

# Macao 澳門

Young professionals return home  
Zhuhai Opera rises out of the sea

Parades mark  
14<sup>th</sup> anniversary



# Macao

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## Unity [Hsieh]

The fact that a huge and varied country like China has existed as a powerful civilization for over two thousand years is due in part to the importance placed on the concept of unity, or hsieh — a concept of social organization mirroring the unified order of the universe.

Initially, it was the written language itself that unified the country, and the character for 'unity' acknowledges the benefits. The character denoting 'three' (basically, any number above two) combines with 'ten', meaning 'complete' or 'pulled together' (from ten fingers, a complete count), and with the character for 'strength' or 'power': United we stand.

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

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## 20th Anniversary of EU-Macao Trade and Cooperation Agreement 澳門 - 歐盟貿易和合作協議二十周年



Macao's Chief Executive, Chui Sai On (second right) and President of EU, José Manuel Barroso (second left)

# Long Term Partners

## New chamber and air pact bring Europe and Macao even closer

By Mark O'Neill

In late November, the President of the European Commission visited Macao to attend the signing of an air agreement and the foundation of the European Chamber of Commerce (ECC). He also marked the 20th anniversary of a Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the two. It was part of a visit by Jose Manuel Barroso to the two Special Administrative Regions of China. On 25 November, he was received by Chief Executive Fernando Chui Sai On. During his visit, he also met representatives of the Macao, EU

and Portuguese communities. Barroso is a former Portuguese prime minister and foreign minister; he last met the Chief Executive in Brussels in January 2012.

He attended the official inauguration of the ECC, together with Francis Tam Pak Yuen, the Secretary for Economy and Finance.

"The presence of various European countries' chambers of commerce or business associations in Macao is one of the major contributors behind this valuable economic partnership and has helped to make Macao a regional business platform," said Tam in his speech.

In his comments, Barroso said that the new chamber would allow for more trade and investment between Macao and the EU. "There is great potential for cooperation. Bilateral trade will grow in the coming years. European exports to Macao have been growing in the last few years, even during years of less growth in Europe."

In 2012, EU exports to Macao rose 7.4 percent to 16.65 billion patacas and Macao's exports fell 17.7 percent to 315.5 million. In the first nine months of 2013, bilateral trade was 13.8 billion patacas, 10.9 percent more than a year earlier, according to the Statistics and Census Service.

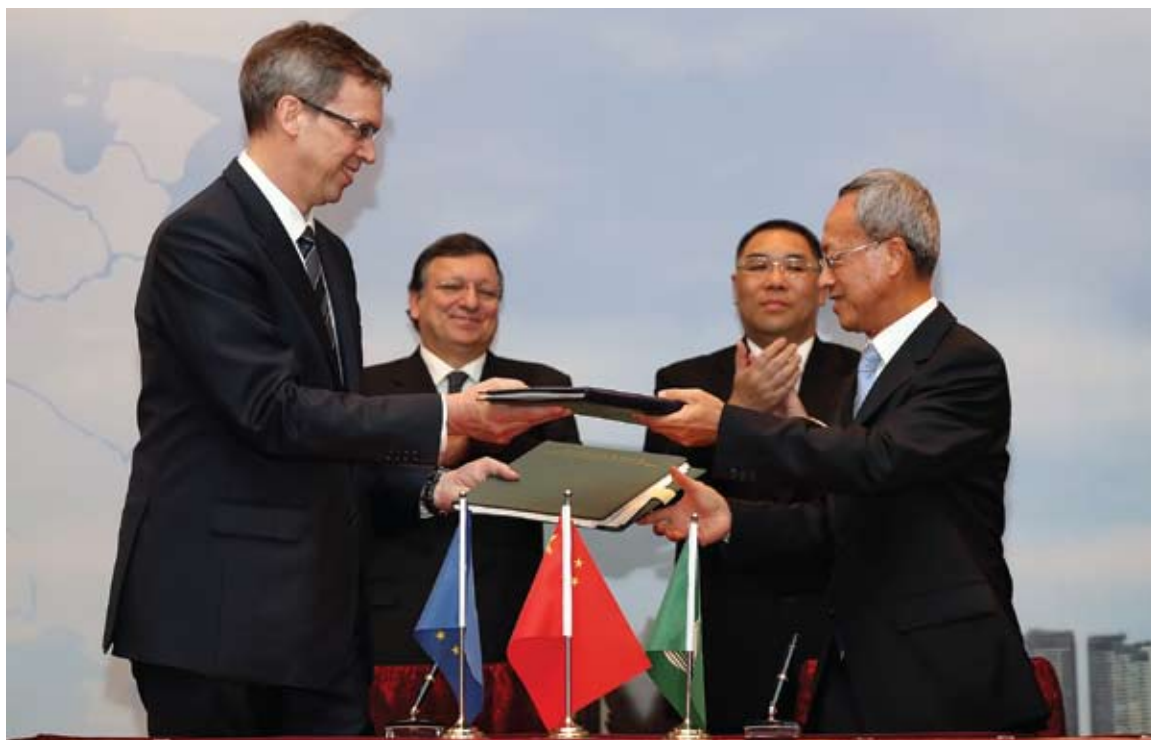
The EU and Macao intend to extend their collaboration in fields such as law, education, the environment and urban planning," said Barroso.

### New Chamber

The Chairman of the new chamber is Franklin Willemyns, Head of the France-Macao Business Association. "Macao is growing very rapidly and there will be interesting opportunities for European firms here," he said. "At the same time, they can bring knowledge and technology that can help diversify Macao's economy. We hope to have support not only from Europe but also from the Macao government and the community in establishing this chamber."

The new chamber brings together the Portuguese Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry Macao delegation; the France-Macao Business Association; the British Business Association of Macao; the German Macao Business Association; the Macao-Romania Chamber of Commerce and the Irish Chamber of Commerce of Macao.





*Air Agreement between EU and Macao*

The chamber has two honorary chairmen. One is Portuguese Consul-General Vitor Sereno and the other Ambrose So Shu Fai, Chief Executive of SJM Holdings Limited. The latter said: "The new chamber will be beneficial to both Macao and European firms. The sum is greater than the parts added together. United we have a wider network, we will do more and this will help to strengthen and promote business exchanges between the two."

## Air Agreement

Another highlight of Barroso's visit was the signature of an air services agreement between the Macao government and the European Union. It was signed by Lau Si Io, Secretary for Transport and Public Works, and Vincent Piket, head of the Office of the European Union to Hong Kong and Macao. Chief Executive Fernando Chui Sai On also attended the signing.

It increases the number of airlines that an EU member state may allow to fly here. It will also cover access of airlines to airports, access to landing slots, access to gates, rules for the services and fees. It is an international pact negotiated by the European Commission on behalf of EU member states to bring all existing bilateral air service agreements between the state and a third party in line with EU law.

Piket said that the agreement could make Macao more attractive to European airlines. "We very much hope that it will create a new impetus for the aviation industry to look at Macao as a destination. The introduction of direct flights from EU countries to Macao will be up to the airlines."

Currently, Macao has no direct flights to Europe. It is hoping that the new agreement and the flood of tourist numbers to the city will encourage European carriers to fly there.

According to figures from the Statistics and Census Service, 262,000 Europeans visited Macao in 2012, an increase of 4.3 percent over 2011.

## 20th anniversary

Barroso also joined Chief Executive Chui for a celebration of the 20th anniversary of the EU-Macau Trade and Cooperation Agreement that was signed in 1992 and came into effect in 1993.

Chui said that the two sides would continue to cooperate in many fields, including culture, education, creative industries and combatting human trafficking.

"Since 1999, the Macao government has been working together with the EU in enhancing and promoting bilateral cooperation," he said. "This has resulted in the rapid growth in bilateral trade and

collaborative initiatives. "Bilateral trade continued to show positive growth in the first three quarters of this year, making the EU Macao's second largest trading partner."

Barroso said that the EU's relationship with Macao was drawn on deep historic and cultural roots based on common values and a wide range of shared interests. "We must fully exploit all the potential for greater mutual investment, trade, cooperation and growth. Macao is a key hub between Asia and Europe and there is room to work even closer together to better translate the common interest into common actions and successfully confront new challenges." He said that the 28-nation EU was the second largest source of imports for Macao, after the mainland, and the fourth largest export market.

European firms have benefitted greatly from the boom in tourism over the last ten years. There is a growing demand for high-end European products, such as cars, gourmet food, wine, watches, clothing, jewellery and other branded goods. While EU firms are not directly involved in gaming, they are engaged in related services, such as IT, hotel management and catering.

The EU has recorded trade surpluses with Macao since 2009.

EU firms are also well placed to take part in the diversification of the tourism industry, as desired by the government, into boutique hotels, spas,

entertainment, cultural events and sports.

Before he arrived in Macao, Barroso said of the agreement: "It embodies our commitment to the political, economic and cultural relations with Macao.

We value Macao's specificity and its central role as a bridge between Asia and Europe and between China and the rest of the world. I will also stress my personal engagement to increased exchanges with Macao in trade, education, research and culture."

During his time in Hong Kong, Barroso made a speech to the European Chamber of Commerce there. He spoke of the growing EU-China relationship. "We now have a dialogue in almost all areas relevant to each other's development. And, at the very heart, is our support for the 'one-country, two systems' principle and our unique relations with the two special administrative regions, Hong Kong and Macao."

## Language cooperation

In November 2012, the Director-General of the EU's Common Service for Interpretation and Conferences and Macao's Secretary for Administration and Justice signed a Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation in training Chinese-Portuguese interpreters. It aims to increase the number of qualified interpreters within the Macao government. Under the programme, interpreters will be trained in Macao and Brussels over a five-month period. ■

*Durão Barroso and Chui Sai On*

*Photos by GCS and Xinhua*





# Turning 14

## Chief Executive promises four measures to improve people's livelihood



Chief Executive Fernando Chui Sai On promised continued investment in four areas to improve the livelihood of Macao people. He also promised programmes to improve human talent and better face the challenges of the future.

Chui was speaking during a ceremony on 20 December to mark the 14th anniversary of the Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR).

"From last year we started to gradually establish four major long-term mechanisms – in education, social security, health services and housing," he said. "The government is greatly concerned about the impact of changes in social circumstances on people's quality of life and strives to share the achievements of growth with the public."

"We are implementing the four major mechanisms, supporting local residents to improve their competitiveness and raising health and living standards among Macao people."

During his speech Chui also acknowledged that "there is room for improvement in various aspects of our administration. We will face every challenge responsibly, always make our best effort in good faith, and enhance our governance, aiming to solve the problems that most concern the public."

He promised to protect the interests of employees, support better worker benefits and remunerations and encourage vocational training, continuing education and lifelong learning.



He also spoke about the establishment of Macao as a business service platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries (PSCs). This involves three centres – a business service centre for small and medium-size enterprises; a production distribution centre; and an economic and trade cooperation, convention and exhibition centre for PSCs.

"The government is conducting studies and planning the establishment of these three centres," he said.

Looking ahead, he said that the deepening of Guangdong-Macao cooperation and the launch of a pilot free-trade zone provided Macao with new opportunities and a driving force for its future development.

"We will improve the quality of our services, broaden the content of our tourism, diversify the source of international tourists and arrange multi-destination tours, to accelerate our development into a world tourism and leisure centre," he said.



14th anniversary of Macao Special Administrative Region in Lotus Square





Awards for outstanding achievements in Macao

# Macao honours outstanding individuals and organisations

During a ceremony in December, the Chief Executive Chui Sai On presented medals and awards to 40 individuals and entities for their contributions to Macao.

The recipients came from all walks of life. They were honoured or awarded in recognition of their outstanding achievements, contributions and distinguished services rendered to Macao.

During the ceremony Chui Sai On awarded the Medal

of Honour, the highest decoration of the Special Administrative Region of Macao, to Lau Cheok Va (Grand Lotus), Ho Lai Cheng (Golden Lotus), Lei Sio lok (Silver Lotus) and Jia Rui (Silver Lotus) for their contributions to the image, reputation and development of Macao.

Lau Cheok Va started his political career in the sixties of last century in the Federation of the Workers Association of Macao where he became president.



Lau Cheok Va

He was a deputy of the Macao Legislative Assembly between 1984 and 2013. He left the assembly as president. Lau was also a deputy in the 10th and 11th National People's Congress.

Ho Lai Cheng is an honorary president of the Women's General Association of Macau where she worked from 1956. She is also an executive-member of the All-China Women's Federation and continues to work with women and children in need in Macao.

Lei Sio lok worked in the Women's General Association of Macau from the 50s where she is an honorary president. During her youth she started working in the health sector of the Kiang Wu

hospital and in the Workers' clinic. During her career she promoted children's education as a priority area of her work.

The athlete Jia Rui is a member of the Martial Arts Association of Macau and won his first gold medal in the Asian Games in 2010. He was champion of the Wushu-Changquan several times over during the last Asian Games held in 2013. Jia had previously been awarded with a sports merit medal.

Several other recipients received the Medal of Merit. The Medal, covering seven categories (Professions, Industry and Commerce, Tourism, Education, Culture, Altruism and Sport) was given to outstanding individuals and organisations that



Ho Lai Cheng



Lei Sio lok



had distinguished themselves in promoting the development of the relevant sectors in Macao. In the Professions category the recipients were Raimundo Arrais do Rosário, Leong Keng Seng and Lui Va Long.

Cheong Lok Tin, Lei Chi Fong and Si Tou Tek Lam received the medal of Industry and Commerce. The Macau Grand Prix Committee and António José Neves da Conceição Coelho received the medal for Tourism. In the education sector Chan Chi Kwan, Yip Wai Ming Evelyn, Vong Kuoc Ieng and Choi Sok I received the Medal of Merit.

