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**Wushu  
golden girl**



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## Spirit [Shen]

According to Chinese mythology, when we are born and enter the world of light we receive the part of our soul which, at death, ascends to heaven and becomes a shen or active 'spirit'.

In ancient days special signs, believed to have been made by ancestral spirits, were divined to determine decisions of state. Thus shen, the character, combines 'to divine' and 'sign', or 'to give orders'.

The word shen is paired with others to produce terms relating to 'spirit' as it is manifested in our own life.

Shen-ch'ing, literally 'spirit-condition', gives us our 'facial expression'; shen-ch'i, a 'forced spirit', means 'conceited'.

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



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# 38 medals in Goa

**Macao more than  
doubles medals  
won in previous  
Lusophone games**

Gonalo Lobo Pinheiro in Goa, India

*4 Medals in Wushu - Lei Weng Si*





TaeKwondo Gold Medal Liu Qing



TaeKwondo Gold Medal Hao Chao

**After the disappointment of postponement in November 2013, the third Lusophone Games ended up being a great success. Held from 18 to 29 January in the Indian state of Goa, the host athletes outshone their Lusophone counterparts by winning a total of 92 medals. Portugal took second place with 50 medals, and Macao exceeded every expectation by winning 38 (15 gold, nine silver and 14 bronze). It was Macao's best ever performance, more than doubling its podium appearances at previous games – 14 medals in 2006, in Macao, and 12 medals in 2009, in Lisbon.**

Goa hosted 11 emotion-filled days. The climate, though ideal for holiday makers, was challenging for the competitors. Eleven countries took part – 12 were initially due to compete, but Equatorial Guinea backed out – in athletics, basketball, football, judo, table tennis, volleyball, beach volleyball and wushu events. The games began on 18 January in the evening with

a light and sound show as impressive as any seen at similar events around the world.

The Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, in Fatorda – recently refurbished in line with FIFA's highest standards – was sold out with almost 22,000 people in the stands. There was no lack of enthusiasm for the opening ceremony.



Wushu team ( From left - Chan Ian I - Tong Wen Fai - Wu Chi In - Song Chi Kuan - Ho Pui Kei and Lei Weng Si)

Macao was sixth to present its team on the field and the MSAR Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Cheong U, praised the Indian organisers for their efforts. "We know that there were some difficulties, and the event was even postponed, but the important thing is that they managed to solve the problems to make Goa's dream come true. It really isn't easy. I'd like to congratulate the organisers in Goa." The games were initially scheduled for November 2013, but were postponed until the beginning of this year following delays in the conclusion of sporting facilities.

The Lusophone Games have a very special significance for Macao. The highest representative of the MSAR government at the event made that clear and was a reminder that Macao was the first territory to host them.

"It was all very special and a great challenge. Macao had to build a network of sports facilities and areas in order to reach at least a regional level."

According to Secretary Cheong U, Macao has reaped the benefits of that investment and now, under the "sports for all" motto, the government, in partnership with local associations, is where it wanted to be. "The Government provides subsidies to schools to open up their sports facilities to the

population. It's working well," he said.

The Macao authorities are still working to make up for a lack of sports facilities, Cheong U said.

"One bit of good news is that the new UMAC facilities will open soon, with a football field, an athletics track and a sports pavilion. According to information from the university they will try to open it up not only to the university but also to the population."

Cheong U admitted that sport in the MSAR still has a low profile. "We know we can't invest in everything. We have to establish a strategy adapted to Macao. Swimming, wushu and judo are sports in which the level is rising. As for 'big ball' sports like football and basketball, it's very difficult," he said.

The acting president of the Sports Institute (ID), José Tavares, completely agreed with the secretary's statement. He also commented on disorganisation and a lack of places to train in Goa: "I think that the disorganisation [in Goa] is about not having enough time to smooth out the rough edges. When I came to Goa in April of last year it was chaos and nobody believed that the Games could be hosted here. But I knew they would do it," he said, noting the "great efforts by the organisers in every respect."



## 'JoJo' the mascot

On the second day the sports event began in earnest. With the blessing of 'JoJo' the cockerel – the mascot of the Goa Lusophone Games – table tennis was the first event. Macao, taking part from every angle including individual and team, mixed and single-sex events, only managed to reach the podium with its women's team, after a close-run final against Portugal.

The team, coached by Shi Zhenke and made up of Cheong Cheng I, Wong Choi Chi, Wong Sio Leng, Kuok Cheng I and Leong Kit Weng, managed to beat the Portuguese team 3-1, with the star of the

game being 29-year-old Wong Sio Leng, a player who shares her time between table tennis and working as a policewoman. "I'm very happy. If we had not won this game 3-1 or 3-0 we wouldn't have got medals. It was a difficult game because the Portuguese team is very good. They never give up," said Wong.

For the men there was disappointment. Macao lost 3-0 to Portugal, and came fourth overall, after a game that took less than an hour. Chang Hoi Wa, 22, had hoped for a win, but soon saw that Portugal's might would be difficult to overcome. "Portugal is difficult to beat. Our team gave its best, but lost. Never mind, we'll keep working."



*Closing ceremony of Goa Games*







Gold Medal - 110 meters hurdles - Long Kin Fai



## The first gold

Only on the sixth day did Macao win its first gold medal and it was only the second gold won at all three Lusophone Games. The winner was long Kim Fai, a 25-year-old, who beat the Macao record in the 110 metre hurdles – 14.47 seconds. A double victory.

After the race the athlete was somewhat surprised at his win because he was not even close to being the favourite in the race. "I'm very, very happy and surprised," he told journalists when he realised that nobody had crossed the line before him. At first he thought he'd had a false start.

Macao also won six bronze medals in the athletics. Leong Ka Man won third place in the women's 400 metres, with a time of 58.32 seconds. Lao Si Teng won bronze in the 800 hundred metres and the remaining podium places were for the 4x100 metre men's and women's relays and the women's 4x400 metres.

## Master strokes in taekwondo and wushu

Expectations were high and Macao did not disappoint.

Martial arts are the Macao team's strong point and the athletes managed to win 11 gold medals, four silver and two bronze in wushu, along with three gold and two bronze in taekwondo.

This was the first time wushu had been part of the Lusophone Games and the gold medals for the women's events went to Lei Weng Si in the Chang quan and Dao shu categories; to Chan Ian I in the Nan gun and Nan quan categories, and to Ho Pui Kei in Taiji jian and Taiji quan. Lei Weng Si and Ho Pui Kei won gold in the pair's competition. Lei Weng Si, in Gun shu, and Chan Ian I, in Nan Dao, also won silver.

Amongst the men, Wu Chi In placed first in the Dao shu category; Song Chi Kuan, won gold in Qiang shu, and Tong Weng Fai won two gold medals in the Taiji jian and Taiji quan. There were silver medals for Song Chi Kuan in Jian shu, for Lei In Lam in Sanshou -70 kg, and for Wu Chi In and Song Chi Kuan in the pairs competition. Macao also won bronze medals in Chang quan with Wu Chi In and, in Sanshou -65 kg, with Cai Aolong.

In taekwondo, Macao also performed well. Liu Qing won gold in the -67 kg category, as did Wang Junnan in the +67 kg category. In the women's events the MSAR's Justina Lei also won a bronze medal in the -49 kg category. "I'm very happy with the gold medal I won. I think that Macao looked good in this taekwondo competition. It was a privilege for me to come to Goa," said Liu Qing.

For the men the biggest victory was by Hao Chao, who won the gold medal in the +80 kg category, whilst Pun Chi Fai, in the -80 kg, got a bronze.



Taekwondo - Gold Medal Hao Chao





Wushu Daoshu Gold Medal -Lei Weng Si

The judo athletes managed to win three silver medals and another three bronze medals for the MSAR. For the women, Leong Siu Pou, in -48 kg, and Un Si Man, in -52 kg, both came in second. Third place and bronze medals were won by Cheang Ka Mei, in -57 kg, and by Tang Lai Man, in -63 kg. The men won just two medals one silver in -73 kg by Fu Chi Wai and a bronze in -60 kg by Joaquim Kuok.

A final note about Macao's women's volleyball team who won a decisive game against Mozambique to take a silver medal: the MSAR won in three sets, with a final result of 3-0 and set scores of 25-20, 25-18 and 25-10.

### **"We did much better"**

It was the head of the Macao team Chan Weng Kit de Noronha that said these words to sum up Macao's performance in the third edition of the Lusophone

Games. "The performance was good and the team spirit was, too," he said. "We got medals in athletics and taekwondo. The team did much better than in the previous games. Not only in wushu. Previously we had only won one gold medal and, in general, we did much better."

For most of the athletes from the territory sport is just a hobby and that's why the results are so much sweeter. "We are in the hands of the Government and its programmes," said Chan.

The head of the Macao team said he was happy with the organisation of the event and noted that it was the first time that Goa had hosted such a large event. "I think they did a good job," he said.

The next edition of the Lusophone Games will be held three years from now in 2017. The Portuguese-speaking country that will host the Games has yet to be chosen but Mozambique has offered to do it and given assurances that it will provide the conditions needed for the event.



Women Volleyball Team - Silver Medal



## MEDAL TABLE

### MEDAL WINNER

Country	 Gold	 Silver	 Bronze	Total
India	37	27	28	92
Portugal	18	20	12	50
Macao	15	9	14	38
Sri Lanka	7	11	13	31
Angola	5	8	14	27
Mozambique	4	4	5	13
Brazil	2	1	1	4
Guinea Bissau	2	1	0	3
Cape Verde	1	6	5	12
São Tome and Príncipe	0	1	0	1
East Timor	0	0	1	1
Equatorial Guinea	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>272</b>



# Goa

## a little paradise in India



Goa - Palolem beach

Goa is an Indian state. It sits between Maharashtra to the north and Karnataka to the east and south, and lies on the Arabian Sea, around 400 kilometres south of Mumbai. It is the smallest state in mainland India by size and the fourth-smallest by population, but is India's wealthiest state in terms of per capita GDP. Its official language is konkani, but there are also people who still speak

Portuguese due to Portugal's domination of the state for over 400 years. Its main cities are Vasco da Gama, Pangim, Margão and Mapusa. From 1510 Goa was the capital of the Portuguese State of India and became an integral part of India after it was taken by the Indian army in 1961. Its churches and convents are classified as a UNESCO World Heritage site. ■

*Photos by Gonçalo Lobo Pinheiro and Cheong Kamka*



*Goa- Church of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception*



*Goa- Basilica of Bom Jesus*



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# Nurturing Talent

## President Fanny Vong leads institute to meet boom in Macao tourism

Mark O'Neill in Macao

**When Fanny Vong joined the Institute for Tourism Studies (IFT) in 1999, it had 200 students and a dozen faculty staff members. Now, as president, she runs an institution with 16,000 students on degree programmes, 19,000 participants of professional programmes and 108 teachers from 16 countries and regions. This rapid growth mirrors the dramatic changes in Macao's tourism industry over the last 15 years. In the first 11 months of 2013, it received 26.74 million tourists, more than three times the 7.44 million in the whole of 1999.**

**The Institute's mission is to develop human resources to meet the enormous demand for skilled personnel from mega resorts, hotels, travel and aviation organisations, event planners, food and beverage establishments, shopping centres and malls, spas, and other tourism-related facilities. Despite increasing the student enrolment eight-fold, the Institute cannot meet the demand of the employers.**

**The IFT is an important part of the city's ambitions to become an international tourism and leisure centre.**



## Former army barracks

The IFT sits on a hill that from the 19th century housed a barracks for soldiers of the Portuguese colonial army, many of them from the African colonies. After the revolution in 1974, the army left the site; it became desolate.

In 1979, the government turned the building into a hotel. In February 1982, it established a tourism and hotel school, with the hotel used as a place for students to practise their skills. In 1995, the governor established the IFT, to train young people for the hotel and tourism industry.

The hotel, the Pousada de Mong-Há, was opened to the public. Its staff includes both professionals

and IFT student interns. It has 20 rooms. It is home to a Portuguese engineer in his 90s who goes to work every day at a local construction firm; as a very long-serving guest, he has lived there for more than 20 years and returns to Portugal once a year to see his family.

The Educational Restaurant encourages Macao's future hoteliers to put theories into practice and supports their endeavours to serve guests to international standards. It offers a unique selection of traditional Macanese and Portuguese dishes with a modern flair.

Today there are three entities under the IFT, besides the two training units. One is the Tourism College with bachelor degree programmes; it has 1,600





students, of whom 85 per cent come from Macao. Another is the Tourism and Hotel School, which caters to the general public and organises courses developed both in-house and by international institutions, with 19,000 students last year, the majority of them from Macao.

The third is the Tourism Research Centre – a think-tank for the tourism and hospitality industries and advisor to the government.

Even the eight-fold increase in students since 1999 is not enough. "The tourism industry has asked us for more output," said Vong. "We want to ensure quality, though, and do not want to expand unless we have sufficient equipment, staff and facilities."

In 2000, IFT became the first teaching institution of its

kind to receive the TedQual certificate from the United Nations World Tourism Organisation. TedQual means "tourism education quality". It has also received the Pacific Asia Travel Association Gold Award.

The IFT is constrained by a lack of space. "We have a second campus in Taipa. But our campus space is too small. We are open to all alternatives. The government is very supportive. Land in Macao is very scarce and expensive."

## Heritage and fine dining

The Tourism College offers four-year bachelor programmes in six areas of management – culinary arts, tourism business, heritage, hotels, tourism events, and tourism retail and marketing. During their third year, all the students do a six-month internship programme, in Macao or abroad.

The Tourism and Hotel School offers programmes at foundation, intermediate and advanced levels in hospitality and catering; heritage and tourism; retail, business and management; IT and creative studies; health, spa and beauty; language and culture; and personal development.

It also offers courses developed by international institutions, including the Confederation of International Beauty, the International Bartenders Association, Le Cordon Bleu and the Wine and Spirit Education Trust.

Gaming is not on the curriculum. This is offered by the University of Macau and the Macao Polytechnic Institute, so IFT does not provide it.

On graduation, some students go abroad to do Masters and PhDs, at institutions like the University of Hong Kong, the University of Surrey and University College London in the UK, as well as the Glion Institute of Higher Education in Switzerland.

"Currently, our graduates can find jobs quite easily," said Vong. "They have lots of opportunities. Those who do well in their six-month internships are often invited by their employers to return and work there. Look at the growth on the Cotai Strip alone. You can see the magnitude of demand."

Competition is fierce too. Macao is an international market place, with employees from all over the world. The graduates must compete with people from the mainland, Hong Kong and Chinese Taiwan as well as many countries in Asia and expatriates brought in by the international hotel and casino chains.



"This is healthy," said Vong. "In international tourism, you need people from other places and countries, to provide new perspectives."

She hopes the foreign firms will hire more Macao people to take on management posts. "From a company's perspective, hiring an expat could be time-consuming and requires approval from different government departments. They must pay more compensation as well as the cost of providing for their families."

"The hotels could provide more training targeted at local residents and focus on making them feel valued."

The IFT courses also have a moral dimension. "We want our students to be open-minded and have a sense of responsibility as global citizens. What they do may have a ripple effect on the rest of the world. When they start work after graduation, they must be patient and humble and start in a modest position." With this in mind, the Tourism and Hotel school encourages students to take part in charity events.

## Designing new courses

Tourism is a fast-changing industry; the IFT must adjust its courses to keep pace with demand. In 2012, the government decided to promote the cultural and creative industries; the IFT was on the official committee that launched this initiative.

"We felt that programmes were needed in this area, so we developed an Arts Administration Certificate programme. We were happy to take on the challenge. We acted quickly to meet demand and found partners to work with. These students are sponsored by the Macao Cultural Affairs Bureau. They are hired by arts associations."

Another new course, started in 2011, was a four-year bachelor degree in Culinary Arts Management, to equip students to manage a five-star restaurant and kitchen and work in different kinds of culinary-related professions.

These innovations are in accord with the government's ambition to turn the city into an international tourist and leisure destination and



reduce dependence on gambling.

"Macao is very reliant on one market (the mainland) and one product. This is dangerous, just as it is in personal investment. The government and private sector are working hard to diversify."

Hotels like the Venetian are developing MICE – meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions. There are new up-market restaurants and boutique hotels that provide an individual touch for visitors.

