

Macao 澳門

Welcome!

Keeping
traditions alive

Hengqin,
the future of Macao

Echo Chan -
Macao Forum's new head





澳門特別行政區政府旅遊局
MACAU GOVERNMENT TOURIST OFFICE
www.macaotourism.gov.mo



“論區行賞”手機應用程式
“Step Out, Macau” Mobile App
(iPhone)



“論區行賞”手機應用程式
“Step Out, Macau” Mobile App
(Android)

Step Out,

論區行賞 步行路線

Experience Macau's Communities
Walking Tour Routes

『論區行賞』走出 澳門新體驗！
Step Out, and experience a whole new Macau!



歷史足跡·盡在城區
Footsteps into the Historic Centre



創意展現·活化藝城
An Experiment of Creativity



中葡交匯·文化體驗
Crossroads of China and Portugal



古今藝文·匯萃新城
A Legacy of Arts and Culture



花地瑪堂·緣聚濠江
Enchanting Stories of Our Lady of Fatima Parish



花王堂區·情牽中西
The Marriage of East and West in St. Anthony's Parish



氹仔嘉模·葡韻風情
Bygone Days of Taipa Village



路環鄉情·思古尋幽
Nostalgia in Coloane



Macao

DIRECTOR

Victor Chan Chi Ping

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Alberto, Au Kam Va

EDITOR

Eva Lei Sao lok

PUBLISHER

Government Information Bureau (GCS) of the Macao SAR
Address: 15/Floor, China Plaza Building,
Avenida da Praia Grande, 762 - 804
Macao, China
Phone: + 853 2833 2886 Fax: + 853 2835 5426
E-mail: info@gcs.gov.mo

PRODUCER AND DISTRIBUTOR

Macaolink News and Information Services, Limited
Address: 10/Floor I, The Macau Square,
43 - 53A, Av. Infante D. Henrique
Macao, China
Phone: + 853 2835 5315 Fax: + 853 2835 5466
E-mail: macaulink@macaulink.com.mo

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Gonçalo César de Sá
cesaradesa@macaulink.com.mo

COVER PHOTO

Panda Kai Kai

NEWS AGENCIES

Macaolink, MacauNews, Xinhua and AFP

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Soluções Criativas, Lda.

SUBSCRIPTION ORDER

www.macaomagazine.net

PRINTER

Welfare Printing Company, Lda Macau

PRINT RUN 3,000

ISSN 2076 - 5479

All rights reserved

REGULAR CONTRIBUTORS

MACAO

Cláudia Aranda, Christian Ritter, Fernando Correia, Filipa Queiróz,
Helder Beja, José Carlos Matias, Luciana Leitão, Maria João Janeiro,
Mariana C. de Sá (Writers)
António Sanmarful, Carmo Correia, Cheong Kam Ka, Eric Tam,
Leong Vai Keong, Luís Almoester, Mércia Gonçalves (Photographers)
Fernando Chan (Illustrator)

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

António Caeiro, Loro Horta, Luo Xunzhi, Sacha Matuszak (Writers)

HONG KONG

Frank Xie, Louise do Rosário, Mark O'Neill, Thomas Chan (Writers)
Leong Ka Tai (Photographer)

TAIWAN

Ou Nian-le (Writer)

ANGOLA

Guilherme Dias (Writer)

BRAZIL

Marco Antinossi (Writer)

MOZAMBIQUE

Emanuel Pereira (Writer)
Alexandre Marques (Photographer)

PORTUGAL

António Escobar, Catarina Aleixo, Claudia Aranda,
José Manuel Fernandes, Miguel de Brito (Writers)
José Goulão (Photographer)

TIMOR - LESTE

Maya Leonor (Writer)

UNITED KINGDOM

Kirsty Ridge, Nuno Mendonça (Writers)

No.28, MAY 2015



www.macaomagazine.net



Compassion [Tzu]

It is natural for us to want to help those in need, especially the young and helpless. This is why many Confucians believed in the essential goodness of human nature. If we see a child fall into a well, for instance, we automatically try to save the child. Compassionate kindness—epitomised best of all, perhaps, by the quality of a mother's love for her children—is evoked in an early version of the character by the image of a 'son' and 'daughter' cradled over a 'heart'.

Today, in a universalisation of the concept, the children are represented by the light strokes of tender young 'grass'.

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

Index



4

China's National Treasure in Macao

By Mariana Sá

Photos by Xinhua News Agency and Joe Liu

VIP pandas begin their Macao adventure this summer.

On 1st May this year, a cheering and excited audience of top government officials and a hundred local students welcomed two giant pandas flown in by a private jet from Chengdu to their new home in Macao.

12

Chief Executive pledges to make Macao a more liveable city

By Christian Ritter

Photos by Macao Government Information Bureau

2015 Policy Address stresses economic diversification, regional cooperation and service hub role
Chief Executive pledges to make Macao a more liveable city as part of the government's aim of turning the city into a global tourism and leisure hub and a business service hub between China and Portuguese-speaking countries.

18

Macao has special place in new Hengqin area

By Mark O'Neill

Photos by Xinhua News Agency and Macao Government Information Bureau

Illustration by Fernando Chan

At the end of April, the China (Guangdong) Free Trade Experimental Zone Zhuhai Hengqin New Area officially opened and Macao has a special place in it. It marks a further step in the integration of the Special Administrative Region (SAR) in China, 16 years after the handover.

26

Renewing a Centuries-old Network Macao finds place in new Silk Road

By Luo Xunzhi

Photos by Xinhua News Agency
China has launched its biggest global economic initiative of the post-1978 era, including the establishment of a bank to fund infrastructure in Asia. Countries around the world have rushed to join the new bank. Macao has pledged its full support and outlined the areas in which it can help.

32

A discreet and professional leader New head of Forum Macao has laser focus on her goals

By Luciana Leitão

Photos by Eric Tam

Echo Chan Keng Hong is a hardworking Macao resident who has now assumed the position of Coordinator of the Support Office to the Permanent Secretariat of the Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries (Forum Macao). She is the right person in the right place at the right time, as businessmen and colleagues agree.

39

Power Struggle CEM boss faces soaring demand, retaining staff

By Mark O'Neill

Photos by Eric Tam and courtesy of CEM

In July 2014, Bernie Leong became the first Macao citizen to become Chairman of the Executive Committee of the city's power company in its 42-year history.
He runs Companhia de Electricidade de Macau (CEM), which has nearly 700 employees from six different countries and uses English and Chinese as its working languages so that everyone can understand each other.

62

Lung Wah Teahouse: Where tradition lives on

By Mariana Sá

Photos by António Sanmarful

Located in Rua Norte do Mercado Almirante Lacerda, the Lung Wah Tea House can be found in a traditional three storey building tucked away in a corner next to Macao's Red Market. It is proud to have served its loyal customers and visitors from all corners of the world for the past 53 years every day of the week from 7am until 2pm.

70

Karate Fever The coming of age of a game popular with youngsters

By Louise do Rosário

Photos by António Sanmarful

For 12-year-old Tam Cheok Weng, karate is the passion of her life. Almost every day after school, the short-haired young girl spends hours practising the game. When asked what drives her to do so, softly spoken Tam puts it mildly: "It's fun."
Young people like Tam have caught the karate fever, thanks largely to the outstanding strides Macao has made in the sport.

80

Torchbearers strive to preserve temple tradition Dedicated group organize festivals to promote cultural heritage

By Louise do Rosário

Photos by Eric Tam

Macao is a treasure house of both western and eastern religious architecture. For a long time, churches such as the Ruins of St. Paul's have been popular with tourists. Now, traditional Chinese temples, after years of inactivity, are back in the spotlight, as a tourist attraction and as an important cultural heritage.

88

Portuguese contemporary artist invited to install giant artwork in Macao

By Filipa Queiróz

Photos by António Sanmarful

The Chinese debut of Portugal's most successful contemporary artist took place recently when businesswoman Pansy Ho challenged Joana Vasconcelos to install her largest ever work of art in Macao.

She adorned the 17th century Palace of Versailles in France with plastic pots and cutlery and the mythical Arsenal of Venice in Italy with tampons. But it was in Macao that contemporary artist Joana Vasconcelos exceeded herself with Valkyrie Octopus.

96

In the Name of Great Grandpa Thai musician finds Macao ancestry

By Mark O'Neill

Photos by António Sanmarful

In the middle of March, a famous Thai musician came to Macao in search of his ancestors. In the vault of São Lourenço's church, he found the document he was looking for – the baptismal record of his great-grandfather.
This was the proof that Pathorn Srikanonnda Sequeira belongs to a Portuguese family that lived here for six generations.

102

A New Lease of Life Giant food factory in Guangzhou turns into art and creativity centre

By Ou Nian-le

Photos by Mércia Gonçalves

For 50 years, it was Asia's biggest food processing plant, turning out canned fish and luncheon meat. Now it has become a shop window for Guangzhou's art, design and creativity, a glimpse of what the city wants to look like in the future.

110

The Tou Tei Festival in the Patane temple

By Maria João Janeiro

Illustration by Fernando Chan

Tou Tei - commonly called "god of the earth" - is the spirit who protects places, streets, neighbourhoods and villages and is usually placed at the entrance of houses or buildings and, where possible, leans against the so-called "spiritual wall." The story is about the festivities dedicated to this deity, in particular the Tou Tei of the Patane temple, held each year on the second day of the second lunar month.



China's National Treasure in Macao

By Mariana Sá in Chengdu

Photos: Xinhua News Agency

VIP pandas begin their Macao adventure this summer

On 1st May this year, a cheering and excited audience of top government officials and a hundred local students welcomed two giant pandas flown in by a private jet from Chengdu to their new home in Macao.

Called Kai Kai and Xin Xin (Hoi Hoi and Sum Sum in Cantonese), two names which collectively mean happiness, the pandas are a gift from the central government to Macao. President Xi Jinping announced the news when he came to the city to commemorate the 15th anniversary of Macao's return to China.

Kai Kai and Xin Xin, seven- and eight-year-olds respectively, are now in quarantine at the local Oscar Farm for thirty days before moving into their new home in the 3,000-square-metre Macao Giant Panda Pavilion.

The pandas, both weighing 110 kilograms, "have no blood relations, get on well with each other and are at the prime years for breeding" said Zhang Zihe, Director of the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding in southwest China's Sichuan province.

Kai Kai, born in 2008 and with large black patches around his eyes, is strong, energetic and good at climbing, said Lan Jingchao, head of the base's veterinary hospital. Xin Xin, born in 2007, has a very round mouth, head, ears and body shape, and looks rather like one big rolling ball when she curls up playing.

The couple was chosen from 55 pandas, based on their age, health and fertility, in three rounds of selection conducted by experts in China. On 30 March this year, Sonia Chan Hoi Fan, Secretary for Administration and Justice, and other officials conducted the final selection.

The 10th anniversary gift

The two are the second pair of pandas from Beijing. Two earlier ones, also called Kai Kai and Xin Xin, arrived in 2010 to commemorate Macao's 10th anniversary as a Special Administrative Region of China. More than 83,000 local citizens participated in voting for the pair's names.

Kai Kai and Xin Xin certainly lived up to expectations and brought delight to their fans. "Kai Kai is active



Macao students welcome Kai Kai and Xin Xin

and vivacious, a greedy, fast eater and likes to participate in group activities. Xin Xin is mild, smart, gracious, charmingly naïve and lazy, but lovely," the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau wrote on its website.

In 2014, Xin Xin, then aged six, died of kidney failure and Kai Kai has been left on to his own since then. Kai Kai will be returning to the base to join its breeding programme but the date of his departure has not yet been announced.

Visiting Chengdu Research Base of Pandas

The giant panda is listed on the World Conservation Union's list of threatened species. There are 1,600 pandas worldwide, with 1,300 in the wild and 300 in captivity; 85 percent of the total are in Sichuan. Eighty pandas are at the Chengdu Panda Base, which started in 1987 with six pandas rescued from the wild to become the world's largest artificial breeding population of captive pandas.

The 37-hectare base is located on Futou Mountain, a 35-minute drive from downtown Chengdu. The entrance ticket costs Rmb 58, Rmb 10 for a seat on a sightseeing car and Rmb 100 for an English-speaking guide who takes around two to three hours to cover the base's most important sights. Morning visits starting from 07:30 are strongly advised to catch the pandas in action rather than at other times when they are likely to be napping.