Three medals for Culture were awarded for Dai Dingcheng, Yu Un Chinese Calligraphers and Painters Association of Macao and the Portuguese Institute of the Orient.

Lau Hong Meng, Mak Chi Kun and Choi Tat Meng received the Medal of Merit in the category of

Sports and Ung Pui Kun for Philanthropy.

The Chief Executive Chui Sai On also conferred seven Medals for Distinguished Service, including three for Dedication to the Department of Gardens and Green Areas of the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau, to Cheang Mui Leng, Lam Wai Hou and Wong I Lin.

Maria Amélia da Conceição António Saldanha, President of Portugal House, Lou Kan Sam, Liang Baijin and Sam Weng Kan received the Medal for Distinguished Service in Community Service.

Che Chon Seng, Wong Ka Fai, Tam Chih Wei, Iao Chon In, Chong Ka Seng, Kuok Kin Hang, Feng Xiao, Liu Qing and Cai Aolong received Certificates of Merit including the Honorific Title – Prestige and the Honorific Title – Merit, for major contributions to the reputation, development or social progress of Macao. ■

Jia Rui



Festive Series

## Valentine's Day Concert

# Romeo and Juliet

Conductor: Lü Jia

14/2/2014

Friday / 8pm /  
Macao Cultural Centre Grand Auditorium

Tickets:  
(MOP) 180 / 120 / 80

Programme:

Hector Berlioz: Excerpts from *Romeo and Juliet*, Op. 17  
Sergei Prokofiev: Excerpts from *Romeo and Juliet*, Op. 64  
Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky: "Romeo and Juliet" Fantasy Overture

Chamber Music Series

## Enchanted with Eastern Europe

22/2/2014

Saturday 8pm Dom Pedro V Theatre

Tickets: (MOP) 80/60

Programme:

Dvořák: String Quintet  
No. 2 in G Major, Op. 77

P.I. Tchaikovsky: Andante  
cantabile, for Cello and  
String Orchestra in D Major

D. Shostakovich: Chamber Sympho-  
ny in C Minor, Op. 110a (arr. by  
Rudolf Barshai from *String Quartet*  
No. 8)





# Homecoming

## Young Macao people return home after years abroad

By Mark O'Neill

In 1988, Wendy Chan Weng In emigrated to Canada with her family. In 2010, she returned home with her husband and two children, going on to open a physiotherapy clinic in 2012.

Working with her is Yonnie Wong Weng Ian, who has a similar story. She went to study in Sydney in 2000, at the age of 15. She returned home in 2011, to work with Wendy at the PhysioOne Centre.

They left in the years before the handover when many went to other countries because of uncertainty about the future; they returned to be with their parents and take up job opportunities that had not existed before. They are the young talent which Macao needs for the future.

### Starting from scratch

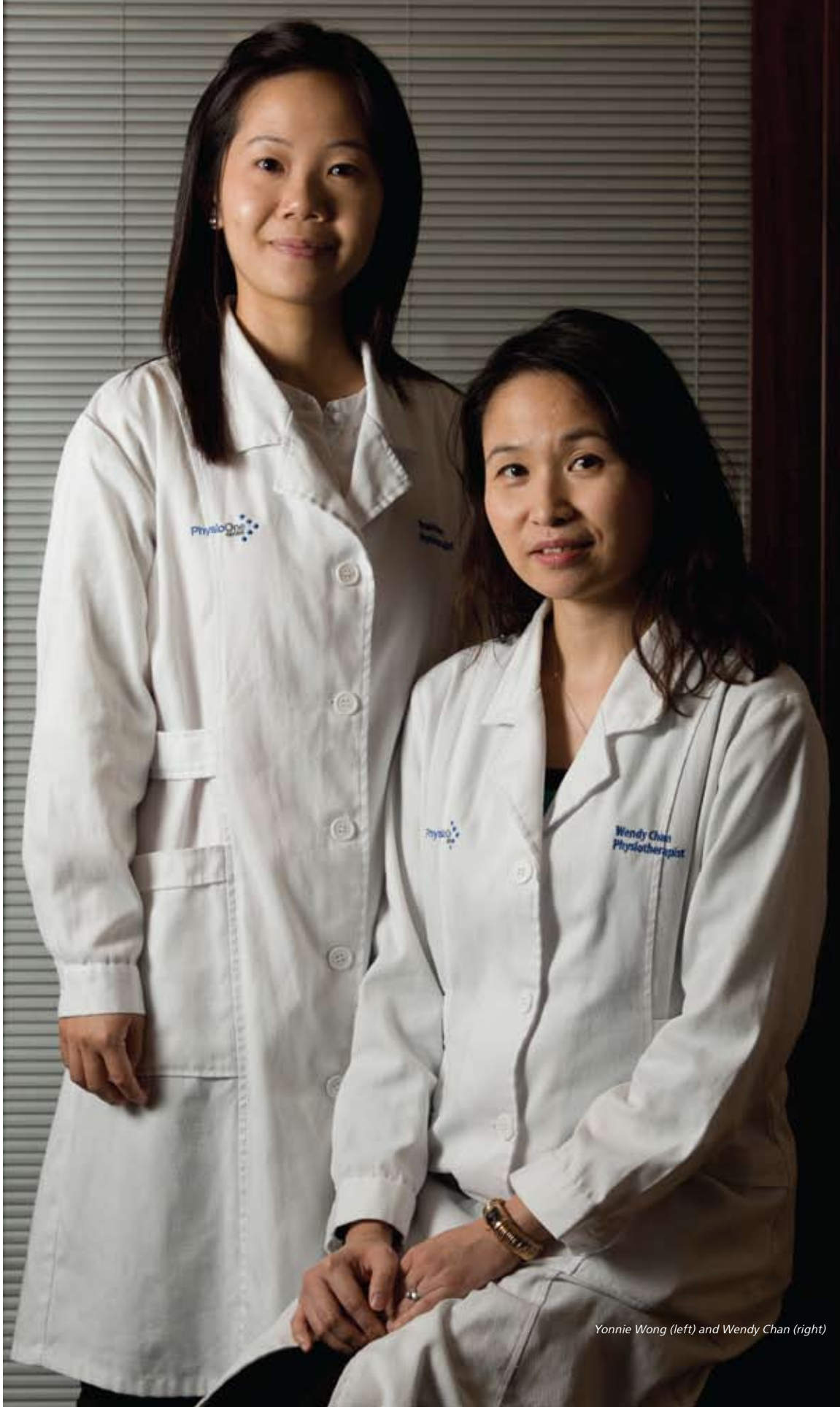
Henry Chan I Hang, the father of Wendy, was born in Macao in 1946, the eldest of five children. His parents ran a shop selling incense and paper offerings used in temples.

In his late teens, Chan became an apprentice in an electronics store. He did everything – fixing radios, cleaning, making deliveries and running errands.



Wendy Chan Weng





Yonnie Wong (left) and Wendy Chan (right)

He learnt quickly, worked hard and earned enough to open his own business in 1969. This was Tai Ping Electronics, which has since grown into one of the largest in its field in Macao, boasting four branches.

Chan worked all hours of the day, including at the weekends. In 1972, he married his wife, who lived in the same street and whose mother bought incense at the family store.

Business began to grow rapidly. With the opening of the mainland, there were major new opportunities. Many came from Guangdong to buy goods not available at home; they took them home in containers.

Wendy was born in 1975, the first child. For the first four years of her life, she lived with her parents in a small room at the back of the store. Her mother did the company accounts.

After the birth of her younger brother Andy in 1979, the space in the store became too small and the family moved into an apartment. The children's mother hired help to look after the children.

Business was prospering. Chan opened three branches and bought properties which he rented out. He frequently flew each month to Japan and other countries in Asia and Europe. For a period, he was the sole distributor of Sony in Macao.

In 1988, the family decided to emigrate to Canada, in part to provide a better education for their children and in part because of uncertainty about the future after the handover. Unlike many migrants, however, Chan decided to keep all his stores and properties in Macao.

He only spent two of each 12 month period in Toronto; most of the year he ran Tai Ping, a family business that he did not want to entrust to other people.

## New Life

"I did not want to go to Canada in the beginning," said Wendy. "I was 12 and top of my class at Sacred Heart Canossian, where my friends were. My parents did not consult me and only told me after my final exams, three months before our departure."

They moved to Willowdale, a prosperous neighbourhood of Toronto that was mostly white; 20 percent of the population came from Hong Kong.

"The first year was tough. I could write and read English well but could not speak well. I felt that I did not belong. However, I adjusted gradually to the new life and started to enjoy what Toronto had to offer.

"It was a big change for our mother. She changed from being a business woman to a housewife. We could have afforded help but she refused it."

Neither Wendy nor her younger brother were interested in business nor taking over the family firm. At high school, Wendy did volunteer work in hospitals and nursing homes and enjoyed it; this led her to her future career.

She did her first degree in psychology at the University of Toronto and a second degree in physiotherapy at the School of Physical Therapy at the University of Western Ontario.

After her graduation in 1999, she went to work in private clinics in Toronto. She married a native of Hong Kong who had also emigrated to Canada; they have a son, now seven, and a daughter, now four.

## Hard decision

Wendy lived in Canada for more than 20 years and had a good professional and personal life in a stable and efficient country, with many close friends.

Then her father made her an offer that was difficult to refuse – he would invest in a private physiotherapy clinic and give it to his daughter to run. He invited her husband to become Chief Executive of the Tai Ping electronics business.

"We were ambivalent," said Wendy. "We did not know what life would be like. For both my husband and me, it was a difficult decision."

In the end, the attraction of running her own business and being reunited with her father won over the pleasures of Toronto life. Her father invested in a building he owned in downtown Macao to create the PhysioOne Centre; it had the latest equipment from the United States. It occupies 3,000 square feet on five floors and offers physiotherapy and rehabilitation treatments. Wendy's brother Andy decided to remain in Toronto, where he works in computer animation, doing special effects for Hollywood films.





## New clinic opens

The centre, at 11 Rua de Ferreira do Amaral, had its soft opening in November 2012 and its grand opening the following month. It is a crowded and competitive market.

Many old people prefer traditional Chinese medicine and bonesetters; there are also massage therapists and chiropractors, as well as physiotherapy clinics similar to their own. Four new ones opened in 2013 alone. Their natural market is the large and rising expat population, which provides many of their customers.

"At the start, people did not know what it was. They would call asking for a massage or an injection, so we needed to do a lot of public education about what physiotherapy is," said Wendy.

"Our expat clients are very pleased to find us and learn that they can trust our expertise. We improve the quality of our clients' lives without the use of drugs or surgery and help them achieve their full potential. Instead of chasing the pain, we address the root causes of their problem and offer an individualised and comprehensive treatment programme."

As for business, the clinic has done better than expected, breaking even in daily operations in the first three months.

On Christmas Day last year, they met a client who had suffered from severe neck pain for months and thought the only solution was surgery which he had already booked two weeks earlier. His mind was filled with questions and worries about his life after surgery. He came to PhysioOne as his last option. Wendy and Yonnie worked together with this client, and by Chinese New Year, he was able to go on a full holiday in Southeast Asia symptom-free without any surgical intervention.

"Yonnie and I have fun and we love what we do. We do everything with integrity and compassion," said Wendy.

## Return to her parents

Yonnie Wong went to Australia in September 2000 and studied at a strict Anglican High School in Sydney; she arrived on her own and lived with a homestay family. Her parents came from China to Macao 40 years ago and own a café in the middle of Taipa.

"My skill in listening English greatly improved during the 2000 Sydney Olympics. We had a month off from school to enjoy the games. I did not have much to do as I had just arrived; so I stayed in front of the television," she said.

She and other Asian students did encounter racism at the school; but they received strong support from other teachers, including a cooked breakfast for them before early classes. In her final year, she was among the top students.

"I knew I was a people person who could never work in an office. The four years of studying at university was tough, without knowing whether this was what I wanted to do or not. It was not until after our practical placements that I realised I really wanted to be a physiotherapist and help others.

"As our group of friends was growing up, some moved overseas, some got married and started their own families and then I started to think about my own life. I had spent ten years enjoying my life, living off the hard work of my parents. But I had not spent much time with them at all. As they were getting older, I wanted to be by their side. I wanted to go back home, where I belonged."

In 2011, reluctantly leaving her career and her friends behind, Yonnie returned to Macao. She immediately started helping out at a community day care centre where she learnt much about the local community. Later she worked with Cirque du Soleil's ZAIA and the House of Dancing Water – a chance to work with professional athletes and world-class performers. "I had to cover any medical emergency and learnt a lot of advanced first aid and emergency skills. I got to know a lot of amazing people from around the world."

Yonnie met Wendy online before she came back to Macao. Always thinking it would be best to work for someone like herself and after two years of gaining excellent experience, Yonnie was glad to join Wendy at PhysioOne when it opened.

"In Macao, as physiotherapy is still a new profession, there is a lot of room for growth. Wendy gives me plenty of guidance and encouragement but at the same time a lot of freedom and trust. She lets me take part in many of the planning and business decisions, which have helped me learn how to build up a business in Macao and what the Macao medical system is like. I have faith that the development of physiotherapy will only get stronger in the future." ■

*Photos by Luís Almoester*





# Trailblazer

Young woman becomes  
first Chinese chief of  
Maritime Administration

By Mark O'Neill



Suzana Wong



On 20 May 1999, Wong Soi Man became the first Chinese and the first woman to head the Maritime Administration, now the Marine and Water Bureau of Macao. She was also, at 32, the youngest person ever to lead the department.