"The future outlook is good. I recently visited the new theme park, Chimelong, on Hengqin island. It includes the world's largest aquarium, a circus and

stunt acts. Visitors can get close to rare species. It is different to Disney World.

"When Hengqin attracts other tourism projects, we will complement each other," she said.

She added that Macao is working hard to reach the status of an international tourist destination.

"We need a very high standard of management, products and services. We are bringing in the best talent. We're getting there slowly.

"Macao has to improve its infrastructure, in roads, accessibility, and services, among other areas," she said.





Official Appointment as President of IFT in 2001

## Outstanding student, unexpected promotion

As a child, Vong was an outstanding student. "My parents did not impose a plan for me. They let me set my own path. It was very good for self-exploration."

She took an MBA degree at the University of Macau. "Marketing and management was my area of study. Working for a big company would have been a good choice after graduation but there were not many opportunities in Macao."

She obtained a scholarship at the University that enabled her to study for 18 months in Europe – six at the ISCTE – University Institute of Lisbon (formerly known as ISCTE) in Portugal and 12 months at the University of Stockholm. Her thesis was in human resources management; she earned a PhD.

"Those 18 months were a very good experience. I saw other people and other things. When you live abroad, your senses are sharper and you are more alert. You have time to think about things. I was

very well treated as a Macao person."

Her Portuguese was limited; she used English to study and communicate. She did not consider staying in Europe because she wanted to rejoin her family in Macao.

She returned to work at the University and was invited to be Vice-Director of the Tourism College in 1999. "It was easy to decide. I was less than 30. There were 200 students and 10–11 faculty members." The then President was a Portuguese national, Dr Virginia Trigo. "She was a very good leader and brought me on step by step. My colleagues were very welcoming." In 2001, Dr Trigo decided to resign, after 22 years in Macao, and return to Portugal. She recommended Vong as her successor. "I did not expect to be chosen," said Vong.

Her management style relies on working together. "Team work is very important. One person working alone cannot achieve much. Anyone can initiate a meeting. The achievements of the students are the foundations for our progress." ■

*Photos by Luís Almoester and Antonius*





IFT 15th Anniversary







# Golden Strip

## Cotai 2.0 to drive Macao's next expansion phase

Brian Yeung in Macao





Macao, which overtook the Las Vegas strip to become the world's biggest gambling hub in 2006, is now looking forward to the next stage in its development.

To date, growth in Macao's \$45.2 billion gambling industry has been built on resorts located on a narrow strip of land known as Cotai 1.

Located between Taipa and Coloane islands, Cotai is a piece of reclaimed land of 5.2 square kilometres and is expected to form the basis for a wave of future development, known as Cotai 2.0. By the end of 2017, all six of Macao's gaming concessionaires will have completed multi-billion dollar projects on the strip.

The development of these luxury resorts is expected to ease capacity constraints in the casino industry in Macao, which may see a slowdown in growth until the new properties in Cotai begin to come online in mid-2015.

"Cotai 2.0 will basically bring a new wave of gaming areas which will always constitute the engine for further developments," Luis Mesquita de Melo, Partner of MdME Lawyers said.

The new resorts will cater for a different profile of player, the so-called "mass premium player", bringing about a more diversified entertainment industry able to attract families and longer staying visitors, similar to a Las Vegas-style entertainment city, Melo said.

Macao had record gross gambling revenue in 2013, with growth of 19 percent over 2012. After a slowdown ahead of the Chinese New Year, gross gambling revenue picked up again in February, leading analysts to upgrade their forecasts.

Sterne Agee has raised its February forecast to MOP 36.4 billion (\$4.5 billion), up 35 percent year-on-year from its previous estimate of growth of between 26 to 28 percent. It also says March could set new records. A recent report by Nomura Securities predicted Macao's casino revenues could double in the next five years to \$80 billion.

Anna Thung, lead analyst at Fitch Ratings, said the gambling industry had made a significant contribution to Macao's financial stability. The government is debt free and has achieved substantial budget surpluses, averaging 15.4 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) from 2003 to 2012, significantly outpacing the median of negative 0.1 percent amongst its AA-rated peers. As a result, Macao has been able to accumulate a large pool of fiscal reserves, which are expected to reach MOP 237 billion (\$29.6 billion), or 59 percent of GDP, in 2013.

Cotai overtook the Macao Peninsula as the most popular gaming destination in Macao in 2013. Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) on the strip in the first half of 2013 were HKD\$ 17.25 billion (\$2.2 billion), representing a 54.2 percent share of the market, compared to HK\$ 14.56 billion, or 42.9 percent for the Macao Peninsula, according to South China Research.

"Cotai has played a critical role in driving gaming revenue growth since 2007. In addition to adding much needed gaming capacity it greatly expanded the room inventory. More importantly, it helped reposition Macao as a true international gaming and entertainment destination," said Andrew Klebanow, principal at Gaming Market Advisors.





### Hitting the \$100 billion mark

“In terms of short-term growth Gaming Market Advisors expects to see a reasonable annual growth rate of 11 percent to 15 percent. After the next phase of development is complete and Cotai 2 is fully operational it would not surprise us to see gaming revenue pass \$90 billion by 2021. Ultimately Macao will be a \$100 billion market.”

US casino giant Las Vegas Sands was the first to open on Cotai in 2007. That resort, the Venetian Macao, is a Venice-themed property featuring replicas of Venice landmarks costing some \$2.4 billion. The resort attracted more than 23 million visitors and generated earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation,

amortisation and rental costs (EBITDAR) of nearly MOP 4 billion the following year.

“Since the liberalisation of the gaming industry in Macao, Sands China has seen very significant growth,” Edward Tracy, President and Chief Executive Officer of Sands China Ltd said. The company introduced the integrated resort model to Macao, pioneered in Las Vegas, helping raise the critical mass of a diversified tourism product, drawing increased and lengthier visitation to Macao.

Melco Crown followed Sands China, opening the City of Dreams in 2009, while Galaxy Entertainment’s Galaxy Macau opened to the public in 2011. Sands China’s Sands Cotai Central was the latest addition in 2012.



## All three have ambitious expansion plans

Sands China plans to build a Paris-themed casino resort with approximately 3,000 rooms, 2,500 table slots and 450 table games. The resort, the Parisian Macao, requires an investment of \$2.7 billion. There will even be a replica of the Eiffel Tower. The project is expected to open in late 2015.

Melco Crown plans to invest \$1.7 billion to open a film-themed casino resort, Macao Studio City, with 1,600 rooms, 500 table games and 1,500 gaming machines in mid-2015.

Galaxy Entertainment will double the space at Galaxy Macao and add 1,350 rooms, up to 500 table games, and more than 1,000 gaming machines. The proposed investment for its phase 2 would be around \$2.5 billion, with the completion date set for mid-2015.

Meanwhile, MGM China, Wynn Macau and SJM Holdings have also announced major investments for Cotai.

MGM China began construction on its Cotai project last year and said on a recent conference call that it has decided to increase the “scope and complexity” of their entertainment offerings. As a result it has upped the project cost to \$2.9 billion from \$2.6 billion.

The majority of the conventional piling work was completed in 2013 and it has now begun the basement substructure.

The project was slated to have 1,600 hotel rooms, 2,500 slots, and up to 500 gaming tables. Non-gaming offerings will occupy more than 85 percent of the gross floor area. The project is anticipated to open in early 2016.

In January, Wynn Macau revealed its Cotai project, Wynn Palace, which is expected to open in the first half of 2016. It will include a 1,700-room hotel, performance lake, meeting space, spa and other non-gaming offerings.

SJM Holdings showcased its Lisboa Palace project in February. The project is scheduled to open in 2017. It will provide up to 700 gaming tables, over 1,200 slot machines and other entertainment facilities including a grand wedding pavilion and a multi-purpose theatre.

Dr Ambrose So, chief executive officer of SJM Holdings Limited said: “We are building the Lisboa Palace, our next resort project on Cotai, because



we believe that the future development of Cotai is critically important for Macao to sustain its growth over the long term, by providing greater diversification of activities for vacationers from around the region.”

## Widening the net

Compared to the Macao Peninsula, Cotai provides more space for operators to develop their non-gaming business, an element that is expected to broaden the appeal of Macao and further boost revenue.





For example, the 550,000-square-metre Galaxy Macau in Cotai reported a 12 percent increase in non-gaming revenue from the second quarter of last year to the third quarter, while its 119,841-square-metre sister resort StarWorld Macau only reported a three percent increase.

"So, instead of only witnessing gamers gravitating to a city viewed solely as a gaming destination, what we are seeing is that the leisure, entertainment and business options presented by the integrated resort model are attracting a diversity of visitors, including families. As a result, the gaming industry continues to grow, mature and adapt, and Macao itself is being

transformed from a gaming destination to a world centre of tourism and leisure, and one of the region's entertainment capitals," Sands CEO Tracy said.

Cotai also boasts more than 120,000 square metres of MICE space for conventions and meetings facilities and in February welcomed about 8,700 delegates to a Tupperware Brands Corporation conference. It was the largest conference held to date in the integrated resort city.

Last year Cotai also played host to a range of entertainment events, from March and September's "The Voice of China" concerts to February's Race with the Stars and December's Asia-Pacific Film Festival.

Sands China reported that television and online broadcasts of events held at, or sponsored by, Cotai Strip Resorts, reached an estimated audience of more than 900 million viewers in mainland China and over 1 billion worldwide.

Visitors from mainland China have been instrumental to Macao's growth. The territory is the only place in China where gambling is legal, and visitors from across the border rose 15 percent to 1,689,277 in January 2014.

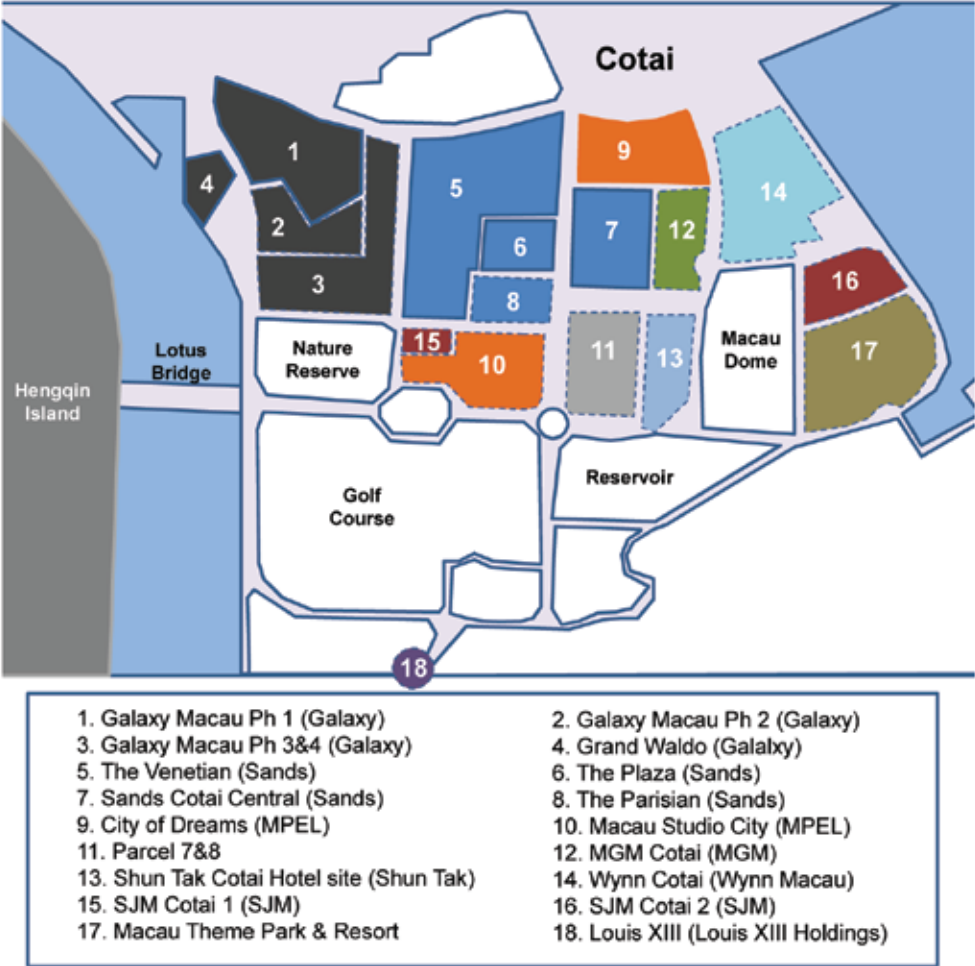
According to Macao's Statistics and Census Service, there were 2,503,609 visitor arrivals in January, up 8 percent year-on-year. The second biggest source of arrivals was neighbouring Hong Kong, with 494,149 visitors, Taiwan was third with 77,859, South Korea

fourth at 59,143 and Japan fifth at 25,736. Long-haul visitors from the United States, Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom declined but there was an increase of 6.3 percent in the number of visitors from Russia.

Despite the high number of China tourist arrivals, some analysts say Macao has only scratched the surface of the mainland potential. For example, in percentage terms Macao currently only attracts a fraction of the population of China when compared with US visitors who travel to Las Vegas.

In 2012, about 33 million people, or about 10.5 percent of the US population, travelled to the US gambling hub, compared with 17 million Chinese visitors to Macao, or about 1 percent of the total population.

Map of Cotai projects in the pipeline



Source: Goldman Sachs Research.





## The bigger picture

Macao's increasing integration with China's Guangdong province will also provide further opportunities for growth and the Hengqin New Area is a prime example.

Hengqin, an island roughly three times the size of Macao, has been designated as a special economic zone. It's located to the south of Zhuhai City and is connected to Macao by a bridge.

The island offers an alternative and more economic option for accommodation to Macao itself, thus appealing to the rapidly growing mass market sector of the gambling industry.

The Chimelong International Ocean Resort, the first resort in Hengqin, was opened on January 18 and reported about 500,000 visitors from 28 January to 6 February.

Prof. Leonardo Dioko of the Institute for Tourism Studies in Macao says, "Hengqin will significantly help alleviate the pressure and burden of rapid growth in Macao and will act as an escape valve for tourism activity."

"We are fortunate that the central government has been very favourable to aligning Hengqin's development to that of Macao, particularly of Cotai," he said.

Meanwhile, ever improving infrastructure is expected to improve access to Macao and bring in more day-trippers. For example, the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, is widely considered as a "game changer". The bridge will reduce the journey time between Hong Kong and Macao from the current 1 hour and 5 minute ferry ride to less than 30 minutes by car.

## Recent reports suggest that the bridge is on track to open by 2016.

“Looking ahead, Macao and the region are set to prosper for many years to come as major infrastructure works come on stream that will greatly improve access to Macao from mainland China and transform travel within the region,” Dr Lui Che-woo, Chairman of Galaxy Entertainment Group commented.

Other infrastructure projects include the Macau Light Rapid Transit and Macau International Airport Capacity Upgrade, which will double the current airport capacity to 12 million people per year. The investment in the Macau Light Rapid Transit project is MOP 7.5 billion. Meanwhile, the Macao Special Administrative Region government has commissioned France’s ADP Ingenierie to work out a development plan.

Prof. Dioko described Macao as “no longer a destination in its own right” but “part of the greater urban agglomeration”. He believes that Macao’s integration with Hengqin, Guangdong and mainland China – facilitated by these infrastructure projects – will all be good for Macao.

From a quality of life perspective, and at a personal wellbeing level, “the growth of the Macao gaming industry has clearly raised local standards of living and opened up job opportunities,” professor Richard Whitfield, president of the East-West Institute for Advanced Studies, said. “Overall, the growth of the gaming industry has been positive for the quality of life in Macao.”

In the future, Macao is also going to face more competition from other Asian nations, such as Japan, which is currently in the process of opening up its gambling market. However, most analysts say Macao won’t lose its dominance with Cotai development playing a key role in helping to protect the SAR.

“Much like Las Vegas has become resilient to regional gaming growth in the United States, so will Macao be able to defend its market share as casinos open in emerging markets,” Gaming Market Advisors’ Klebanow said. ■

*Photos by Eric Tam*











# Macao's creative "fever" on show in Lisbon

Max Tao in Lisbon





*China's Ambassador in Portugal, Huang Songfu (R.) with Lai Sio Kit (L.)*

The latest in contemporary art from Macao is currently on show at Lisbon's Orient Museum (Museu do Oriente) in an exhibition that lasts until April. Visitors are treated to a fascinating array of art forms and styles, from still life pieces, paper sculptures and map interpretations to photographs, videos and installations. A lively dialogue between figurative and abstract art can be found here.