Rivers, lakes, bamboo forests, man-made dens,

rocks, caves and green lawns have been built at the base to simulate the panda's natural ecological environment. When the pandas are not at the base for breeding, they are in zoos or nature reserves. During hot weather, they are moved inside to air-conditioned villa-like enclosures.

Jason Lau, a tour guide, explains that the base receives during the week around 5,000 visitors per day, of whom 80 percent are from abroad.

During the festive seasons such as Chinese New Year, the number increases to 40,000 visitors per day. Each year, there are about 600,000 domestic and foreign visitors. VIP guests such the First Lady of the United States, Michelle Obama, and singer Mariah Carey visited the base in 2014.

Panda lifestyle

Lau explains that the high number of visitors does not affect the pandas at all. "Their only focus is food. Besides being breastfed until the age of two, baby pandas eat apples, bananas and honey, whilst adult pandas eat 35 to 40 kilogrammes of bamboo per day. When they have food, it doesn't matter to them who or how many people are around. Pandas sit for eight hours, sleep for eight hours and stay bored for another eight hours. Female pandas usually weight 100 to 120 kilogrammes and male pandas 120 to 150 kilogrammes."

Laughing about how troublesome pandas can be, Lau says, "We think they can eat more than 60

types of bamboo, but they only like 27 types at most – they are extremely picky."

Pandas are near-sighted and can only see up to 1.5 metres, whilst they usually live for around 30 years. The record lifespan of a panda at the base was 32 years, the record for China is 38 years old at a Sichuan Zoo and in the wild is 20 years (one panda year equals three human years).

At the base, 95 percent of breeding is done by artificial insemination. Although they begin to be sexually active at one year old and can give birth to more than ten pandas in their lifetime (even after their 20s), female pandas ovulate once a year and are fertile for only two or three days.

In 2014, the base had nine baby pandas that are currently nine months old and live in one big enclosure together. These pandas will need to be separated after five years because they get territorial and can become aggressive towards each other.

To end the tour, a visit to The Giant Panda Museum within the base is a must. In the highly informative displays one can learn about a panda's anatomy, history, legends and their role within diplomacy.

A universal symbol

Pandas have been symbols of peace and friendship worldwide. According to legend, warring tribes in China would raise a flag with a picture of a panda on it to stop a battle or call a truce. The World Wide Fund for Nature, founded in 1961, uses the panda as their logo. Sir Peter Scott, one of the founders and who sketched the first logo said: "We wanted an animal that is beautiful, is endangered and one loved by many people in the world for its appealing qualities. We also wanted an animal that had an impact in black and white to save money on printing costs."

Panda diplomacy, which refers to the use of pandas as gifts to promote diplomacy, has had a long history in China. During the Tang Dynasty of the 7th century, Empress Wu Zetian sent a pair of pandas to the Japanese emperor as gifts.

As Cui Tiankai, China's ambassador to the United States of America said in late 2013, "There are actually two Chinese ambassadors in Washington: me and the panda cub at the National Zoo."

Modern panda diplomacy began in the late 1950s when China sent the first of its panda gifts to Moscow Zoo, for Moscow's recognition of the People's

Republic of China. In 1972, Beijing offered pandas Ling Ling and Xing Xing to the United States of America as gifts, following former President Richard Nixon's historic visit to promote normalisation.

In 1982, China stopped presenting pandas as gifts because of their dwindling number. Instead, pandas were loaned, for a renewable period of ten years at an annual fee of US\$ 1 million.

The fee, payable to China's Wildlife Conservation Association, is to be used to maintain the breeding programme. Also, any cub born in captivity is to be returned to China, usually at around two years of age.

In 2008, a devastating earthquake decimated Sichuan and destroyed 23 percent of China's panda habitats, including the Chengdu Panda Base, its largest and most prestigious conservation centre. The lending programme stopped for a while, but has now resumed. In April 2015, there were 21 zoos worldwide hosting a total of 57 pandas from China. Macao, along with Hong Kong and Taiwan, are the only places in the world that can keep and exhibit such national treasures of China for their lifetimes. ■



Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding



Xin Xin

PANDAS OUTSIDE MAINLAND CHINA (2015)

AMERICAS

- 1 Toronto Zoo
Toronto, Canada

- 2 Smithsonian National Zoological Park
Washington D.C., USA

- 3 Memphis
Tennessee, USA

- 4 Zoo Atlanta
Georgia, USA

- 5 San Diego Zoo
San Diego, USA

- 6 Chapultepec Zoo
Mexico City, Mexico


EUROPE

- 7 Edinburgh Zoo
Edinburgh, Scotland

- 8 Zoo Antwerpen
Antwerp, Belgium

- 9 ZooParc de Beauval
Saint-Aignan, France

- 10 Schönbrunn Zoo
Vienna, Austria

- 11 Zoo Aquarium de Madrid
Madrid, Spain


ASIA

- 12 Ueno Zoo
Tokyo, Japan

- 13 Kobe Oji Zoo
Kobe, Japan

- 14 Adventure World
Wakayama, Japan

- 15 Taipei Zoo
Taipei, Taiwan

- 16 Ocean Park
Hong Kong

- 17 Seac Pai Van Park
Macau

- 18 Chiang Mai Zoo
Chiang Mai, Thailand

- 19 Zoo Negara
Ampang Selangor, Malaysia

- 20 River Safari
Singapore


AUSTRALIA

- 21 Adelaide Zoo
Adelaide, Australia


Pandas = 57



Chief Executive pledges to make Macao a more liveable city

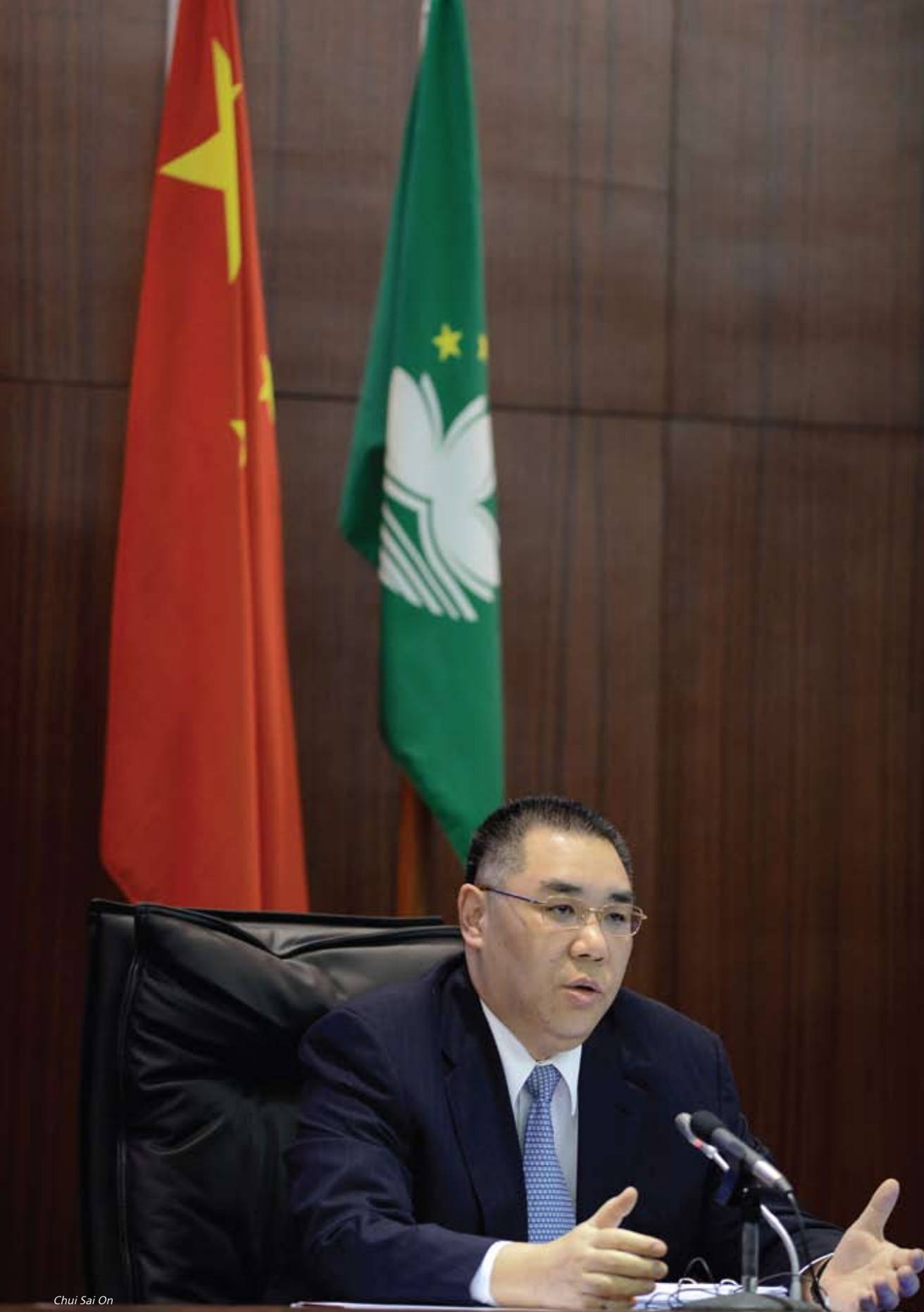
By Christian Ritter in Macao

Photos: Macao Government Information Bureau

2015 Policy Address stresses economic diversification, regional cooperation and service hub role

Chief Executive Fernando Chui Sai On has pledged that he will do his best to make Macao a liveable city as part of the government's aim of turning the city into a global tourism and leisure hub and a business service hub between China and Portuguese-speaking countries.

Macao's 58-year-old head of government, who holds a PhD in Public Health from the University of Oklahoma, also promised to strengthen economic diversification, regional cooperation and social welfare, as well as to protect people's livelihoods.



Chui Sai On

Chui made the pledges in his 2015 Policy Address to the Legislative Assembly on 23 March.

The former school principal told the lawmakers that the government will set up a special committee to work on a five-year plan to turn Macao into a world tourism and leisure centre, adding that the government also plans to set up an investment development fund and a budget surplus allocation framework.

Macao is one of the very few economies in the world where there is no public debt and the government enjoys large annual budget surpluses and huge financial reserves.

Chui acknowledged the important role the Central People's Government's Individual Visitor Scheme (IVS) has played in revitalising Macao's tourism industry and economy, especially after the outbreak of SARS in 2003 when the scheme was set up by the Central People's Government in Beijing to help Macao and Hong Kong overcome severe economic difficulties.

"It has been 11 years [since the scheme was launched] and we are in the 12th year. For a policy that has been implemented for 12 years, it is normal that there are problems with it [so] we should review this policy," he said, noting that Macao's population is about 630,000 and that it is expected to rise to 710,000 by 2020. The city's land area amounts to around 31 square kilometres, including the University of Macau's 1-square-kilometre campus on Hengqin Island leased from the adjacent mainland city of Zhuhai. Macao's total land area accounts for a mere three percent of Hong Kong's.

Attracting more overseas tourists

Chui noted that tourists from the Chinese mainland, Hong Kong and Taiwan account for about 90 percent of all visitors. He said he hoped that the Individual Visitor Scheme would be improved in a way that benefits both locals and mainland tourists. Chui also said the government would try to attract a more diverse source of visitors, namely tourists from overseas.

The authorities in Beijing have indicated that the scheme will be amended, based on a tourism carrying capacity report by the local government.

Regarding the five-year plan, Chui said it would address issues about the city's liveability and leisure and tourism activities, pointing out that he will head the special committee which oversees the drafting of

the plan. He also said that a thorough plan about Macao's population policy needed to be in place before anything else could be decided.

Macao is reputed to have the highest population density in the world, standing at about 20,500 inhabitants per square kilometre.

Asked by reporters at a post-policy address press conference about this year's mid-term review of the city's six gaming concessions, Chui said he would like to see a balance between gaming and non-gaming elements in the new resorts in Cotai, an area of reclaimed land between Macao's Taipa and Coloane islands.

Commenting on Macao's economy and the gaming industry, he said that while the revenues generated through junket gaming operations were down, there had been an increase in the mass gaming floor revenues.

Chui said Macao could expect average gross monthly gaming receipts of 20 billion patacas this year, down by 27 percent from an earlier estimate of 27.5 billion patacas.