For the fourteen and a half years since then, she has held the position, with responsibility for the city's water system added to her portfolio in 2006.

She is one of the most prominent of the young Chinese who took over positions that had been filled for more than four centuries by Portuguese.

In her case, the contrast is striking. She sits in a chair that was occupied by Portuguese naval commanders, and oversees a department full of military tradition. She is a civilian, a graduate of Zhongshan University with a degree in electronics and a Masters in Maritime Safety Administration from the World Maritime University in Malmo.

What is more, she comes from a very modest family, not a quinta in the Alentejo. She was born in Guangzhou and her father died when she was seven. When the family moved to Macao in September 1980, her mother worked long hours as a housekeeper in a hotel to support the family. The family of four lived in an apartment of 20 square metres.

It is through her determination, academic success, personal skills and mastery of Portuguese, English and Mandarin that she has risen to her current position.

## Independent girl

Wong was born in 1967 in Guangzhou. Her grandparents were natives of Doumen, Zhuhai and had moved to Macao. Later her father moved to the mainland to study, work and start a family. He was a technician in a machinery factory and her mother an accountant in a stationery shop.

It was a time of grain, meat and vegetable oil coupons; the family had enough rice to eat but meat, fish and other foods were not plentiful.

"My grandmother came from Macao to Guangzhou once or twice a year and brought food and clothes," she said. "We had enough to live on. We did not feel hungry. It was the same for everyone. I played happily with the other children in the apartment building." When she was five, her father contracted a liver disease, probably cancer. For the next two years, her mother spent much of her time at the hospital looking after him. "She had no time to look after me and my brother."

In 1974, her father passed away. "His death made me more independent. It was hard for our mother to raise us alone. She worked long hours. I had to look after my brother and prepare the food for when she came home."

She was an outstanding student both in the classroom and on the sports field, where she excelled at the 100 metres. She represented her school and Macao at athletics competitions.



High school photo, 1981, Macao



University life, champion of competition, around 1985, Zhongshan



Family photo with mother and brother, 1979, Guangzhou

## Move to Macao

After the end of the Cultural Revolution in 1976, it became possible for mainland people to apply to rejoin their families in Hong Kong and Macao.

"It was hard for one parent to raise the family. So we applied to join our grandmother in Macao and this was quickly approved. We lived with her in her tiny apartment of about 20 square metres. It was not a good living environment and was smaller than our apartment in Guangzhou."

Wong nevertheless adapted quickly to her new school and made new friends. The language of instruction was Cantonese, as it had been in Guangzhou. After one term, she caught up with her classmates in English.

Life was more expensive than in Guangzhou. Wong's mother worked as a housekeeper in a hotel and her grandmother received money regularly from a son in the United States.

Opportunities then for tertiary education in Macao were limited. Many of her classmates chose to study in Europe or North America but her family finances would not allow that. So she chose Zhongshan University in Guangzhou, to study electronics; she returned to Macao for the summer and winter holidays.



Family photo with parents, around 1971, Guangzhou

"The study there was good. I lived in a dormitory with seven to eight other female students. Learning about human relations and the mainland were very useful for the future. I also met my future husband there. He is from Macao and was studying at Jinan University."

They both graduated in the spring of 1989, the time of the student protests, and returned to Macao.

## Localisation

It was the best time to be a young, well-educated Chinese in Macao. In 1987, Portugal had signed the Joint Declaration with China to return the city in 1999. It belatedly realised that it had to localise the civil service and quickly; it was in great need of good local candidates.

Wong and her husband benefitted from this wave and joined the government. In October 1989, the two were sent to the University of Lisbon to study Portuguese for one academic year with a group of Macao and mainland students.

"I found Portuguese grammar easier than that of English. After one year of study, I could speak and read a Portuguese newspaper. Local people were warm and friendly and welcomed us talking to them. It was a good opportunity to understand the society and culture. We liked the relaxed style of life. It is a good place to retire."

## Joining the government

In 1990, after their return from Portugal, she and her husband passed the exam to enter the civil service. She joined the Municipal Council (Leal Senado) and after a short time was transferred to the Maritime Administration, where she has remained since.



"There were naval officers there but they wore civilian clothes and put on uniform only for ceremonial occasions," she said. "It was easy to adapt. Most of the staff were Chinese from Macao." She was one of an intake of 20 who were being trained to take positions held by Portuguese. "I am very grateful to Commander Duarte Costa, who made a big contribution to the hiring and training. I owe him a lot."

The newcomers were sent on one- to two-month training assignments to Portugal in 1992 and 1993. In 1995, she was the single person selected to go for a master's degree at the World Maritime University in Malmo, Sweden. It was a sign that her superiors had chosen her for a leadership role in the future. The university was founded in 1983 by the International Maritime Organisation, an agency of the United Nations, to help improve the safety and efficiency of shipping on the world's oceans. Wong did a one-year Master's in Maritime Safety Administration. It was an important step in her international education; its students came from all over the world, especially developing countries.

*Sworn in as the director, 20 May 1999, Moorish Barracks*



## Making history

On 20 May 1999, she was appointed director of the Maritime Administration, at the age of 32. The photograph of her taking the oath of office captures the historical importance of that moment; a slender Chinese woman, she is standing in front of Commander Zambujo Herlander of the Portuguese navy in his full dress uniform and Alves Paula, the last Portuguese Secretary for Transport and Public Works.

When she took over, the department had 300–400 people, including a training school, a museum and a dockyard. "I found the management a bit backward, and cases of nepotism. Some people had jobs thanks to introductions from friends and relatives or kept them through flattering their superiors."

She introduced entry through competitive exams and gradually changed the system. "Firing someone in the government is difficult and complicated unless they have made major mistakes. All you can do is transfer them to another department. Fortunately, all the recruits who joined with me had the same idea to reform and modernise."



*Graduation photo at World Maritime University, 1995, Sweden*

She describes her management style as consultative, not dictatorial. She listens to the opinions of her staff and reaches a consensus which everyone implements.

Her job requires close cooperation with departments of the Zhuhai and Guangdong governments regarding Macao's water supply. "Before the handover, because of the issue of sovereignty, there was a certain distance. After the handover, this disappeared. The cooperation is more direct. We feel we belong to the same family; only our areas of jurisdiction are different."

Since all members of the Portuguese military had to leave before the handover, there is only one Portuguese left on her staff; she works in the Maritime Museum.

Wong works hard to promote a sense of belonging among her staff. When someone has a birthday, he or she is invited to Wong's office for a gift and a handshake. At Christmas, there is a dinner and a party for all the staff and their families.

The department's welfare team organises many activities, including participation in sports events. It also hosts open days when the public are invited to see its facilities. "Before, it was rather secretive. Now we want to build our reputation among the public and show them a sense of responsibility."

## New Duties

Her responsibilities increased greatly when she was

assigned to be in charge of Macao's water supply in 2006. In July 2013, her bureau was expanded to cope with such a responsibility.

This has brought many challenges – ensuring an adequate supply of clean drinking water to the city's growing population, coping with water salinity and promoting water conservation among residential and industrial users. The Macao government has provided 450 million yuan (US\$ 74 million) in financial support for the construction of a major reservoir in Zhuhai.

The water department has only a dozen members but Wong is hiring more.

On the marine side, there is much to do, including completing the new Taipa ferry terminal due to go into full operation in 2014, improving the Outer Harbour terminal that is handling an increasing number of visitors, and preparing the infrastructure for the bridge to Hong Kong and Zhuhai due to open in 2016.

"We take one step at a time. My aim is to do a good job and stay healthy," said Wong

Her husband is in charge of IT at the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau. They have two children, aged 11 and 14.

"My status in the government is higher than my husband's," said Wong. "He is stubborn, though, and has a stronger character than mine."

*Photos by Luís Almoister*



2013/11/12

### Macao's population reaches almost 600,000

Macao's population reached 598,200 at the end of September, an increase of 6,300 from the end of June, the Statistics and Census Bureau (DSEC) said.

The city's population has gone up by 36.5 percent since the establishment of the Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR) in December 1999, when the population stood at 438,100.

The number of non-local workers, informally known as blue card holders, rose by 9,628 quarter-to-quarter to 130,822 at the end of the third quarter, accounting for 21.8 percent of the total population.

Based on the MSAR's land area of just 29.9 square kilometres, its population density reached 20,006 inhabitants per square kilometre.



2013/12/01

### Sindhu wins Macau Open Badminton

India's rising shuttler PV Sindhu clinched the women's singles title at the Macau Open Badminton Grand Prix Gold Tournament.

Sindhu, 18, who is the top seed for the event, beat world number 30 Li Michelle of Canada 21-15, 21-12 in just 37 minutes in the title clash.

Sindhu, who was bestowed the Arjuna award earlier this year, was dominant from start to finish in a lop-sided encounter against the seventh-seeded Canadian.

Besides the Malaysia Open triumph in May, Sindhu also became India's first women's singles medallist at the World Championship in August, where she claimed bronze.

In the men's singles, South Korea's Son Wan-ho ended the title hopes of Taiwan's Hsueh Hsuan-yi with a 21-11, 21-15 win.



2013/12/01

### North Korea's Kim Mi-Gyong wins women's Macao marathon

North Korea's 22-year-old Kim Mi-Gyong won the 32nd Women's Macau International Marathon, clocking up 2:36:32 hours and winning US\$ 20,000.

Kenyan runners Purity Kangogo Kimetto and Matebo Ruth Chemisto finished in second and third place, coming in at 2:37:20 and 2:38:42 hours respectively.

Kenya's Julius Kiplimo Maisei won the men's marathon in a record time of 2:12:45 hours.

Fellow Kenyans Julius Kiprono Mutai and Elijah Mwaniki Mgogo finished in second and third place with times of 2:14:10 and 2:14:56 hours respectively.

Some 6,000 runners from 47 countries and regions competed in the event.



2013/12/02

### GDP grows 10.5 pct in 3rd quarter

Macao's gross domestic product (GDP) grew 10.5 percent year-on-year in real terms in the third quarter, reaching 103.2 billion patacas at current prices, the Statistics and Census Bureau (DSEC) has announced.

In the second quarter, GDP stood at 98 billion patacas at current prices.

According to a DSEC statement, the city's economic growth in the third quarter was mainly led by an 11.9 percent real increase in exports of services, of which exports of gaming services grew 13.3 percent and exports of other tourism services rose 8.1 percent.

The tourism and gaming sector showed a satisfactory performance, the statement said.



2013/12/05

### Group to open museum to show painting of "A Lorch"

An 150-year-old oil painting by Macao-born artist Marciano Antonio Baptista (1826-1896) that is currently being restored by experts from the Palace Museum in Beijing, will be put on public display in a local museum to be opened by the Macau Association of the Thirteen Hongs for Culture and Trade Promotion, at the end of next year.

The painting was donated to the association by the International Institute of Macau (IIM) headed by pre-handover policy secretary Jorge Rangel.

The artist did the painting, titled "A Lorch", in memory of his father, who was a skipper of the boat in the painting.

The painting was hanging in the dining rooms of the Baptistas for four generations.

It was the decision of Filomeno Marciano Baptista, the US-based great-grandson of the artist, to bring the painting back to Macao.



2013/12/10

### "Hug a Shark" campaigns against shark-fin dishes

Campaign group Shark Savers Macau has started its local drive to raise public awareness of the world's depleted numbers of sharks and to promote non-consumption of shark fin.

The group held a Hug a Shark activity to collect signatures from passers-by who promised not to eat shark fin anymore. Shark Savers is an international organisation with the aim of saving the oceans' depleting shark population.

Joe Chan Chon Meng, a local representative of the group, pointed out that people in Macao consumed a large amount of shark fins at banquets. According to Chan, the survey showed that there were on average 5,000 banqueting tables serving shark fin per month in Macao, requiring the slaughter of 25,000 sharks.





2013/12/18

### President Xi Jinping calls for Macao's "consistent development"

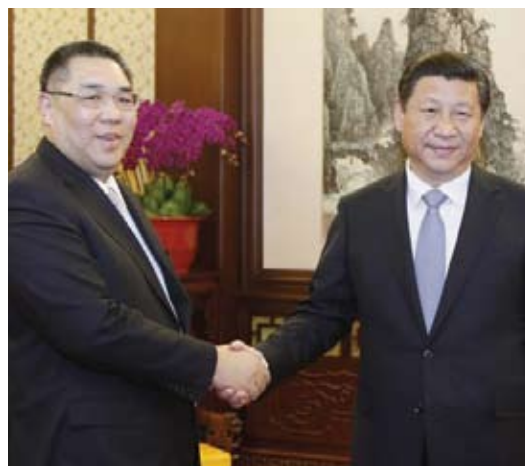
President Xi Jinping called for more efforts from the Macao government and people to maintain "consistent economic development", Xinhua reported.

Xi made the remarks during a meeting with Macao Chief Executive Fernando Chui Sai On in Beijing where he presented his 2013 work report and 2014 policy guidelines to the central government.

The destinies of Macao and the mainland have always been tightly tied together, and the two sides will achieve common progress and development with efforts made by all the Chinese people, the president was quoted by Xinhua as telling Chui.

Xi said that the central government was fully supportive of the work of Chui and the Macao government in maintaining stable economic growth and a harmonious society.

Macao should also be prepared for adversity while enjoying prosperity and work on long-term plans, Xi said.



2013/12/26

### Macao's GDP to post average real growth of 12.25 pct in 2014 and 2015

Macao's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is expected to grow by 13.5 percent in 2014 and to fall to 11 percent in 2015 due to a drop in investment following the conclusion of new casino projects, according to the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).