The exhibition, the second of its kind to feature Macao artists, is the result of a partnership between the Macao Foundation and the Oriente Foundation (Fundação Oriente) and involves the Macao artists' collective 'Art for All Society' (AFA). It boasts 66 pieces by 15 artists under the age of 45, including

Alice Kok, Ann Hoi, Cai Guo Jie, Coke Wong, Eric Fok, Fortes Pakeong Sequeira, Hong Wai, James Chu, João Ó, Lio Hak Man, Lai Sio Kit, Nick Tai, Peng Yun, Sylviye Lei and Tong Chong.

The different artworks clearly highlight the individual styles and careers of the artists, whose work has developed in the 15 years since the administration of Macao was transferred from Portugal to China – in most cases particularly over the last five years.

"Fever" – the general title chosen for the collective exhibition, "started from the idea that art can be contagious... The more we produce art, the more interest we generate. More doors open, and exploration happens," said artist José Drummond,





who co-curates the exhibition with fellow artist James Chu.

"The idea is to show that there is a unique creative movement in Macao, that there is no going back and that the creative temperature is still rising," said Drummond.

The variety of creative impulses and of ways of doing things is the common thread for the pieces in the exhibition. According to its co-curator, "Macao's art is paradigmatic in that all the artists express themselves differently despite the physical, cultural and social proximity in which they live and work, which is the result of the physical, cultural and social reality of Macao. There is no trend for uniformity of

style, but rather a diversity of personal expression and a search for individuality."

As Drummond and Chu write in the exhibition brochure, "By bringing together seemingly diverse languages, this exhibition shows that the artistic practice of the territory is rich in variety. In these diverse practices can be found poetry and strangeness, concept and fragility, reality and fiction, mystery and abstraction, irony and representation, city and the body, time and memory, meanings and feelings, spirituality and contemporary life. In 'Fever' it is the experience of this emotional and social potential that builds the identity of each artist, giving voice to a wide range of issues that, in one way or another, ends up portraying the city of Macao."

This second collective exhibition of Macao artists at the Orient Museum comes almost three years after the first, which ended a 20-year period in which no overview of art produced in Macao was exhibited. The first collective exhibition made a point of covering the two-decade hiatus by presenting the work of Macao's most renowned artists such as Carlos Marreiros, Guilherme Ung Vai Meng, Mio Pang Fei and Konstantin Bessmertny alongside a generation of younger artists. However, in the current exhibition in Lisbon the clear focus is on "new blood" and on the affirmation of an artistic identity in a post-transfer context.

"These artists have emerged at what can be called a 'post-colonial' time. The perception that they have of contemporary Macao is of a 'post-colonial' Macao, although formally the territory was never a colony, but that does not represent a break from, but rather an assimilation of the past. The transfer of administration was a historical and transformational moment, but it did not lead to any attempt to forget or wipe away previous history. The past has not been forgotten and has been incorporated as a distinctive factor," said Drummond.

This incorporation is clear in the work of artists such as Eric Fok – in which the city of Macao in all its modern outline is drawn as an old map – or of Nick Tai – in which sentences in Portuguese are used to ironically reinterpret the symbols of contemporary society by an artist who has no Portuguese cultural or linguistic references, but who recognises the Portuguese heritage as part of the Chinese Special Administrative Region.

For Drummond, “The merger of two cultures in Macao, in ways that are not always perceptible, ends up creating a certain freedom of thought and action that we can sometimes think does not exist or at least is not explicit, but which is brought up within art. There is no artistic movement in Macao, there are people seeking individual expression. There is prospecting of possibilities.

“Macao’s unusual and unique history is a factor of its identity. It is something that translates into artistic expression. Macao’s society has the ability to easily absorb the duality of its history. This can also be a way of Macao affirming its individuality within the heart of China. And it’s not something that is rationalised or reflected, it is a natural state of being, particularly for this young generation.”

João Ó, whose photographs, inspired by his training as an architect, are part of the Orient Museum exhibition, said: “There is a lack of critical thought about what all of this means and how it might be

represented in Macao’s contemporary life. This extends even to artists’ ability to understand the impact they are having, and how they are being received by local society.”

In Macao there is no formal school for the arts. Although this could be a disadvantage in terms of training opportunities for local artists, it favours diversity and exploration of artistic individuality, with diverse training paths and an increasing number of artists managing to undergo training outside Macao.

Amongst the artists in the Orient Museum exhibition, Ann Hoi studied and worked in Canada, Alice Kok studied and worked in Paris, Cai Guo Jie was born and studied in Taiwan, Lai Sio Kit studied in Beijing, Hong Wai studied in Taiwan and shares his time between Macao and France and João Ó was born and studied in Macao.

“The interesting thing is that having studied and worked outside, these artists, myself included, have



Ann Hoi





Tong Chong

chosen to live and work back in Macao, creating their niche and their brand of expression. There is confidence in seeking out their own style, not only technically but also conceptually and in terms of creative energy," said João Ó.

The creative "fever" that the collective exhibition hopes to show has been bolstered in Macao by the emergence of a number of artists' associations and collectives, such as AFA, set up six years ago, which provide work spaces and exhibition opportunities for local artists. Despite this, however, only a few artists can live off their art alone, making it almost inevitable that they take on other jobs.

"Artistic activities in Macao are still considered as a 'hobby' or as a passionate sideline to real life, but it is important to remember that the development of artists' work requires them to focus on it. For artists to concentrate on their artistic work they need to get a sufficient income from it," said the exhibition's curator.

Drummond noted that "the art market in Macao is practically non-existent. The effect of more recent economic growth and development in Macao due to liberalisation of the gaming sector is still quite tenuous in the art sector, in terms of creating an internal art market".

He hopes that a commercial circuit will develop in Macao, with galleries where artists can exhibit and sell their work, "because art is not just a passion. We should allow artists the material conditions they need to dedicate themselves to art as a profession".

Drummond noted that, like the first exhibition almost three years ago, this collective show in Lisbon allows the artists to "monitor their work" and gives them the opportunity to be in contact with the art market outside Macao, with galleries that may offer greater visibility and new horizons for art produced in Macao.

Photos by José Goulão



Fortes Pakeong





*Lai Sio Kit*



*Eric Fok*



*Kai Guo Jie*



*Hong Hai*



*Lio Hak Man*



主辦 / Organização / Organizers :

協辦 / Co-Organização / Co-Organizers :



中國澳門龍舟總會  
Associação de Barcos de Dragão da Região da Grande  
Macao - China (Grande Macau Associação)



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Yan Geling



# Script Road

## Macao's 3rd Literary Festival brought writers from Mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Brazil, Portugal and Mozambique



The Script Road – the Macau Literary Festival, held in March – brought to Macao for the third consecutive year famous writers, publishers, translators, journalists, musicians, filmmakers and visual artists from Asia, Europe, South America and Africa.

Among those from mainland China was novelist Yan Geling (Xiu Xiu: The Sent-Down Girl, 13 Flowers of Nanjing), whose works have been adapted for cinema by directors such as Zhang Yimou and Joan Chen.

Hong Kong was represented by poet Bei Dao, who has repeatedly been suggested as a potential winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature.

Also among the Chinese-speaking authors in attendance were Hunan native Sheng Keyi (Northern Girls), young writer Jiang Fangzhou (We are Growing), Beijing poet and translator Hu Xudong (The Eternal Inside Man), Taiwanese poet Yu Guangzhong (Tug-of-war with Eternity) and Hong Kong poet and editor Tammy Ho Lai-Ming.



Andrea del Fuego



Clara Ferreira Alves

From Portugal came journalist and writer Clara Ferreira Alves, together with novelist and musician Afonso Cruz (A Boneca de Kokoschka, European Union Literature Award 2012) and poet and Chinese-language translator António Graça de Abreu.

Andrea del Fuego (Os Malaquias, Saramago Award 2011) came from Brazil and, from Mozambique, João Paulo Borges Coelho (O Olho de Hertzog, Leya Award 2009).

From Hong Kong there was historian and writer Jason Wordie (Macao – People and Places, Past and Present), who has written extensively about Macao, and a Cuban writer based in Portugal was also present, Karla Suarez (Havana Ano Zero, A Viajante).

### Local talent represented

Macao literature was represented by Li Guangding, poet and Macau Pen Club president; Agnes Lam,

poet and teacher; Kit Kellen, also a poet and lecturer at the University of Macau; and Portuguese poets Fernanda Dias and Manuel Afonso.

For the film genre, The Script Road brought director Cheang Pou-soi (The Monkey King, Accident) back to the city of his birth to talk about his films.

Illustrator André Carrilho also joined the event, with an exhibition entitled "Inertia", where he depicted a number of cities, including Macao, in drawings made during his travels. Another exhibition held by the festival was "Thomas Boswell Watson's Macau", a collection of artwork by George Chinnery's most important disciple.

The Festival organised two music shows featuring famous names like the American Cat Power, Brazilian Arnaldo Antunes, Tian Yuan and Omnipotent Youth Society.

A local Portuguese-language newspaper, Ponto Final, and the Macao Cultural Affairs Bureau jointly organised The Script Road. ■





*Cat Power Matador*



*Bei Dao*



*Arnaldo Antunes*





# Chinese New Year 2014





































2014/01/22

## Macao government subsidises 37,000 students at US\$ 13.7 million

About 37,000 students will benefit from a subsidy of 3,000 patacas in the 2013/2014 school year, which must be used for their learning material or stationery, Executive Council (ExCo) spokesman Leong Heng Teng said. Addressing a press conference at Government House, Leong said that the government had completed a by-law on subsidising local students, who are currently studying at university for bachelor's, master's or doctorate degrees, to ease students' financial burden of buying text books, reference books and stationery.

According to the by-law, the students will receive a subsidy of 3,000 patacas in the 2013/2014 academic year.

Leong also said that the subsidy will cost the government some 110 million patacas (US\$ 13.7 million).



2014/01/27

## Government sets up committee to woo back overseas-trained locals

The government has set up a "human resources development committee" that will introduce elite-nurturing programmes and encourage overseas-trained locals to return to Macao as part of the government's policy to cultivate a skilled workforce.

Government spokesperson Alexis Tam Chon Weng announced in Government House that Chief Executive Chui Sai On will head the committee, the function of which is to plan and establish short-, medium- and long-term measures for the city's human resources development. Tam said the committee had been set up to carry out what Chui promised in his 2014 Policy Address in November last year, namely to come up with an effective mechanism to nurture local human resources for the future development of Macao and prepare for new industries as the economy diversifies.

According to Tam, the committee will also be launching incentive schemes to attract those who studied and are working overseas to return to Macao and make their contribution to the city.



2014/01/28

## Macao receives 29.3 million visitors in 2013

Macao received 29.3 million visitors in 2013, which was an increase of 4 percent against the previous year, the region's Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) said. The number of visitors from mainland China rose by 10 percent to 18.6 million, of which 43 percent arrived in Macao on an individual visa.

The number of visitors from South Korea (474,200) rose by 7 percent and visitors from Hong Kong (6.7 million), Taiwan (1 million), Malaysia (291,100) and Japan (290,600) fell by 4 percent, 7 percent, 4 percent and 27 percent, respectively.

In 2013 visitors stayed in Macao for an average of 1.0 days, which was the same as in 2012.

In December 2.5 million visitors arrived in Macao, which was a year-on-year increase of 4.0 percent, of which 1.6 million were from mainland China, which was an increase of 8 percent year-on-year.





**2014/02/05**

### **Join hands to build a better Macao, says Chief Executive in New Year Message**

The Chief Executive, Chui Sai On, called on the people to join hands to help build a better Macao in the Year of the Horse.

The Government would continue to implement the long-term effective mechanisms and join hands with the people to build a better Macao to achieve fruitful prospects, Chui said in his Lunar New Year Message.

But we have to stay alert for the existing challenges, he said.

Looking back on the Year of the Snake, Chui said Macao's economy had grown steadily and people's livelihoods had improved. He added that constitutional development had also been carried forward in an orderly manner.

In the New Year that began the following day, Chui said the Government would speed up building Macao as a world tourism leisure hub and the business and trading service platform for China and Portuguese-speaking countries.



**2014/02/06**

### **Macao exports in 2013 increased 11 pct**

The total value of merchandise exported by Macao in 2013 increased by 11 percent year-on-year to MOP 9.09 billion (US\$ 1.12 billion) according to the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC).

The value of domestic exports (MOP 2.01 billion) shrank by 12 percent year-on-year, whereas value of re-exports (MOP 7.08 billion) increased by 21 percent, with its share in total merchandise export rising to 78 percent.

Domestic demand and visitor spending expanded, bringing the total value of merchandise import up by 14 percent year-on-year to a record high of MOP 81.01 billion. The merchandise trade deficit was MOP 71.92 billion (US\$ 8.99 billion) in 2013.

Merchandise exports to Hong Kong (MOP 4.86 billion) and Mainland China (MOP 1.61 billion) in 2013 increased by 19 percent and 17 percent respectively year-on-year, while exports to the USA (MOP 365 million) and the EU (MOP 281 million) decreased by 28 percent and 11 percent respectively.



**2014/02/13**

### **Macao government expects economy to be stable and casino revenues to rise in 2014**

Macao's secretary for the Economy and Finance Francis Tam Pak Yuen said that the Macao Special Administrative Region's (MSAR) economy would continue to see "stable development", and forecast two-digit growth of gaming revenues this year.

Tam, who was speaking at the end of the meeting of the Economic Development Council, warned of a need to be on the lookout for "external factors" that could affect the local economy and lead to "some oscillation" in the local economy throughout 2014.

"I see no reason to doubt that there will be stable economic development [in Macao]," he said.

Despite projecting two-digit growth on casino gaming and gambling revenues, which are charged at a 35 percent rate of direct tax and 4 percent indirect taxes, Tam warned that the rise would not be high. In 2013 total revenues for the gaming and gambling sector were 361.866 billion patacas (US\$ 45.233 billion). Tam also said that Macao's inflation "is rising as a result of internal demand and the prosperity of the tourism sector, especially during long holidays in China, which bring large numbers of visitors to Macao".



2014/02/17

## Macao and Taiwan lift limits on flights

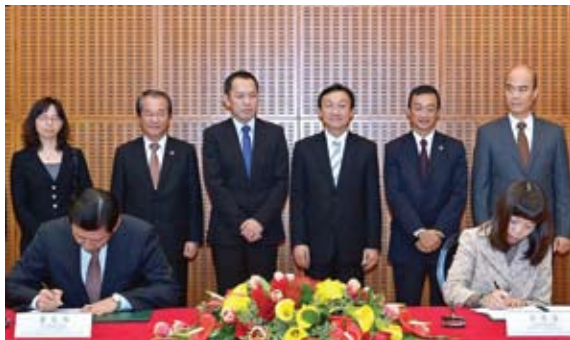
Macao and Taiwan officials inked a new agreement for flights between the two places, replacing a 1995 arrangement signed between Air Macau and the Taipei Airlines Association.

The new pact also lifts previous limits on the number of flights between the two sides.

Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Macao Director Lu Chang-shui and Macao Economic and Cultural Office in Taiwan Director Leong Kit Chi signed the accord on behalf of their respective governments in the Macau Cultural Centre in Nape.

Currently, there are regular flights between Macao and Taipei and Kaohsiung, by Air Macau, Eva Air and TransAsia Airways. Regular flights between Macao and Taichung are being operated in the form of "chartered flights", by Eva Air, TransAsia Airways and Mandarin Airlines.

Under the new agreement, limits on the number of flights between Macao and Taipei and Macao and Kaohsiung have been completely removed. In addition, apart from the "chartered flights" to Taichung, possible flights between Macao and Hualien, Taitung, Magong, Kinmen, Tainan and Chiayi have been included.



2014/02/21

## Inflation accelerates to 6.35 pct in January

Macao's composite consumer price index (CPI) leaped 6.35 percent year-on-year in January, an acceleration from the previous month, according to data released by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC). A DSEC statement blamed the sharp rise on the impact of the Chinese New Year, which fell in January this year.

Last year's inflation stood at 5.50 percent.

In December, the composite CPI rose 5.72 percent.