The chief executive said that Macao had entered an "adjustment" period of slower economic growth and needed to develop a broader range of tourist attractions to draw visitors from around the world.

"Even though the economy has faced major difficulties and challenges, the overall fundamentals of the economy are good," Chui told the legislature's hemicycle. He added: "The pace of economic growth has slowed, prompting us to accelerate economic diversification."

Chui also said his government planned to improve Macao's airport facilities and expand airline services.

Cautiously optimistic

Chui insisted that the government should not "over-regulate" the gaming industry, pointing out that the government has a good relationship with the six gaming operators. He added that in spite of the decrease in gaming revenues since last summer, he remained "cautiously optimistic" about Macao's economy.

Chui said that "optimal diversification" was Macao's overall economic trend.

As examples of "optimal diversification", Chui mentioned the MICE (meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions) sector and the cultural and creative industries, as well as the traditional

Chinese medicine (TCM) sector. He also announced the establishment of an incentive scheme for the cultural and creative industries as well as the environmental protection industry.

He also promised to help small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) expand and offer them a better business environment. Among the pro-SME measures mentioned by Chui was one that involved priority being given in the public sector to purchasing locally designed and made products. Chui added that gaming operators were being urged by the government to buy products designed and made in Macao.

Chui said that housing, transportation and environmental protection would remain the top priorities of his government. He also said that public security was an important condition for a liveable city, as well as ensuring food safety. "We will pay close attention to all aspects of our citizens' safety," Chui said. He continued that "the government attaches great importance to the balance of urban development and heritage conservation".

The chief executive, who was Macao's secretary for Social Affairs and Culture for ten years before he was elected to his present post, also said the government's total financial reserves stood at 432.4 billion patacas. He said that the government needed to carefully manage its huge assets, so they had decided to set up an investment development fund.

Chui also said that the government's wealth-sharing handouts would continue this year. While permanent residents will receive 9,000 patacas, non-residents will receive 5,400 patacas, unchanged from last year.

Chui lists 8 points for reviewing casino agreements. Addressing a question-and-answer session in the legislature one day after delivering his policy address, Chui said that his government would focus on eight aspects when carrying out a mid-term review of the city's three gaming concessions and three sub-concessions this year.

According to the chief executive, the eight aspects are:

- 1) Impact of the development of the gaming industry on the local economy;
- 2) Its impact on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs);
- 3) Its impact on civil society and residents' livelihoods;
- 4) The interaction between the gaming and non-gaming sections of the gaming industry;

5) How the six operators have implemented their respective gaming agreements with the government;

6) The state of the six operators' businesses;

7) The regulatory framework of the three concessions and three sub-concessions;

8) An assessment of how the six operators have been carrying out their corporate responsibility.

During the nearly three-hour-long Q&A session, 28 lawmakers raised questions about a wide range of topics such as the gaming industry, public housing, public infrastructure projects, labour affairs, and the high price of property. The Legislative Assembly has 33 members.

Regarding the future of the gaming industry Chui insisted that he was "cautiously optimistic".

"We will also stay alert to possible risks that lie ahead... So why have I said that we are optimistic about the gaming industry? The main reasons are: huge development projects in Cotai are due to be completed on schedule ... the number of visitors continues growing and in 2014 there were a recorded 31.5 million," Chui said, adding that the revenues generated by the mass-market gambling segment continued to increase.

"The figures show that the city's tourism and gaming industries are still competitive and they are already equipped to face the challenges ahead ... we are optimistic about and have confidence in their development," he continued.

Interim review

Chui also told the lawmakers that the government has already commissioned a tertiary education institution to carry out a study on the city's gaming concessions and sub-concessions. He said the findings would be taken into account in the government's mid-term review this year, adding that the review would be focused on the eight aspects he mentioned earlier.

He also said that the government had improved its system of regulating financial reserves and its budget surplus was "quite good", adding that the Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR) had about 560 billion patacas in financial reserves and foreign currency reserves as well as budget surplus.

The government's policy guidelines for 2015 are, according to an official summary released by the Macao Government Information Bureau (GCS) focused on "ensuring stable development" and

"caring about people's needs".

The guidelines include plans for the construction of 28,000 public housing units on land to be reclaimed off the peninsula.

Students, the disabled, the underprivileged and the elderly will continue benefiting from a range of subsidies and allowances. The government also decided to continue its various tax breaks and subsidies for the population in general, such as health vouchers worth 600 patacas, 200 pataca discounts on power bills and up to 6,000 pataca grants for continuing education programmes.

The government's revised budget for 2015 provides for 119 billion patacas in revenue and 83 billion patacas in expenditure.

Chui, who in December began his second and final consecutive 5-year term at the helm of the government, stressed in his policy address that 2014 marks the advent of an adjustment period for Macao's economy against the backdrop of a complex and volatile external environment.

"We must strengthen our vigilance against crises and have a clear picture of current and future

situations, to achieve stable progress," Chui said. The chief executive promised to "maintain a pragmatic attitude" and remain "responsive to public opinion."

"We will adopt the concept of reform to learn from our experiences, resolve problems and join hands with the people of Macao ... in order to maintain stable progress and open a new chapter for Macao's development," Chui said.

The chief executive also pledged to uphold the principles of "One Country, Two Systems" and "Macao administered by its people" with a high degree of autonomy.

Pointing out that stability would remain his top priority when promoting the "integrated" development of Macao's "adequately diversified" economy, Chui said he was "convinced that with the great support of the Central People's Government, and in conjunction with the efforts of the population, we can overcome all difficulties". He also said the Macao government was determined to "achieve, together with the local population, the dream of the great revival of the Chinese nation". ■



Macao has special place in new Hengqin area

By Mark O'Neill in Zhuhai

Photos by Xinhua News Agency and
Macao Government Information Bureau



At the end of April, the China (Guangdong) Free Trade Experimental Zone Zhuhai Hengqin New Area officially opened and Macao has a special place in it. It marks a further step in the integration of the Special Administrative Region (SAR) in China, 16 years after the handover.

On 21 April, Guangdong governor Zhu Xiaodan officially launched the Free Trade Zone (FTZ) in the

province. It comprises 116 square kilometres in three areas - Nansha in Guangzhou, Qianhai and Shekou in Shenzhen and Hengqin in Zhuhai (with 28 square kilometres).

Two days later, the Hengqin New Area was formally launched, with an agreement between the SAR and Zhuhai governments to strengthen their cooperation and deepen ties in the district.

Hengqin Island has three times the land area of Macao and is 200 metres across a narrow stretch of water at the closest point.

The State Council designated it a special zone in April 2009. Since then, development has moved at a rapid pace. On its southern tip, the world's biggest marine theme park opened in early 2014. In August that year, the University of Macau opened a new

campus on an area of 1.09 square kilometres.

Hengqin's inclusion in the Guangdong FTZ marks a new step in its development. According to the government, the Guangdong FTZ aims to offer more advanced cross-border collaboration with the Hong Kong and Macao financial and services industries and build an international integrated commercial service hub and shipping industry.



Hengqin and Macao in the background

"We will let the services and trade industries of Hong Kong and Macao fully perform their role in Guangdong," said Governor Zhu at the launch. "There are still many things to be done and problems to be resolved."

Of the areas in Guangdong, the role of Hengqin is specially aimed at Macao, its companies and people.

Zhuhai-Macao

On 23 April, the governments of Zhuhai and Macao signed an agreement to deepen their cooperation in the New Area.

According to Macao Secretary for Economy and Finance, Leong Vai Tac, the areas of cooperation include legal affairs, investment and trade, education and health, boundary crossing checkpoint management, finance and innovation and cross-boundary infrastructure.

The agreement was signed by Leong and the Mayor of Zhuhai Jiang Ling after the unveiling of the New Area in Hengqin. Also present were the vice-chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference Ho Hau

Wah, the deputy director of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in Macao Yao Jian and the secretary of the Zhuhai Communist Party provincial committee Li Jia.

Lionel Leong

Speaking at the ceremony, Leong said the government would bring more opportunities to local enterprises and citizens in the development of trade and investment. He outlined six aspects for Guangdong-Macao cooperation - regular visits between Macao, Zhuhai and other parts of Guangdong province to better understand the country's policies; legislative revision; further cooperation in the Guangdong-Macao Cooperation Industrial Park, especially the Guangdong-Macao Chinese Medicine Technology Park; an invitation to more local enterprises to take part in the New Area; provide more specific services to build the Hengqin Macao Youth Business Valley; and making best use of the cooperation mechanism to develop the New Area in Hengqin.

"Improved cooperation with Hengqin in commerce, tourism and cultural industries will also bring advantages to both sides in building a world centre



Lionel Leong

for tourism and leisure and a commercial and trade cooperation service platform between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries, as per the strategic positions laid down by the Central Government on the future development of Macao.

"Macao can give play to its unique advantages and work with Hengqin to create a good business environment for the New Area while, at the same time, enhancing its own competitiveness," Leong said.

"The government will make best use of the country's initiatives in building the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road ("Belt and Road"), as an effective way to enhance Macao's competitiveness," he added.

In his speech at the opening ceremony, Niu Jing, director of the administrative committee of the Hengqin New Area said: "We hope to set up free trade channels with Brazil, Angola and Portugal through the platform of Macao."

Hengqin will build a strong trading platform for commodities from Portuguese-speaking countries and regions by taking advantage of Macao's international links and will simplify procedures to facilitate the export and import of Macao's goods.

This will make it easier for international and Macao enterprises to explore the mainland market and encourage more Macao companies to invest in Hengqin.

Personnel exchanges between Zhuhai and Macao will increase as an entrepreneurship base will be built in Hengqin to encourage young people from Macao to start businesses there. The base, due to come into operation in June this year, will provide one-stop services for young Macao entrepreneurs, including company registration, opening of bank accounts and staff recruitment. They will be allowed to work at the base rent-free for at least a year.

Zhuhai Mayor Jiang Ling said that deepening cooperation with Macao and achieving integrated development were important tasks for the Hengqin New Area. "We hope to create an internationally competitive regional economy by strengthening collaboration with Macao," he said.

"Without Macao, there would be no Zhuhai special economic zone nor the Hengqin New Area of today," he said. "The assignation given by the central government to the New Area is to create conditions for the diversification of the Macao economy and deepen the integration of the two."

"We hope that, within the framework of one country, two systems, we can seek a new system of developing the service sector and bring Macao's hospitals, retirement, residence and education services into Hengqin, which people from both sides can enjoy," Jiang said. "We hope that, with Macao, we jointly utilise the New Area and make an even more competitive world tourism and leisure centre." The area is working on a policy to allow vehicles with Macao licence plates to drive in Hengqin freely. The drivers of these vehicles would be able to circulate in Hengqin but not enter the rest of Zhuhai, unless they had a mainland permit. Niu Jing said that this service would be available to Macao motorists by the end of 2015. He also said that yachts from Macao and Hong Kong could apply for the right of free entry to Hengqin, Qianhai and Nansha and that approval might be given by the end this year as well. Niu also announced that Hengqin would set up an advisory committee to help with the construction and development of the New Area and that a large number of its members would be from Macao. Another element of the New Area is an intellectual property court which Zhuhai has established to help those working in research and development. In its

annual report, it said that, in 2014, it handled 1,080 cases, including 951 involving rights of ownership, 57 brands and 21 patents.

Free Trade Zones

The FTZ, officially known as Pilot Free Trade Zones, are the latest stage of China's reform and opening policy. They aim to offer a new degree of openness in foreign investment and international trade, in both trade and services, to promote and develop the national economy.

The first, in Shanghai, was officially launched on 29 September 2013. On 20 April this year, the State Council announced the plans for Pilot FTZs in Guangdong, Tianjin and Fujian. Hengqin is part of the Guangdong one.

Each part serves different functions and focuses on different business sectors. Nansha in Guangdong, for example, has 60 square kilometres and is focusing on transportation and logistics, the financial industry, international business and trading, and high-end manufacturing. Qianhai Shekou, with 28.2 square kilometres, focuses on the financial industry and modern logistics.



Hengqin is specialising in tourism, leisure and health care: business and financial services: culture, science and education: and high technology.

Rapid growth

Since April 2009, the growth of Hengqin has been very rapid. The Chimelong Ocean Kingdom opened in early 2014 on an area of 132 hectares and is attracting thousands of visitors, domestic and foreign, every month.

