in the world. At 12 metres high, it became known as the Lighthouse Mosque, serving as a beacon for centuries for ships on the Pearl River. It was the tallest structure in the city and had a weather-vane by which mariners could tell the direction of the wind. Today it is called the Huaisheng Mosque. Waqqas died a wealthy man in AD 664.

Chinese as well as many non-Chinese Muslims say that Waqqas is buried in the tomb in Guangzhou; but some Arab scholars say he was buried in Medina, Arabia. His is one of many tombs of Muslims in a large park full of trees; it is testimony to the Islamic presence in the city over the centuries.

His followers built imposing mosques in many cities in China, including one measuring 130,000 square feet in Changan and in Quanzhou, Hangzhou and Yangzhou. They were most successful in converting the people of the north and west but had little success in the heartland in the centre and south.

Nearly half of the Muslims in China are Hui, Han Chinese people who converted; most live in the north and northwest, especially Qinghai, Gansu, Ningxia and Shaanxi provinces.

Among the faithful that Friday were many Hui, who are racially similar to the Han; many wear a white prayer cap and have a goatee beard. At the entrance were four of them holding out a cloth and inviting people to donate money for the building of a mosque in a county in Qinghai, west China.

The other major group of Chinese Muslims are Uighurs and other Turkic people from Xinjiang. Many live in Guangzhou and come to Friday prayers. Watching over them was a large police presence. In the street leading to the mosque were dozens of stalls selling halal meat, fruit drinks, carpets, prayer mats and Islamic clothes for women. Many beggars asked the faithful for an offering before they made their prayers.

Official figures put the total number of Chinese Muslims at about 22 million.

Most Guangzhou people are little interested in the tomb or the mosque. Many look down on the Hui as a minority with whom they have little in common. Inter-marriage with them is rare, since it involves the non-Muslim converting and adopting the dietary rules of the Islamic community.



Glory of Tang Guangzhou

Abi Waqqas arrived during the Tang dynasty (AD 618–907), when China was the richest and most developed country in the world.

Guangzhou was its major trading port and window to the outside world. It was the start of the 'maritime silk road' which carried silk, porcelain, tea and other Chinese products to India, Persia, Iraq, Arabia and Egypt, in exchange for spices, ivory, pearls and other exotic goods. It was one of the largest commercial cities in the world. The imperial government set up a customs office there; this revenue became an important part of the national revenue.

The collapse of the Roman Empire and the frequent dynastic changes in the Eurasian region disrupted the overland Silk Road and gave a great impetus to the maritime route along the southern waters.

Guangzhou attracted tens of thousands of merchants from the Middle East, South and Southeast Asia, including Muslims, Jews and Christians. The government gave them land outside the city wall

in a southwestern suburb between the city and the Pearl River; they built large houses, mosques, restaurants, schools and community centres. It was a centre of trade and intellectual exchange between East and Middle East – a forerunner of what is happening today.

It may have been the city with the largest population of foreigners in the world. It largely ruled itself; the emperor appointed a general to oversee this foreign quarter, implementing foreign rather than Chinese laws.

But it had a tragic ending. As the Tang dynasty declined, there was increasing resentment among the Chinese population toward the wealth of the foreign merchants.

In AD 878–879, a rebel army led by Huang Chao conquered the city and massacred between 120,000 and 200,000 foreigners, including Jews, Muslim Arabs and Persians, Zoroastrians and Christians.

Their only crime was that they were foreign and wealthy. They were a scapegoat for the troubles which plagued the end of the glorious Tang dynasty. ■

Photos by Louise do Rosário and Xinhua news agency





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Nicolas Desliens -1566

The Search for the Big Southern Continent



Some academics believe
the Portuguese were
the first to discover Australia

By Maya Leonor in Sydney

There is much controversy over who first discovered the big southern continent of Australia – long called Terra Australis Incognita. The first discovery has been officially credited to the Dutch navigator Willem Janszoon, who made landfall in what is now northern Queensland in 1606. But others have also laid claim to the feat – including seafarers from China, Spain, France and most notably Portugal. Theories in favour of the Portuguese are based on the 16th century Dieppe maps, as well as artefacts found over the years along Australia's coast. Also cited is the influence of the Portuguese language on Aboriginal tribes in the Pilbara region in western Australia.

While Portugal's claim has not been well received by many historians – detractors point to a lack of references in Portuguese historical archives – evidence of visits to the continent, between 1521 and 1524, have become, to some, the strongest argument for this version of history.

One proponent of the theory is Peter Trickett, a Canberra-based historian and journalist who was given the Order of Merit of the Portuguese Presidency in 2009. He has published an extensive study on what he considers to be the documented proof of the Portuguese arrival in Australia. "I base my arguments on facts. Simply: that the Portuguese

organised a voyage, comprising a fleet of four ships, commissioned by King Manuel to discover the fabled "Island of Gold", which was thought to lie southeast of Sumatra. That island is Australia. And that is unquestionably what they found."