The statement also said that January's rise in CPI was mainly attributable to higher housing rents and rising charges for eating out and hairdressing services.

January saw "notable" increases in the price indices of housing and fuels (+11.26 percent), recreation and culture (+8.18 percent), and food and non-alcoholic beverages.



2014/02/22

## Macao as Shenzhen's bridge to Portuguese-speaking countries

Macao can be the conduit for Shenzhen's endeavours to increase its trade with the Portuguese-speaking world, Shenzhen Mayor Xu Qin said.

Speaking after officials held their annual meeting about cooperation between Macao and Shenzhen, Xu said his city was particularly eager to sell electric vehicles in Portuguese-speaking countries.

"Shenzhen would like to see the products of our key industries penetrating markets in Portuguese-speaking countries, and Macao can play an agent's role," he said.

He added that Macao was "irreplaceable" as a platform for fostering trade relations between mainland China and the Portuguese-speaking world.

During the meeting with Macao Xu also said: "We can reinforce cooperation with Macao on environmental issues, especially on electric vehicles."





**2014.02.27**

### **Macao population tops 600,000**

Macao's total population – comprising residents and imported workers – rose 4.4 percent year-on-year to 607,500 at the end of 2013, the Statistics and Census Bureau (DSEC) announced. In one year, the city's population increased by 25,500.

Based on Macao's land area of 29.9 square kilometres, its population density reached 20,318 at the end of last year, the highest of any country and territory in the world.

At the end of 1999, when the Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR) was established, the city's population stood at 429,600 and its land area at 23.8 sq km.

Females accounted for 51.4 percent of the total population. Some eight percent of the population was elderly (aged 65 and over), while young people (aged up to 14) accounted for 11.3 percent of the total.

The number of non-resident workers (imported labour) totalled 137,838 at the end of last year, an increase of 27,286 year-on-year. Imported workers accounted for 22.7 percent of the population at the end of last year.



**2014/03/04**

### **Macao's casino gaming revenues total US\$ 8.343 billion in January/February**

Gross gaming and gambling revenues in Macao totalled 66.746 billion patacas (US\$ 8.343 billion) in January and February of this year, which was a year-on-year rise of 23.7 percent, the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (GICB) said.

In February gross gaming and gambling revenues totalled 38.007 billion patacas (US\$ 4.75 billion), representing growth of 40.3 percent against February 2013.

At the end of 2013 there were 35 casinos in Macao, 20 of which were owned by Sociedade de Jogos de Macau, six by Galaxy Casino, four by Venetian Macau, three by Melco Crown Jogos (Macao) and one each by Wynn Resorts and MGM Grand Paradise, which combined had a total of 5746 tables and 15,310 slot machines.



**2014/03/04**

### **Chief Executive announces re-election bid**

Chief Executive Chui Sai On announced that he will run for re-election later this year.

Chui reflected on his work as chief executive for the past four years, saying he had accomplished some of the things he had set out to do while he had other aims that he had still to fulfil. His current term expires at midnight on December 19.

"I know that everybody wants to know whether I am interested or not in standing in the chief executive election. Let me be honest with you. Yes, I am, but we need to follow the procedures..." said Chui, who did not elaborate on when exactly he will officially announce his candidacy for re-election.

The chief executive election by a 400-member committee is expected to be held in the summer. The chief executive can serve a maximum of two consecutive five-year terms.







Admiral Zheng He



# Voyages of Peace

## Chinese admiral to return to the ocean after 700 years

Mark O'Neill in Nanjing

In a factory building next to the Yangtze river is a very unusual structure – a wooden boat 71 metres long, the largest of its size in the world. It is a replica of a ship on which a Chinese admiral, Zheng He, made seven ocean voyages and reached Kenya nearly 700 years ago.

"Ours will be the admiral's eighth voyage," said Jia Tiejia, deputy general manager of Nanjing Dragon Treasure Boat Development Co (NDTBD), which is building the boat. "Like him, we will take Chinese goods like silk and porcelain and cultural items. It will be like a floating museum. He was a model for globalisation."

Between 1405 and 1433, Admiral Zheng He covered a total of more than 100,000 kilometres to over 30 countries in Southeast Asia, South Asia, the Middle East and the Horn of Africa. His fleet had more than 60 ships, with the largest measuring 127 metres long and 60 metres wide.

All of them were built in Nanjing, then the capital of imperial China, close to the site of Jia's workshop.

At that time, Chinese naval technology was far in advance of that of the West. Christopher Columbus was the Italian explorer who 'discovered' the Americas for Europe in 1492, nearly 100 years after Zheng's maiden voyage. Travelling with three ships, he reached an island in the Bahamas archipelago which he named San Salvador. The three ships of Columbus would all have fitted on the deck of Zheng's command ship, which had nine masts.

By comparison, the Sao Gabriel, which Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama took to India in 1498, was 23 metres long and five metres wide, a fifth of the size of Zheng's ship.

Yong Le, the emperor who sponsored Zheng's voyages, died in 1424. His successor chose the opposite course and banned overseas exploration.

This leaves one of the great unanswered questions of history – if the successor of Yong Le had continued his policy, would China have colonised Southeast Asia and Africa and would their peoples today be speaking Mandarin and not English, French and Portuguese?



# Voyages of Zheng He

1405-1433

The ships of Zheng's armada were as astonishing as its reach. Some accounts claim that the great baochuan, or treasure ships, had nine masts on 400-foot-long decks. The largest wooden ships ever built, they dwarfed those of Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama (art, below). Hundreds of smaller cargo, war, and supply ships bore tens of thousands of men who brought China to a wider world.

**7 1431-1433**  
The last voyage, to Africa's Swahili coast, with a side trip to Mecca, marked the end of China's golden age of exploration and of Zheng He's life. He presumably died en route home and was buried at sea.

**6 1421-1422**  
Zheng He's fleet continued the emperor's version of shuttle diplomacy, returning ambassadors to their native countries after stays of several years, while bringing other foreign dignitaries back to China.

**5 1417-1419**  
Zheng's Treasure Fleet visited the Arabian Peninsula and, for the first time, Africa. In Aden the sultan presented exotic gifts such as zebras, lions, and ostriches.



**A MING TREASURE SHIP**  
Perhaps 400 ft (122 m) long,  
170 ft (52 m) wide

**VASCO DA GAMA'S  
SÃO GABRIEL**  
About 74 ft (23 m) long,  
10 ft (3 m) wide

Present-day  
boundaries shown  
Scale varies in  
this perspective.

Straight-line  
distance between  
Nanjing and  
Mombasa is  
5,730 miles  
(9,221 kilometers).

ART BY GREG HARLIN  
ING MAPS

## A Shrinking World

ca 1000 Leif Eriksson makes  
landfall in Newfoundland.

ca 1050 Floating compass in  
use by Chinese navigators

ca 1070 Chinese  
develop dry docks.

1100s Chinese junks  
call at Persian Gulf  
and Red Sea ports.

1215 Mongols under Genghis  
Khan capture Beijing.

1275 Marco Polo visits  
Kublai Khan in China.





**4 1413-1415**  
In this voyage's wake, the first to travel beyond India and cross the Arabian Sea, an estimated 18 states sent tribute and envoys to China, underscoring the Ming emperor's influence overseas.

**3 1409-1411**  
Although notable for the imperial fleet's only major foreign land battle, the voyage was also marked by Muslim Zheng's offering of gifts to a Buddhist temple, one of many examples of his ecumenism.

**2 1407-1409**  
The fleet returned foreign ambassadors from Sumatra, India, and elsewhere who had traveled to China on the first voyage. The expeditions firmly established the Ming dynasty's Indian Ocean trade links.

**1 1405-1407**  
317 ships, 27,870 men. In July the fleet left Nanjing with silks, porcelain, and spices for trade. This well-armed floating city defeated pirates in the Strait of Malacca and reached Sumatra, Ceylon, and India.



## Birth of an idea

The idea of the reconstruction was born in 2005 when the Swedish ship Gotheborg visited China. It was a replica of an 18th-century Swedish East Indiaman and in 2005 the world's largest operational wooden vessel. The original sank off Gothenburg on 12 September 1745, while approaching its home port after returning from her third voyage to China. Construction of the replica started in 1995; the vessel sailed for China in October 2005.

That month the Gulou district government of Nanjing and the Dragon Group of Singapore established NDTBD as a joint venture and built a new shipyard to follow the Swedish example and construct the replica of Admiral Zheng He's command ship.

As with the Gotheborg, reconstruction has proved a major challenge. The main difficulty is how to be faithful to the admiral's designs and at the same time meet the exacting fire, safety and environmental standards of the 21st century. If the vessel were to sail only within Chinese waters, it would have already been completed. But it must be able to master the storms and swells of the South China Sea and the Indian Ocean.

First, Jia could not find the type of wood he needed

in China – the trees he needed have been felled – so he had to go to the natural forests of Sabah, Malaysia. Admiral Zheng used Chinese wood for the first two voyages and then used timber from Southeast Asia. Next to the workshop lie enormous pieces of this lumber from Sabah, up to 28 metres long.

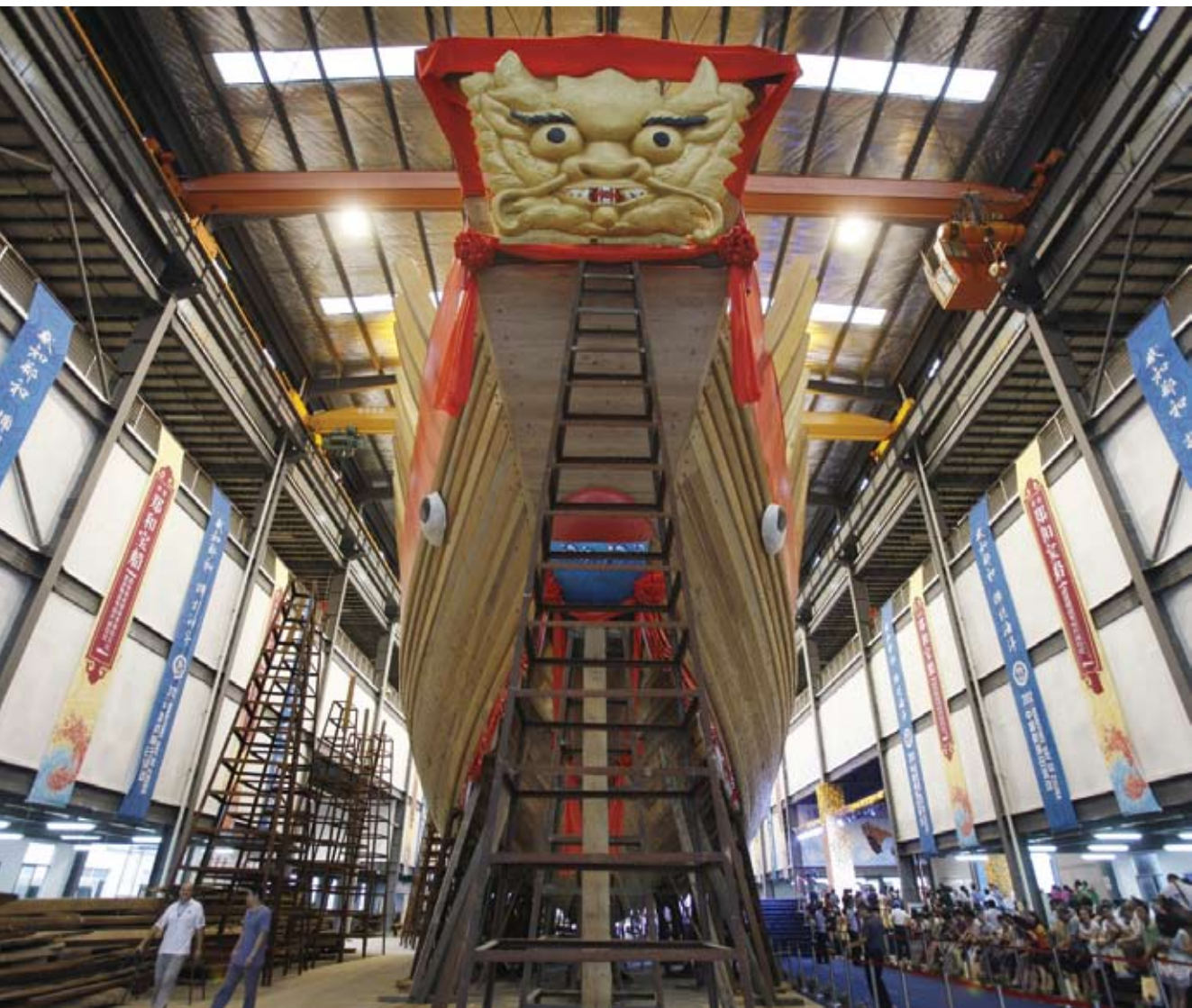
Then there was the challenge of finding craftsmen. Few people produce wooden boats; everyone makes vessels out of steel. The company invited six teams to compete and chose one from Fujian province, who had more experience of making such boats with curved hulls. The vessel will be 71.7 metres long, 14.05 metres wide and have a displacement of 1,797 tonnes. It was impossible to make it as large as Admiral Zheng's command boat and meet modern safety standards.

"The investment has exceeded 100 million yuan," said Jia. "I estimate that it will take 18 months to finish, followed by six months of trials. That means going to sea in 2015 or 2016. Many people have applied to be sailors, because they would be proud to be involved in such an important project. The captain must be Chinese but the sailors could be foreign. We have also received applicants to be volunteers and passengers."



Surveyors check the interior of the replica of "Zheng He Treasure Ship" under construction in Nanjing





*Replica of "Zheng He Treasure Ship" under construction in Nanjing*

## Symbol of Nanjing

Admiral Zheng's footprint is all over Nanjing. The city has built a large park around the ruins of the one of the yards where his ships were built, in the Gulou district in the centre of the city. Excavations of the shipyard took place in 2003 and 2004, with many of the 1,500 artifacts kept at a museum in the park or in other museums in Nanjing and around China.

Included in the display is a 600-year-old wooden mast standing 11 metres high, several iron and bronze anchors, wooden and iron tools and many old ropes, wooden planks, nails and metal clasps. Caches of tung oil were also found; when mixed with lime mortar, this oil became one of the world's

first waterproofing agents for boats.

The boats were built on wooden scaffolding in a dry dock that was flooded with water when the boat was completed and then floated onto the Yangtze river.

The park also contains a replica of one of the treasure boats. On its lower deck are small models of the different vessels in his fleet.

The city also boasts a Zheng He Avenue and Zheng He International Plaza, an upmarket real estate development.

Visitors can see the Tianfei temple, dedicated to the sea goddess Mazu, which the admiral built in 1407 after he returned from his first voyage. Next to it is the Jinghai (Calm Seas) Temple which he also built and where he lived late in his life when he was not at sea.





## Extraordinary life

The life of Zheng himself is as extraordinary as that of his fleet.

He was born in 1371, the second son of a Muslim family from Kunyang in Yunnan province, Southwest China, with four sisters and one elder brother. He was the descendant of a Persian who had been Governor of Yunnan during the Yuan dynasty; both his father and grandfather had made the pilgrimage to the holy city of Mecca.

In 1381, his father was killed, aged 37, in a battle between a local prince and an invading Ming army. The young man was taken prisoner and castrated with 380 other prisoners. At the age of 11, he was sent to the household of a prince named Zhu Di; he lived in Beijing and served as a soldier in his master's army defending the northern frontiers against the Mongols. He won the confidence of his master and received a proper education; he became his trusted advisor.

After three years of wars and family conflicts, Zhu Di became Emperor Yong Le in Nanjing on 17 July 1402. He appointed the young man as Grand Director of the Directorate of Palace Servants and gave him the name Zheng, replacing the family name of Ma, in recognition of his outstanding military service.

In 1405, the Emperor ordered the first naval expedition. He wanted to establish a Chinese presence and impose imperial control over trade in the Indian Ocean, impress foreigners and extend the empire's tributary system.

There was also an issue of face. He was not in the direct line of succession and had taken power through a coup d'état; he feared that others would not accept and respect him.

He appointed Zheng He as admiral in charge of the huge fleet and armed forces that undertook these expeditions. The admiral made meticulous preparations, including the setting up of a foreign language institute at Nanjing and the training of linguists.