In its latest report on Macao, the EIU said that consumer prices would continue to rise at a high rate, with inflation of 6 percent in 2014 and 6.3 percent in 2015. The report said that the government of the territory would continue to amass tax surpluses, which in 2014/15 are expected to reach an annual average of 23.5 percent of GDP.

The EIU report noted that Macao's economy was excessively dependent on the gaming and gambling sector and the regular influx of high rollers from China, and praised the government efforts to promote economic diversification.



2013/12/27

### Macao's inflation rate at 5.78 pct in Nov

Macao's Consumer Price Index posted a year-on-year increase of 5.78 percent in November due to higher house rentals and prices for meals acquired away from home and tourist trips abroad, the Statistics and Census Services reported.

Compared to November 2012, there were significant rises in the price indexes for the categories of Housing and Fuels (11.12 percent) and Food Products and Non-Alcoholic Beverages (6.48 percent).

In November the CPI rose 0.52 percent in monthly terms, with the price indexes for the categories Apparel and Footwear and Housing and Fuels increasing by 3.23 percent and 1.18 percent respectively.



2013/12/27

### Macao has trade deficit of US\$ 8.1 billion from Jan through Nov 2013

Macao's trade deficit for the period from January through November was 64.86 billion patacas (US\$ 8.1 billion), up 14 percent annually, the Statistics and Census Services reported. In the first 11 months of the year Macao exported merchandise worth 8.18 billion patacas, an increase of 9 percent year-on-year, and imported goods worth 73.04 billion patacas, up 14 percent in annual terms.

During the first 11 months of this year merchandise imports from mainland China and the European Union were respectively worth 23.80 billion patacas and 16.95 billion patacas, annual increases of 13 percent and 12 percent.

The period saw consumer goods worth 46.53 billion patacas imported, up 18 percent annually. Highlights included 8.67 billion patacas in gold jewellery, 5.64 billion patacas in wristwatches and 2.46 billion patacas in beauty, make-up and skincare products, up 27 percent, 22 percent and 70 percent respectively.



2013/12/27

### Almost 27 million visited Macao in the first 11 months of 2013

In the first eleven months of 2013, visitor arrivals totalled 26,737,993, up by five percent year-on-year, according to the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC).

Visitors from mainland China (17 million) and the Republic of Korea (427,857) increased by ten percent and seven percent respectively. Visitors from Hong Kong totalled 6,195,214, while those from Taiwan reached 914,614.

In November Macao received 2,432,975 visitors, an increase of two percent compared with November 2012.



2014/1/02

### 2013 casino revenue hits record US\$ 45.2 billion

Macao casino revenue growth accelerated last year as the world's largest gambling hub seven times as much as the Las Vegas Strip in 2013

Gaming revenue from the city's six operators rose 18.6 percent to 360.75 billion patacas (US\$ 45.2 billion) in 2013 the Gaming Inspection and Co-ordination Bureau (DICJ) said.

In 2012, Macao's casino gross revenue rose 13.5 percent to 304.1 billion patacas (US\$ 38 billion). Macao's six operators own 35 casinos.







## Botticelli's masterpiece Venus graces Macao

Macao people have a unique opportunity to see one of the most famous paintings in the world -- the Venus of Botticelli. The painting represents a beautiful aristocratic young woman from Genoa named Simonetta Vespucci. She moved to Florence when the Renaissance movement was in its earliest stages. It was there she met and became acquainted with Italian painter Alessandro di Mariano di Vanni Filipepi, better known as Sandro Botticelli.

Already married, she could not return the affections of other men. One of them was a powerful son of the Medici family, who would later commission Botticelli to paint *The Birth of Venus*. But that did not stop Botticelli painting her portrait in various forms -- the Virgin Mary, the goddess of wisdom Athena and, of course, Venus, the immortal embodiment of sexuality and raw beauty.

One of Botticelli's earliest Renaissance paintings depicts the figure of Venus (and Vespucci) -- it is in fact the same figure shown in *The Birth of Venus*, which was painted in the same year.

The painting shows a more youthful, softer Venus but it is the same woman we know from the *Birth of Venus* done in 1486.

Botticelli (1445-1510) belonged to the Florentine school of artists under the patronage of Lorenzo de' Medici.

Botticelli's Venus is the centrepiece of the opening of MGM Macao's new Art Space in December last year.





Florence - Pietro Tacca - Il Porcellino



MGM Macao's Art Space



Venus of Botticelli (1482)





## Parade through Macao, Latin City

The Cultural Affairs Bureau of Macao held on December 20th the “Parade through Macao, Latin City” in commemoration of the 14th Anniversary of Macao’s Handover to China.

The Parade held under the slogans “Peace, Love and Cultural Integration” and “An annual celebration for the entire city – VIVA” attracted over one hundred thousand viewers.

The Parade embraces performing groups from over 10 countries and regions including Portugal, Spain, France, Italy, Peru, Bolivia, Brazil, Argentina, Colombia, Burkina Faso, among others, as well as Taiwan, Hong Kong and Mainland China.

Joining them in the Parade were 50 local groups bringing to 2,000 the total number of participants.

*Photos of Eric Tam and Manuel Cardoso*

















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# Tea Time

## Macao Museum of Art presents Chinese and British imperial tea pieces

By Ou Nian-le and Frank Xie



Tea Pot - Reign of Qianlong (1736 - 1795)

Have you ever wondered how the Chinese and British royal families used to drink their tea?

The answers can be found at the Macao Museum of Art (MAM), which in December opened an exhibition entitled Taste and Essence. The displays include a collection of

168 pieces of historical tea ware and paintings from the Palace Museum (PM) of Beijing and the Victoria and Albert Museum in London.

The pieces range in time from the Jin dynasty in the fifth century to drinking vessels painted with enamel from the Qing dynasty, in the 18th century.

Tea began as a beverage and medicine in China and has since become the most popular drink in the world, after water. The first Westerners to taste it were Portuguese priests and merchants in Macao in the 16th century. It was they who introduced it to Europe. From there, it spread all over the world, from Siberia to San Salvador, from Tashkent to Texas. It is the

Reign of Kangxi (1662 - 1722)



principal social drink in India, Britain and many Islamic countries where the sale of alcohol is banned or restricted.

What this exhibition celebrates is not so much the history of tea as its development into an art form. This was thanks to its patronage by royal

families and the aristocracy, for whom artists created new and exquisite designs of the cups, jars and pots used to drink it.

The exhibition highlights the patronage of the Chinese and British royal families. "The specialty of this exhibition is that the pieces are all royal items, from the Imperial Court of Beijing and the Royal Palace of Great Britain," said Lu Chenglong, a tea specialist from the PM. "It is the first time they have been exhibited outside the mainland and Britain. They are priceless."

The exhibition is on the fourth floor of the museum and runs until 9 March 2014.





Chan Hou Seng

Chan Hou Seng, Director of the Macao Museum of Art (MAM), said that this was the 15th joint exhibition between the MAM and the PM. On 29 July 2013, the two signed a strategic cooperation memorandum of understanding to deepen their links, in the planning of exhibitions, conservation and protection of pieces, scholarly and staff exchange, creativity and publishing.

Ji Tianbin, Deputy Director of the PM, said that joint exhibitions with the MAM had become a very important model for the PM and that it had become the leading museum to exhibit its pieces outside the PM. "We hope this cooperation will continue for a long time," he said.

Isabel Celeste Jorge, member of the Administration Committee of the Civic and Municipal Bureau, said: "Macao used to be the main port used by China to export tea to the Western world. Studying the development and interaction of Chinese and Western tea cultures has a very special meaning for Macao."

"Pieces of the Tang and Song dynasties are the prelude, whilst pieces from the Ming and Qing dynasties are the main chapter, including the tea culture of the Qing imperial court," she said.

## The art of tea

Chan said that China was the home of tea and that the culture of tea had a very long history. "It is intimately linked to the life of Chinese people. In displaying these different items, we can see the development of the art of tea in all its richness, with its own distinct kind of beauty."

Of the 168 items, 120 come from the PM. The earliest piece dates from the Jin dynasty (265–420 AD).

Divided into six categories, the exhibits show how the personal tastes of the emperors influenced different kinds of tea and the techniques of tea ware. For example, an intricate enamel teapot with patterns of landscapes, flowers and birds from the Qing period (1644–1911) shows the fastidious attitude of Emperor Qianlong towards his tea drinking.

Different materials used to make tea ware are shown, including pottery, porcelain, enamel, jade, lacquer, silver and wood. One section shows a collection of Zisha purple clay teapots.

The remaining 48 items come from the Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A) and show a different kind of tea culture, developed by the British royal family. Working class British people drank tea with milk and



Yixing - ware purple clay teapot - Qing dynasty (1644 - 1911)

sugar from cheap mugs along with their lunch and evening meal.

But, for the royal family and the aristocracy with time and wealth on their side, tea drinking became more stylised and complicated. Craftsmen made them beautiful porcelain and silver cups, saucers and pots. They vied with each other to show off the elegance and refinement of their collection.

How you drank your tea became a sign of your class status – poor people poured the milk in first, the rich added it afterwards.

The items from the V&A date from the 17th to the 20th century and come from Britain, Germany and Holland. They include paintings as well as tea ware.

## Macao as window on the world

Macao was the earliest window for Chinese tea and the culture of tea to spread to the outside world.

The first European to encounter tea and write about it was a Portuguese Jesuit, Father Jasper de Cruz, in 1560. He was one of a group of priests sent first to the court of the Cambodian king and then to China; he mentioned it in a letter home.

From the early 17th century, Macao was the most

important entrepot for the export of tea to the West, first to Europe, then the Americas and other countries. It became a very important commodity for China.

Macao's role in this trade is remembered in the Macao Tea Culture House, on the corner of Lou Lim Ieoc Garden, on Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida.

Portuguese traders imported tea to their homeland in the early 17th century. Its taste, high price and exoticism helped it to become very fashionable at the royal court and among the aristocracy. The traders shipped it to Lisbon, from which vessels of the Dutch East India Company took it to France, Holland and the Baltic states. By the mid-17th century, its popularity had spread to these countries.

Britain was a latecomer. Famous diarist Samuel Pepys first mentioned drinking tea in his diary of 25 September 1660: "I sent for a cup of tea of which I never drank before."

That would soon change. Charles II, who had been restored to the throne in May 1660, decided to marry a Portuguese princess, Catherine of Braganza. This was in part because her father, King John IV of Portugal, would provide as dowry several ships of luxury goods; Charles needed them to pay off his substantial debts. The goods included a chest of tea.



When Catherine arrived in southern England on 13 May 1662, the first thing she did was ask for a cup of tea after a long and stormy crossing. There was none available, so she was given beer instead. Despite becoming the Queen of England, she preferred the cuisine of her native Portugal, including tea. This became the preferred drink of the royal court, the aristocracy and the rich. In 1664, the East India Company opened its first trading centre in Macao; the merchants sent a silver case of tea and cinnamon oil to Charles II and his queen. Macao became a centre for trade between Europe and Asia and within Asia, to Calcutta in India and Batavia (now Jakarta) in Indonesia. The city imported spices, cotton and opium and exported silk, porcelain and tea from China. In the 1880s, Macao hosted 15 tea factories where the leaf imported from China was processed for European buyers; the average number of employees was 600. Most of the finished product was taken to Hong Kong, from where it was shipped on British or other European vessels for the London market.



Blue-and-white teapot, Reign of Longqing (1567 - 1572)

### Breaking the Chinese monopoly

The British merchants did not like their dependence on China for supplies of tea; they wanted greater control over the price that a diversity of supply would give them. So the East India Company sent Robert Fortune to China in 1848 on a secret mission to acquire the tea plant.

It was shortly after the First Opium War and hostility to foreigners was intense. Fortune succeeded in obtaining the seeds; the East India Company planted them into northeast India, whose soil they considered the most suitable. The experience failed but they discovered that a different variety of tea was endemic to Assam and other regions of the northeast and was drunk by local tribes. Using Chinese planting and cultivation techniques, the British launched a tea industry by offering land in Assam to any European who agreed to cultivate tea for export.

This broke the Chinese monopoly, brought prices down and made tea a mass commodity in Britain, Ireland and other countries in Europe. It was no longer reserved for the royal court and the aristocracy.

The exhibition Taste and Essence offers you a rare chance to see tea as an art form in its most sophisticated fashion.

Photos by Cheong Kamka



Tea brazier - Qianlong (1736 - 1795)

Collection of the Victoria and Albert Museum - Meissen, Germany (1737)



Collection of the Victoria and Albert Museum - China (1790 - 1800)





Collection of the Victoria and Albert Museum - Guangzhou (1790 - 1820)



Late Ming (16th - 17th century)



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# Chess Master

Prodigy helps Macao team to come second in world Chinese chess championship

By Mark O'Neill and Frank Xie



One early morning in October 1992, a middle-aged couple in Henan, central China, found a baby in a bamboo box abandoned on their doorstep; the little boy had no documents other than a certificate saying when and where he was born.

The woman did not want to take him in, saying that it was as much as they could do to raise their four children. But her husband was entranced by the baby and insisted that he join their family.

Twenty-one years later, the young man helped Macao to its greatest achievement in the world of Chinese chess – second place in the world championship.

The event was held from 21–26 October in a hotel in Huizhou in Guangdong province, south China; there were 70 men and 10 women from 25 countries and regions taking part. The Macao men's team of Cao Yan-lei – the former abandoned baby – and Lei Kam-fun finished second, after mainland China and ahead of Vietnam, Germany and Hong Kong. It was the best result ever achieved by a Macao team. In the individual rankings, Cao finished third and Lei eighth.