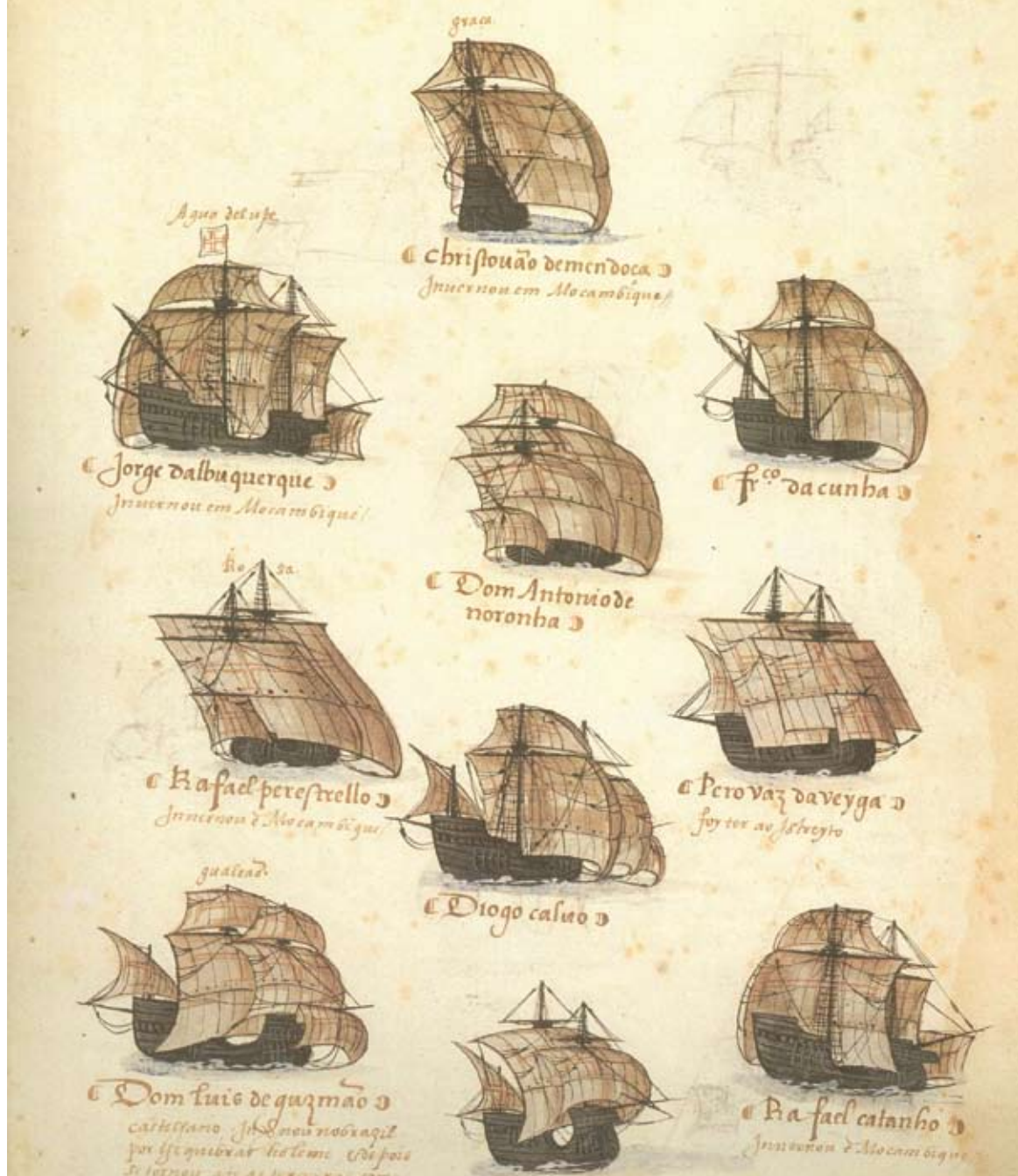
Unknown Continent

A key document favoured by Trickett and others is the Vallard Atlas, an atlas of what was then the known world. It was produced by Nicholas Vallard in Dieppe in northern France in 1547. It contains two maps of an unidentified continent whose shape resembles that of Australia's coastline. Or at least that appears to be the case, as Trickett argues, if the maps are placed correctly.

Trickett also refers to eyewitness accounts of the fleet, led by Cristovão de Mendonça, which departed from southern India in 1521 in search of the "Island of Gold". He quotes from recently unearthed documents relating to the Portuguese in Mozambique and central Africa, which count as a further record of these trips. The documents came to light thanks to an EU-funded project to digitise Portuguese world heritage archives. Pedro Nunes, who was in Cochin at the time, names and describes the four ships and names their captains.



Australia first map - 1547



Cristovão Mendonça fleet

"The important document is the Vallard Atlas. The others are poor, of inferior quality in terms of details and names. Two maps in the Atlas belong to a continent, in the south, which the cartographer calls Terra Java," explains Trickett. "It has more than 100 Portuguese-language place names. And when we compare them to the coast of Australia, they correspond beautifully to the entire east coast, a large part of the south coast and the west coast. We can identify places, harbours, headlands, islands – the majority in Portuguese and some in French." Asked to explain why French names are included, Trickett notes that the most recent evidence

confirms that one of the captains in the fleet was a man called Pedro Eanes, who was known as "The Frenchman". Under orders from the Portuguese king, Eanes commanded a ship in the vast armada of 18 vessels that sailed from Lisbon towards India in 1519. It was Eanes, wrote Trickett, who was entrusted with the sealed orders of King Manuel to the Portuguese governor in India, Diogo Lopes de Sequeira, decreeing that Mendonça had command of the fleet to search for the "Island of Gold". The fact that Eanes was involved in the mission explains the use of French in the names given to various points along Australia's coast, Trickett argues.