*Visitors admire a relief of Zheng He, the ancient Chinese seafaring hero who lived in the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), at Zheng He Park in his hometown Jinning County in Yunnan Province*





The first voyage set out on 11 July 1405 from Suzhou – a fleet of 317 ships with nearly 28,000 crew members. It visited Champa, part of present-day Vietnam, Java and Sumatra, Sri Lanka and the Malabar coast of India. The voyage to India covered 6,000 miles, at an average speed of 50 miles a day. It mixed exploration with diplomacy and trade. The ships carried large quantities of silk, ceramics, gold, silver and other Chinese goods, which were exchanged for tropical spices, fragrant wood, precious gems, animals, textiles and minerals. Smaller boats carried

grain, supplies, horses, soldiers and supporting staff. The crew members sampled exotic cuisines and the exotic ladies they met en route. The boats carried zebras, lions, ostriches and a giraffe back to China. They also transported diplomats from over 30 countries they visited to Nanjing, where they brought tributes to the emperor, and took them home on their next voyage. They stayed in luxurious staterooms on the main boat. The ships also carried Chinese princesses who were given to foreign rulers.





*Zheng He World map - 1418*

The admiral was asked to subdue Chen Zuyi, a pirate operating out of Palembang, a city in Sumatra with a large Chinese population; his heavily armed junks intercepted almost every convoy that passed through the straits between Sumatra and the Malay Peninsula.

In 1407, the Admiral engaged with Chen's fleet in a fierce battle; he killed 5,000 of his men, destroyed his fleet and sent Chen back to Nanjing for public execution.

A detailed record of the voyages was left by Ma

Huan, a Chinese Muslim from Zhejiang who spoke Arabic and was interpreter on at least three of the voyages. Published in 1451, 'The Overall Survey of the Ocean's Shores' was an encyclopaedia of the world between China and Africa.

Zheng wanted to follow the example of his father and grandfather and make the pilgrimage to Mecca. But, as an admiral of the Ming empire, he could not bow before the symbolic throne of a foreign king. So he chose Ma Huan instead. While Zheng waited with his fleet in Calicut in 1432, he sent a mission led by Ma to the holy city; three months later, they arrived and walked around the Kaaba, the most sacred place in the Islamic world, in a ritual that has not changed in the 600 years since.

It was during the return journey that the admiral died; he was buried at sea off the Malabar coast. His tomb in Nanjing has no corpse.

## Legacy

The admiral did not conquer any territory for China, although he had the military and technical means to do so. Nor did he attempt to convert the people he met to his religion.

These mark major differences between his voyages and those of the Portuguese, Spanish, Dutch and British explorers who followed him. They wanted territory, favourable terms of trade and evangelisation.

Hong Xi, the emperor who followed Yong Le, reversed the outward policy because he considered the voyages too expensive and needed to concentrate his military resources to fight the Mongols in the north. He also considered China self-sufficient in the goods it required.

In 1410, the admiral had left in Galle, Sri Lanka, a granite slab with inscriptions in Chinese, Tamil and Persian; they were addressed to Buddha, Siva and Allah, offering thanks for their compassion and moral virtue and seeking their blessings.

It was a sign of extraordinary tolerance at a time when thousands were being killed in the name of religion. Even today there are many places in the world that would benefit from a visit by Admiral Zheng He. ■

*Photos by National Geographic Creative and Xinhua News Agency*



*A stewardess stands by G83 high-speed train before a trial trip in December 2012*



# THE WORLD'S LONGEST HIGH SPEED RAILWAY LINE

## BEIJING TO GUANGZHOU IN JUST EIGHT HOURS

António Caeiro in Beijing\*

The Beijing/Guangzhou line – the world's longest high speed railway line – opened on 26 December 2012 after a seven year building operation. The first section, between Guangzhou and Wuhan, started operating in 2009, followed by Wuhan-Zhengzhou and, finally, Zhengzhou-Beijing. The line is expected to reach Hong Kong by 2015.

The high speed line enables passengers to travel 2,298 kilometres in less than eight hours – a third of the time it would take the fastest standard train to cover the same distance. It passes through Shijiazhuang, Zhengzhou, Wuhan and Changsha, the capitals of four of China's most heavily populated provinces. In its first year it carried around 95 million passengers, which equates to an average of 260,000 people per day – over a third of Macao's total population.

One of the line's trains, the CRH 380-TC02, can carry up to 1,000 passengers in its sixteen slinking white carriages. It snakes through the urban jungle of Beijing so smoothly it is hard to believe that fifteen minutes after leaving Beijing's Western Station the train is already travelling at 308 km per hour. Electronic panels in each carriage show the train's

speed as well as the name of the next station.

On 26 December last year, the first anniversary of the line's operation, the train left Beijing at 09:58 (two minutes ahead of time) and arrived in Guangzhou at 17:56 (three minutes before it was due). A little over punctilious, perhaps, but an awesome speed for the distance.

As the train set off, the landscape outside the large windows slipped by as if it were being sucked away. It was impossible to read the names of the stations the train passed through, and when another CRH 380 went past at the same speed, the meeting lasted only a couple of seconds.

The first stop was Shijiazhuang. A few smokers jumped onto the platform and quickly lit up a cigarette. They only had two minutes before re-boarding. Smoking is not allowed on the platforms, but by the time a member of the railway staff noticed the infraction the train was on its way again.

A couple of hostesses regularly passed through the carriages pushing a trolley of drinks and biscuits. A cappuccino, the closest thing to coffee, cost 18 yuan. The dining cabin, with its tablecloths and pots of plastic flowers also served meals.



The closed circuit television, with screens that hung down from the carriage ceilings, showed documentaries, soap operas and cartoons. Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck were in the mix. Most of the passengers, though, only had eyes for their smartphones or tablets. Some of them slept. A silent cleaning lady with a dustpan and brush occasionally came by to collect rubbish. Some men played cards for money, and judging by the amounts on the table, they were set to win – or lose – hundreds of yuan. Around 300 million Chinese are expected to move into the cities by 2030 – to existing cities and to those that are being built across the country, particularly next to the new train stations. The area around Zhengzhou-East, the second stop the CHR 380-TC02 makes, is an enormous building site, with dozens of apartment blocks under construction. All you can see on the unpaved roads is builders in yellow helmets and machines – cranes, diggers, concrete mixers, to name but a few. In Wuhan, an important rail hub, the CHR stopped next to an old

double-decker train. The difference between the two, in terms of design and comfort, is clear and confirms that China is living in a number of eras at the same time.

In Changsha-South the station itself is not finished and some platforms are still closed. Changsha, the capital of Hunan province, is south of the Yangtze, the world's third-largest river, after the Amazon and the Nile. (The Chinese call it "Chang Jiang" – Long River). The landscape here is much greener. There is a lot of water, hills filled with vegetation and villages dotted with yellow houses. There are also lots of tunnels, some of which are several kilometres long, and the train travels through them without slowing down. The CRH 380 was designed to travel at an average of 350 km/hour. In a test carried out between Wuhan and Guangzhou it reached 394.2 km/hour but it does not usually exceed 308 km/hour. (By the standards of the Union International des Chemins de Fer, high speed rail starts at 200 km/hour).





*A stewardess adjusts a television set for a passenger in a business class carriage of G80 express train during a trip between Guangzhou and Beijing*

"It was one of the longest train journeys of my life, but it was very comfortable," said a 57 year-old European passenger. "I never thought that those eight hours would go by so quickly." Another passenger said: "The high-speed train is worthwhile, particularly for journeys between cities along the way. The distance between Zhengzhou and Wuhan, for example, is about a 920 kilometre round trip,

and the journey takes just over three hours by train. You can get there and back on the same day." The cheapest tickets from Beijing to Guangzhou cost 862 yuan – 200 yuan less than a flight, though a flight is faster, at three hours. In "Executive" class, the most expensive of the train's three classes, the price rises to 2,724, which is almost twice the average monthly salary in Beijing. ■



Beijing-Guangzhou in 8 hours





Riding the Iron Rooster – By Train through China by Paul Theroux is a classic of modern travel literature. When the book was published in 1988, France already had its TGV (“Train à Grande Vitesse”) and the famous Japanese “bullet train” (“Shinkansen”) had been operating for over 20 years, but at the time steam engines were still being manufactured in Datong, northern China. The train mentioned in the title, the “Iron Rooster”, took four and a half days to travel over the 3,700 kilometres between Beijing and Urumqi, the capital of the Xinjiang Autonomous Region. By 2017 the journey should take just 12 hours.

In the last seven years China has built the world’s largest high speed rail network, overtaking the countries that pioneered the technology. The first line, a 117 kilometre section between Beijing and Tianjin, started operating in 2008. At the end of 2013, the total length of the network – from Harbin, next to Siberia, to Nanning, to the south of the Tropic of Cancer – reached 13,000 kilometres. The speedy development was overshadowed by a serious accident, which killed 40 people in 2011, along with a corruption case involving the budget provided to the Railways Ministry. Last July, a former railway sector minister, Liu Zhijun, was sentenced to death with a two-year suspension for taking bribes of 64.6 million yuan.

The opening of the Beijing/Guangzhou line coincided with the birthday of former president Mao Zedong. Another notable line – Beijing/Shanghai – opened the day before the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), in 2011. “The significance of the Chinese high speed railway goes way beyond the railway line itself,” said the People’s Daily, the official newspaper of the CCP. “The high-speed network has increased national confidence in China (...) and demonstrated the superiority of the socialist system,” one of the newspaper’s editors wrote.



During the last imperial dynasty the Chinese government was initially opposed to the railway, and only in 1881 did it authorise construction of the first railway line. At the end of the 19th century, when the United States already had 300,000 kilometres of railway line, China had less than 1,000 kilometres – a lot less than Japan, India and Russia. Construction of the Transiberian railway – the world’s longest, covering almost 9,500 kilometres – was already under way and in 1904 it reached Vladivostok, in the North Pacific.


This time China doesn’t want to be left behind.

*\*Lusa news agency journalist in Beijing*

*Photos by Xinhua*







# China's Window to the World

Guangzhou has been a  
trading metropolis for  
two millennia

Thomas Chan  
Hong Kong Polytechnic University

*Guangzhou a 2,000 old year old city*



Guangzhou, capital of Guangdong province, is one of the great metropolises of China, a centre of industry, trade and enterprise. It has held this title not only in the modern era but for more than two millennia.

During the Tang dynasty (AD 618–907), it was home to more than 100,000 foreign merchants and their families. The site of China's first mosque, it was a centre of worship as well a place full of meeting venues of different kinds.

In the mid-18th century, it was one of the world's great trading ports and the only city in the country where foreigners were allowed to live. It retained this monopoly on foreign trade until the First Opium War of 1839, which led to the opening of other cities in China.

In the modern era, following the start of the reform and open-door policy of 1978, it has again become a major economic centre, attracting hundreds of millions of dollars in foreign investment and becoming home to thousands of foreigners from the four corners of the world.

### **Maritime silk road**

Guangzhou has a history spanning more than 2,000 years. Its records begin with the conquest of the area by the armies of the Qin dynasty (221–207 BC). It was then called Panyu, after two mountains nearby named Pan and Yu. The city grew when it became the capital of the Nanyue Kingdom in 206 BC; its territory included what is now Vietnam.





Archaeologists have found African ivory and Persian silver boxes from the Nanyue period, evidence of its trading even at such an early date.

In 111 BC, the Han dynasty conquered the Nanyue Kingdom and the city became the capital of the province of Guang, hence the name Guangzhou. It has remained the capital of Guangdong province ever since. Panyu remains the name of a southern district of the city.

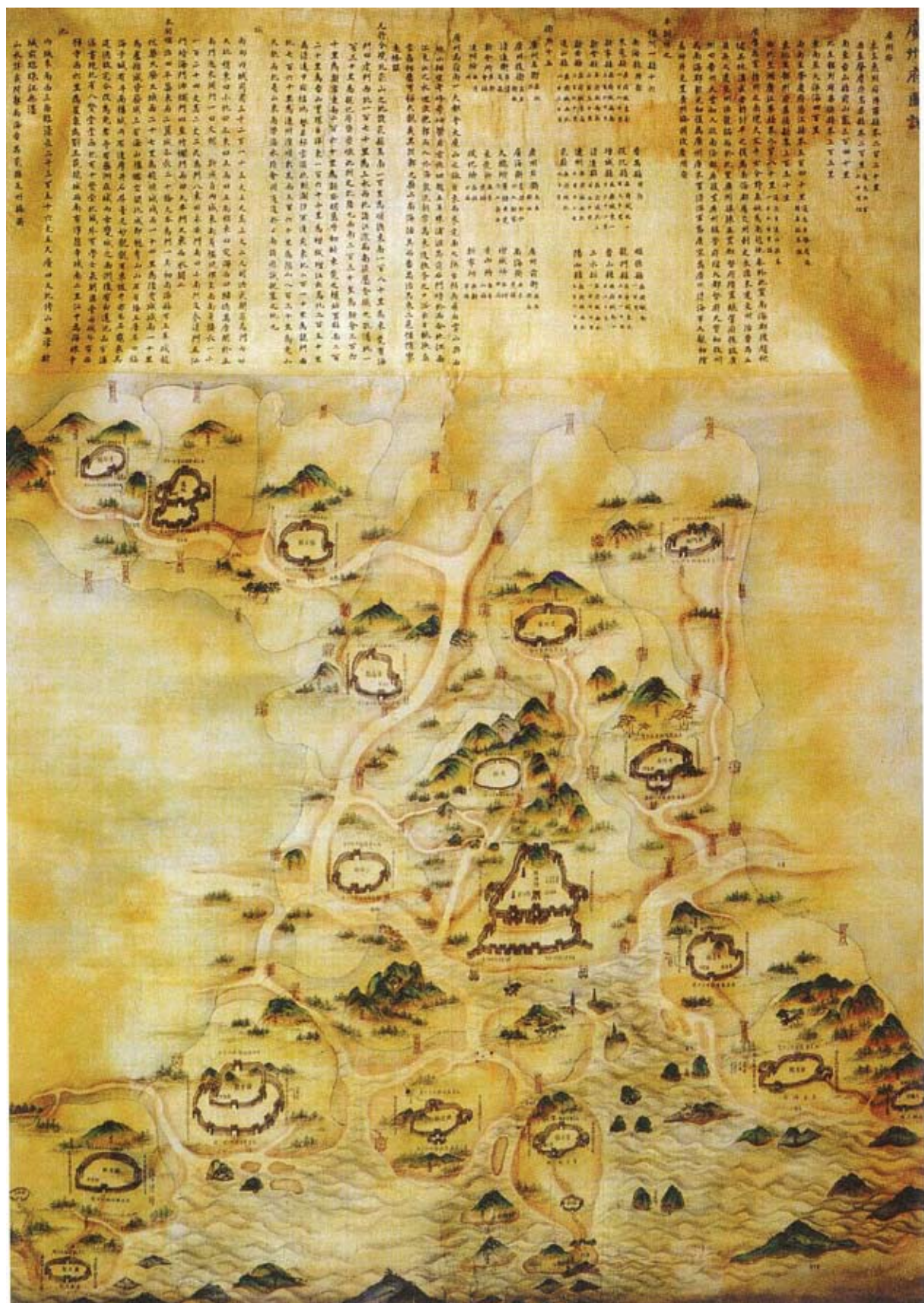
During the Tang dynasty, China was the richest and most technologically advanced nation on earth and a major exporter of silk, lacquerware and porcelain.

Guangzhou was the centre of a 'maritime silk road', the sea equivalent of the land routes across Central Asia that took Chinese goods, like ceramics

and silk, to the Middle East and Europe. Chinese and foreign ships transported these products to Southeast and South Asia, Mesopotamia, the Middle East, the Arabian Peninsula, Ethiopia, and Somalia. The ships carried them to Siraf on the northern shore of the Persian Gulf and from there to the Middle East and Europe.

Guangzhou was home to over 100,000 foreign merchants, including Persians, Arabs, Hindu Indians, Malays, Sinhalese, Khmers, Cham, Jews and Nestorian Christians from the Near East.

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



Prefecture of Canton (1685)



A member of the tribe of the Prophet Muhammad sailed from Ethiopia to Guangzhou with a copy of the Koran and established China's first mosque there. The city had a large foreign quarter, where the visitors lived with their families and had their own restaurants, meeting places and places of worship. Since 2000, history has repeated itself. The city is again home to tens of thousands of foreigners, including Asians, Arabs, Africans and Caucasians. Like the Persians and Malays of the Tang dynasty, they have come because of its reputation as the "factory of the world". Most make their living using goods made in Guangdong and other parts of southern China.