Ethnic Chinese dominated the standings, whether playing for the mainland or for foreign countries.

There was also a wide representation of people of other races, including Japanese, Russians, Germans, Finns and French, a testimony to the global popularity of the game.

On the evening of 27 November, 60 people gathered in a downtown restaurant in Macao to celebrate the event. “We had five gruelling days of competition,” Chui Sai-ping, Chairman of the Macao Chinese Chess Association, told the gathering. “Our Macao team's performance was outstanding. It was the greatest achievement in the history of Macao chess. Let us warmly congratulate the competitors.”

### Long history

The sport, called “xiangqi” in Chinese, is one of the most popular board games in China and Vietnam and among Chinese communities overseas. Xiangqi belongs to the same family as Western, or international, chess and other variations in India and other countries.

The game represents a battle between two armies, with the object of capturing the opponent's general or king. The pieces include a general, an advisor, an

elephant, horses, chariots, soldiers and cannons, which must jump over pieces to capture them. The rules forbid generals from facing each other directly; there are areas on the board called the river and the palace, which restrict the movement of some pieces but enhance that of others and the placement of the pieces on the intersection of board lines rather than within the squares. There are a total of 32 squares. The first written references to xiangqi are from the Warring States period (475–221 BC). Pieces have been found dating to the Song dynasty (960–1279). It became especially popular during the Qing dynasty (1644–1911), with books and manuals on the techniques of the game. In Macao, the Chinese Chess Association has a history dating back 100 years; 700 members belong to the xiangqi association.

In traditional China, xiangqi was the game for ordinary people, while the imperial court and intellectuals played Go. This is a board game which originated in China 2,500 years ago. It is played with black and white pieces on a grid of 19 lines by 19 lines. It is more complicated and more intellectual than xiangqi.

Go spread from China to Korea and Japan in the fifth and seventh centuries AD respectively. Now there are over 40 million Go players worldwide, the vast majority in East Asia. The International Go Federation has 74 member countries.

Cheng Zuguo, a Professor of Transport at Tongji University in Shanghai, said that, with a grid of 19 by 19, Go was more complicated than xiangqi. “The games of Go take four to five hours, longer than those of xiangqi, which usually lasts one to two hours.

“Go was the game of the imperial court for many dynasties. The emperor played it, as did his courtiers. Those who excelled at it received special favours. This has continued since 1911 and the overthrow of the Qing. Governments, nationalist or communist, have paid attention to Go and honoured its champions, such as Nie Weiping.

“Xiangqi has been the game of the common people. Now many people bet on it; this has made it more popular,” he said. Visit the park of any city in China and you will find people playing xiangqi on a stone, wooden or paper board, with others gathered around them. A board and set of pieces is a popular gift for birthdays and Chinese New Year.

Lei Kam-fun (left) and Cao Yan-lei (right)



Lei Kam-fun







## Abandoned in a bamboo box

Hollywood could not have invented the life story of Cao Yan-lei. He was born on 11 November 1991 in Sanmenxia, a city of 2.2 million people in the west of Henan province, central China.

Eleven months later, early in the morning, a middle-aged couple called Cao found him in a bamboo box on their doorstep. The baby was uncomfortable, with diarrhoea, and had no documents other than one that gave the day and place of his birth.

The Caos were in their 50s, with two sons and two daughters. The father had served in the army; after an injury to his leg, he was forced to leave the service and went to work for the state railway company. His income was enough to give the family a modest standard of living, with no luxuries.

The father picked up the baby, cleaned him and changed his clothes. He took him to the local hospital for a check-up, where the baby stayed for three days before the doctors pronounced him healthy and able to leave.

Cao brought him home; he and his wife had to make the big decision – to keep the boy or not. Cao's wife, who was then 51, a year younger than her husband, was adamantly opposed: "We cannot afford to raise another child. We need all the money we have to ensure our sons have good marriages."

Cao Yan-lei



Macao Chinese Chess Association with the champions

But Cao loved the baby and insisted that they keep him. He won the day and his wife was forced to back down.

## Child prodigy

Cao Senior was a keen reader with a large library, and a lover of xiangqi. He took the young boy with him when he played. The child played his first game at the age of four. His father discovered that he had a photographic memory and an iron determination. When he lost, he cried; so his father let him win.

As time went on, his standard improved and he kept defeating his father at the game. Then, in February 1997, Cao Senior died suddenly of a heart attack, at the age of 57. Friends advised his wife to give the boy away for adoption; some even offered to take him.

But, by then, Cao's wife had become too attached to the child. On top of that, she felt that to give him away would betray her husband who had lavished so much time and attention on the boy.

She paid for a new xiangqi teacher; after six months, he said that the young Cao was too good for him

and that she had to find a new one. In 1998, at the age of seven, he entered a youth competition in Henan and finished fourth.

In March 1999, young Cao and his mother moved to the Haihe Xiangqi College in Tianjin; the director accepted him without a fee and gave his mother a cleaning job for which she received 400 yuan (US\$ 66) a month. He studied at a local primary school during the day and went to the college after dinner; this left him little time for homework.

In 2003, he accepted an invitation to study at a xiangqi college in Panjin, Liaoning province. Again, his mother accompanied him; they rented a small apartment in the city. When Cao ran out of players who could compete with him at the college, he took up playing people on the Internet.

In April 2004, a wealthy person invited him to go to Shenzhen to study at a xiangqi college in the city. In August that year, he won first prize at a competition in Jinan, making him, at 16, the youngest champion in China at that time. He was given the title of "Master of Xiangqi".

The teams of Guangdong, Zhejiang, Ningpo and Henan invited him to join them.





A group of chess players in Macao

## Making time for study

From an early age, Cao had to balance the demands of raising his xiangqi to a national standard and the need to have a good education.

"I love to play xiangqi but I also hope to go to university," he said. "If I only study xiangqi, my field of knowledge will be too restricted." His family was too poor to afford home tutors.

A typical day in Shenzhen would be to go to school in the morning and afternoon, then after dinner to take a walk for 30 minutes; go to the xiangqi college until 21:00; then two hours of homework back home and sometimes playing an opponent on the Internet between 22:00 and 23:00.

In 2006, the city of Shenzhen gave him a residence permit, to recognise his special talent. His success at becoming a xiangqi master and pursuing his studies would have been impossible without the strong support of his mother.

Instead of enjoying a comfortable retirement with her family and friends in Sanxia, she chose to follow her son, to look after him and cook for him in different cities across China.

## Move to Macao

At the beginning of 2010, Cao moved to Macao, gaining the status of a special immigrant because of his skill in xiangqi. He left his position as a full-time member of the xiangqi team of Henan province.

The Macao government has given him a monthly allowance and the City University a place. In this way, he can meet his twin goals of continuing his studies and playing xiangqi at the highest level. He chose Macao over the other cities and provinces inviting him to move there.

His mother does not live with him in Macao.

His xiangqi partner, Lei Kam-fun, was born in Taishan, Guangdong province, in 1955 and moved to Macao in 1980. After the move, he became the leading xiangqi player, until the arrival of Cao.

In September, Cao finished third in the world, at the age of only 22. He has a great future ahead of him and, with him, the Macao xiangqi team. ■

Photos by Cheong Kamka



# FROM HAWKER TO PASTRY KING

## Upstart becomes a household name in a decade

By Louise do Rosário

Macao is famous for its local pastries such as egg rolls, almond cakes, peanut candies and nougats. They have a history dating back to a century ago when fishermen and sailors visiting the local port needed a bite to eat. The shops selling them became household names, thanks to the distinct flavour of their products and their charming names like Sweet Tooth and Fragrant Shop.

Over the years, many of these family-run shops have shut down, thanks to shrinking demand and the difficulty of finding a successor to run a business that requires working seven days a week.

In the late 1990s, just when Macao was hit by a crime wave and an economic downturn, a young immigrant decided to bet his entire fortune on the pastry business. In 1997, Leong Chan-kuong, then 28, borrowed from friends and mortgaged his home to set up a pastry shop called Koi Kei Bakery, in a quiet street. He overcame initial difficulties and gradually expanded his business. Then came Beijing's decision to allow Chinese to visit Macao freely, which soon brought millions of visitors each year. They came mainly for the casinos, but snatched a packet or two of souvenir pastries when they went home.







Leong quickly seized the opportunity to expand, from one small shop into a major business with 17 branches in Macao employing around 500 people. His company now owns about 70 percent of the pastry souvenir market, based on various studies by independent sources.

In recent years, the longer-established household names have tried to make up lost ground, but their growth has been slower. It is difficult to catch up because Koi Kei dominates the market with massive spending on advertising and shops all over the SAR. The success of Koi Kei is a story of how an immigrant managed to breathe new life into what was considered a sunset industry. It is also a story

of how a small business grew in step with Macao's economic growth, at a time when other family-run shops failed to adapt and died in the tougher business environment.

### Young immigrant from Foshan

Leong was born in Foshan, a small town famous for its Fung Ku masters at the turn of the century. He migrated to Macao in 1979 at the age of 10, with his parents and two brothers. Like many migrants, he started life as a hawker, following his father's footsteps selling ginger sweets and peanut candies on a cart.

Business was good, with Leong making 15,000 patacas a month, when the average salary in Macao was 3,000 patacas. During the peak tourist season, Leong made even more – 10,000 patacas a day. Despite the good money, Leong did not enjoy life on the street; he was exposed to the rapid changes in the weather and harassment by competitors.

His dream was to set up a pastry shop, but his family rejected the idea as risky.

In 1997, he took the plunge, sinking all his financial resources into the shop on a quiet backstreet called Travessa do Matadouro, which was to grow eventually into a popular centre for selling souvenirs.

He named the shop after his father, even though their relationship was strained by the change of young Leong's career.

The first few months of business were disastrous. Local mafia demanded extortion money and even set fire to his shop. Then repair works on the street discouraged visitors. His family was also pouring cold water on his plans.

For a while, Leong had to go back to pushing his cart, to subsidise the shop.

He persisted because there was no way back. "I felt I was on the edge of a cliff and had to cling on to whatever I had," he said, still full of determination after all these years.

Then came China's decision to issue short-travel permits to Chinese individuals to visit Macao. "It was like turning on the tap. A trickle became a flood," he said.

### The bet paid off

Leong's initial commercial bet, at a time when better-established shops were shrinking, paid off handsomely.

In 2002, Leong set up a branch near the Saint Paul's Ruins, the top tourist destination of Macao. It immediately raised his company's profile among mainland Chinese visitors who were looking for souvenirs other than key rings and postcards.

Since then, Leong has set up outlets at all local tourist landmarks, even inside the major casinos, the Venetian and City of Dreams.

In the early 2000s, Leong set his eyes on opening shops in other Asian cities, such as Singapore.

In 2010, Koi Kei established its first shop in Hong Kong, in the retail district of Causeway.

On the mainland, Leong does not have a shop yet, although he bought a piece of land in Zhuhai in 2008 with a view to future production on the mainland when the time is right. He is apprehensive about issues like copyright infringement, corruption and other bad business practices in mainland China. "I want to move cautiously, without pressure or a sense of burden," he says. He is looking to expand first in the big cities of Beijing and Shanghai, where purchasing power is strong. "People there are ready to pay 100 patacas for a packet of dried beef jerky, much higher than our usual retail price," he said.





It has not all been plain sailing: there have been two major economic crises in the last decade – the SARs epidemic in 2003 and the global financial crisis in 2008.

### Passion for work

Leong has never lost faith in his business despite the challenges. He works 365 days a year, typically 16 hours a day, but with little sign of fatigue.

“I do not smoke or drink; I do not take holidays and have no hobbies. My work is my passion. I like to get involved in all aspects of my business, from sourcing the raw materials to production to design.” He dresses simply, in a white shirt and jeans – no gold watch or bracelet that are the usual accessories of successful businessmen.

Married with two young children, Leong makes sure he has at least one meal at home out of his daily hectic schedule.

Leong personally tastes all 300-plus categories of pastries, candies, dried meat and other items before production. He recalls having to sample egg rolls 200 times – 40 pieces – in a single day.

With moon cakes, a traditional sweet pastry sold during the Moon Festival each autumn, he sampled all the specimens that were available in the market before launching his own brand.

Leong is always in search of better tastes and more varieties for his pastries. The “phoenix roll”, for

example, used to be a plain recipe of egg, refined sugar, sesame and coconut flakes. Today, there are many varieties, with fillings such as seaweed and shredded pork slices.

His typical day begins with reading newspapers, in search of ideas for his business. Next, he visits each store for first-hand research of what customers want. Then he goes to the factory to taste personally the products and supervise production. When he makes the occasional trip overseas, it is always work-related.

Leong is also moving into high-margin products, in addition to pastries: preserved seafood and Chinese delicacies such as abalone, dried oysters and scallops. Sales have been good, thanks to his extensive shop network and well-established brand name.

Another area of growth is chocolate. “I have noticed how expensively priced chocolates are,” he said, adding that he is setting up a small chocolate production facility to test the market.

### Shrewd property investor

Leong is also a major investor in property, buying retail space to set up shops. He owns most of the 14 shops in Macao. Many of the properties he bought earlier have risen many times in price during the last decade. The space he bought in 2003 for one million patacas for his shop near Saint Paul’s Ruins has now risen to hundreds of millions of patacas. He now has three shops in that area, which together account for half of his total business revenue.

In 2012, he spent 300 million patacas to acquire a low-rise building in Macao as the company’s headquarters. “I am not a property speculator. I buy property because I need it for my business. For years, I was a street hawker at the mercy of the weather. I understand the need to have a permanent space to do business properly.”