The new campus of the University of Macau is 20 times larger than the previous one on Taipa and can accommodate 10,000 students, all living on site. The SAR government is paying 1.2 billion patacas for a 40-year lease.

On the northeast is the Shizimen Central Business District, with a total investment of 36 billion yuan. Office blocks have been built and China's major banks have taken space in them. According to official figures, 8,477 firms have registered in Hengqin, including 407 from Hong Kong and Macao. The area has attracted 866 financial companies with total registered capital reaching 137 billion yuan (\$22.1 billion). In March 2014 alone, 62 financial institutions established a presence in Hengqin, then 50 in April. In 2009, the district had one single bank. These institutions include banks, securities firms, insurance companies and money exchangers.

As of the end of 2014, 35 financial institutions from Macao and Hong Kong had set up there, managing a total of 850 billion yuan in funds.

Under preferential policies approved by the State Council in July 2011, financial institutions in Hengqin can set up offshore financial currency and trust funds and do currency conversions for individuals. Hong Kong and Guangdong hope that, in Hengqin, their financial institutions will be able to do the same cross-border lending and cash pooling that is allowed in the Shanghai FTZ: this has helped facilitate yuan circulation and usage in the offshore market and made more foreign companies work in the Chinese currency – a further step toward its internationalisation.

Figures released by the Finance Bureau of Hengqin on 23 April said that the district's budgetary revenue in 2014 was 2.668 billion yuan, an increase of 137 percent over 2013: fixed asset investment was 24.68 billion yuan, an increase of 67 percent: and GDP 5.807 billion yuan, an increase of 83 percent. Its GDP in 2009 was only 285 million yuan.

In addition to the new university campus, Macao has benefitted directly from Hengqin in several ways.



The unveiling ceremony of the China's Pilot Free Trade Zone held in Guangzhou



Zhuhai Convention Center blueprint

One is a Guangdong-Macao industrial zone, with an area of 4.5 square kilometres. The Macao government has proposed 33 projects in the park, with a total investment of 140 billion yuan. It has asked for a further 10 square kilometres, which will have to be reclaimed from the sea.

Another is property that is less than half the price of that in Macao. With the 24-hour opening of the border gate on 20 November last year, citizens of Macao can buy apartments in Hengqin and go easily to and fro across the border. They are among the main clients for developments, especially those close to the border gate.

The opening is also a blessing for the more than 70,000 migrant workers in Macao who are even less able than local residents to buy property in the city; most live in cramped apartments and dormitories. They or their employers can rent space for them to live in Hengqin; it should be cheaper and more spacious.

The SAR government is also considering the purchase of land in Hengqin to build medical clinics, nurseries and retirement homes.

Alexis Tam Chon Weng, Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, said in mid-April that the acquisition

of land for such purposes depended on the central government. "We have met with the Hengqin authorities and they are open to this idea and have been collaborative," he told the Legislative Assembly.

"We need to buy the land in Hengqin for our purposes but we need the approval of the central government... Private institutions may use the services in Hengqin once the government acquires the land. These institutions would be chosen through public tender," he said.

The Macao government is generous to those who hold permanent-residence (PR) cards, providing them with free education, free treatment at public hospitals and pensions and other welfare payments to retired people. It also gives educational allowances to its students who are attending primary and secondary schools in Zhuhai, Zhongshan and Jiangmen.

If all these payments could be made to its PRs resident in Hengqin and other places in Guangdong, it would make them more attractive. But this will require an agreement between the two sides because of their two different legal and administrative systems. ■



Hengqin blueprint

Synchronized with our e-Service portal @www.cem-macau.com, the ultra convenient mobile app allows you to manage your electricity account at your fingertips. You can check your latest bill, report meter readings, manage contracts, apply for our payment reminder service and more. E-Service users use the same details to login, new users can create an account via the app. Download now to enjoy our enhanced customer service!



Get mobile
with the
App





博鳌亚洲论坛2015年年会 Boao Forum For Asia Annual Conference 2015

Renewing a Centuries-old Network

By Luo Xunzhi in Zhuhai

Photos: Xinhua News Agency





Macao finds place in new Silk Road

China has launched its biggest global economic initiative of the post-1978 era, including the establishment of a bank to fund infrastructure in Asia. Countries around the world have rushed to join the new bank. Macao has pledged its full support and outlined the areas in which it can help. The initiative, first proposed by President Xi Jinping in October 2013, is called The Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, or 'Belt and Road' for short. China has promised to contribute US\$ 40 billion to a Silk Road fund. The Belt and Road routes run through the continents

of Asia, Europe and Africa, connecting East Asia, which has the world's fastest growing economies, at one end with the developed economies of Europe at the other.

The 'belt' links China with Central Asia, Russia and Europe as well as with the Persian Gulf and the Mediterranean, through the Indian Ocean. The 'road' links China's coast to Europe through the South China Sea and the Indian Ocean in one route and from China's coast also through the South China Sea to the South Pacific in the other.

The new bank is an important element. The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), with its headquarters in Beijing, is the first international

financial institution created by China. A total of 47 countries applied as founding members by the deadline of 31 March, including Britain, France, Germany, Australia, Brazil and South Korea.

The new bank and the 'Belt and Road' were the main topics at the 2015 Boao Forum for Asia, held on the southern island of Hainan from 28-30 March.

The idea of the Silk Road Economic Belt was first proposed by President Xi in September 2013 during a visit to Kazakhstan. In a speech at Nazarbayev University, he said that China and Central Asia should work together to build such a belt.

In his opening speech to the Boao Forum on 30 March, President Xi outlined the general strategy

for the 'Belt and Road' initiative. Then details of an action plan to implement it were outlined by officials from the National Development and Reform Commission, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Commerce.

Asian countries welcome 'Belt and Road'

The initiative has been warmly welcomed by countries in Asia, especially those who need the roads, railways, bridges, power stations, ports, airports, power grids and other infrastructure that the bank will fund. Many do not have the domestic capital to fund these projects nor the expertise to build them.

According to estimates of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Asian countries will need a total infrastructure investment of more than US\$ 8 trillion, or US\$ 740 billion on average. There is a serious shortage of funds for such investment.

Developed nations are also keen to join the new bank. They see the Asia-Pacific region as the fastest-growing in the world and want to invest. They see China as a new pillar of the world's economic order.

For Beijing, the initiative and the bank are a milestone. It is the first such financial institution established by China, with its headquarters in the financial street in the western district of Beijing. As the world's second largest economy and holding the largest foreign exchange reserves, it wants to play a more active role. The three existing multilateral institutions – World Bank, International Monetary Fund and ADB – are dominated by the US, European countries and Japan. It is also another step on the internationalisation of the renminbi and toward it becoming a reserve currency held by foreign banks. The AIIB and Silk Road Fund will help Chinese firms implement the infrastructure projects and involve loans and swap deals in yuan; they will help to make it a global currency.

Macao's aces – tourism, Chinese medicine, Lusophone countries

One of the participants at the forum was Macao Chief Executive Chui Sai On. Commenting on the speech of President Xi, he said that his government was eager to take part in the initiative. It would accelerate its research in how to take part, using its unique advantages in tourism, traditional Chinese medicine and relations with Portuguese-speaking countries, he said.

"Although it is still a developing city, Macao has unique advantages to offer if it becomes part of this strategy," said Chui. "As a service platform for economic and trade cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking countries, Macao should be able to drive the development of the president's initiative as well as make use of the families of the Chinese diaspora living in the area willing to serve the country and the region."

He also said that his government placed great importance on the AIIB and would give its full support, in coordination with the national strategy. At a spring festival reception in Macao on 26 March, Hu Zhengyue, commissioner of the Foreign Ministry in the city, said that the SAR would be part of the "One Belt and One Road" initiative. "About 50,000 Macao residents are returned overseas Chinese from southeast Asia and their offspring. This is a special advantage that Macao could offer to promote China's relations with Southeast Asia," he said.

Project gathers momentum after launch

Since President Xi's speech in Kazakhstan in September 2013, the idea has gained increasing support. In October 2013, in a speech to the Indonesian parliament, he proposed the idea of the AIIB to finance infrastructure and promote links and integration between the economies of Asia. In February 2014, President Xi and his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, reached a consensus on the building of the 'Belt and Road', including connections to Russia's Euro-Asia railways. Beijing estimates Asia's infrastructure requirements at US\$ 700-800 billion a year and says the AIIB will supplement – and not compete with – existing international financial institutions such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the Asian Development Bank. The bank was officially founded on 24 October last year. By the end of the year, 22 Asian countries had joined, including China.

In November, President Xi announced that China would contribute US\$ 40 billion for a Silk Road Fund, to provide investment and finance for infrastructure, resources, industrial and financial cooperation and other projects to countries along the 'Belt and Road'.

In January, the number of founding members of the AIIB rose to 26, with New Zealand, Maldives, Saudi Arabia and Tajikistan joining.

As the 31 March deadline approached, other countries rushed to apply to the bank, including Russia, Brazil, Portugal, Australia, South Korea and Turkey. By the deadline, 47 applications had been received, of which 30 had been approved.

The most notable absentees were the US and Japan. It was a major diplomatic setback for Washington, which had lobbied its allies not to join; it cited concerns over the governance of the bank, including its labour, social and environmental standards. It misjudged the support for the project, including the support of its allies.

On 8 March, Foreign Minister Wang Yi dismissed comparisons of the initiative with the Marshall Plan launched by the United States in Europe after the devastation caused by World War Two. "The initiative is the product of inclusive cooperation, not a tool of geopolitics," he said. "It must not be viewed with an outdated Cold War mentality."

Bank draws up rules and procedures

The next task for the AIIB is to draw up its internal rules and operating procedures. This will be the work of the next nine months, before it starts operating at the start of 2016.

Unlike the World Bank and the ADB, its mission is not to reduce poverty as such. It is to fund basic infrastructure projects that are commercially viable and will promote economic growth. This is Beijing's vision of the new Silk Road – accelerate growth through new roads, railways, ports, airports and other building blocks of the economy.

Everyone, especially the United States, will be watching carefully as the rules and procedures of the new bank are set up. What will be the criteria for projects that receive loans? Will social, labour and environmental studies be included in the evaluation? Will the tenders be open to everyone or will Chinese firms have preference? How will it prevent corruption and ensure that the loans are well used and not end up in the private bank accounts of dictators?

Beijing insists that it will follow international best practice and that the membership of developed countries will help to ensure this.

Pakistan wants to link China to Arabian Sea

Many countries in Asia are eagerly waiting for the implementation of the 'Belt and Road'. One of them is Pakistan. The initiative involves a corridor 3,000 kilometres long that runs from Xinjiang in west China to Gwadar, a port on the Arabian Sea, which Beijing is paying for.

Plans for the corridor include an oil and gas pipeline, highways, railways and 3,000 megawatts of coal, solar and wind power. Pakistan has long suffered from power shortages that would be alleviated by this new capacity. It also wants Gwadar to be a major port to carry goods from China and other Asian countries to Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

These projects will be hard to realise, for engineering and security reasons. They run over mountainous terrain, including areas of Kashmir claimed by India and subject to attack by Islamic fundamentalists. Pakistan plans to train thousands of security personnel to protect Chinese people working on the projects.

China's interest in Gwadar is very clear. With the

government of Pakistan, it invested US\$ 248 million to build a warm-water deep sea port there, at the mouth of the Persian Gulf and 120 kilometres from the Iranian border. In 2013, state-owned China Overseas Port Holding officially acquired the port. It will invest US\$ 750 million to build a full-scale commercial port. It is providing 80 percent of the cost in grants and soft loans, with thousands of Chinese workers and engineers on the site.

The longer-term plan is to build a railway and highway, with a pipeline running alongside it, from Gwadar over the Karakoram Highway to China. If and when this ambitious project is realised, it will be able to import oil from the Middle East, for shipment over land to China, instead of the current journey of thousands of kilometres by sea to ports in south and east China.

Iran will build a pipeline to bring oil to Gwadar, where China will build a refinery with a processing capacity of 60,000 barrels of crude a day.

This is a good example of what the new Silk Road and the loans from the new fund and the AIIB will mean – projects aimed at benefitting both the host country and China. ■

President Xi Jinping with Macao and Hong Kong delegations at the Boao Forum



A discreet and professional leader

New head of Forum Macao has laser focus on her goals

By Luciana Leitão in Macao

Photos: Eric Tam and Cheong Kam ka



Echo Chan Keng Hong is a hardworking Macao resident who has now assumed the position of Coordinator of the Support Office to the Permanent Secretariat of the Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries (Forum Macao). She is the right person in the right place at the right time, as businessmen and colleagues agree.