## Arrival of the Portuguese

The seven voyages of Admiral Zheng He to Southeast Asia and the Indian Ocean from 1405 to 1433 promoted overseas trade and created many trading communities abroad. They stimulated the growth of private trade, with Chinese joining with Muslims to develop long-distance trade between China and the Arab countries of the Middle East and Mediterranean Europe. This was one of the main factors that coaxed the Europeans to travel beyond the Cape of Good Hope in search of sought-after products.

The Portuguese were the first Europeans to arrive by sea, in 1514. By 1517 they had set up a monopoly on foreign trade. Later they were expelled from the city and in 1557 granted the use of Macao as a place for trade. They kept a near monopoly on foreign trade in the region until the arrival of the Dutch in the early 17th century.

Regional trade became inter-continental trade. The founding of Manila by the Spaniards in the 1570s allowed a greater inflow of silver from Peru and Mexico into the trading system, adding to the silver from Japan. Silver became the international medium of exchange that integrated China and the east and west economies in the Pacific Ocean and the Indian Ocean.

Two triangular trade circles emerged: Malacca – Macao – Nagasaki, and Manila – Macao – Nagasaki, dominated first by the Portuguese and Spaniards and later joined by the Dutch.

The centre of the two circles was in fact not Macao, but Guangzhou, which integrated the domestic economy of China through the trade routes. From 1579, the government started to hold a trade fair for foreign merchants twice a year – the predecessor of the famous Canton Trade Fair that started in 1957. Macao was the outer port for Guangzhou; the foreign areas of Guangzhou continued to host foreign merchants and ships from afar.

*Bao Mo Yuan Park*







## Wealth of Guangzhou

The great prosperity of Guangzhou's foreign trade may be measured by the disproportionate burden of taxation imposed by the central government. In the 1570s, Guangzhou plus Macao had to pay 200,000 taels of silver every year, while the provinces of Fujian and Zhejiang each delivered only 50,000 taels.

The great demand for exports transformed the neighbouring areas of Guangzhou into a large industrial region for the production and processing of silk, tea, chinaware, sugar, cotton cloth, ironware

and salt.

Just west of the new walled city outside the old foreign quarters was a commercial area for foreign merchants, with piers connecting the rivers to Macao and Nantou/Tuen Mun in the present day Shenzhen and Hong Kong; it was on the main route from the estuary to the South China Sea.

The imperial government called this area the 'Thirteen Factories' where foreign companies, mainly from Europe, were allowed to establish warehouses and offices. It was the only place in China where foreigners were permitted to live.

The Pearl River Delta region had evolved into a





hinterland for Guangzhou for production and processing of commodities for export. Guangzhou remained the central city dominating the industrial hinterland as well as being the largest domestic market of China, with export supplies of chinaware from Jiangxi and silk products and cotton textiles from Jiangsu and Zhejiang as well as tea from localities in southern China.

In return, there was demand for imported spices, cotton and, most importantly, silver. In 1640, half of the imports of Manila in terms of value came from Macao, originating from Guangzhou.

Guangzhou had not only become the largest foreign

trade port for China and Asia – the Pearl River Delta region had also become one of the most developed economic regions of the nation and an essential link in international trade networks that spanned continents around the world.

## Opium War

The Opium War (1839–1842), responsible for the treaty port system in China and Asia, was a disaster for Guangzhou and Macao. Hong Kong replaced Macao as the outer port for Guangzhou and other treaty cities along the coast and the Yangtze River diverted foreign trade away from Guangzhou. In addition, smuggling and the free-trade port of Hong Kong shifted exports and imports from Guangzhou to Hong Kong.

Shanghai became a treaty port in 1843 and the first British concession was set up in 1845. By 1852, the foreign trade volume going through Shanghai surpassed Guangzhou; this made Shanghai the largest trading port of China and Asia. From 1860 to 1900, the national share of China's foreign trade passing through Shanghai averaged over 50 percent for exports and over 60 percent for imports.

The national share of Guangzhou dropped to around 25 percent in the 1860s and continued to fall in subsequent years.

It lost more than simply the trade along the coast and downstream of the Yangtze River. With the setting up of Hankou as a treaty port in the 1860s, even trade in its traditional hinterland – upstream of the Yangtze River and Jiangxi and Hunan provinces – went east from Hankou to Shanghai.

The position of Guangzhou and the Pearl River Delta region, as well as Macao, declined steadily in the years of trade liberalisation in China. The vast inland hinterland that had been dominated by Guangzhou/Macao for 1,000 years was taken over by Shanghai and a group of treaty ports in Asia, including Hong Kong and those in Japan and Korea.

A major contributing factor to the rapid rise of Shanghai since the 1840s was the migration of merchants and investors from Guangdong and Fujian; they provided Shanghai with funds, knowledge and foreign connections.



*Dr Sun Yat-sen*

## Cradle of revolution

History gave Guangzhou and Guangdong province a unique position in China. Its citizens had more contact with the outside world than their compatriots in the rest of the country; as a result, many understood the language, culture and customs of the 'big-noses'.

More than other Chinese, the people of Guangdong travelled, studied and emigrated abroad, learnt English, French and other foreign languages, converted to Christianity, mastered the skills of foreign trade and accepted foreign ideas like democracy, freedom and modernisation.

So Guangdong became the cradle of the Chinese revolution against the Qing dynasty. Cantonese who had studied in Japan and the United States returned home, inspired by what they had seen, and determined to reform their country as it slipped further and further behind the West.

Dr Sun Yat-sen, the father of the revolution, was a native of Zhongshan who studied in Hawaii and Hong Kong and worked as the first Chinese doctor of Western medicine in Macao. Guangzhou was the main centre of the revolutionary movement within China, where activists and reformers worked to modernise and improve their regions. It was the site of several failed uprisings against the Qing dynasty.

## Fall of dynasty

After the overthrow of the dynasty in 1911, Guangzhou became a centre of national political power, as different parties and warlords fought for control of the country. The Nationalist party set up the Whampoa Military Academy there, where it trained officers for a new national army.

In July 1926, Chiang Kai-shek gave a lecture at the academy; it was the start of the Northern Expedition which succeeded in uniting most of China and enabled the party to set up a new capital at Nanjing.

After that, the political importance of Guangzhou declined; the centre of the country moved north. During World War II, the city was occupied by the Japanese army between 1938 and 1945.

Guangdong was spared the worst fighting of the civil war between the Nationalist government and the Communists, which occurred in North and Central China. In April 1949, after the capital Nanjing fell to the Communists, the acting president relocated to Guangzhou.

But he could not resist the Communist forces; they entered the city on 14 October 1949. A new era had begun.

*Photos by Eric Tam and Xinhua News Agency*



# 澳門

## Macao

理想的會議展覽舉辦地  
THE IDEAL MICE DESTINATION

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

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

### 服務內容 ◆ SERVICE FIELDS

招攬、引進會展活動在澳門舉辦	◆ Attract and introduce convention and exhibition projects to Macao
協助競投會展項目	◆ Assist in bidding for convention and exhibition projects
“一站式”會展資訊	◆ “One-stop” Convention and exhibition updates
委派專人協助跟進落實在澳門舉辦會展項目	◆ Designated staff to provide follow-up service and assist in organising events in Macao
協助申請會展活動激勵計劃	◆ Assist in the application for the Convention and Exhibition Stimulation Programme
協助於本局參與之活動 (澳門境內外) 進行宣傳推廣	◆ Provide publicity and promotion opportunities in local and overseas events participated by IPI
協調與本澳相關政府部門聯繫	◆ Co-ordinate and liaise with Macao government departments
協助在澳成立公司開展會展項目	◆ Assist Macao Companies to develop MICE projects
提供會展合作配對服務，協助尋找合作伙伴	◆ Provide MICE cooperation matching service in search for potential partners



澳門貿易投資促進局

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上午 Morning:

09:00 – 13:00 (星期一至五 / Monday to Friday)

下午 Afternoon:

14:30 – 17:45 (星期一至四 / Monday to Thursday)

14:30 – 17:30 (星期五 / Friday)



# CRU

关注消防 珍爱生命 共享平安

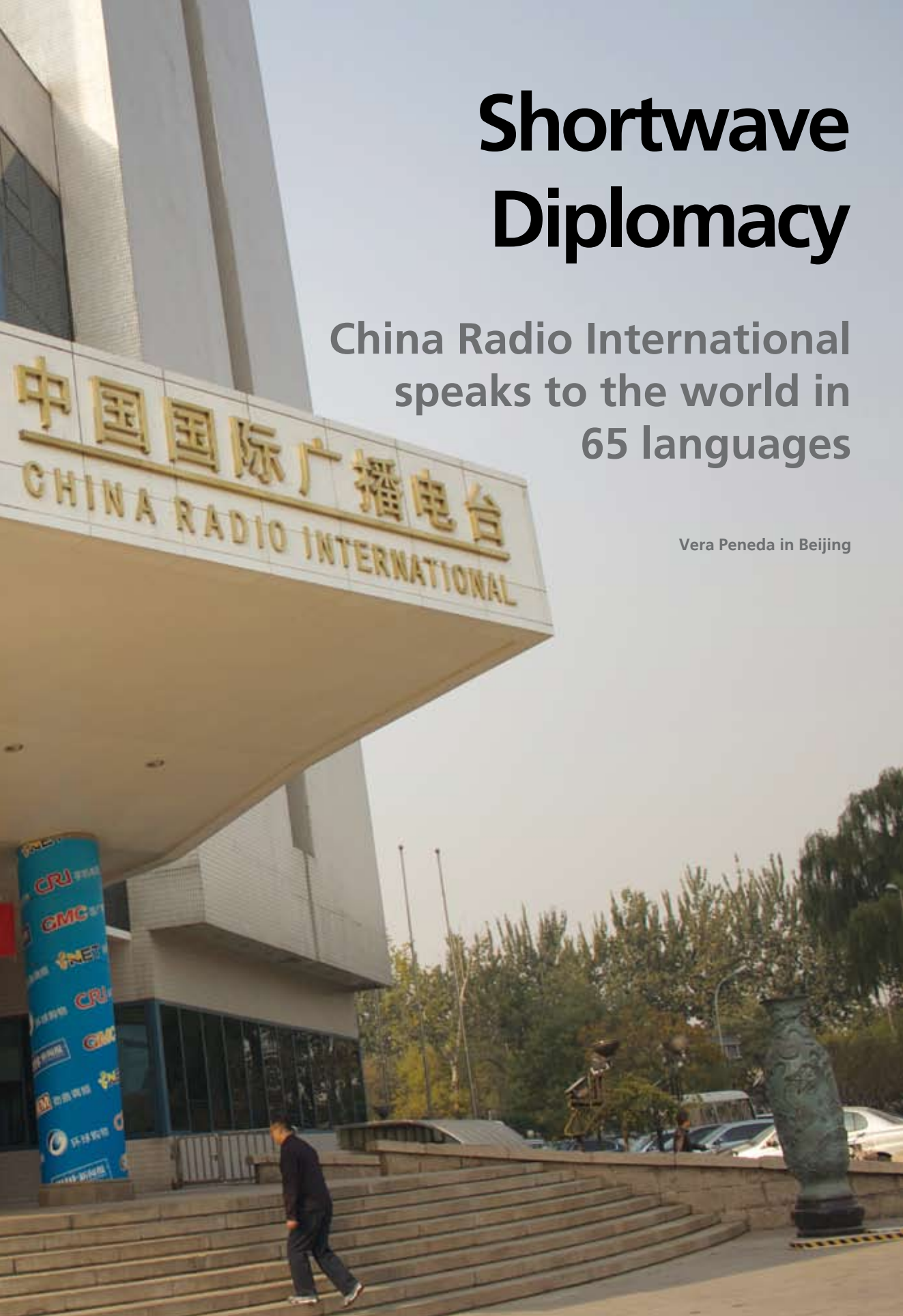




# Shortwave Diplomacy

China Radio International  
speaks to the world in  
65 languages

Vera Peneda in Beijing





CRI vice-president, Xai Jixuan

When Wu Yichen joined the Portuguese service of China Radio International (CRI) 15 years ago, she was asked to broadcast with a Brazilian accent to reach audiences across Brazil. Now that CRI wants to reach audiences in all Portuguese-speaking countries, her accent no longer needs to be specific to one place. At 36, Wu, who uses the name Catarina, is director of the Portuguese-language service, in charge of 29 full-time staff, of whom five are non-natives. CRI sees itself as the 'voice of China', broadcasting in 65 languages to over 200 countries and regions around the world. Founded in 1941, it is China's only global radio service; it also has its own television station and mobile and Internet services, including those on platforms banned within the country. It is based in a 16-storey Soviet-style building in Babaoshan in southwest Beijing and employs 2,000 people, including Chinese and non-Chinese. It has 32 overseas bureaus covering over 50 countries on five continents and claims an audience of over two billion people. It broadcasts 1,520 hours of programming a day, including 24 hours in English, covering news,

current affairs and features on politics, the economy, culture, science and technology.

## Soft power

CRI plays an important part in China's strategy of soft power, which aims to win the hearts and minds of people around the world. In the words of Harvard professor Joseph Nye: "Soft power is the ability to get what one wants by attraction and persuasion rather than coercion or payment."

The soft power campaign kicked off in earnest in 2007 in the run-up to the Olympics. China spent billions of dollars on aid programmes in Africa and Latin America to build landmark infrastructure projects. It staged the Beijing Olympics in 2008 and went on to host the Shanghai Expo in 2010, which attracted more than 70 million visitors. It set up several hundred Confucius Institutes around the world to teach Chinese language and culture; the number of foreign students enrolled in them rose to 240,000 in 2011, up from 36,000 in 2001.





In 2009–2010, the government announced that it would invest \$ 8.9 billion in external publicity, including a 24-hour cable news channel. That's when CRI started broadcasting in English around the clock.

Results so far have been mixed. In an article entitled 'China's Soft Power Deficit' published in the Wall Street Journal in 2012, Nye said: "For all its efforts, China has had a limited return on its investment. A recent BBC poll shows that opinions of China's influence are positive in much of Africa and Latin America but predominantly negative in the United States, throughout Europe, as well as in India, Japan and South Korea."

## CRI's beginnings

CRI was founded on 3 December 1941. It has been a one-way shortwave broadcasting radio station since its establishment. It currently broadcasts with 50 shortwave transmitters, via the Internet and numerous satellites. Its programmes are also re-broadcast by many local FM and AM radio stations worldwide.

In Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, Kenya and many other countries, the overseas branches of CRI have become major local media hubs.

Since 2009, it has established five city broadcasting

channels, such as "Beibuwan's voice" in Nanning, capital of Guangxi region in south China and "The Voice of the South China Sea" in Hainan Province. It has 45 reporting centres in provincial capitals and major cities as well as six domestic studios in Guangzhou, Xiamen, Chaozhou, Wenzhou, Meizhou and Zhengzhou.

Its subsidiaries include CRI Press, CRI Audio and Video Press, along with over 10 other media companies.

As an official station, it follows the government line on political issues. It aims to promote favourable relations between the PRC and the rest of the world.

## Young recruits

Like most of her colleagues, Catarina, the director of the Portuguese service, went to CRI immediately after graduation. "I majored in Portuguese, learning the language, culture and history," she explained. She thought that Portuguese would provide an advantage over English in terms of getting a job; she speaks with the musical lilt of Brazilian Portuguese. "I actually studied Portuguese from Portugal at the university, but most of our listeners and netizens are Brazilian, so the older colleagues told me I should change my pronunciation. Brazil is a developing country with a huge population," she said.



Director of the Portuguese - language service, Wu Yichen (Catarina)

But the target audience has shifted over the last five years. "Nowadays it's different. CRI is focusing more on other Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa and on Portugal itself, so changing accent is no longer a requirement," she said.

Improving your language skills adds to the challenge of learning a new craft at the radio station. The young director is one of many who are skilled in language but lack professional knowledge about journalism or any related areas. "It was only after I started at CRI that I learned about journalism," she said. She learned her craft from colleagues in their 40s and 50s when she arrived at CRIPOR (CRI-Portuguese) 15 years ago.