His shrewd property investment has made him a billionaire but his business focus remains unchanged. “I like my work. It is my passion. It’s fun and full of challenges,” he said. ■

*Photos by Eric Tam*







# Teaching the Word of God

Italian Jesuit leaves giant legacy in Macao and Asia

By Mark O'Neill



*Tombs in the ruins of St. Paul*



Every tourist to Macao visits the ruins of St Paul's, the majestic Catholic church that used to tower over the city. What they do not know is that the site contained the first Western university in East Asia and the tomb of the man who pioneered the teaching of Chinese and Japanese to Europeans.

St Paul's College of Macao was founded by an Italian Jesuit named Alessandro Valignano, who was sent to the city in 1573 and died here in 1606. His tomb is believed to be below the ruins, where visitors can visit a Museum of Sacred Art and Crypt; it also contains relics of Japanese and Vietnamese martyrs.

He was a pioneer in building an efficient Catholic network to serve Catholicism in India and Japan. The college he established trained Jesuit scholastics, mostly from Japan, for missions throughout the region for 168 years until 1762, when the Society was expelled by the Portuguese authorities.

The college and the splendid church next to it were destroyed in 1835. They were never rebuilt, leaving only the ruins for visitors to enjoy as they reflect on the glory of what was once Macao's 'Acropolis' and the ambition of the Jesuit order to convert the largest nation on God's earth.

Valignano's legacy lives on in Nagasaki, the city donated to the Jesuits in 1580. Since then, it has remained the centre of Catholicism in Japan, surviving two centuries of hideous persecution and the destruction of the city's Catholic cathedral on 9 August 1945 by the atomic bomb which fell just 500 metres away.

## Arriving in Macao

Valignano was born in February 1539 in Chieti, part of the Kingdom of Naples in southern Italy. He studied law at the University of Padua, where he was an outstanding pupil of the Archbishop of Chieti, Monsignor Giambattista. He joined the Society of Jesus in 1566.

In 1573, at the age of 34, he was appointed 'Visitor of the Missions in the Indies' – chief of the society's work in Asia. It was a remarkable promotion for someone so young, who had been a Jesuit for only seven years; he was given great freedom in his new post.

The appointment was controversial because he would go to work in a sector dominated by Portuguese. He was a charismatic and determined man; he was also unusually tall, enough to turn

heads in Europe, not to speak of Asia.

He arrived in Macao in September 1578 and found, to his dismay, that none of the missionaries stationed there had established themselves in mainland China, mainly because they could not speak, read or write the language.

So he wrote to his superior in India asking for help. The following year Michele Ruggieri arrived in Macao and, in August 1582, Matteo Ricci. These two Jesuits would become the first European scholars of China and the Chinese language.

## Converting Japan

Meanwhile, in July 1579, Valignano left for Japan, where he would spend the next three years and concentrate his work for most of his life. When he arrived, the foreign missionaries complained to him that language training was non-existent and that, even after 15 years, they could not preach a sermon in Japanese. His predecessor had ruled that it was impossible for Europeans to learn the language.

So his first act on arrival was to rule that all new missionaries must spend two years on a language course. By 1580–81, the Jesuits had printed a Japanese grammar and dictionary and several books in the language. When completed, the dictionary had nearly 33,000 entries.

While Valignano's predecessor had said that Japanese could not become full Jesuits, he had the opposite view: they should be treated just the same as Europeans. They would have to learn Latin to use in religious services; but it was the Europeans who must learn Japanese customs and not the other way around. He would use the same philosophy in the China mission.

He ordered that the seminaries retain their Japanese character, with tatami mats and students wearing kimonos and eating white rice with sauce and a side dish of fish. In the decade after his first visit, 60 Japanese people joined the order as novices.

But he insisted on keeping the rules of strict poverty, which contradicted the custom of giving gifts, an important part of social relations in Japan; it contributed in alienating the students from their families. Another obstacle was the requirement to confess and examine your conscience, a practice that offended many Japanese, especially if you had to do it through an interpreter.



Alessandro Valignano (1539 - 1606) by Gil Araújo



He was able to fund the growing activities of the mission in Japan through the booming trade of Nagasaki; it and another port, Mogi, had been donated to the Jesuit order by a daimyo named Omura Sumitada after his conversion. He was baptised in 1563.

It became an international port rivaling Goa and Macao; the Jesuits had a monopoly on the taxes of all imports into Japan, especially Chinese silk exchanged for Japanese silver. By 1590, there were 136 Jesuits in Japan and more than 200 churches. The money was needed to maintain the churches, schools, seminaries and printing presses.

While he was based in Macao, Valignano made two other visits to Japan, from 1590 to 1592 and 1598 to 1603. He spent a total of ten years there. Unfortunately, the growing Christian project in Japan came to an abrupt halt after 1603 and the rise of Tokugawa Ieyasu to power. He ordered all samurai and soldiers to renounce Christianity publicly; later he extended this order to the rest

of the population.

The persecution continued. On 10 September 1632, 55 Christians were martyred in Nagasaki in the Great Genna Martyrdom, and Roman Catholicism was officially outlawed. When Western missionaries returned after the Meiji Restoration of 1868, they found to their amazement that the church had survived underground for over 200 years; they regarded it as a miracle.

On 9 August 1945, the city's Catholic cathedral was destroyed by the atomic bomb. It was full of the faithful attending Mass because the date was close to the festival of the Assumption of Mary six days later; everyone was killed. It was rebuilt in 1959 in the original French Romanesque style, a symbol of their persecution and suffering.

To this day, Nagasaki remains the Roman Catholic centre of Japan; the country has 509,000 adherents, 0.5 percent of the population. Valignano's work was not in vain.



St. Paul facade

## Founding St Paul's College

The uncertain conditions in Japan were one reason for his next great project – the founding of St Paul's College in Macao in 1594. He designed it as both a training centre for Jesuit missionaries in East Asia and a place to educate the young people of the city.

Because it accepted local students, the Leal Senado provided money from its coffers, some from profits from the silk exported to Japan. There was opposition to the idea from some in the order in Goa; but Valignano was a man of determination and energy – he overcame the obstacles.

Building work took just one year. The order's annual report for 1594 reported that the college contained "two very large houses with a beautiful courtyard between them ... at the foot of the hill stands the school with a courtyard. The college can hold 40 persons from the (Jesuit) Society in very comfortable accommodation because, apart from the four schools, upstairs there are nineteen cubicles, two halls, two chapels and a large, beautiful infirmary." The city residents and Japanese faithful supported the project to the extent that the Society did not have to spend anything on the construction.

Its courses included theology, philosophy, mathematics, geography, astronomy, Latin, Portuguese and Chinese; it also had a school of music and arts. The site included two seminaries for lay brothers and a primary school, as well as the college.

It trained the first generation of Western Sinologists, including Johann Adam Schall von Bell, Joao Rodrigues and Ferdinand Verbiest, as well as pioneer Chinese priests and brothers like Wu Li and You Wenhui, a native of Macao. Its students came from Japan and India as well as Europe and Macao. In 1588, Valignano shipped from Goa a printing press sent from Europe, the first in Macao and one of the first in Asia. It printed the city's first two books before being sent to Katsusa in Japan in 1590; later it was sent to Amakusa and then Nagasaki. By 1616, it had to be returned to Macao.

The breadth of education Valignano established meant that St Paul's became the first Western university in the Far East.

In 1623, a Japanese cleric, Paulo dos Santos, made an endowment of 12,000 taels for the Seminary of St Ignatius for Japanese; he asked that 12 young students from his country be admitted.



St. Joseph seminar



By the middle of that century, it was a place of diversity and scholarship, with teachers, students and missionaries from different countries and cultures; it was one of the most important religious centres in the Orient.

In 1732, the Seminary of St Joseph was established for Chinese students. By 1746, its library had 4,000 books, as well as paintings, atlases and maps. It had a pharmacy famous throughout the Far East, which served the public in Macao and the Jesuit missions in China, Japan and Vietnam.

Until Portugal banned the Jesuits from Macao in 1762, the college was the first stop for Jesuit priests going to China. They learnt both the language and other aspects of Chinese knowledge, including philosophy and comparative religion. In the mid-17th century, there were up to 80 Jesuits living there, including priests and brothers.

In 1835, a fire destroyed the college and the neighbouring Church of St Paul's. But St Joseph's Seminary and church live on. Copies of many of the books in the library had been given to libraries in Lisbon, Madrid and other libraries in Europe.

Valignano himself died in Macao on 20 January 1606 and was buried next to the college he founded. One of his Jesuit colleagues wrote in his eulogy: "In God,

we lament not only our former visitor and father but, as some would have it, the apostle of Japan." Matteo Ricci called Valignano "the Father of the China Mission".

Father Artur Wardega, director of the Macau Ricci Institute, made this comment about him:

"Alessandro Valignano was without any doubt a man of strong convictions and of brave personality entirely dedicated to his Lord and the Jesuit mission. From his life story, one can notice his apparently discordant coexistence of conservative ideas together with a vigorous determination to carry out the missionary work along new and well conceptualised paths. A number of events in his Visitor's career show moments of uncertainty, alternated with well-sounded expressions of self-confidence, persistence and even authoritarianism. In fine, Valignano like Ricci was a man molded both upon Ignatian Magis and Ad Maiorem Dei Gloriam as well as in the Greek and Latin classics, for whom nothing human could be indifferent."

The Institute will soon publish a biography of the Italian, with the title:

"Portrait of a Jesuit: Alessandro Valignano" in the Jesuitas Publications Series, Macau 2013. It will have two versions – English and simplified Chinese. ■

*Photos by Eric Tam*



**Álvaro Barbosa**

**DRIFTING ICE:  
Contemplating  
Antarctican Icebergs**

photography  
January 10 - 29



**PHOTOGRAPHY  
GROUP EXHIBITION**

February 13 - March 1



March 6 - 22



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# Cultural Investment

## Zhuhai Opera rises out of the sea

By Luo Xunzhi and Frank Xie in Zhuhai





Rising out of an island in Zhuhai is a giant shell that will become a new landmark of the city – its Opera House.

It is one of the four cultural projects under construction, involving a total expenditure of more than two billion yuan. They represent the largest investment in this sector since the city was established as a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in 1980. In addition to the Opera House are the Zhuhai Museum, the Urban Planning Exhibition Hall and the Cultural Centre.

“The four buildings will be of great significance in improving the culture and soft power of Zhuhai,” said Lei Yulan, vice-governor of Guangdong province, at the laying of the foundation stone of the Opera House in May 2010.

The opening of a new bridge from Hong Kong and Macao to Zhuhai in 2016 will lead to an increase in the city’s population and improve access to and from the two SARs. To meet this challenge, the city wants to improve its tourist facilities and cultural environment.

Tourism is one of the city’s most important sources of revenue. In 2011, it received 45.2 million visitors, an increase of 0.7 percent over 2010, of whom 709,300 were foreigners, 3.8 million from Macao, Hong Kong and Taiwan and the rest from the mainland. The average occupancy of the city’s hotels was 60.2 percent.

Of the mainlanders, 56 percent stayed overnight: of the non-mainlanders, the figure was 84 percent. Of the mainlanders, many spend their money in the casinos, restaurants and shops of Macao during the daytime and only sleep in Zhuhai.

One objective of the four projects is to persuade visitors to stay longer and enjoy the new museums. They also aim to attract a new kind of clientele, interested in the performances and facilities. The city government believes that, after three decades as a SEZ, it is time to upgrade Zhuhai to a higher level.

## Inspired by shells

Of the four projects, the opera house is the largest and most ambitious. It involves an investment of 1.718 billion yuan on 50,000 square metres of reclaimed land on Yeli island, opposite the main seafront of the city.

The design is of two shells – one large one at 90

metres high and one small, at 60 metres high.

It will have a concert hall with 1,550 seats, plus a lobby, an auditorium and a stage; this will host large-scale performances, such as symphonies, chamber music, opera, ballet, musicals and theatre. There will be a small theatre with 500 seats, for smaller artistic events as well as fashion shows, art promotions and corporate meetings. It will have state-of-the-art acoustics and stage technical design.

Above the concert hall, there will also be a floor for sightseeing, a bar and restaurant, and fashion events.

In October 2013, a spokesman for the Zhuhai Urban Construction Group, which is responsible for the construction, said the work was going smoothly and half the structure had been completed. The large shell is in the last phase of work and the structure of the small shell was finished at the end of October.

Already it is a striking sight, the large shell rising out of the sea on an island that faces the main waterfront. In the future, it will become a landmark of the city like the Opera House in Sydney, a place for tourists to visit and photograph as well as a venue for performances.

## Winning bid

A total of 33 international firms took part in international bidding for the opera house, including those who designed the Bird’s Nest, the Water Cube and the National Grand Theatre in Beijing. After the first round, the list was narrowed down to nine and, after the second round, three were chosen for the final selection.

The winner, with the design of the two shells, is the CR Institute of Architecture and Urban

Design of Hong Kong, the China Urban Design Research Centre (CUDRC) of Beijing University and the Shenzhen branch of the Beijing Institute of Architectural Design.

“This is the first time that a Chinese firm has won a contest involving international bids,” said Professor Chen Keshi, director of the CUDRC and head of the 30-member design team. “We won for three reasons – our creative and artistic input and our connection to the place.

“The design was inspired by a student working with us who is now in the UK. He saw the Asia Moon scallop, which is found in the Pearl River Delta, with pearls inside. I saw it and thought it was a beautiful design. It is a simple structure, with one large and one small shell; one will enclose the big theatre and the other the small one,” he said.