She is discrete but highly focused on getting the job done. In an interview with Macao magazine, it became clear that the civil servant has spent her entire career on work related to Portuguese-speaking countries.

Previously a director at the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM), Chan succeeds Rita Santos, but also keeps her role as a non-executive director of IPIM.

With a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Jinan in China, Chan has a master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Macao and a Portuguese-language diploma from the prestigious University of Coimbra in Portugal. "I benefitted from the scholarship scheme during the Portuguese administration. At the time, there was a programme of incentives to students with different degrees to study in Portugal for two years and I chose to do it," she said, adding: "It was a valuable experience. Besides learning the language, I witnessed the development of the country, and the experience helped to enhance my career."

She had no problems adjusting to life in Portugal, as she was already used to studying abroad, having studied in Guangzhou, the capital of Guangdong province. "I was fine with the move. At the time, many Macao students were doing this."

Dealing with Portuguese-speaking countries' affairs for many years

Working in IPIM since her graduation, she stayed there for more than 20 years. She was coordinator of the Traditional Chinese Medicine Industrial and Scientific Park, as well as chair of the board of directors of the "Guangdong-Macao Traditional Chinese Medicine Technology Industrial Park Development" in Hengqin Island and director of Macao Investment and Development. "In IPIM, I was also involved in the preparation of the first ministerial conference. I had to develop the Portuguese-speaking country markets as well," she said.

With her career always intertwined with the Portuguese world, the question naturally arises: "What is Chan's connection to Portugal?" She was born in Macao and her

family is also from the territory, even though she has relatives from mainland China. "My connection to the Portuguese-speaking countries occurred because I received that scholarship to study in Portugal," she said, though it is clear that the Portuguese administration of Macao during her childhood also had a big impact. "When I was a little girl, I already knew a lot about Portuguese-speaking countries, maybe from books and the Portuguese school. It wasn't alien to me," she added.

Macao has always had this "very special characteristic", so it was "natural" to pursue a career related to the Lusophone world, especially after Macao became a special administrative region of China.

She believes that, at that time, over 30 years ago, the Portuguese language was not as important as it is today. "After establishing the Macao Special Administrative Region government and setting up the goal of developing Macao as a service platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries, there was increasing importance given to the use of the Portuguese language," she said.

Pointing out that Portuguese is one of the official languages in Macao, she continued, "Some banks and other institutions already know about the Portuguese-speaking countries. As the market develops, there is an increasing need for bilingual people."

This connection to the Portuguese-speaking world is less a matter of personal than professional interest for Chan, who explained: "My work has always been to attract investment and to provide services to investors, thus this connection to Portugal and the Lusophone markets."

All about work

When talking about Forum Macao Chan became relaxed and expansive. She said that, as the new coordinator, she had no personal expectations, as she is simply following the Macao government strategy.

Under the new action plan, there are several programmes for the Forum. Economically, she mentioned a few goals. "We will set up three centres in Macao - a centre for SMEs, a distribution centre for products and a MICE (Meeting, Incentive, Convention and Exhibition) centre, all with the

purpose of releasing more information about Portuguese-speaking countries. The website kicked off on 1 April with all the information about the centres, including a bilingual database," she said enthusiastically.

A new phase for Forum Macao has begun. "Macao businessmen now know more about how to apply for the developing countries fund and they know the areas to which they can apply and the opportunities of the different countries." In addition to such strategies, Chan said that they also intend to connect the Portuguese-speaking countries with businessmen from Guangdong province.

She advocated a greater business relationship between Guangdong province and the Portuguese-speaking countries. "There are many entrepreneurs who want to have a greater connection to the Portuguese-speaking countries and Guangdong province is a great opportunity. This has to be taken advantage of," she said.

With an area of 179,800 square kilometres and a population of 106 million, Guangdong province in 2014 recorded Gross Domestic Product of US\$ 1 trillion and a growth rate of 7.8 percent. It is one of the most important areas of China.

Macao is located next to Guangdong province and part of a regional development project involving several production centres within the Pearl River Delta.

Forum also promotes culture and social contacts

The Forum also wants to promote cultural and social exchanges. "We'll have the cultural week at the 'Lusofonia Festival'. That programme is always interconnected with the Forum's goals of promoting economic and trade cooperation between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries," she said: "The social and cultural part is related to the need to increase knowledge and make people closer."

The Forum tries to use Macao as a platform between the Portuguese-speaking world and China, but does the territory really fulfill such a role? "You cannot find our characteristics anywhere else in the world, so we're increasing that service platform potential in several sectors and programmes. A platform does not mean being only an intermediary; it is much



Echo Chan

more than that. I would call it a service platform between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries, according to the economic and trade cooperation, with everything intertwined with the market development." Overall, she believes Macao can be used to promote the economic development; training can also support such business exchanges. For instance, the three centres that the Forum intends to open will contribute to

strengthening such a role. "China wants to import food, so these centres can be used to import more products from the Portuguese-speaking countries. These can be used to inform about the products Chinese are fonder of. And businessmen can use Macao to test them."

Chan is also a Deputy Secretary-General (appointed by the Macao Government) of the Permanent Secretariat of Forum Macao. ■



Permanent Secretariat of Forum Macao meeting

澳門樂團
ORQUESTRA DE MACAU
Macao Orchestra

Shining Virtuosos

Piano
Chen Sa

聲光
瞬間

IMPRESSIONISMO
IMPRESSIONISM

14 / 06 / 2015

20:00

Sunday

Conductor

Lü Jia

Venue

Macao Cultural Centre Grand Auditorium

Programme

Debussy: *Petite Suite*, L. 65

Ravel: *Piano Concerto in G major*

Debussy: *Images pour orchestra*, L. 122

Tickets

MOP 180 / 120 / 80

Tickets available through the Macao Ticketing Network

Reservation Hotline 2855 5555



Book Now

Power Struggle

CEM faces soaring demand for electricity



By Mark O'Neill in Macao

Photos: Eric Tam and Courtesy of CEM



Bernie Leong

In July 2014, Bernie Leong became the first Macao citizen to become Chairman of the Executive Committee of the city's power company in its 42-year history.

He runs Companhia de Electricidade de Macau (CEM), which has nearly 700 employees from six different countries and uses English and Chinese as its working languages so that everyone can understand each other.

The biggest challenge facing the new CEO is keeping pace with a dramatic increase in demand, which has quadrupled over the last ten years and is likely to double again within the next five years as giant casinos and resort complexes come into operation, as well as a light rail system.

In 2004, Macao supplied 93 percent of its own electricity, buying just seven percent from Guangdong. Now the figures are reversed – last

year the province accounted for 88 percent of Macao's power.

In 2014, CEM produced 435 gigawatt-hours (gwh) out of total demand of 4,677 gwh; it imported 4,099 gwh from Guangdong.

Leong would like to build a new plant using natural gas next to CEM's power plant in Coloane on land it already owns. He is discussing the proposal with the government.

His other great challenge is retaining engineers and other skilled staff who are offered more lucrative posts in government departments and the giant casino resorts. "Sometimes I think that we are a training school for other companies," he said in an interview.

Early life

In 1965, Leong was born into a modest family in Macao, one of six children. His parents were from the working class. "Life was hard. We did not have many toys. We used to go swimming in the sea near where we lived."

Leong attended the Instituto Salesiano, a vocational school which prepared students for the workplace. "At 14-15, I felt I wanted to study more and not go directly to work like most of my classmates were aiming to do. An Irish priest helped me find a middle school in Canada, from where I went to Carleton University (in Ottawa)." Less than 20 percent of his classmates at the Institute went on to university and only ten per cent went abroad to study.

To pay the university fees, his parents dipped into their savings. "They never asked me to repay them. They did not say anything and put no pressure on me. Chinese parents never speak of it."

Carleton is a private university with 30,000 students from many countries and a wide range of courses; he studied electrical engineering. "I liked Canada very much, except for the cold. The people were friendly and welcoming. After graduation, I considered staying. I had a Polish teacher who said that China was a very closed country. He offered to find me a job in Canada."

During his fourth and final year, he worked as an intern in a company and found himself in front of a computer, through which he communicated with his colleagues. "It did not suit me. I like people. I had good friends and classmates but felt that Canada was not my own place. My parents never said anything as to whether I should return. They left it to me."

He returned to Macao and found that there were not many jobs for people with his qualifications. He was offered a post in the Labour Department in the industrial safety division but felt more comfortable in a private firm. He went to work in the telecommunications firm, CTM, where he stayed for one year before joining CEM in 1991.

New challenge

When Leong joined as an engineer, the company had over 800 employees; now it has about 700 – while demand has more than quadrupled over the period. This is evidence of dramatic gains in productivity and technology. Back then it imported just five percent of its power from Guangdong; last year the figure reached 88 percent.

Since its foundation in 1972, CEM has always been a private company.

“When I joined, the top staff were French, Chinese and Portuguese, with Portuguese in a majority. English was the working language in documents and meetings, something which has continued until today. In our industry, most of the technology is written in English,” he said.

In the company now, Leong has employees from the mainland, Macao, Hong Kong, Portugal, France, the Philippines, Singapore and Togo; it is as international now as it was in 1991.

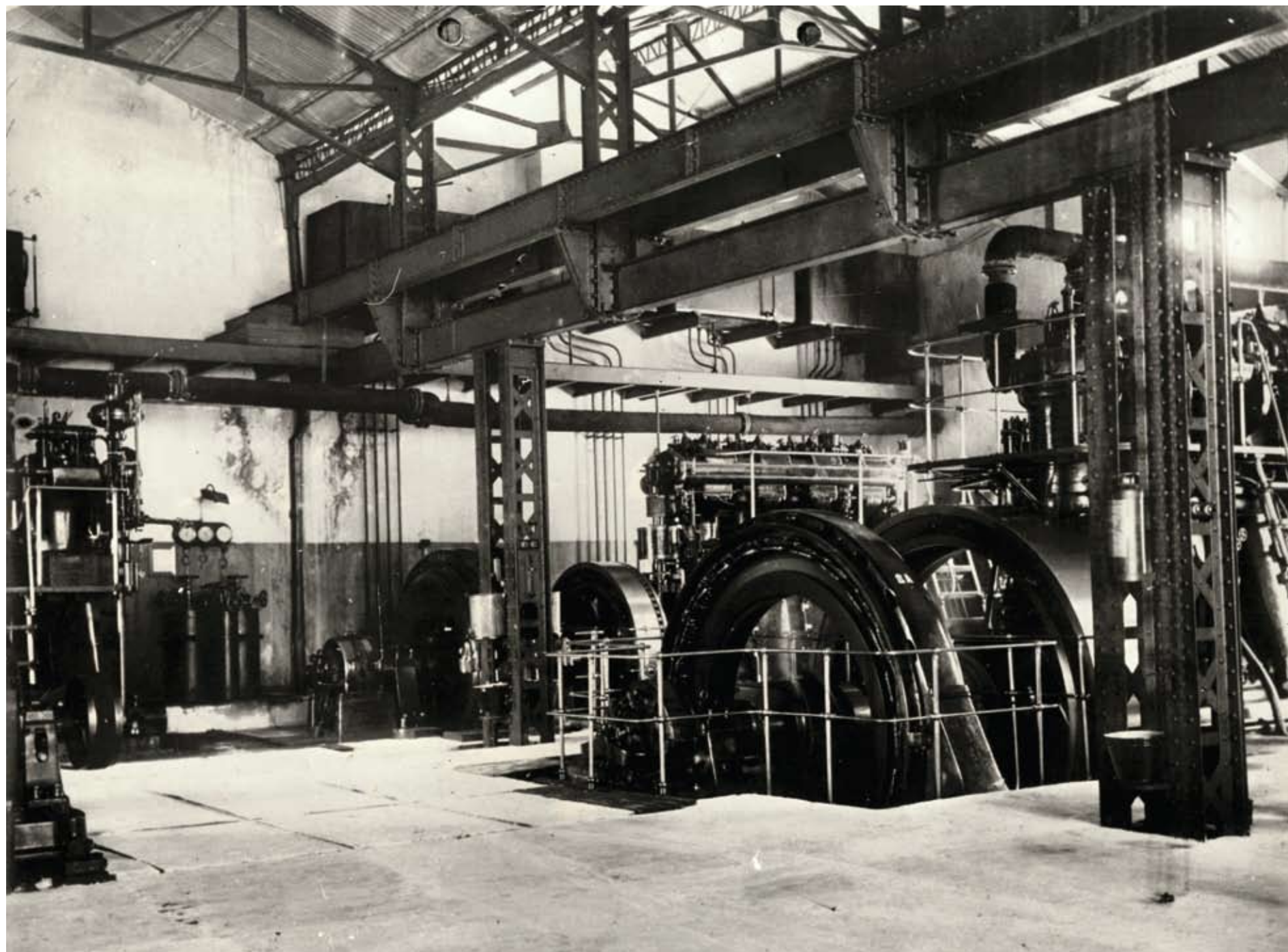
“When I joined, the company was going through a transition. There was a great deal of work to do. We called the transmission system ‘spaghetti’ because it was so chaotic. To improve it and make it automated was very difficult. We set up a dispatch (control) centre.” Leong was appointed senior manager of the power and networks dispatch department. In 2007, he became a member of the firm’s executive committee and put in charge of its core business division.