A generation of freshmen without journalistic skills or work experience explains in part why CRI's resources far outweigh its original content; the station mainly relies on the translation of news from Xinhua and other Chinese state media.

## Tower of Babel

The range of languages used at CRI is astonishing. Its aim is to broadcast to people in their mother tongue, since this is the most effective form of communication. The station's languages include Urdu, Hebrew, Uighur, Kiswahili and Hausa. The

latest additions were Latvian and Estonian. There is also Esperanto, the universal language created in the 1880s by Ludwig Zamenhof, a Polish ophthalmologist who lived in the town of Bialystok, where the German, Polish, Jewish and German residents all spoke their own mother tongues. Esperanto is easy to learn, with an estimated 100,000 to two million active or fluent speakers worldwide.

Wang Shanshan, a reporter with the CRI's Esperanto service, greets her listeners: "Saluton karaj amikoj! Mi estas Wang Shanshan el Esperanto-redakcio de ina Radio Internacia."

"The idea to create the Esperanto department came up in the 60s, when the Japanese and Russian services were no longer broadcasting and China's real voice couldn't be heard abroad," she explained. The Esperanto programmes reach 30 countries.

"I believe CRI wants to keep this tradition of being a multi-language and multicultural service. The Esperanto broadcast isn't useless," said the young reporter, showing an annual booklet that contains a list of contacts of Esperanto associations in 120 countries, including China.

She has been to Japan, South Korea and Vietnam to report for CRI in Esperanto; she proudly describes it as a neutral language, created to foster peace and cross-cultural understanding.



"A French couple learned Esperanto for nine months before they set out to travel the world. They got lost in Thailand at some point. Without cell phones or a TV, they only found out about the H7N1 bird flu virus in Asia when they tuned into CRI's Esperanto service," she said.

The service covers CRI's largest area after English. "It's very hard to measure the number of listeners but we look at the click rate of our homepage, which is over 9,000 per month," Wang observed. She is undaunted by the underwhelming number. Letters and emails from listeners are the other way of gauging interest in CRI. "There are lots of people in the US listening to us, which is funny because we have this impression that American people don't want to learn other languages. But we have a big audience out there as well as in the Netherlands, France, Taiwan, and Kyrgyzstan," she added.

Wang enjoys the job security CRI provides; for most employees, it feels like a family. She has been with it for eight years and has no plans to leave. "I am open to other possibilities but I would like to go on working in Esperanto," said Wang. She is a member of the radio's singing club, captain of the CRI cheerleaders "The CRI Babies" and still has time to learn how to play the ukulele.

Catarina really hopes to stay until she retires. "I believe CRI is a good choice for a Chinese person who speaks a foreign language. As well as broadcasting, there's the website and the publications. Our work

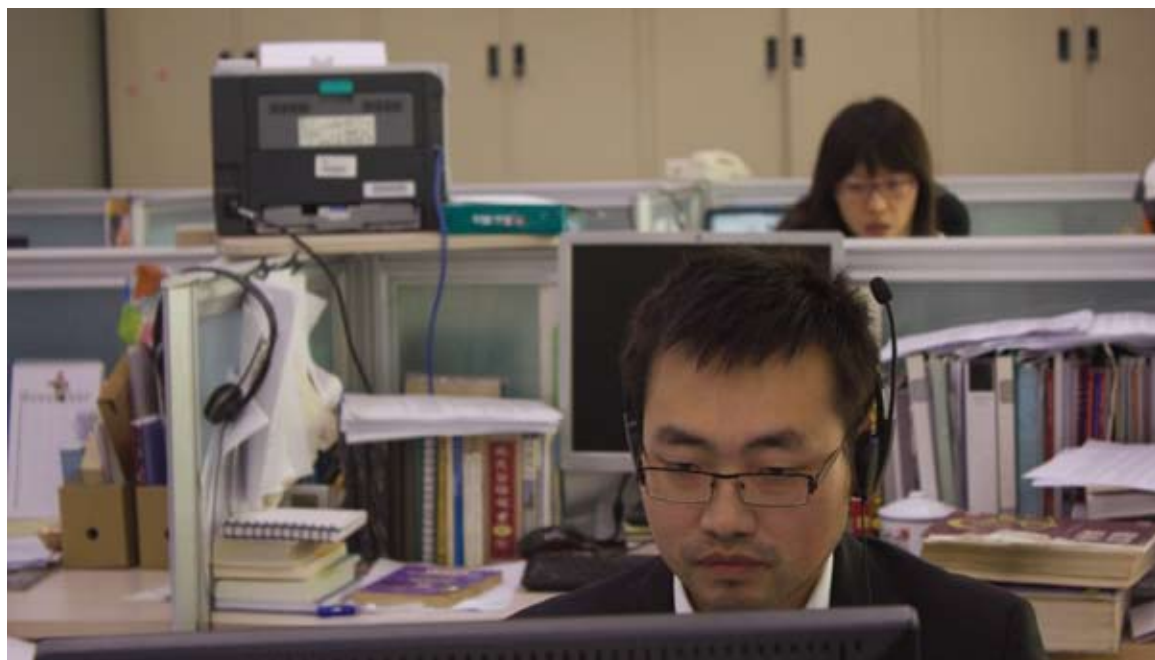
is diversified and interesting," she said.

## From coal mine to vice-director

The vice-president of CRI is Xia Jixuan. He estimates that the station reaches about one billion listeners a day but admits that there has been no exact analysis of its audiences. He was born into a coal miners' family in Chongqing, southwest China.

A BA in English Literature helped him earn a job as a writer for CRI's domestic service in English in 1982, when it was looking for staff at Shanghai Foreign Studies University. Over the next three decades, Xia climbed up the CRI ladder; he worked as a reporter, desk-editor, director of the English service and, since 2001, has been vice-president.

He was aided by a scholarship in 1987 from the Edgar Snow Foundation, which enabled him to enroll into a graduate programme at the School of Journalism, at the University of Missouri-Columbia. "I became acquainted with computers and the Internet there; I found it quite efficient for writing scripts. When I finished my studies, I bought an AT compatible (an earlier model of the IBM 286 computer) with my savings and brought it home. I used the compatible to improve the management of the English service. Soon after, a few computer enthusiasts formed a working group to push computerisation at CRI. I'm proud to say that I've played my role in the process of turning CRI into a modern entity," he recalled.



## Foreign friends

Those in the non-Chinese part of the operation are often referred to as “foreign friends”; most of them live in a row of identical buildings next door to CRI’s headquarters. Low rents and no commute in a city of 20 million are benefits of a job that pays below the average 15,000 yuan (US\$2,480) a month earned by foreign editors at other state media outlets. It also confers a working visa—a major advantage in a country that exerts tight controls over foreign reporters. But, while Chinese members of staff believe they have found a job for life, their foreign colleagues see no career progression – they try to enjoy the experience until the day of their departure.

They describe CRI as an odd mix of dullness and opportunity; for those who have a background in journalism, there is also frustration. They say that the copywriting is uncreative, mainly because CRI reporting is based on translation; their main task is to polish up the news scripts from Chinese writers. But there are upsides – having colleagues and contacts from all over the world, learning Chinese, and the opportunity to raise polyglot children in China.



“The working environment was pleasant but not outstanding,” said 34-year-old Luke Holden, a maths graduate who worked at CRI for about 18 months. He particularly enjoyed his time with the English department during the Beijing Olympics. After that, he moved on to be a writer with an English-language monthly magazine managed by a state-run company and later with China Daily, the country’s longest-running English-language newspaper. “Both CRI and China Daily have a long history of working with foreigners and discrimination was fairly low,” he said. But non-natives are not given a say in important matters, he feels. “I was never personally criticised by Chinese staff or censors because, as a copyeditor, I was the last to see the piece.”

With a background in philosophy, design management and freelancing, Dominic Swire, 38, has carved a more interesting role for himself at CRI as a video journalist. “The experience, like any work place, has had its ups and downs but generally I’m very positive. I think it’s been an amazing opportunity to learn almost whatever I have wanted to learn within the media,” he said. Four and a half years ago, he started as a copyeditor but put in extra hours to learn how to use the editing software. “I feel there is usually the opportunity to do another type of work like video if you show initiative and are able to get your ideas across in a way that the management can accept,” he explained, suggesting that courtesy and prudence can open doors within the company.

“Although there is no officially designated video department, the Hebrew team is very active in video and the German department has also produced some films. This seems to be driven by the foreigners who want to do this kind of work rather than the management,” he said; his videos can be seen on CRI’s website as well as on the video-sharing website Youku.

## China on Twitter

Do not be surprised if you receive an invitation to “Like” CRI on Facebook or “Follow” it on Twitter. Along with other foreign-language state media companies operating from behind the Great Firewall, CRI are no strangers to Virtual Private Networks (VPNs), the necessary software to access platforms like Youtube, Facebook and Twitter.



Catarina shrugs it off: "Our correspondents in Brazil update our Facebook page. It's a problem for us here, but Facebook is popular worldwide and we also want to use the platform," she smiled. Professionals and scholars agree that it is a good sign that Chinese media groups are jumping over the Great Firewall of China. "I view it as a positive," said Luke Holden.

"The country being full of contradictions is just a natural symptom of change and development," said Dominic Swire.

Vice-president Xia confirmed that, with the rapid development of new media, platforms like blogs,

podcasts, email newsletters, cell phone messages, mobile TV, Twitter, and Facebook had all become major ways for CRI to communicate with its audiences.

"Everything in China happens step by step," said Liu Kang, dean of the Institute of Arts and Humanities at Shanghai Jiaotong University. "This is a very positive sign that CRI, Xinhua or CCTV (China Central Television) are willing, or have somehow been forced, to interact with social media. I believe that, in a very short time, firewalls will be impossible to impose. Even though China is trying hard to catch up with new technology to block the Internet, this cat and mouse game is not going to lead anywhere." ■

*Wang Shanshan from the Esperanto service*

*Photos by Rita Álvarez Tudela*









# Creative Taipei

**Taipei's arts scene is booming. Galleries, alternative exhibition areas and artists are creating a new, cosmopolitan face for Taipei.**

Hélder Beja, in Taipei, Taiwan

Taiwan is known for its wonderful hot springs, hiking trails and coastline, as well as its distinct cuisine sold at famous night markets. Its film directors, such as Hou Hsiao-Hsien and Tsai Ming-liang, have won worldwide critical acclaim.

Taiwan's wider arts scene has received less global attention, but is full of fascinating attractions. Its main city, Taipei, is filled with art, in many galleries, artistic neighbourhoods and associations. If you are interested in culture, it is easy to grab a map of the city and start marking places to visit. There are obvious ones, like the Taipei Fine Arts Museum or the Museum of Contemporary Art. But there are other choices that are not so well known, but definitely worth a visit.



## THE RED HOUSE

### A truly creative hub

In the Ximending district, one of the busiest commercial areas in Taipei, one building stands out from all the rest. The Red House is a Western-style red-brick octagonal and cruciform structure that was built in 1908 and designed by Japanese architect Kondo Juro during the Japanese occupation of the island. It has had several incarnations, including a public market, a theatre and a cinema.

In 2007 the Taipei Culture Foundation took over the building and remodeled it. Two floors now house several shops, from which local creative companies sell their design products, from jewellery to clothes and other objects. A spokesperson explained that the rents are lower here than elsewhere, making it possible for local artists to sell their creations.

Currently, the Red House hosts more than 1,000 arts events a year. In 2009, it received around four million visitors. There are areas for exhibitions, as well as a tea house, a cinema by the north square of the building and an outdoor market and café in the south square. There is a music club where new local indie rock bands perform to their first audiences.

The government took the initiative to revitalise the Red House, which is proving very successful. The site has become not only an important reference to local citizens but also a tourist attraction, visited by thousands of people each week. On Saturdays and Sundays, it arranges special outdoors activities, including traditional aboriginal dances and music, to entertain the crowds.





## TREASURE HILL

### Arts village

Taipei's efficient public transport network is renowned. There is no better way to arrive at this particular artistic treasure, however, than by bicycle. Renting one on the street could not be easier.

Treasure Hill is a special place next to the Xindian River, on section three of Ting-Zhou Road. It used to be an illegal settlement; since 2010, it has been home to an arts village offering 14 studios for artists in residence. The site is quiet and green; the houses are old and beautiful. Narrow alleys and stairways traverse the hillside, giving Treasure Hill a rural ambience.

Here you find a mixture of local residents and foreigners living as a real community, sharing the space and their projects. Inside the small houses are installation works and exhibitions. Outer walls are covered by graffiti.

One thing that distinguishes this place from others is

the Arts-in-Residence Taipei (AIR Taipei) programme. AIR Taipei is the umbrella organisation overseeing three artists-in-residence sites around the city. As well as Treasure Hill are Taipei Artist Village, established in 2001 by the Department of Taipei Cultural Affairs, and Grass Mountain Arts Village, which has been running since 2008. AIR Taipei has been offering two sites for international artists to develop and conduct their art projects at Taipei Artist Village and Treasure Hill.

Treasure Hill has two rehearsal studios, three exhibition areas and several outdoor spaces ideal for creative projects. After attracting a lot of attention, a dozen art associations joined those already established at Treasure Hill; this has created such a dynamic that workshops, educational programmes and other activities are regular occurrences.

You should take a camera on a visit to Treasure Hill. The way nature connects with people and the arts here is something truly worth recording.





## ESLITE GALLERY

### Artwork within a flagship store

A trip to Taiwan is not complete without visiting one of the 40 Eslite bookshops. The Eslite branch in the Xinyi district, next to the Taipei City Hall metro station, is one of the best and biggest bookshops in Asia.

The seven-floor store was designed by architect Ray Chen and is packed with books, CDs, DVDs, design pieces and many other items. Among them is the Eslite Gallery, one of the best known in Taiwan. With over 20 years' experience, the gallery represents more than 20 artists, based in Taiwan, mainland China, the United States and France. Amongst them are big names such as Cai Guo-Qiang – best known for his use of gunpowder in his drawings -- installation artist Xu Bing and painter Liu Xiaodong.

"We mainly represent artists with a Chinese background, including those from Hong Kong, Taiwan and mainland China," says Jennings King from Eslite. "When the gallery was founded in 1989, we began by representing abstract artists, but we

are gradually becoming more contemporary. That includes abstract art but also installation and video-art. We work with galleries from Japan and other countries as well," she adds.

It was not until 2009 that the Eslite Gallery moved to this building close to the iconic Taipei 101. The exhibition space is now three times larger than the previous one, though that brings its own challenges. "This is a large company; we're like a department within it. The bookstore is a department, we are another department. It's not so easy for a gallery to open chain stores like bookshops. So there's only one gallery within the corporation," explains King.

The Eslite flagship store is visited by millions of people every year -- 120 million in 2011. "When we were in our old place we had a lot of regular costumers and visitors, such as art students and art critics. We still have that public here," adds King.

The gallery's white walls and large rooms accommodate the artworks, some of which are for sale. King explains that Eslite clients are not only based in Taiwan but also internationally: "A lot of our artists have collectors all over the world."



## SPOT – Taipei Film House

### Focus on film

SPOT – Taipei Film House is located on section two of the Chungshan N. Road in a Western-style building formerly used as the residence of the U.S. Ambassador.

Managed by director Hou Hsiao-Hsien, this complex includes a cinema, an exhibition gallery, a conference room, a coffee shop and a wine lounge, as well as, of course, a small Eslite Bookshop branch.

Every day SPOT screens six movies, between 12 am and 12 pm, focusing particularly on those that are harder to find on the commercial circuit. The goal is to show films from all over the world and, when possible, invite people to discuss them and share their views. For those, however, who prefer to buy a DVD to watch at home, SPOT is one of the best places in town to find a good selection of Taiwanese films with English subtitles.

The food in the coffee shop is as good as the ambience and the ideal complement to a good movie session.

*Photos by Hélder Beja*







# Love without Borders

Taiwan's biggest NGO is bridge  
of charity to mainland China

Mark O'Neill in Taipei, Taiwan



*Buddhist Tzu Chi General Hospital, Taipei*



*The opening of Tzu Chi's first branch in the mainland, in Suzhou, Jiangsu province, on August 20, 2010*

The largest non-governmental organisation (NGO) in the Chinese-speaking world – the Taiwan Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation – has made a real difference to the lives of many people on the mainland, thanks to social and medical initiatives set up by its volunteers.