The Mahogany Ship replica

Secret Voyages

As to why there are no references in Portuguese historical archives to the discovery of Australia, Trickett points to the secrecy that surrounded Portuguese voyages at the time (information was bought and sold among rival naval powers, such as Spain) and the destruction caused by the 1755 great earthquake and tsunami in Lisbon. He also points to the nature of the maps themselves and how they came into the possession of the French.

Trickett explains that Portuguese shipboard charts were drawn not on paper but on animal hides, normally goatskin, which was of limited size and not large enough to accommodate a large area. The skin was stretched until the hide ended. The cartographer would then continue on another hide and so on. Trickett explains that on a coast such as that of eastern Australia, up to four hides may have been used and later joined together.

On the question of how the hides came into the possession of the French, Trickett asserts: "My belief is that the French probably seized the hides from the Mendonça ship when it was returning to Portugal in 1524. As there were no navigation instructions on the charts of the time – so as to protect their secrecy – when the Vallard cartographer tried to join the hides he used his intuition but might have

made a mistake."

Using a computer, Trickett rotated the southern part of the Vallard map 90 degrees and was able to produce a map which he claims accurately depicts Australia's east coast.

Trickett also refers to the work of an emeritus professor of history at the Australian National University in Canberra, John Molony, who completed a detailed study of the names of Christian saints appearing at eight sites indicated in the Vallard map that resemble places along the east coast of Australia. "His research shows that all these names have a clear connection to the sixteenth-century Portuguese church – and, even more significantly, to Portuguese India. Based on their results, Molony concludes that there can be no doubt that the names assigned to these places were the work of Portuguese sailors, and that the Vallard map relies, therefore, on Portuguese charts. Professor Molony's results are a powerful argument in favour of the Portuguese discovery of Australia," argues Trickett.

"The epic journey of Mendonça does not deserve to be undervalued. Its discovery and mapping of Australia and New Zealand, a mere 30 years after Christopher Columbus reached the Americas, were remarkable achievements which Portugal should rightly be proud of," he says.

Contesting Theories

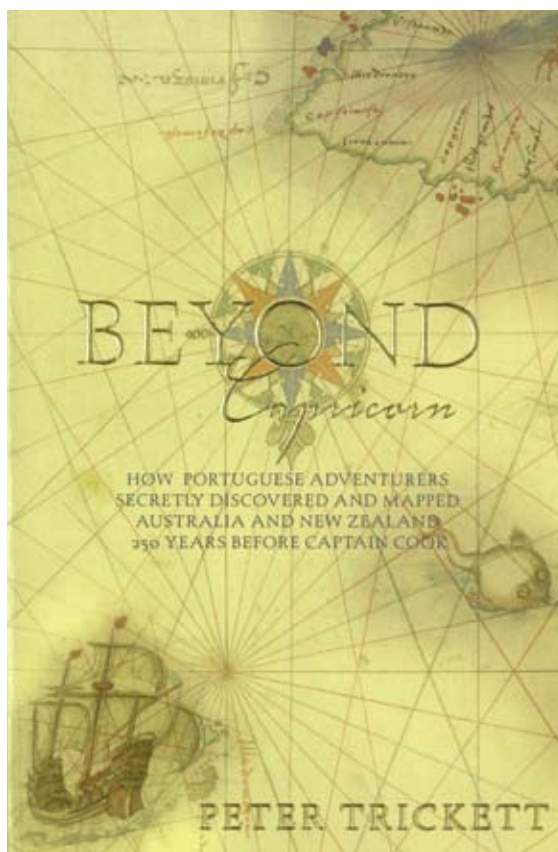
The confusion over who the first foreigners were to reach Australia is as much a result of the attitude the naval powers had at the time as of the quasi-patriotic defence of theories arguing for one or another discoverer. While there have been strong debates on which European power reached Australia first, there have also been increasing references to the possibility that Chinese navigators explored long before the Europeans.

Critics, including Trickett, dismiss these claims, arguing that evidence has been made to fit the theories rather than the other way round. Critics also question the methodology used to “realign” the maps, saying that the coastline identified is Indonesia, not Australia. They also argue that the Dieppe maps can be considered propaganda to further territorial claims.

Trickett is not by any means the first person to stand up for the Portuguese discovery of Australia. In 1786, Alexander Dalrymple, a Scottish geographer, published a short note to his *Memoir Concerning the Chagos and Adjacent Islands*, which puts forward the Dieppe maps as evidence of the Portuguese achievement.

In the last few decades there has also been growing debate over the existence of what, some argue, could anecdotally be final proof of the Portuguese arriving in Australia long before Janszoon in 1606 or Captain Cook in 1770. Treasure hunters have long searched for the so-called Mahogany Ship, supposedly a shipwreck hidden somewhere in the Armstrong Bay area, off the coast of Warrnambool in southwest Victoria. Some say it is the remains of a Portuguese ship, and that possibility has led to several debates, arguments and searches in the waters there.

Kenneth McIntyre’s 1977 book, *The Secret Discovery of Australia – Portuguese ventures 200 years before Captain Cook*, remains one of the most important treatises on this theory. McIntyre was very influential in putting forward the case that the Portuguese discovered and mapped much of eastern Australia. The historian used his version of the “Mahogany Ship Story” as an important part of his evidence, which was based predominantly on the nature of the Dieppe maps. He believed those maps showed the eastern and southern coasts of Australia as far



as Warrnambool, mapped by the Portuguese in the 16th century.