*Vision of the Zhuhai Opera House*







The Asia Moon scallop, or *amusium pleuronectes* in Latin, is found in the South China Sea, many coastal areas of Southeast Asia and the Indian Ocean. The design has exterior walls made of glass, which will glisten in the sun during the day. The interior will be decorated with indigenous scallops. The site on Yeli island was initially to be used as classrooms for the Central College of Music but the institution gave up the plan. The design team and the Zhuhai government together chose the site. "This is a reclamation area and does not present an engineering problem," said Chen. "The Opera House will be a landmark. It will be one of several new buildings, including a library and exhibition centre. The party committee of Zhuhai believes that, after 30 years of reform, they must improve the cultural facilities. "The new bridge will improve links to Hong Kong and Macao and lead to an increase in population. Alongside the opera house, there will be a yacht

club nearby and the exhibition centre. All these will improve the city's tourism."

In mid-November, the city organised a visit for representatives from the education and cultural sectors to the site to see how the work is progressing. The work is on schedule for the facility to open at the end of 2015; most of the investment will be spent during the current financial year, on the external structure of the building.

The large shell, rising nearly 100 metres into the air on the edge of the island, has already become a tourist attraction.

### Losing money

The Opera House is unlikely to make a profit. Zhuhai has a resident population of 1.57 million and only a small percentage of them will be able to afford the tickets for the events that will be staged there. Cinemas are fighting hard to attract clients, against the enormous variety of entertainment available on personal computers, iPads and

other electronic devices, which people tailor to their own specification.

The Opera House will aim to attract visitors from Hong Kong, Macao, Guangzhou and other cities in Guangdong, as well as some of the millions who visit the SEZ every year.

The province is already well served with spacious opera houses, including in Guangzhou, Shenzhen and Dongguan, as well as many performance venues in Hong Kong. Some residents believe that the government should not build the project and instead spend the money on projects for the poor and the old.

"This is a project of pride, to enable Zhuhai to compete with other cities in Guangdong," said Liang Ming, a shop assistant. "Few citizens will have the money or interest to buy the expensive tickets for the performances there. It will certainly lose money."

Professor Chen said: "All the opera houses in China lose money and receive subsidies from the government. If they break even, that is good."

### Garden Museum

Opposite the opera hall, in the corner of a park overlooking the Pearl River, two of the other three buildings are under construction – the Zhuhai Museum and the Urban Planning Exhibition Hall. They will be connected by a central entrance hall. Construction of the two is proceeding rapidly; visitors to the roof of both will have a commanding view of the river on the one side and a spacious park on the other.

The museum will have a built-up area of 20,000 square metres. Construction of the two structures is proceeding rapidly.

The museum will replace an existing one that was built in 1984 in the Jida district in downtown Zhuhai. It has a construction area of 8,000 square metres on two floors, on an area of 15,000 square metres. It is one of the few garden museums in China.

It is working hard to increase and improve its collection. The modern city of Zhuhai was founded only in 1980, with the creation of the SEZ. That means that it does not have the wealth of historical items found in most cities of China with a history of hundreds, if not thousands, of years.

In October, a collector named Ye Ruihui donated three ancient pieces of porcelain, from the Han, Northern Sung and Southern Sung dynasties. This followed an earlier donation of 20 precious pieces in accordance with the wishes of his father.

"I wish to make this donation as the new museum is nearing completion," said Ye. "I hope that other collectors will also donate to the new museum, to enrich the cultural life of Zhuhai."

The museum hopes that the new building, larger and with better facilities than the existing one, will inspire other collectors like Ye.

### Cultural Centre

The Zhuhai Cultural Centre will be located east of the Gongbei primary school on Lianan Road, in the shape of a harp.

It will cover more than 16,000 square metres of built-up area, including a cultural square, performance area, 780-seat rehearsal hall, professional chorus and dance halls, piano practice rooms, sound studio and cinema.

It will provide professional rehearsal halls for institutions, business, communities and schools, and hold exhibitions, shows, readings, video projections and lectures.

*Plans and designs by courtesy of CR Institute of Architecture and Urban Design of Hong Kong, the China Urban Design Research Centre of Beijing University and the Shenzhen branch of the Beijing Institute of Architectural Design.*







Plan and location of Zhuhai Opera House



A full-page background image showing a tropical sunset. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and light blue with scattered clouds. In the foreground, the silhouettes of several palm trees stand against the bright horizon. On the left, a person is partially visible in silhouette, looking out towards the sea. In the middle ground, a group of people is silhouetted against the horizon, standing on what appears to be a small structure or breakwater. In the foreground on the right, a person is standing in the shallow water, their silhouette clearly visible. The water reflects the colors of the sunset.

# The Dragon and the Sleeping Crocodile

China and Timor-Leste

By Loro Horta



Contact between Chinese and Timorese dates back to the early 15th century when the ships of the legendary Chinese explorer Admiral Zheng He arrived on the island in search of the famed sandalwood highly valued in Ming China for incense and medicinal purposes. The first ever known maps of the island are believed to be from 1412 by Ming dynasty cartographers. In the late 19th century several thousand Chinese began to settle in the then Portuguese-controlled Timor. By the early 1970s the Chinese population in Timor-Leste had reached 45,000, accounting for 2.5 percent of the population. The Chinese Timorese assumed a prominent role in the territory's economy, dominating the retail and agricultural trade.

The Chinese population was particularly targeted by the Indonesian military following Indonesia's invasion of Timor-Leste in December 1975. During the country's 24 years of struggle for independence, the Chinese Timorese, many of whom had become wealthy businessmen in Australia and Asia after fleeing their country, contributed generously to the cause of independence. After the 1999 United Nations intervention that led to the independence of Timor two years later, the Chinese community responded to the young state's appeal and returned in large numbers. Indeed, the largest private investor in Timor-Leste is the Chinese Timorese Gape family. They invested in construction, shopping centres and the retail sector, creating thousands of jobs.

The People's Republic of China was the first country to recognise the independence of the newly created Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste in May 2002. In the 1970s China was a strong supporter of Timorese independence, providing both diplomatic and financial support. Since 2002 China has given significant assistance to the new nation, donating badly needed infrastructure such as the buildings for the Presidential Palace, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Defence Force Headquarters, the Secretariat of Defence and 100 houses for military officers.

Chinese companies have also won some lucrative contracts in Timor, such as the US\$ 430 million contract to build two power plants and a US\$ 30 million contract to supply two naval patrol boats to the Timorese military. Several Timorese students have graduated from Chinese universities. As of November 2013, 32 Timorese students were attending Chinese universities,



*Statue of Christ, the King, in Dili*

including PhD students.

The Chinese government has also organised short courses for public servants, ranging from two weeks to three months. In 2013 more than 600 Timorese public servants attended such courses. Since 2003 an estimated 1,236 Timorese have studied in China – a significant number in light of Timor's small population of one million.

Bilateral trade reached US\$ 43 million in 2013 and has been growing at an average rate of 30 percent for the past five years. China is currently Timor-Leste's fourth largest trading partner. In November 2013 the Chinese government announced an increase of 20 percent on its aid to Timor from 83 million yuan to 100 million yuan a year. Since Timor's independence, China has sent large medical teams and agricultural experts to assist the country's struggling health and agricultural sectors. An estimated 2,000 Chinese

citizens reside in Timor, although the number could be much higher. The Chinese are mainly small-scale businessmen, often finding themselves the only ones willing to go to the most remote villages on the mountainous island where the quality of the roads would challenge the most hardened explorers.

These Chinese traders bring consumer goods to populations settling in these areas and some even marry local women. The Chinese quickly learn the local lingua franca, Tetun, which facilitates their economic activities. Chinese traders have also forced the greedier and prouder of the local and foreign traders to reduce their prices, thereby benefitting the general population. Affordable Chinese cars and motorcycles have enabled large numbers of Timorese to own their own mode of transportation. This is a particularly welcome development in a country where a significant proportion of people's

income goes to pay for the microlet – the privately operated and packed minibuses that make up for the country's lack of public transport.

Timor remains highly dependent on imports from Indonesia, which supplies about 95 percent of the consumer goods sold locally. Indonesia traders benefit greatly from the commerce, as they buy from China and then sell to Timor at a profit that could be as much as ten times what they pay to Chinese exporters.

If Timor-Leste can strengthen ties between local businessmen and Chinese suppliers, the price of commodities to Timorese consumers will decrease significantly. Some Timorese companies have begun buying directly from China. In October 2013, a Timorese company purchased \$300,000 worth of solar panels, after visiting factories producing such items in Hubei. More such sales are expected.





Chinese workers in a rice field in Timor-Leste (2009)

Some Chinese companies have expressed interest in investing in Timor. Timorese construction companies have also begun considering buying building materials and machinery from China. A Timorese businessman said during a visit to Beijing, "If I buy cob houses directly from China, it's eight times cheaper than buying them from Indonesia which is buying them from China anyway. We must stop being lazy and be more clever."

Closer links between private businesses from both sides maybe the solution for Timor to address the current sluggish Sino-Timorese ties.

In Timor more than 80 percent of the labour force involved in Chinese projects is made up of Timorese workers, making Chinese projects an important factor in tackling the high levels of unemployment on the island. The Chinese are usually found occupying the more technical and risky positions on such projects. During the erection of hundreds of electric towers for the national power grid, for example, three Chinese workers died from work-related accidents whilst not a single Timorese labourer suffered any serious injury.

China's presence in Timor-Leste remains rather small when compared to its presence in other Southeast Asian countries such as Indonesia or Cambodia, and considerably smaller than China's presence in other Lusophone nations such as Angola and Mozambique. Indeed, with the exception of Guinea Bissau and Sao Tome and Principe, the Chinese presence in Timor is far less pronounced than in the remainder of the Lusophone countries.

As noted by Vicky Tchong, the Timorese Ambassador to Beijing: "We can get almost anything we want from China; all we need to do is to ask."

Timor-Leste has yet to fully reap the benefits from the incredible opportunities that China offers. In November 2010, for instance, during the Macao Forum meeting, former Timorese President Ramos Horta requested a \$3 billion loan for Timor-Leste from Premier Wen Jabao for several projects, including infrastructure. A week after the meeting a delegation from China's Import Export Bank visited the island's capital, Dili, to negotiate the terms of the agreement. However, a deal has yet to be made. Several Lusophone countries have received significant

loans from China on very generous terms. Angola received \$15 billion and Cape Verde – a much smaller country than Timor – received over \$100 million. Even Portugal, a modern Western democracy, has received substantial Chinese investment. In Angola, Mozambique and Cape Verde, Chinese loans have allowed for massive expansion of infrastructure, including the building of roads, railways, ports, dams, bridges, public housing, and numerous other projects. Thanks in large part to Chinese financial and technical assistance, in the past decade these countries have made great progress in improving their infrastructure – a crucial prerequisite for future development. Timor could benefit from Chinese help as well, to

improve areas such as transport links. For instance, it takes two and half hours to drive from Dili to Baucau, a mere 122 kilometres away.

One area where bilateral cooperation could be improved is in the reciprocal granting of travel visas. For over a year Beijing has been awaiting a response from the Timorese side to sign a mutual visa exception agreement.

In late June, to his merit, Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao recognised the management inefficiency in his government and promised serious reforms. Perhaps if these reforms are implemented Timor-Leste could finally begin to take full advantage of its ties with the rising dragon. ■

Photos by Xinhua and Rita Álvarez Tudela



Ambassador Vicky Tchong

Loro Horta is a consultant with the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia. He was an advisor to Timor-Leste's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the United Nations' national project manager for the security-sector reform in Timor-Leste. He is a graduate of the People's Liberation Army National Defence University and the Chinese Ministry of Commerce Central School.



# Conquering on Horseback

Imperial Palace in Shenyang a monument to Manchu warrior glory

By Luo Xunzhi in Shenyang







Under a cloudless blue sky, thousands of people explore a palace built by one of China's imperial dynasties. Remarkably, it has survived the wars, rebellions and natural disasters of the five centuries since its construction.

Though the Forbidden City in Beijing is the first such venue to spring to mind, it is in fact the palace of the Manchu emperor that has attracted so many visitors on this bright day. Its construction began in 1625 and it served as the home of the first three Qing emperors until they conquered the whole of China and moved to Beijing in 1644. It then lost its status as the official residence of the emperor and served as a regional palace.

From 1780 to 1783, Emperor Qian Long expanded it to its present size. It is the best known and most popular tourist attraction of Shenyang and the only existing royal palace in China aside from its more famous rival in Beijing. During public holidays, it attracts more than 20,000 visitors a day.

After the overthrow of the Qing dynasty and the end of the monarchy in China in 1911, the palace became a museum. In 1955, it was named the Shenyang Palace Museum and in 1961 declared a national cultural treasure to be protected.

In 2004, it was included on the UNESCO World Heritage List as an extension of the Forbidden City of Beijing, which was built by the Ming and Qing dynasties.

### Construction

Emperor Nurhaci began construction in 1625. It was built to resemble the Forbidden City in Beijing, with the addition of Manchurian and Mongolian styles. Nurhaci's eighth son Huangtaiji added a second section in 1636; he was one of the founding emperors of the Qing dynasty.

It covers an area of 60,000 square metres, one twelfth of the size of the Beijing palace. It was built in what was then the centre of Shenyang, with eight gates. It consists of 90 buildings and over 300 rooms, formed around 20 courtyards, and is divided into three sections – eastern, middle and western.

The eastern section contains the Hall of Great Affairs, where emperors ascended the throne, announced imperial edicts and welcomed victorious generals and soldiers. It is nearly 21 metres high and is shaped like a pavilion with octagonal double-eaves.