One such project has resulted in the provision of locally sourced water for farmers and their families in the parched western province of Gansu. In the past, the farmers had to walk many kilometres a day to collect water, but thanks to cisterns erected near their homes by the NGO, some 19,000 farmers no longer need to make the back-breaking journeys for such an essential provision.

Another project has enabled nearly 1,400 people to receive life-saving stem-cell and bone-marrow treatment at a medical centre belonging to the Foundation in Taiwan.

The NGO was founded in May 1966 in Hualien, East Taiwan by Master Cheng Yen, a Buddhist nun. Its membership has since grown to 10 million, half of whom live in Taiwan and half overseas, including two million who are active volunteers for the foundation. It has 445 branches in 48 countries; one third of its regular donors live

outside Taiwan.

It has built and runs six hospitals, schools, and a university in Taiwan, as well as Asia's largest bone-marrow banks; it also conducts international relief operations around the world. Its volunteers wear blue and white uniforms and distribute the relief; they pay their own way, and the food, clothes and other goods they give are paid for by donations to the foundation. When they present the items, they bow respectfully to the recipient, to give thanks for the opportunity to donate.

The Foundation runs its own Da Ai Television station, which is available around the world via satellite; Da Ai means 'Great Love'. It is also active in recycling, and has over 50,000 volunteers in Taiwan working in 4,500 recycling stations; they turn plastic bottles into underwear, T-shirts, hospital sheets, medical gowns, blankets and boats for relief operations.

During these operations, volunteers do not proselytise nor do they talk politics, either in Taiwan or elsewhere. This has served it in good stead abroad, allowing it to do relief work in Myanmar, North Korea, Pakistan, Iran and other countries suspicious of Western NGOs.



## Schools and relief on the mainland

This neutrality has been a great asset on the mainland. Its first involvement there was in 1991, to provide aid to victims of serious flooding on the Yangtze River.

Since then, it has built many buildings on the mainland, including 55 schools, 4,882 homes, 10 nursing homes for elderly people, 13 day care centres, and two hospital buildings. It has provided relief goods to 2.92 million people, as well as financial aid and scholarships to 106,000 people.

Together with doctors and nurses from mainland hospitals, staff from the foundation's hospitals in Taiwan have held medical clinics free of charge. All this has made Tzu Chi the largest non-mainland NGO in China.

In March 2007, the Chinese government named it one of the top ten philanthropists of 2006. In February 2008, Beijing gave it permission to establish a foundation in China, the first non-mainland NGO to earn such a right. It was a sign of the government's

appreciation of its contribution and its confidence that Tzu Chi has no political, religious or social agenda.

In August 2010, it opened its first mainland branch, in the eastern city of Suzhou, where many Taiwan people live and work. The branch has 20,000 volunteers, both mainlanders and those from Taiwan.

After the Great Sichuan earthquake of May 2008, it was the first outside NGO to reach the scene and start relief work. Since then, it has built 13 schools in the zone and its volunteers continue to work there. Its efforts were a major reason why the people of Taiwan donated NT\$ 2.8 billion (US\$ 94.5 million) towards the victims of the quake, the largest amount to come from outside the mainland.

"When people on the mainland are hit by a natural disaster, people in Taiwan express their loving care," said Master Cheng Yen. "This leaves a common feeling in the hearts of both, which can be a bridge of love and promote a cycle of love between the two sides. From the religious point of view, we should love everyone on earth."

*Buddhist Tzu Chi University*



## Bone marrow

The donations from Tzu Chi's Bone Marrow Bank to leukemia patients on the mainland form some of the most poignant expressions of this love.

Master Cheng Yen established the bank in February 1993 after an appeal from a Taiwan student in the US; she was diagnosed with leukemia and her only hope was a transplant of bone marrow. She had searched in banks in the US and Europe but had been unable to find a match for a Chinese person.

By the end of September 2013, 378,000 people – 369,000 of them in Taiwan – had registered as donors. The bank completed 3,337 transplants of bone marrow and stem cells to recipients in 28 countries. The mainland is the largest single beneficiary, with 1,393 recipients, followed by Taiwan with 1,193 and South Korea with 200.

It is the largest bone-marrow bank in Asia and the principal reserve for the 20 per cent of the world's population who are Chinese. On the mainland, there are about four million leukemia patients, of whom one million need transplants; most will die for want of a match. While there are large number of these banks in Europe and the US, the vast majority of people in Asia refuse to donate parts of their body for religious and cultural reasons.

The costs of a transplant are substantial. Most mainland recipients seek financial aid locally; medical personnel from their local hospital usually fly to Taiwan to pick up the marrow. Local volunteers always accompany and comfort the patients.

The marrow must be put into the body of the recipient within 24 hours, after which it will not survive. Before 2008, when there were no direct flights between Taiwan and the mainland, this was a race against time.

In 2001, a storm closed Taipei's domestic airport. Volunteers had to carry the marrow by train from Hualien to Taipei, a journey of three hours. Police-force volunteers drove them to the international airport at Taiyuan from where they took a flight to Hong Kong, and then another to Hangzhou.

They would reach the hospital with a few minutes to spare – meaning an anxious wait for the family of the patient and the medical staff.

## Thirsting for water

The NGO's building of water cisterns in Gansu province proved to be a significant project. Like much of West China, Gansu suffers from desertification and an acute shortage of water. The average per capita income is about 5,000 yuan (US\$ 820) a year.



*A resident of a village in Gansu, west China, pulls water from a cistern built by the foundation*



With almost no groundwater, the inhabitants depend on a small amount of rain that falls between July and September. It was in 1997 that Tzu Chi volunteers went to Dongxiang county, four hours' drive from the provincial capital of Lanzhou, and found that poor farmers there had to walk several hours a day to bring water home from wells in buckets or on the back of donkeys.

They decided to build cisterns in the courtyards of the farmers' homes. The cisterns work by collecting water on the roofs and courtyards and running it through a filtering point into a bottle-shaped cistern for storage. The water collected during the rainy season is enough to sustain a family of five for half a year.

Construction of a cistern costs 1,000 yuan (US\$164) and can last up to 25 years. As of the end of 2012, the foundation had built 19,060 cisterns in six counties in Gansu. One of the volunteers responsible for the project is Kenneth Tai, a founder of the Acer computer company.

"In business, we speak of return on investment. Each well costs 1,000–1,200 yuan and will bring an annual return of 1,000 yuan to the farmer," he said. "When I am with a farmer and his children, I receive a happiness I cannot describe. A rich man stays in the best hotels and has the best goods but is not satisfied. He wants more. This experience is something else."

## No proselytising

Given the sensitive nature of cross-strait relations, the foundation is discreet about its projects on the mainland. It instructs its volunteers who go there to be careful in their speech and behaviour.

"You must treat people equally and must not display, in words or actions, any sense of superiority as a result of Taiwan's wealthy lifestyle or hurt their feelings even if you do not intend to," Master Cheng Yen told the first 30 volunteers. Her advice holds true today. "You must show the character, education and appearance of Tzu Chi. Be well-mannered, soft in your language, smile, and show them the dignified culture of Taiwan."

The avoidance of politics and proselytising has been one of the hallmarks of Tzu Chi since it was founded. It has been a key factor in enabling the foundation to work in countries all over the world, including



Master Cheng Yen

Islamic nations, those in Africa and ones whose governments are suspicious of foreign NGOs.

Master Cheng Yen was inspired by a Buddhist master from Zhejiang named Yin Shun, who went to Taiwan in 1952. He advocated 'humanist Buddhism', which meant that not only monks and nuns could practise Buddhism but that, by doing good deeds, anyone could become a Buddha.

She was also inspired by the work of foreign missionaries and their Chinese followers who built schools, hospitals and old people's homes: it was putting religion into practice in society, instead of confining it to churches and temples.

Tzu Chi is Buddhism in action, not in theory. When volunteers go to provide relief goods or medical treatment abroad, they pay their own way. The projects are funded by donations from members through monthly or annual donations and bequests in wills. Members have donated property, a publishing company and even a tea plantation.

Master Cheng Yen and her members believe that they are putting into practice the precepts of a religion that was in decline and are giving it a new life, by doing good works in human society, in Taiwan, the mainland and around the world. ■

*Photos by courtesy of the Taiwan Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation*





# The Historical Plantations of São Tomé and Príncipe

A valuable architectural and agrarian heritage

José Manuel Fernandes in Lisbon\*

Catholic church



The archipelago state of São Tomé and Príncipe in the Gulf of Guinea boasts numerous agro-industrial plantations – known as roças, which are a valuable resource for the country. The Portuguese first arrived on the islands in 1470, and decided initially to grow sugar there. But in the 19th century the plantations were converted to produce coffee and cocoa. Many of the roças now in existence on the two main islands date back to the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

There is now a move to modernise the plantations, either for continuing agricultural production or for tourism purposes. Indeed, some roças now accept tourists interested in beach, forest-based or cultural holidays.

The roças are significant for several historical reasons. They are a legacy of Portuguese colonialism, as well as a pseudo-slave system, in particular between 1880 and 1920. This repressive system continued even though Portugal abolished slavery in 1876.

The establishment of the roças, based on an allotment process and systematic division of the islands' arable land, was a driving force in the local urbanisation process. It allowed aspects of industrial and modern Western material civilisation to reach the archipelago. The plantations also contributed to the establishment of urban features, such as roads, railways and ports.

Each plantation had a homestead area, which was both a residential and production centre. They were connected by paths, roads and railways to a port, as well as to surrounding villages and the main urban centre on each island.

The railways were built for the export of agricultural produce. Small steam engines running on narrow-gauge track were used until at least the 1920s. Some of the railway tracks and a few engines still exist, albeit derelict. Indeed, most of the infrastructure disappeared after the islands gained independence from Portugal in 1975.

The railway lines were veritable feats of engineering as they weaved their way round challenging territory on São Tomé and on Príncipe, although on a smaller scale on the latter.

The plantations prompted the construction of the first pieces of infrastructure on the islands, including housing and community facilities such as schools.

## The layout of the plantations

Each plantation included collective spaces and buildings aimed at serving the agro-industrial enterprise to the greatest effect. There were also places for employers and staff to live, seeking to reduce the difficulties of isolated island life, such as the harsh equatorial climate and the forest environment.



São Tomé cocoa





The core, or central area of each *roça*, was its yard, which was wide open and almost always rectangular. It brought together the open space and the surrounding buildings, reminiscent of the large plazas of colonial settlements in Latin America, or more specifically, of Portuguese squares.

The most striking building in a *roça* was the home of the owner's family or his representative if he was absent. Built on high ground if on rough terrain, it was often of an architectural style that symbolised the owner's culture. In São Tomé this generally meant buildings in the style of the central European villas that were fashionable towards the end of the 19th century.

These buildings were erected on wooden structures. They had steep roofs for the flow of rainwater and were edged by ornamental wooden mouldings and covered with industrial sheet metal or Mediterranean-style Marseilles roof tiles. They had many large windows with glass panes, sometimes in the curved bay windows style or even with turrets. They also often featured verandahs covered by roof extensions supported by thin wooden or metal pillars.

This type of construction was a sensible choice for the islands because of its ability to withstand heavy rainfall, as well as easy access to prefabricated building materials built in Europe and imported

by sea. It explains why the villa became a staple in Lobito and Luanda in Angola and Beira and Lourenço Marques (now Maputo) in Mozambique.

The tropical weather of the area favoured disease, infections and epidemics that endangered the health of residents and productive communities. Healthcare buildings therefore played an important role in the plantations. A hospital was built in almost every plantation. It consisted of a main building and annexes providing housing for the likes of doctors and chapel attendants, as well as researchers of tropical diseases such as the then prevalent sleeping sickness.

The plantation hospital was often quite large, as in the case of the Agostinho Neto plantation in São Tomé and the more recent Porto Real estate in Príncipe.

Also of note is the residential area for technical and plantation workers, including the quarters for the so-called house chief and workers. These latter quarters consisted of many rooms of the same size built in rows. There was also special housing for the so-called "top employees".

Other elements included the elementary school, chapel, stables, a gateway with a signal bell and fortified walls. Among the production facilities were warehouses, factories and workshops, such as the palm oil factory at Água Izé plantation.



Hotel Miramar

## Special features of plantation architecture

On the island of São Tomé, the scale, geometry and symmetry of the buildings on the Rio de Ouro plantation (since renamed Agostinho Neto) is worth noting. The yard leads to an elongated stairway linking the hospital and the wider residential area. The stairway is similar to those in temples of the Far East. In Agua Ize, the main buildings are located near the cove where goods are taken. In this case, the plantation and port form a continuous construction.

The Praia Concha plantation lies in the north of the island. It has an extensive yard overlooking the sea. In the surrounding countryside, small wooden houses were built in 2011 in the style of traditional São Tomé wooden architecture. This is clear evidence of spontaneous local architecture, which reflects the architectural heritage and values that their creators have absorbed from the old plantations or city buildings. Indeed, São Tomé architects are proposing to build so-called shanties, which will be based on popular wooden houses.

Among notable plantations on the island of Príncipe are Nova Estrela, Porto Real de Sundy and Belo Monte. ■

*Architect José Manuel Fernandes published in the November 2013 issue of the Macao Magazine the article "The Island of Mozambique: a world heritage jewel in Africa".*

Rocha Agostinho Neto







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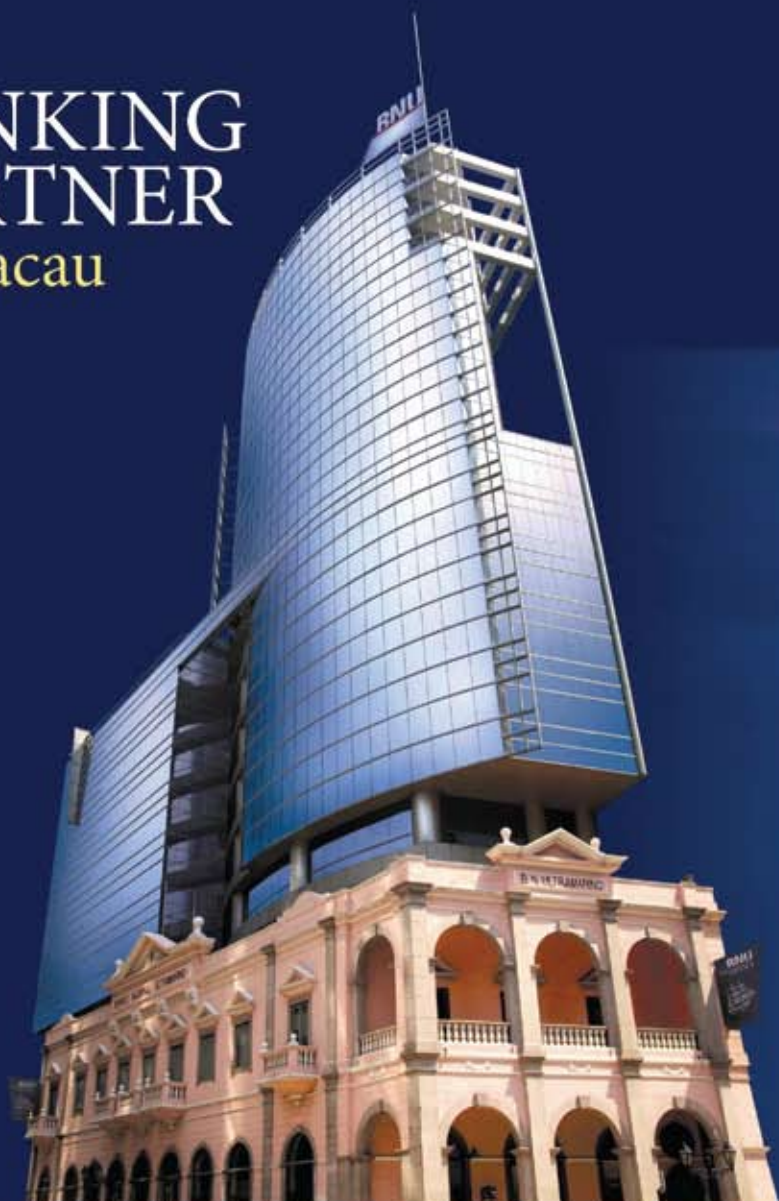
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