But there have been other explanations, such as *The First Discovery of Australia and New Guinea – Being The Narrative of Portuguese and Spanish Discoveries in the Australasian Regions, between the Years 1492–1606, with Descriptions of their Old Charts*, published in 1906 by George Collingridge.

“The discovery of a continental island like Australia was not a deed that could be performed in a day. Many years passed, and many voyages to these shores of ours were undertaken by the leading maritime nations of Europe, before the problematic and mysterious Terra Australis Incognita of the ancients became known, even in a summary way, and its insularity and separation from other lands positively established. The question as to who first sighted Australia, and placed on record such a discovery, either in the shape of a map or narrative, will, in all probability, forever remain a mystery,” Collingridge wrote.

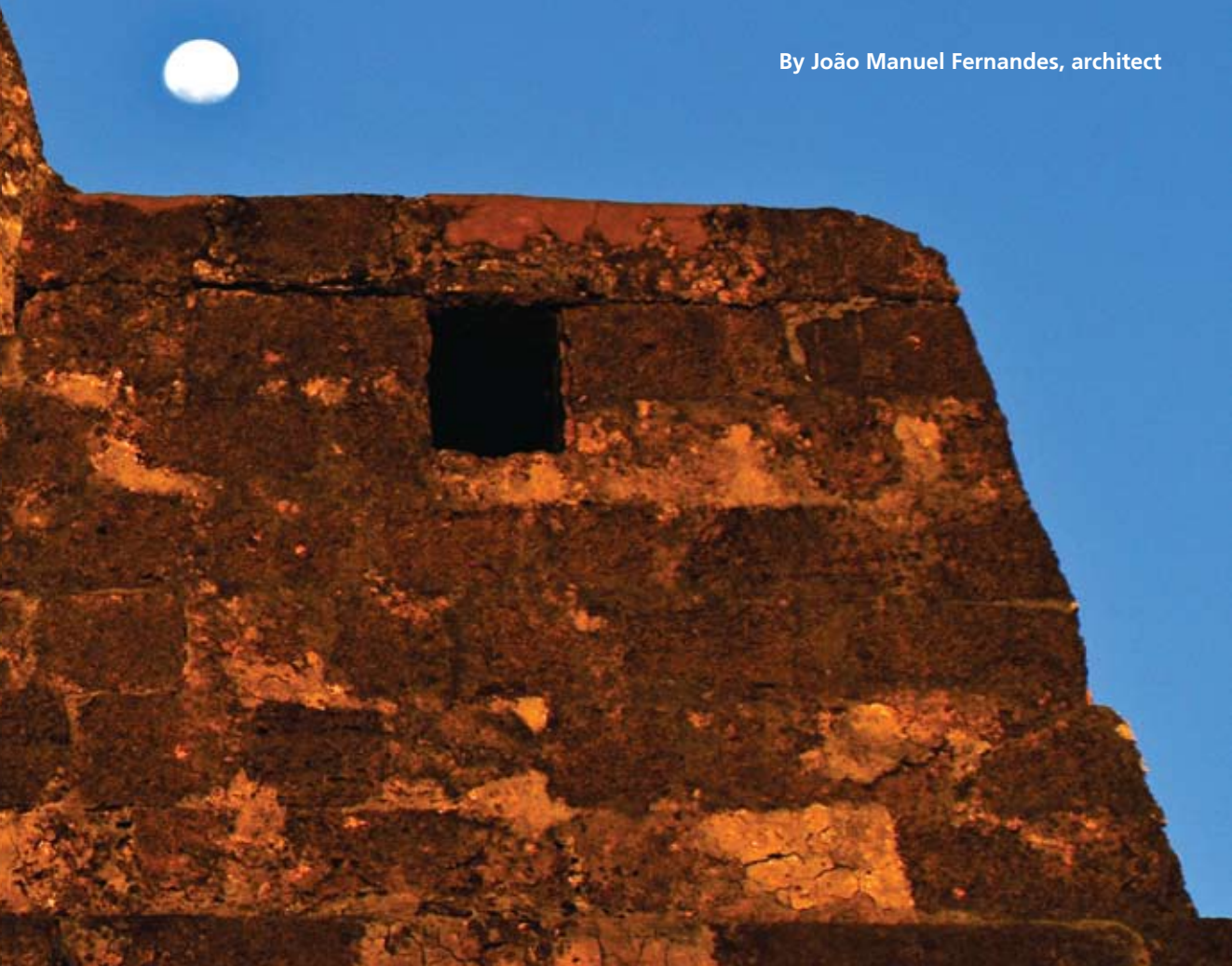
So speculation about who first discovered Australia will certainly continue. It remains a mystery which, as with other conundrums, warrants further research and analysis and, perhaps, new discoveries. ■



The Island of Mozambique

A World Heritage Jewel in Africa

By João Manuel Fernandes, architect





Many people know about the country Mozambique. Few people, however, know about the Island of Mozambique, which is situated just off the northern Mozambique coast in Nampula Province. It is a small, elongated piece of land that is three kilometres long and in some places just 500 metres wide. It was first settled by the Portuguese in 1502, becoming the country's capital until 1898, when Lourenço Marques (now Maputo) took over. The island is home to buildings and urban areas representing cultures as vastly different as Swahili, Islamic, Hindu and African, as well as European. It was declared a world heritage site in 1991.