History of company

Power was first supplied to the city by the Macau Electric Lighting Co Limited (MELCO), a firm set up in 1910 in Hong Kong by foreign investors. By 1951, the monthly production of its power station in the city was one million kilowatts; it has 350 employees and 15,000 customers.

From the 1960s, the government and businesses began to complain about the quality and stability of its service. In 1970, its station could only supply two thirds of the demand. To ensure supply, the Hotel Lisboa installed its own set of generators.

Factories were unable to operate normally because of inadequate supply; elevators of hotels and high-rise buildings did not work properly. During the hot summer, air conditioners in homes and offices suddenly went off.



Macao power station 1962

To remedy the situation, the government decided to establish CEM in 1972. It had a capital stock of 20 million patacas, of which the government and the Sociedade de Turismo e Diversões de Macau each held six million, Leal Senado and BNU each two million, along with other shareholders. In May 1987, a new power station in Coloane began operating. New equipment was added in succeeding years, taking its full capacity to 472 megawatts.

Demand explodes alongside breakneck economic growth

Demand exploded after 2003 and the granting of new casino licences.

The growth in big casinos and related facilities was dramatic. It was very difficult to keep pace. Public facilities like ours must move ahead of demand and provide services before projects go into operation.

“Telecommunications means installation of a slender cable. But power cables are large and numerous and need to go in trenches one metre deeper. The engineering work is arduous. We are not a government department, need approvals and must liaise with many parties to dig the land and do the necessary work.”

Today these large casinos, commercial clients and the government account for 75 percent of demand:



consumers and small firms 20 percent: and industrial companies the remainder. Between 2003 and 2008 alone, demand for electricity doubled.

CEM has two power stations of its own, in Coloane, with an installed capacity of 407 megawatts, which went into operation in 1987; it runs on oil and gas. Demand far outstripped what it could produce. So CEM has satisfied demand with power from the China Southern Power Grid, one of the mainland's two giant transmission companies, with National Grid.

"We greatly thank them for their support," said

Leong. "They built capacity in advance for our needs and gave us preferential treatment. In earlier days, supply was tight. Now conditions are better." CEM pays for this power in HK dollars which is pegged to renminbi and has risen during the last year.

Leong wants to increase Macao's own production and has proposed construction of a new plant using natural gas on land the company owns next to its existing station.

"The fall of the oil price now is a very good opportunity to lock in agreements for supply of natural gas. It is the cleanest way to generate large amounts of power. Electricity is also an industry that

can employ more people and helps to diversify the economy."

The government is considering CEM's proposal and has given no timetable for a decision.

Leong is not considering a plant in the neighbouring area of Hengqin. "How could we manage it if the facility were not in Macao? We are conservative and prefer to build here."

Retaining staff

Satisfying exploding demand is one of great challenges for the young CEO. The other is to retain

his staff, especially those skilled and experienced.

"The loss of skilled staff is very serious. About ten percent of our staff leave each year. We are like a training school for other firms," he said.

Staff leave for better pay in government departments or private firms that offer salaries up to 100 percent more. For a young engineer, CEM pays around 21,000 patacas a month, against 25,000 for one in the government.

To retain people, Leong works on developing a sense of belonging.

"I like the culture of the company, which is related to the culture of the Portuguese. It balances the

efficiency of a firm with a personal touch and a sense of stability. It respects different cultures and different people.

"Stability is very important for a company like ours. That is what our customers want. If the staff turnover exceeded 20 percent, that would be unacceptable," he said.

To retain staff, he cultivates this sense of belonging not only among his employees but among their families.

In recruiting, CEM gives preference to applicants with Macao ID provided they have the necessary qualifications. "But sometimes we have technical requirements which local people cannot meet." So he recruits internationally, through the Internet, industry associates or from CVs which individuals send to him.

New shareholder

After its foundation, the government gradually reduced its shareholding.

Before May 2014, CEM was 42 percent owned by the Sino-French Energy Development Co Ltd; the Sino-Portuguese consortium made up of EDP Asia-Investimento e Consultadoria Limitada, 21 percent; Polytech Industrial Limited, 11 percent; and Asiainvest (IP Holding), ten percent.

In May 2014, French group Suez Environment said that it had sold 90 percent of its stake to Nam Kwong Development (HK) for US\$ 612 million; the firm is a 100 percent-owned subsidiary of Chinese state company Nam Kwong Company.

Of the remaining shares, the Macao government owns eight percent, China Power International Holding six percent and 800 local shareholders two percent.

Leong said that Nam Kwong had been in Macao for 60 years and was very supportive of the company, its history and culture. "They see customer service as the most important thing. All the shareholders share the same long-term objectives. We must have good cooperation with the shareholders, as with the customers." ■



第三十屆澳門國際貿易投資展覽會
20th FEIRA INTERNACIONAL DE MACAU
20th MACAO INTERNATIONAL TRADE & INVESTMENT FAIR
www.mif.com.mo
澳門威尼斯人·度假村·酒店
The Venetian Macao-Resort-Hotel

22 - 25/10/2015

促進合作 共創商機

COOPERAÇÃO - CHAVE PARA OPORTUNIDADES DE NEGÓCIOS
COOPERATION - KEY TO BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

主辦機構 / Organizador / Organiser

澳門貿易投資促進局
Instituto de Promoção do Comércio e do Investimento de Macau
Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute

(853) 2882 8711

網址
Website

微信
Wechat



2015/03/30

Eco-fair draws 9,600 visitors

The three-day 2015 Macao International Environmental Co-operation Forum & Exhibition (2015 MIECF) attracted 9,600 visitors this year, according to a statement by Macao Government Information Bureau (GCS). The exhibition, which was first held in 2008, was in its eighth year with 296 business-matching sessions arranged and 28 projects signed during the event. The annual event has seen a steady increase in the number of visitors over the years. The aim of the exhibition is to promote clean energy. The statement pointed out that this year's MIECF saw the first Asia Carbon Footprint seminar in Macao organised the International Emissions Trading Association (IETA).



2015/04/10

Macao's new biggest library set to open on trial

Taipa's first library will be opened to the general public on a trial basis, offering a collection of around 150,000 books for the city's library-goers. The new space was presented by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) whose representatives highlighted the library's spacious area (easily accessible to citizens) and considerate family-friendly facilities, as well as its significant collection of foreign-language books. Occupying a total area of 2,200 square meters, the library is situated at the basement level of one of Taipa's recently opened central parks. The library is considered by the IC to be the city's biggest public library in terms of facilities. The library will only become fully operational mid-year.



2015/04/14

Tap Seac and Hotel Estoril to turn into Macao's arts hub

Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Alexis Tam Chong Veng announced an ambitious plan to turn Praça do Tap Seac and its surrounding areas into an arts and culture hub. Tam said the government had tasked him with overseeing the reconstruction of Hotel Estoril, its adjacent municipal swimming pool and other nearby areas into a cultural and entertainment centre. Hotel Estoril was the first casino opened by STDM in 1962 and was closed in the late 1990s. Tam said the government planned to convert the hotel into an arts education centre, which would also house the Macao Conservatory to provide music, dance and theatre classes, giving local youths the opportunity to study culture and arts after school.



2015/04/23

Macao to host 1st FIA GT World Cup

The Macao Prix Committee (MGPC) announced that the 62nd Macao Grand Prix on November 19-22 will include the first FIA GT World Cup ever. Veteran MGPC chief Joao Manuel Costa Antunes announced the details of the event in a press conference. "This year, Macao's remarkable achievements receive recognition of the highest order, with the city awarded the first FIA GT World Cup. "That the newest World Cup created by the sport's global governing body [FIA – International Automobile Federation] is for GTs reflects the enormous popularity of this category of racing, and Macao's selection as host of the inaugural event illustrates the city's role in promoting its reputation."



2015/04/28

Macao visitors drop 3.6 percent in Q1

Macao recorded 7.4 million visitor arrivals in the first quarter, down 3.6 percent year-on-year, the Statistics and Census Bureau (DSEC) announced. Same day visitors accounted for 56.6 percent of the total number of visitor arrivals in the first three months. Mainlanders and Hongkongers accounted for 67.8 percent and 20.3 percent of all visitors respectively. The number of visitors from South Korea rose 10.8 percent to 168,644 between January and March.



2015/04/30

Government helps Macao Youth in Hengqin projects

The government will study how to use its interest-free loan business support programme to help young local people open their start-ups in an area known as Hengqin Entrepreneurship Valley for Macao Youth, Secretary for Economy and Finance Lionel Leong Vai Tac said. The policy secretary made the announcement after a meeting at the Macao World Trade Centre which was attended by representatives of the local government and senior officials from Zhuhai including the city's mayor Jiang Ling. The committee revealed the scheme last year, saying that it would provide a plot of land of about 120,000 square metres where young Macao entrepreneurs aged 18-45 years will be allowed to lease office space below the market rate. Jiang also said that he hoped Hengqin could become a platform for Macao to diversify its economy.



2015/05/05

Macao's gaming revenues sustain 11th straight monthly fall in April

Macao's gross gaming revenues slumped 38.8 percent year-on-year to 19.16 billion patacas (2.40 billion U. S. dollars) in April, the Gaming Inspection & Coordination Bureau said. It is the 11th consecutive monthly fall that the local gambling industry had suffered since high rollers steered clear of the casino hub. The total gaming revenues stand at 83.94 billion patacas (10.51 billion U.S. dollars) in the first four months this year, down by 37.1 percent from a year earlier, according to figures released by the bureau. Macao has seen a sharp drop in gaming revenues since last June, with its gross domestic product shrinking by 0.4 percent.



2015/05/07

Macao Airport records steady growth in April

The Macao International Airport recorded steady growth in passenger traffic volume and aircraft movements. Passenger volume surpassed 480,000 and aircraft movements totaled over 4,500, representing 6 pct and 6.5 pct increases respectively when compared to the same period last year. Among the three key regional market shares, the Taiwan market performed stably in April, while the South-East and North Asian market presented significant growth with a nearly 20-pct increase; the growth of these two regions offset the traffic decline in mainland China routes. As a result, the overall market performance remains satisfactory.



2015/05/07

Mio Pang Fei's exhibition opened at Venice Art Biennale

Macao's exhibition 'Path and Adventure – Works By Mio Pang Fei' at the 56th International Art Exhibition – Biennale di Venezia opened in Venice.

The exhibition is co-organised by the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau of Macao (IACM), Macao Museum of Art (MAM) and Cultural Affairs Bureau of Macao SAR (IC), featuring 18 representative artworks by Mio Pang Fei, a prestigious artist of Macao, presenting to a world audience a unique artistic landscape of Macao characteristics.

The featured 18 paintings and installations are exhibited in three sections, namely, The Special Era, Shui Hu Series, the Path of Neo-Orientalism, in a showcase of Mio Pang Fei's experimentalist paintings.



2015/05/08

Macao licensed vehicles allowed entry to Hengqin before August

Hengqin New Area Administrative Committee Director Niu Jing said he believed that a measure allowing locally registered vehicles without mainland registration plates to enter Hengqin could possibly be in place before August.