To the east and west of the hall stand pavilions of the Ten Kings, where the emperors and his senior advisers settled national affairs.

The middle section has three main buildings arranged north to south. One is the Chong Zheng Dian, the most important structure in the palace, where Huangtaiji held court and received foreign ministers and Mongolian noblemen.

Another is the Phoenix Tower, with three storeys making it the tallest building in the city of Shenyang at that time. After the Manchus moved to Beijing, it was used to store the bows, arrows, swords, knives, armour and saddles used by the emperors; they were very skilled in riding and archery.

The third is the Qingning Palace, which included the bedchamber for Huangtaiji and his concubines. It had four rooms set aside for the practice of Shamanism, the religion of the Manchu.

The western section was constructed on the order of Emperor Qian Long (1711–1799). Its most important building is the Wenshuo Pavilion, which contained the palace's collection of books. The roof is black; this was considered to represent water, to be used to extinguish a fire and protect the priceless books inside. In Beijing, Emperor Qian Long ordered that, after each book was finished, four copies be made and one stored in the Wenshuo Pavilion. It contained 115 shelves with over 41,000 volumes. In modern times, they have been moved to new libraries with better conditions for preservation.

The palace contains many ancient cultural relics, such as the swords of Nurhaci and Huangtaiji, as well as paintings, calligraphy, pottery, sculpture and lacquer ware.

### Manchu dynasty

Nurhaci, the man who built the palace, was the founder of the Manchu nation; he laid the basis for the conquest of China by his descendants and created a written script for the Manchu language. He belonged to the Jurchen tribe who lived a semi-sedentary existence in what are now Jilin and Heilongjiang provinces in northeast China.

He was born in 1559 and grew up as a soldier in the household of a Ming dynasty general in Fushun, Liaoning; there he learnt to speak Chinese. In 1582, his father and grandfather were killed in an attack by a rival chieftain. From 1584, he began a campaign



to avenge these deaths and unite the warring tribes of the Manchu. It took him 22 years.

Finally, in 1616, he declared himself king and founded the Jin (later changed to Qing) dynasty. In 1618, he published a document called the 'Seven Grievances' against the Ming dynasty; some concerned its favouritism of a rival tribe.

He led many successful engagements against the Ming, the Koreans, the Mongols and other Manchu clans, greatly enlarging the territory under his control and moving his capital to different cities, the last of which was Shenyang. It was in 1625 that he began construction of the palace.

On 28 September 1626, he suffered the first serious military defeat of his career in Ningyuan, Liaoning province, at the hands of a Ming general Yuan Chonghuan, who was using cannon manufactured by the Portuguese. He died of his wounds two days later, at the age of 68.

He had three wives, 13 concubines and 24 children. His eighth son, Huang Taiji, won a complicated battle to succeed him as Emperor.

One of his greatest legacies was the formation of 'Eight Banners', armed units that would form the backbone of the military during the Qing dynasty.





With the strength created from this union of Manchu forces, Huang Taiji began to drive the Ming out of southern Manchuria.

In 1644, the dynasty was overthrown and Beijing sacked by a peasant revolt; its leader, a minor official, proclaimed the Shun dynasty. The last Ming emperor committed suicide. A Ming general decided to side with the Manchu; he opened the eastern gate of the Great Wall to the Manchu army, which seized Beijing and established the Qing dynasty. It was an extraordinary achievement for a small minority to take over the world's most populous country. Liu Yuanyuan, a tour guide, said that each of the 'banners' of the Manchu army contained 7,500 men. "On horseback, they were fierce warriors. To rule, they needed the cooperation of all the races of China," she said.

## Shenyang

The city of Shenyang was founded in 300 BC by a general in the Warring States period. Its importance

greatly increased when Nurhaci established his capital there. The palace was both a symbol of the wealth and power of his dynasty and also a sign of the new importance of the city.

After the dynasty moved to Beijing, Shenyang remained significant as the former capital and spiritual home of the Manchus. Treasures of the royal house were kept in the palace and the tombs of the early rulers were in the city. From 1671 to 1829, four emperors visited the Shenyang palace a total of 10 times; they stayed for a short time and offered sacrifices to their ancestors. They moved court treasures from Beijing and stored them here. Tour guide Liu Yuanyuan said that, after 1644, the palace was nearly always empty. "No-one could stay here except the emperors. Those who came stayed three to five days, in summer and autumn when there was no need for heating. In winter, it was too cold. The journey to and from Beijing took six weeks. During his final visit, Qian Long built a theatre – it was only used once." The theatre still stands, with a stage in a small courtyard.

After the revolution in 1911, the government took over the palace. During the late 19th to mid 20th century, Russian and Japanese forces occupied the city for periods; during wars between them, the palace suffered damage but nothing major.

In 1926, the government opened the palace as a museum. Despite the wars and revolutions of the last 150 years, it has been well preserved.

The museum also contains an exhibition of French and British clocks given to the Empress Dowager during the last 50 years of the Qing dynasty. They are ornate and elaborate, many with diamonds. There are also watches owned by Pu Yi, a keen collector and the last Qing emperor; he later became Emperor of Manchukuo, the Japanese puppet state in Manchuria. The watches came from his palace in Changchun, the capital of Manchukuo.

Perhaps the most extraordinary thing, after seeing this 500-year monument to the glory of the Manchu nation, is the discovery that the Manchu have almost disappeared from the face of the earth.

"There are almost no pure Manchu left," said Liu. "There are only a few in the Fushun area. Almost no-one can speak the language. After going to Beijing, they were Sinicised. Their language became Mandarin."

From the middle of the 19th century, Han Chinese migrated in large numbers to their homeland, swamping the small number of Manchu. After 1911, they lost their control of the government.

"Qian Long and Kang Xi ruled for a total of 120 years," said Liu. "That was the golden period of the Qing dynasty." Now the Manchus only exist in the history books and this exquisite palace.

*Photos by Luo Xunzhi and Xinhua*







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# 2014 Year of the Horse



The Year 2014 is considered as the Year of the Horse as per the Chinese Zodiac Calendar which begins on January 31, 2014, and ends on February 18, 2015.

2014 according to Chinese Astrology Calendar, it is the Year of Wood Horse.

Wood is related to tree or green, so it is also called Year of Green Horse.

The Chinese zodiac calendar comprises 12 animal signs and horse is the seventh among all of them.

In Chinese culture, the Horse is a symbol of nobility, class, speed and perseverance.

People born in the Year of the Horse are smart, fabulous speakers who have a gift for getting through to other people.

People bearing the horse sign strive towards seeking freedom and happiness.

In general, 2014 would be a better year for those people who were born under The Year of the Horse.

## The Common Personality of People Born in Horse Year

People born in the year of the horse are extremely animated, active and energetic.

Horses love to be in a crowd and like entertainment, they have a deft sense of humor, they love to take center stage and delight audiences everywhere. They are trustworthy, friendly and like to be surrounded by their relatives and friends. They usually have a large circle of acquaintances, but they never rely on their friends too much. Sometimes, the horse is a little self-centered, but it doesn't mean that he will not be interested in any problems except his own. However, a horse person is really more cunning than intelligent, that is probably due to the fact that most horse people lack confidence. Sometimes, they are very independent and rarely listen to advice.

## The Common Strengths and Weaknesses of the Year of the Horse Person

### Strengths

The horse people are generally energetic, noble, free spirited and clever. They have ingenious communicating techniques and in their community they always want to be in the limelight, so they have good friends and are well liked by many people. Although they sometimes talk too much, they are cheerful, perceptive, talented, earthy but stubborn. They are able to come up with new ideas and active at work and refuse to be reconciled to failure, although their endeavor cannot last indefinitely. The Horse person is a sociable likeable person most of the time, they can take advantage of this by getting everybody to work together to achieve goals.

### Weaknesses

The Horse person is patient up to a point, but they can be hot tempered. If you pushed too far, the Horse person can lose their temper. They cannot bear too much constraint. They then lash out (just like a horse) at others which can undo the good relationships they have built up with their good social skills. They can also be stubborn just like a horse. They are wasteful since they are not good with matters of finance due to a lack of budgetary efficiency. The Horse person has many followers but they are not always receptive to other points of view. They tend to interfere in many things and frequently fail to finish projects of their own.



## Predictions of 12 Zodiac in the Year of Horse



### Rat

The sun shines again after the bad year. For the rat, the year of the horse is a year of success, which will run at full gallop.



### Ox

The year of the horse will be a good year for the ox. Will achieve much success and successfully completed their projects.



### Tiger

The year of the horse will be a year full of successes and failures. In the first six months must take into account the tiger had many failures and few successes. The next six months will be better. But here too the tiger has to suffer some setbacks among the successes.



### Rabbit

The Rabbit is likely to be overwhelmed by the hoofs of the horse. Sporting elite and warriors win this year, since they can download on the opponent their negative energy. But employees, state officials, workers, artisans may have a tough year ahead of them, because the negative energies are hindering in the workplace.



### Dragon

The year of the horse is a good to very good year for the dragon. There should be no major problems. The first half of the year is satisfactory and you can be satisfied with the result. Even the second half of the year continues as normal.



### Snake

The snake is very successful in this Horse year. You must want to look for a failure. For the snake, it is one of the best years. January is a month still quiet, for the snake, but towards the middle of the year comes a success after success. The 2nd half of the year starts very well. But this year was too good and the envious are stationed around the corner.



### Horse

Its own year is challenging for the horse. The race obstacles must be well prepared. Otherwise, the horse is unable to overcome too many obstacles. This among other things is the last of the years still acceptable for the horse. Because then followed by 3 bad years.



### Goat

For the goat the year of the horse is a very good year. The first problems arise only at the end of the year. Beware the winter. For this reason, the goat would have to conclude, during the autumn, all his plans and intentions. Then you should look for a quiet place.



### Monkey

The year of the horse is a very good year for Monkey. The monkey will have much activity and achievements.



### Rooster

The Rooster will not have much activity. It will be a boring year without much success. It can be considered a year of calm and mean.



### Dog

The year of the horse will be a year which is more seriously for the dog. During this year, the dog will not be very active, but what starts it will succeed.



### Pig

The year of the horse is the biggest success and the most perfect. This year will fall manna from heaven. Playing a little "to the lot would not be bad".



## HORSE YEARS

11 February 1918 - 31 January 1919

30 January 1930 - 16 February 1931

15 February 1942 - 4 February 1943

3 February 1954 - 16 February 1955

21 January 1966 - 8 February 1967

7 February 1978 - 27 January 1979

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12 February 2002 - 31 January 2003

31 January 2014 - 18 February 2015



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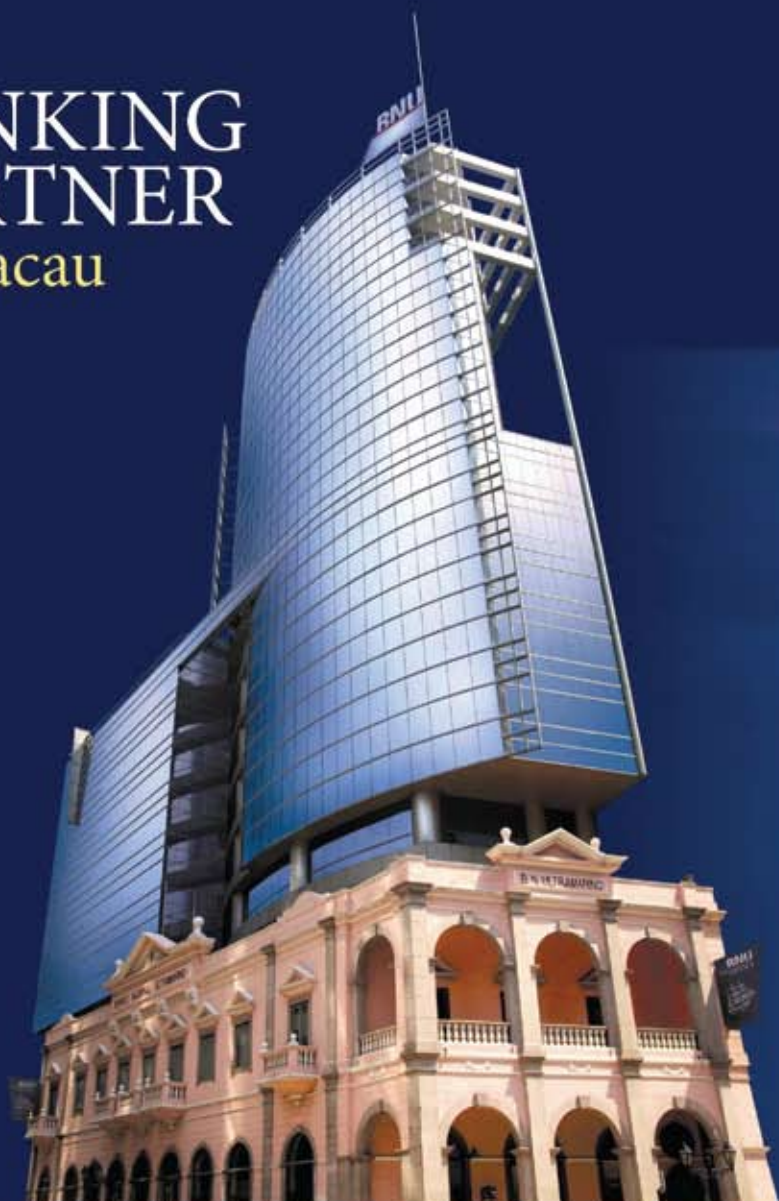
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