The small settlement along the island's northwest coast beside the brilliant blue-green waters of the Indian Ocean gradually became a "bricks and mortar" town – accepting and exchanging experiences with other communities from the African continent as well as from India and the Middle East.

The European settlement was defended by a string of Italianate fortifications – including the

São Sebastião Fortress – and officially became a town in 1761 as part of the reforms introduced by the Marquis of Pombal, which made Mozambique autonomous from the State of India in the middle of the 18th century. It was granted city status between 1818 and 1834.

The Island of Mozambique became a unique cultural landscape because of the beautiful and balanced merger of so many cultures. Its stunning historical buildings are still apparent, along with an equally beautiful landscape and the varied cultures of its people. It has a strength of its own and has withstood many accidents of history, most recently in the 1980s when it was a refuge from the civil war on the "mainland". It has also been buffeted by natural weather disasters. Of great significance too has been the loss of its role within the country as a whole. More than a century ago the political centre of the country was transferred to what is now Maputo – and this resulted in the island's inevitable decline.

World Heritage status granted

The Island of Mozambique was classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1991 and since then has been recognised for its architecture as well as for its rich anthropological elements.

They call it the “Island” – a rich and rare blend of cultures and influences, with European, Hindu, Muslim and African habitats living side by side and making up a unique appearance and heritage.

Researcher Alexandre Lobato, who lived in Mozambique, published three books about the island: *Monografia* (1945), *Panorama Estético* (1966) and *Panorama Histórico* (1967). One of the most beautiful books about the island is *A Ilha de Próspero* (Prospero’s Island) by Rui Knopfli and Alexandre Lobato, published in Lourenço Marques in 1972. It is an original book made up of poetry, drawings and photographs.

Focus on the island’s heritage increased in the second half of the 20th century. Important restoration work was carried out in the 1960s – the late colonial period – by architect Quirino da Fonseca on two of the main tourist sites – the fortress and the palace.

After a period of no activity between 1975 and 1980, an exhibition entitled *The Island of Mozambique in Danger of Disappearing* was organised in 1983 by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation. Coordinated by architect Viana de Lima, it focused on the state of disrepair of the island’s buildings. At the same time, a book entitled *Island of Mozambique, Muipiti* by Moira Forjaz and Amélia Muge was published. A later work called *Island of Mozambique* by the Danish architectural school Aarhus provided a detailed graphic representation of what was being lost.

Heritage renewal

In the 1990s experts carried out restoration work at the Museum of the Palace of Sao Paulo, the Manueline Chapel of Our Lady of Baluarte and the Sacred Art Museum, which was reopened at the Misericórdia Church in the centre of the “borough”. Indeed, the bricks and mortar town between the fortress and the cane-shack neighbourhood is similar to the architectural layout on the islet of Diu – itself a former Portuguese colony – in the Indian state of Gujarat.

São Paulo palace



The urban settlement begins at the Central Plaza, then stretches out from the northeast to the southeast. To the northeast it continues from the Central Plaza Road to Campo de São Gabriel, passing Casa dos Arcos (House of the Arches) and a group of houses from the 1600s overlooking the beach. It then reaches the so-called "Old Cistern".

To the southwest it runs to the Misericórdia and the do Pelourinho, or theatre, and along Rua dos Arcos, reaching the small square of the former Council Hall and then the Town Hall Square, the market and the old bazaar. There is another road, which is perpendicular to the previous two, pointing towards the south, that links the Central Plaza to the south coast where the Episcopal Palace is located and which, following Mozambique's independence, became the provincial government's guest house. Other narrower secondary roads link the two main roads. Their tight mesh still contains vestiges of Indian houses, with characteristic porticos in the Hindu style.

Nossa Senhora da Saúde church

A Journey through the island's history

Nowadays we can walk through the former Pelourinho Plaza, which has been well restored, and move along Rua dos Arcos, or Rua dos Banianes (Banyan Indians from Diu in Gujarat), where the shops sell jewellery made from "island silver" and the famous locally made toys (known as missanga). From there you can walk through Amoreiras Square (previously Sé Square, with its attached arsenal and narrow winding roads, such as Rua dos Libertadores, with its Hindu doorways and Islamic patios), and move on to the bazaar gardens (next to the Hindu temple) by the Great Mosque (which leads to the market beach and the enormous grain stores) and along the neo-classical hospital dating back to the end of the 19th century. Then by turning in front of N.S. da Saúde Church, we enter the world of the bairros, densely populated neighbourhoods of stilt houses with thatched roofs, and come out at Santo Antonio beach, which lies in front of the popular



little church and fort of the same name. We have almost reached the “end” of the island, which since the end of the 1960s has been linked to the mainland by a road bridge. And we can still walk past what is left of the 20th century Portuguese *calçada* (pavement mosaics made from local white crystal rock) with park benches that face the Indian Ocean. We also come to the hotel, which was refurbished in 2001, the cinema, the former facilities of the prestigious Sporting Clube de Moçambique and finally the beach.

Military and religious architecture

The Sao Sebastiao Fortress is located at the far northeastern end of the island. It is a true gem of the island’s heritage, with its fortified terraces and cisterns with their ingenious water collection system.

The fortress was built between 1558 and 1583 by Miguel de Arruda, based on a design from around 1546 following the rules of the military art of “pyroballistics” of Benedetto da Ravena (c.1485–1556). It became part of a system with two other smaller forts: Santo António (on the coast in the middle of the island) and São Lourenço, a simple polygonal building set on an islet to the southeast of the main island. The fortress’ most obvious feature is the São Gabriel bulwark. Inside is a vast central parade ground, onto which face the old São Sebastião Church (rebuilt after 1636) and the small and large cisterns (built from 1605), which are linked together

by a system of pipes that channel water from the cisterns’ roofs to the internal tanks.