"The method should ensure that Macao vehicles can enter Hengqin freely...however, Hengqin has limited space and its road network is small, and the border-crossing is also an issue that needs to be considered. Thus both governments will continue working together to hammer out the best method," he said, adding that the Macao government had been consulted about the matter as well.



2015/05/08

Macao government gives financial aid to Nepal

The government announced that it would donate MOP 20 million to Nepal in order to provide aid to the victims of the devastating earthquake that struck the country on April 25.

The Chief Executive Chui Sai On held a meeting with the Nepalese consul to Hong Kong and Macao, Mahesh Prasad Dahal, at the government headquarters. According to a statement issued by the CE's Office, Chui Sai On conveyed "the local government's concern and support towards the post-quake relief efforts and expressed wishes that the donation process could be concluded as soon as possible, in order to support the victims and help rebuild the affected areas."



2015/05/11

Macao's development keeps 'positive trend'

Chief Executive Fernando Chui Sai On said in his first ever audio message, which was released on his official website that Macao's overall development maintains a "positive trend".

Chui said that the local unemployment rate remains low and that the government's financial situation is stable and solid.

"Many people have recently raised their concerns about the future of Macao's economy. Therefore, I am making use of this platform to share my thoughts with everyone. The gaming industry, one of the economic pillars of Macao, has entered a period of adjustment and consolidation," the chief executive said in the message.

The website containing the audio message is titled "Words of the chief executive – contemplating, expressing, sharing."

XXVI FESTIVAL DE ARTES DE MACAU 第二十六屆 澳門 藝術節 26th MACAO ARTS FESTIVAL

EXPOSIÇÃO ANUAL DE ARTES VISUAIS DE MACAU 2015 CATEGORIA DE PINTURA E CALIGRAFIA CHINESAS

2015 澳門視覺藝術年展 中國書畫類

MACAO ANNUAL VISUAL ARTS EXHIBITION 2015 CHINESE PAINTING AND CALLIGRAPHY CATEGORY

主辦 - ORGANIZADOR - ORGANISATEUR
澳門特別行政區政府文化局
INSTITUTO CULTURAL do Governo da R.A.E. de Macau
www.icm.gov.mo

9/5
2/8
10:00
20:00

澳門南灣大馬路
南海舊法院大樓
EDIFÍCIO DO TRIBUNAL
AVENIDA DA PRAIA GRANDE
OLD COURT BUILDING
AVENIDA DA PRAIA GRANDE

逢星期一休館
ENCERRA À SEGUNDA-FEIRA
CLOSED ON MONDAYS

免費入場
ENTRADA LIVRE
FREE ADMISSION

Easter

The religious festivities of Easter occur on the Se Cathedral of Macau where hundreds of people attend a mass celebrating the Passion of Christ and the procession of the Dead Lord.

During the procession, the statues of Our Lady and Jesus Christ leave the Se Cathedral towards Senado Square to then return to the Cathedral.

Photos by Macao Government Information Bureau













Lung Wah Teahouse

Where tradition lives on

By Mariana Sá in Macao

Photos by : António Sanmarful and Mércia Gonçalves



Located in Rua Norte do Mercado Almirante Lacerda, the Lung Wah Tea House can be found in a traditional three storey building tucked away in a corner next to Macao's Red Market. It is proud to have served its loyal customers and visitors from all corners of the world for the past 53 years every day of the week from 7am until 2pm. As customers climb the old concrete staircase

to this famous teahouse in Macao, Ho Meng Tak stands behind the counter smiling, ready to greet each and every one as they reach the top. "Good morning! Please make yourself at home, have some tea and dim sum." Ho stepped into his father's shoes in 1976 when he took over the management of the teahouse. The boss doubles as a waiter and seems to remember each

customer and their names by heart. Traditional teahouses like Lung Wah are a focus of social life, a place where business could be conducted, where families and friends could chat and relax as early on as in the Song Dynasty (A.D. 960-1279.). Cantonese style teahouses not only serve tea, but also dim sum and it is a long accustomed tradition

to gather with families on weekend mornings to chat and eat dim sum over Chinese tea. A teahouse is similar to the American style "cafe", albeit it serves tea rather than coffee. With rising property costs, tough restaurant competition and Macao's focus on the gambling industry, many teahouses have been replaced by new, trendy western-style restaurants.

Lung Wah is one of the last remaining Cantonese style teahouses in Macao, surviving because of the owners' dedication, its loyal customers, online customer reviews and support from Macao's tourism office.

The teahouse is spacious and simply decorated; there is no crystal chandelier on the ceiling unlike many restaurants in Macao these days. The air crackles with nostalgia as wobbly electric fans rattle slowly and precariously overhead. The balcony windows look out onto a concrete jungle of high-rises and heavy traffic, but that all somehow feels a world away. The mosaic floor tiles imported from Italy, the wooden four-seat booths aligned along the balcony and the big jars of tea sitting in the centre of the teahouse have all experienced the passage of time but have managed to hold their own.

The very beginning

Ho Fong and Cheung Wai Ha, the founders of the Lung Wah Tea house, left mainland China during the revolution in 1949 and after a stopover in Hong Kong, they arrived in Macao in the 1950s. It was in 1962

that they established the teahouse after noticing an absence of teahouses in the area where labourers working on boats in the harbour passed everyday. In its heyday, the teahouse employed more than 50 staff to serve its many customers. "Back then, there would be eleven or twelve customers around one small table, some sitting on chairs, some standing and some crouching," explains Ho.

"Even as a child, I used to help my parents around the tea house. The most special memory I hold of this place was during the Cultural Revolution. There were thousands of people protesting on this street and I was still playing marbles with my siblings on the floor." Ho has four siblings, all of whom currently live in the United States - he was the only one willing to stay behind to look after the teahouse when his father and mother retired at 91 and 87 years old respectively.

In the late 1970s, the teahouse became a rendezvous for bird-keepers. A group of customers arrived one day at the teahouse with their caged pet birds and asked Ho whether they could come in. Ho agreed because the teahouse had become quieter. This ended in 2005 during the bird flu outbreak.



Peng is a retired mechanic and customer who has been visiting the teahouse and eating the same dishes every day for the past seven years; he reminisces that he used to come here with his father around twenty years ago, when there were birds everywhere. He came almost every day to watch the birds chirping in their cages.

Today, Peng along with other customers sit on the same furniture they sat on twenty years ago – and it's not just the wooden chairs that have stood the test of time, the same teapots have served thousands of customers over the past 50 years and tea cups from the Song dynasty sit proudly in this living museum of bygone days in Macao.

An arts incubator

After being featured in a famous Hong Kong author's columns, the teahouse has been revived by artists – photographers, painters, actors and writers, who turned the teahouse into an art incubator, a gallery and even a drama house.

In May of 2014, the Lung Wah teahouse opened

its doors to a highly regarded performance, Sound of Naamyam, in its continuing revival of narrative Cantonese singing tradition. Seeing how successful the performance was, the group returned to the teahouse in March of 2015.

Pointing towards four small paintings on the walls, Ho says: "People have previously asked me how much these vintage paintings are, I quoted them Pataca 300 million per painting."

There are all kinds of art pieces along the teahouse's cluttered and busy walls. There is a replica painting by Monet brought to the teahouse by a friend of Ho's from Paris. The painting behind the counter was made and brought to Macao by an artist from mainland China after noting how popular the teahouse was and wanting his work to be shown and there are numerous close up photographs of dragonflies shot by a local photographer who comes to the teahouse on a weekly basis. "When people offer things to us, we usually put them up." Of course, there are also many photos of Ho with celebrities, such as international super star Chow Yun Fat and renowned gastronmist Leung Man To.



Ho Meng Tak



Commitment to tradition

"The important thing in a tea house is tea. Our specialty is Yunnan Pu'er tea, which we have been personally sourcing since the teahouse opened. I like seeing families come here to have tea and dim sum. It brings me happiness to see my customers happy. I cannot predict the future, but I hope we can keep the tradition alive and keep serving our loyal customers and friends" Ho explains.

Ho and his family live above the teahouse, so it is a part of his life and his very being. Other than he, six people work to serve the teahouse's customers everyday. Pointing towards an elderly white haired gentleman, he says, "Yam Biu is our oldest staff member and has worked here for 30 odd years. He and my father used to be friends and worked alongside each other." "Most of our old customers have passed away, but he is still going strong," he jokes. There is no hierarchy here and the same seven people do everything in the teahouse, from cooking to cleaning, "I don't want to hire many people, I don't think it's suitable for our environment."

Traditional dim sum

Lung Wah serves traditional Cantonese self-service dim sum such as shrimp dumplings, chicken feet,

steamed pork ribs, steamed barbecued pork buns and shaomai. Don't ask for the bill at the end of the meal. Simply approach the cash counter where Ho will tell you exactly how much you owe after tallying it up on an abacus - the same abacus that has been used since the teahouse first opened more than 50 years ago.

Sitting in the wooden booth under a painting of Mao Zedong, Freedom Kwok and Rowena Yeung came to sample the teahouse's dim sum from Hong Kong. They explain that their colleague told them about this teahouse being one of a kind. According to their colleague "the owner has character, he wants to fulfill and continue the tradition of old style Cantonese teahouses. He is not running this teahouse for the money, he likes to do it."

"Our colleague even told us the teahouse's must-try dish: chicken with spring onion, which we agree was very good. Teahouses like these are very rare nowadays, even in Hong Kong. I don't think that anything here should be changed. If new things such as furniture are added - the old charm will fade."

Macao has attracted an ever-increasing number of tourists over the past few years with its booming gaming industry, but some of these tourists come in search of an older Macao, to be nostalgic and reminisce. For them, there is no better place to visit than the Lung Wah teahouse. ■

Ho Meng Tak and loyal customer Peng



Karate Fever

Coming of Age of a game
popular with youngsters

By Louise do Rosário in Macao

Photos: António Sanmarful



For 12-year-old Tam Cheok Weng, karate is the passion of her life. Almost every day after school, the short-haired young girl spends hours practising the game.

When asked what drives her to do so, softly spoken Tam puts it mildly: "It's fun."

Tam's father, who was accompanying her for a Sunday local competition when we caught up with her, said it all started in 2011, when young Tam came third in a karate competition. Since then, karate has been like "an addiction" to her, he said.

Cheng I, 12, another participant at the contest, is also a big karate fan. The slim, hard-working girl started learning karate at ten and quickly won four awards in open competitions. Like Tam, she has a gruelling weekly schedule, with three evenings after school spent on karate. Has such intensive training affected her academic studies? "No," said her mother who was at the stadium with Cheng, supplying her with food and drink. "She has become a bit more tomboyish, though."

Young people like Tam and Cheng have caught the karate fever, thanks largely to the outstanding strides Macao has made in the sport. Karate, originating from Japan, is an intense sport that involves

punching, kicking, grappling, throwing and other striking techniques to subdue an opponent to the ground within a short period of time.

For a decade now, Macao's karate athletes have won medals at many international competitions. At the 2013 East Asian Games in Tianjin, Macao won one gold, one silver and five bronze medals in karate. At the 2014 Asian Games in Incheon, Macao won two bronze medals.

Along with wushu and taekwondo, karate has become one of the sports that usually assures Macao a position on the medallists' platform in international competitions. Its karate stars, Cheung Pui Si, Kuok Kin Hang and Paula Cristina Pereira Carion are among the best-known athletes in Macao.

Like other sports in Macao, karate started as a hobby promoted by local associations offering different styles of karate, such as Gojuryu and Shotokan. In 1994, the Macau Karate-do Federation was formed, to better boost the sport and to prepare athletes for competitions overseas.

In the 2000s, karate came of age in Macao, thanks partly to the government's strong support in providing funding and other resources. Reza Rashidnia, Macao's chief coach since 2002, has

witnessed the key moments.

In August 2002, Iran-born Rashidnia was invited to train Macao's karate athletes for the Asian Games in Busan, South Korea. Macao sent a 200-member delegation to Pusan and won four medals, of which one silver and two bronze medals were from karate. "The karate federation asked me to stay on, to train the athletes for the next East Asian Games," he said.

Iranian coach sees potential in local athletes

One game led to another, extending his initial three-month employment to over thirteen years to date. "I could not have imagined myself staying here for so long. The culture was so different from home, but I found myself missing the students when I left Macao for a while," said the former coach of Iran's national karate team.