The Our Lady of Baluarte Chapel, built from 1522, is constructed in the simple style of polygonal Manueline churches: A cubic main building based on a central plan with a domed ceiling on which there is a cross of Christ and four circles, with crenulated crowns adorning the roof edges. The chapel’s outside porch, with its rounded arches, was rebuilt in the traditional Indo-Portuguese style.

Refurbishment work at the fortress

The most significant rebuilding project in the last few years has been the refurbishment of the Fortress of São Sebastião. An international protocol, following a request made by the Mozambican government to UNESCO, created the refurbishment project. Portugal contributed US\$350,000 to these efforts. Work on the fortress’ essential structures has been carried out since 2005 and basic services provided. The next stage is the actual architectural restoration.

Technical and professional training is also being provided for the local community. This process is taking place from 2011 to 2014, and will facilitate the restoration of other historical buildings.

Another important project is the creation of what is known as the “Island House Network” (Rede de Casa da Ilha), which will provide additional accommodation for tourists. ■



Aerial view of S. Sebastião fortress







Studying the Sky

Beijing observatory symbol of Sino-foreign learning

By Luo Xunzhi in Beijing

In the forest of skyscrapers on the ring road in eastern Beijing, a grey-stone building stands out, scientific instruments protruding from its roof – the construction a striking reminder of the city's extraordinary past.

This is the Beijing Observatory, built during the Ming dynasty in 1442 and the earliest facility of its kind in the world. It observed the heavens for nearly 500 years, until 1929, making it one of the longest-running observatories in continuous operation.

The government declared the building a cultural monument in February 1982; since then, it has been a museum, attracting domestic and foreign visitors, including dignitaries and heads of government.

It is a symbol of both China's superiority in an important field of science and also of Sino-foreign co-operation – Jesuit priests played an important role in modernising the instruments, one of them

becoming director of the institution in the 17th century.

The tower was once part of the city's wall, most of which was demolished in the 1950s. Today it stands over the subway that was built below the wall and on the corner of Chang An Jie (the Avenue of Eternal Peace), the main east-west thoroughfare of the capital.

The district retains the name of the gate that used to stand there, Jianguomen (Building the Nation).

Next to the tower is an elegant one-storey courtyard of the kind that the rich and Manchu nobility used to live in. In the rooms are exhibitions that trace the history of the observatory and, outside, statues of famous Chinese astronomers who made an important contribution.

As you stroll round the courtyard, you can briefly forget the frantic world of fast cars and mobile phones and reflect on the glory of Chinese science.



Significance in history

The first astronomical study in Beijing was conducted by two scientists, starting in 1279, on a site close to the existing building.

In 1421, the Ming dynasty moved its capital from Nanjing to Beijing and decided to build an observatory on a tower in the wall surrounding the city. Opening in 1442, it was equipped with an abridged armilla, a celestial globe and, four years later, a gnomon and deysdra, a water clock.

"The main purpose of the observatory was to consolidate the power of the emperor," said Tina Liu Jing, a guide. "The emperor was the son of heaven, so what happened in the sky was important to him. The scientists had to show things there that were favourable to him.

"People then were very superstitious. The astronomers reported bright lights or other phenomena in the sky and said that they were a good portent for the emperor. If they did not see them, they could make them up," she said.

The other function of the observatory was to predict the arrival of the seasons and help the farmers on whom the economy depended. "They had some success in predicting the weather, such as the arrival of rain. But it was not very accurate," said Liu.

Arrival of the Jesuits

In the 17th century came a new development – the arrival of highly educated Jesuits to the court of the Qing, the dynasty that followed the Ming. The Pope chose them as the vanguard of his attempt to evangelise the world's largest country.

He picked priests who spoke Mandarin and had a deep knowledge of fields which would be of interest to the emperor. At that time, China was one of the most advanced countries in the world, ahead of the West in many fields; therefore it was important for the Pope to select people with specialties that were in demand in China.

Two Jesuits played an important role in the observatory. One was a German, Johann Schall Adam Von Bell, who arrived in Macao in 1619. After three years learning Chinese, he moved to the mainland and was sent to Beijing in 1630 to work on a reform of the Chinese calendar. He taught astronomy to Emperor Kang Xi; the latter appointed him as a mandarin and director of the observatory, the only foreigner to hold this post.

The exhibition hall has a photograph of Von Bell in imperial Chinese clothes when he was director; he helped to design the instruments. He died in Beijing on 15 August 1666, at the age of 75.

The other was a Belgian, Ferdinand Verbiest, who arrived in Macao in 1659 and moved to the mainland the following year. In 1670, he won a contest with a Chinese astronomer by using the latest techniques of European astronomy, including telescopes.

Emperor Kang Xi appointed him head of the Mathematical Board; Verbiest taught him geometry, philosophy and music, was a frequent visitor to the Palace and translated the first six books of Euclid into Chinese.

After devising a table of solar and lunar eclipses for the next 2,000 years, he was put in charge of re-organising the observatory. In 1673, he designed six new instruments, including a sextant, celestial globe and altazimuth used to measure the position of celestial bodies. They were made of brass, with bronze dragons forming the support; despite their weight, they were easy to use.

Liu said that they were similar to Chinese instruments but functioned slightly better and were more beautiful to the eye.

"These two, in addition to Matteo Ricci, made great contributions to China," said Liu. "They brought new kinds of knowledge and introduced European astronomy." All three were buried together in Beijing, their tomb now in the grounds of the Central Party School.

In 1989 and 1999, Macao issued stamps depicting a sketch of the Beijing Observatory by Verbiest.

In 1715, a German Jesuit, Kilian Stumpf, designed an azimuth theodolite for the observatory, which could measure vertical and horizontal angles at the same time.

The next great foreign contribution came in the mid-19th century. In 1849, a British scholar John Frederick William Herschel published the 'Outlines of Astronomy'. This was translated into Chinese by a scholar named Li Shanlan, with the aid of another Jesuit missionary; it was published in 18 volumes in 1859.

Foreign theft

But, in 1900, foreigners played a different role.

An eight-nation army invaded Beijing to put down the Boxer rebellion. After defeating the Qing army, the international expeditionary force occupied Beijing, Tianjin and other cities in North China, under the command of German General Alfred Graf von Waldersee.

The exhibition hall shows a photograph of German soldiers with their spiked helmets on the roof of the observatory and of Von Waldersee with other allied commanders.



When he saw the instruments on the roof, he said: "They are too beautiful and have great artistic value. Their design and creativity is perfect. We will take them as war booty."

When he and his men left China in August 1901, they took five of the instruments and presented them to Kaiser Wilhelm II; he put them in the garden of his palace at Potsdam, outside Berlin.

French soldiers took another five instruments, which they left in their embassy in the city. International pressure forced the government to return the pieces in 1902. But it was another 19 years before the German government gave back their pieces, under an agreement with China after World War I; they were returned to their proper place on the roof of the building in April 1921.

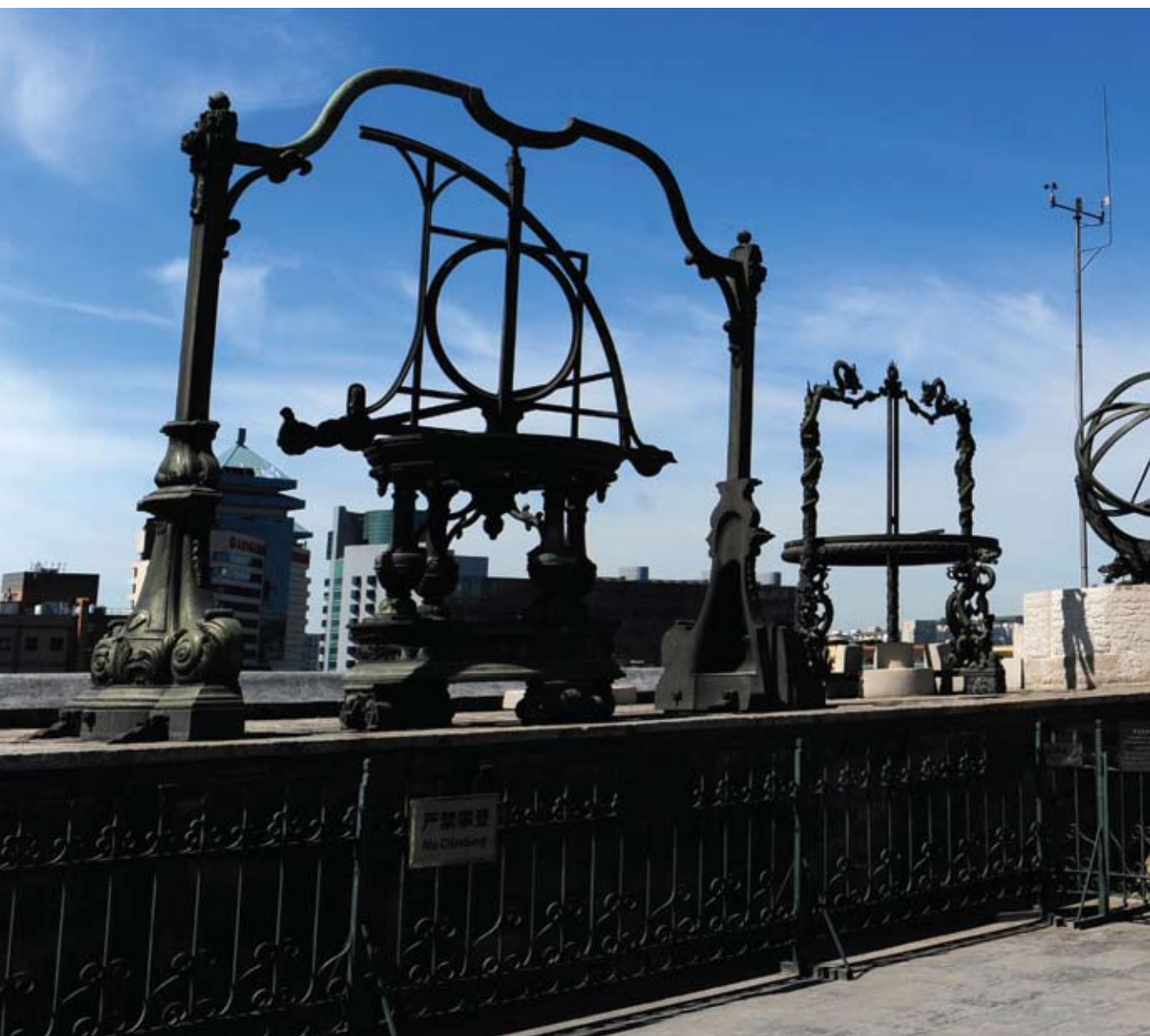
In 1927, the Nationalist government established

a new capital in Nanjing and built the Purple Mountain Observatory (PMO) there as the national centre. In 1929, the Beijing facility ended its life as an observatory after nearly 500 years, and became a museum.

The instruments had not finished their odyssey. In 1931, after the Japanese occupation of Manchuria, the government decided to move them to Nanjing, where they were stored in the PMO and in the Nanjing Museum.

Recent history

After the Communists took power in 1949, Chairman Mao decided to demolish the historic city wall of Beijing, to build a subway line. This decision was bitterly opposed by many residents and scholars,



who argued that the government should build a new capital to the west and leave the ancient city as it was. Chairman Mao was not swayed.

Liu said that Mao wanted to demolish the observatory also. "But Premier Zhou Enlai persuaded him that it was a part of China's history and should be preserved. The subway had to take a detour to go around it."

During the Cultural Revolution, the observatory was closed. Then in 1982, the government declared it a cultural monument and opened it to the public as a museum.

It has since attracted thousands of visitors, including Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Guterres and British Prime Minister Tony Blair in April and October 1998. Another visitor, in November 1986, was Joseph Needham, the most famous foreign scholar

of Chinese science.

Starting work in 1954, he wrote 'Science and Civilisation in China', completing 15 volumes until his death in 1995. Since then, 24 volumes have been published.

The 'Needham Question' which he examined throughout his life was that of why, despite its early successes, China had been overtaken by the West in science and technology. His conclusion was that China continued to make progress during its history but was surpassed by the exponential growth of modern science after the Renaissance in Europe.

Needham marvelled at the instruments and saw, as we do, how the observatory is an example of how East and West worked together to understand the mysteries of the universe. ■

Photos by Xinhua news agency



macao ^{next} magazine ^{issue}



Italian Jesuit leaves giant legacy in Macao and Asia



The dragon and the dormant crocodile



Relics of chinese tea in the Macau Art Museum



Shenyang Imperial Palace a monument to manchu warrior glory



From hawker to pastry King



Zhuhai opera house a new landmark of the city

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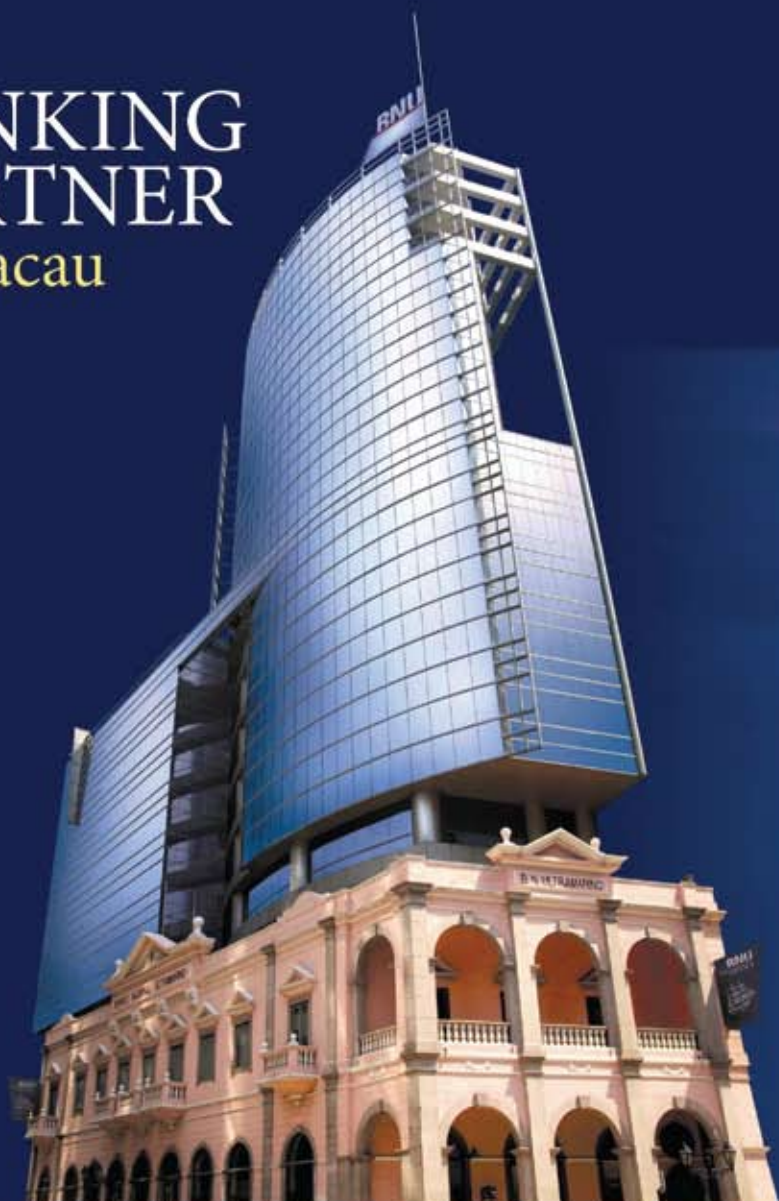
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