Rashidnia, 57, has had rich experience in coaching overseas, in places such as the Middle East and Belarus. "When I came to Macao, I saw a team with great potential. They were hardworking, confident athletes and they were full of good energy." His athletes did not fail him. At the 2005 East Asian

Games, Macao, the host member, won two gold, three silver and three bronzes in karate.

Carion, then 23 and one of the two gold medallists at the games, was ecstatic. "It was not easy. I was working full time while athletes from other countries had full-time training. I practiced for 16-18 hours a week and I was determined to win. I was telling myself that I have to make a strong impression on the referees.

"It was my first gold medal at such an important international event," said the flamboyant athlete who has been doing karate since she was nine. "It was more about mental strength. There was a lot of stress; I tried to brush it off. The physical fight itself was seven, if we use a scale of one to ten to rate its difficulty. "

Karate stars shine in international events

A year later, Carion faced a bigger challenge - the Asian Games in Doha. "It was a much bigger competition. The East Asian one had nine participating countries and regions, and in my particular category, there were only three athletes. The Asian Games had 43 participating members, with 13 athletes in my

Tam Cheok Weng and father



Cheng I and mother



Paula Carion and Reza Rashidnia





Kuok Kin Hang

category. I was under a lot of mental stress. When we were in a shuttle bus on our way to the stadium, someone told me that my opponent was a strong gold medallist at the South East Asian Games, from the Philippines. My confidence immediately took a heavy beating. My coach noted my shaken state and said, 'your opponent may be strong, but so are you. Why are you afraid of her?' Those words saved me." Carion won a bronze medal; so did her fellow athlete, Cheung Pui Si.

In the next Asian Games in 2010, Carion again won a bronze medal, thanks again to her signature aggressive style.

At the 2013 East Asian Games in Tianjin, Macao's karate team did well once more, with one gold, one silver and five bronze medals. Kuok Kin Hang, the gold medallist, said, "When I was declared the winner, I was really very emotional. After all, my opponent was from Japan, where karate was founded." Kuok already was ranked fifth in a world championship game in 2011 and earned another bronze medal at the Asian Championship held in 2012.

Months before the Tianjin competition, Kuok was

sent to Malaysia alone for training. The coach was strict and the pressure was building up. When a tired Kuok returned to the hotel at night by himself, he thought of quitting. "Thanks to support from my family and friends, I stuck it out till the end," he said.

Cheung, the veteran karate queen who rested for one and a half years to heal her injured knees, made a strong comeback at the 2013 Games where she won a silver medal. "During my recovery period, I realised how much I missed the Games. I felt I could still do well," she said.

Raza recalled one unforgettable incident at the 2005 East Asian Games. "One of our athletes, the other gold medallist during that Games, Cheong Chi Un, weighing 75 kilogrammes was competing against a Taiwan athlete, who weighed nearly 90 kilogrammes. He hit our athlete on the chest and knocked him over. The doctor and I immediately rushed over and I asked 'Are you okay?'. After a few seconds, he opened his eyes and I was relieved. I believe that at that crucial instant there was an exchange of good energy between me and my athlete which allowed him to recover quickly."

At the 2014 Asian Games in Incheon, South Korea, Carion again won a bronze medal. It was to be her last Asian Games; from now on, she wants to spend more time on learning how to be a coach.

A physical and mental sport

Rashidnia said a karate coach needs to keep an eye on many details. "I have to keep myself up to date about the sport and to strive for constant self-improvement. I also learn from other sports, like football and martial arts, and incorporate anything relevant to my coaching. Sometimes in the middle of the night, if I am inspired, I grab a pen to put down immediately new useful ideas.

"Karate is not only about physical strength; mental capacity counts as well, just like chess playing. Different students have different kinds of energy; some have a quiet demeanour; others have aggressive explosive power."

Rashidnia enjoys teaching in Macao because "the federation here gives me a free hand and is less restrictive than the karate association at home in Iran. All my students are like my own children. Most of the coaches in Iran are also my friends".



One disadvantage Rashidnia faces in his work is that almost all his students are part-time athletes. They are either full-time students or full-time employees, who can only practice after school or work.

Full-time athletes

In 2014, the government introduced for the first time the system for professional athletes, providing top karate players with a substantial subsidy enough to pursue the sport full-time. Lou Wai Kit, 24, is one of the four athletes who have taken up this option. As a professional, the number of training hours increases from 16-18 hours to 25 a week. "My whole heart is now into karate. The feeling is different from being a part-time athlete; pressure and responsibility weigh heavier."

Lou started karate at 13 years old, with four hours of training each week. At 15, he was picked to join the city's team for overseas competitions.

One of his most memorable moments was beating his 90-kilogramme opponent from Tianjin, when Lou

himself weighed 84 kilogrammes.

At the East Asian Games in 2013, he won a bronze medal. "Karate is a game that requires great discipline. It's tough. My original karate team had 40 players but I'm the only one still in the sport.

"Karate is a highly unpredictable game; you don't know if you are winning against your opponent or not, until the last moment. The coach might teach the techniques but it's up to you to think through them."

Lou injured his left knee on the eve of the Asian Games last September and is now recovering from an operation. "Rehabilitation is not easy. I cannot eat too much as I exercise less now with the recovery. Still, I have to keep up with exercises of the upper body."

Karate athletes go overseas for training about eight to ten times a year; with his injury, Lou expects to participate in only three trips. Still, he is getting support from his family and friends. Lou has his sights set on the Asian Games of 2018. "I'll be 28 years old then so it will probably be my last Asian Games before retiring."



New karate school for the young

To groom more young athletes, the Macau Sports Development Board and the Macau Karate-do Association have jointly set up a school to formally train young athletes,

The school is to recruit, in its own words, "to provide systematic training to youth athletes born between 1998 and 2007". Started in late February, the school provides classes every Saturday and Sunday, between 4.00 pm and 5.30 pm. Each student is charged a nominal MOP\$ 100 for the whole term lasting until late December this year.

Ng lat On, a coach at the school, said it has recruited 50 students to date, with an average age of ten. "We are competing with schools of wushu, football, tennis and ping pong for students." More intensive recruitment will take place during the June to August summer holidays.

Ng Yat On

Interest in karate has definitely increased among the young in recent years, notes Ng. In a karate competition for the young in April this year, the response was overwhelming, with over 200 participants. With so many young athletes, the federation is segmenting competitions into different age groups, with an upcoming one to be held in late May for children aged between 8 and 12.

"Parents like their children to learn karate because it's training of the mind. They also see how modern karate is not violent; players wear mitts and helmets for protection," he said.

Ho Sok Ha, another coach, added: "I've seen how local athletes have improved over the years. Children now start training at six or seven years old; I began later, at 19. Karate helps children to be better, changing the naughty ones to behave and respect their parents."

Ho Sok Ha



Torchbearers strive to preserve temple tradition

By Louise do Rosário

Photos: Eric Tam

Statue of Na Tcha





Dedicated group organises festivals to promote cultural heritage

Macao is a treasure house of both Western and Eastern religious architecture. For a long time, churches such as the Ruins of St Paul's have been popular with tourists. Now, traditional Chinese temples, after years of inactivity, are back in the spotlight, as tourist attractions and as important elements of cultural heritage.

Macao has about 40 Chinese temples, over half of which were built in the Qing dynasty a few centuries ago. The temples honour different gods, each with their own mythical narrative, drawn from the three great Chinese religious traditions – Buddhism, Taoism and folklore. Widely known deities are worshipped at the temples, like the

Goddess of Mercy and Buddha, as well as gods of the natural elements, such as water and land. Together, these temples form a diverse tapestry of customs and beliefs practised for centuries by inhabitants of this former fishing village until recent years.

A-Ma temple, whose history is as old as Macao itself as a colonial outpost, has always been popular with believers and tourists. The other temples, despite their amazing history, architecture and artistic relics, have received scant attention in recent decades from visitors, overshadowed by bright casinos and new attractions.

Reviving old traditions

A group of dedicated local temple administrators has been working hard to revive festivals, rituals and other temple-related practices which disappeared for decades. These believers, all businessmen working for free, have restored dilapidated temples and organised parades and fairs to remind the public of the rich culture these old shrines embody.

The group has made notable success, especially with the Na Tcha temples. Na Tcha, a child god popular in southern China, is a symbol of filial piety and loyalty, with special compassion for children. In ancient times, whenever there was an epidemic, people prayed for the help of this young, mythical "prince".

In 2005, the Na Tcha Temple, together with 21 other

local monuments located in a designated heritage zone in Macao's city centre, was given a UNESCO World Heritage Award. The 127-year-old small Taoist temple is located just a stone's throw from the majestic Ruins of St Paul, a strong statement of Macao's East-West religious harmony.

Ip Tat, the 67-year-old administrator of the temple, said, "I am overwhelmed by this honour. It made me realise that the significance of a temple is not measured by its size or age, but its inherent cultural value. The award brought additional responsibilities to us to preserve our cultural treasure well." Ip runs a transport and engineering business, but devotes much time to promoting his faith.

The Na Tcha Customs, which include all the worship activities and artifacts of the deity, were classified as an intangible cultural asset first in Macao in 2012, then as a national asset, in 2014. "The Na Tcha faith has been practised in Macao for over 300 years. In mainland China, Taiwan and southeast Asia, there are several hundred Na Tcha temples, making the god a great unifier of Chinese people from different areas," Ip said.

Other temples have also made a strong comeback, thanks to the annual Temple Culture Festival first launched in 2009. The two-day event of parades, festivals, exhibitions and large-scale outdoor banquets has attracted tens of thousands of temple visitors.

Happy childhood with temple festivals

Fong Kin Fu, the 56-year-old director of the festival, said: "We want to educate the public about the history of different temples. Each has a unique story of its own and reflects China's long cultural history. We are not asking people to be superstitious, but to be aware of the rich heritage we've inherited." Fong, who runs a food business, is also the administrator of the Na Cha Ancient Temple, which is hundreds of years older than the more famous award-winning one and is located on Travessa de Sancho Panca.

The older generation like Fong and Ip were brought up in the strong tradition of Chinese temples. Fong remembers going to temples with his parents. Feasts and other celebrations were great fun for the young boy, in an age with few entertainments.

Ip, too, spoke with great fondness of the old days.



Fong Kin Fu

"I went both to churches and temples, but it was in the latter I found my faith. I read cartoon books of Na Tcha and was heavily influenced by the character. I learnt from him to be grateful for what I had, even though I came from a modest family."

The annual two-day Na Tcha festival held in the fifth lunar month (around June) was especially exciting for young Ip and Fong. "Strong men carried the heavy Na Tcha statue while the dancing lion 'plucked the green' (jumped to snatch a red packet attached to a piece of green vegetable). I took part in the parade, the sprinkling of sacred water and other rituals. It was a two-day event held outdoors, bringing a good time to everyone and promoting social harmony," said Ip.

All these festivities came to a halt during the radical days of China's Cultural Revolution in 1966-1976. Traditional temples, criticised as superstitious and feudalistic, were destroyed or closed down in mainland China. Macao's ones were not damaged, but still were shut down for years.

In the early 1990s, temples gradually and quietly opened their doors, to distribute food and red packets during festival time.

Passing the torch

In 1993, Ip was asked to take over the Na Tcha Temple from the older generation. "One evening at the temple, thirty to forty elders sat together and asked if I wished to take over the administration. They wanted me to preserve and promote the Na Tcha faith. I felt it was a big responsibility as everything was then in a shambles," he said.

Once the torch was passed on to Ip, he registered the temple officially as an entity, to meet the needs of today. Next, he did repair works to the temple's decayed roof and walls.

In 2001, he and other religious leaders formed the Taoist Association of Macao, to provide a forum for all Taoist temples, as "the Taoism faith was disorganised and without any leadership then," said Ip.

Then came Macao's UNESCO application to establish 22 monuments, the Na Tcha Temple included, as part of a World Heritage site. Ip recalled the many hours he spent explaining to a Japanese representative of UNESCO about his temple. One question posed to Ip was, "What would be your dream, to win the

lottery or to spread the culture of Na Tcha?" It was an easy choice for Ip.

The UNESCO award pushed Ip and other temple administrators to do more to what is now recognised internationally as cultural treasure.

In June 2011, Ip's Taoist Association organised a cross-straits event to celebrate the Na Tcha faith, with over 600 participants from China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao. One ceremony, called "snatching a floral gun", was performed – a ritual not seen for fifty years, according to Ip.

To better promote their faith, Ip and his colleagues spent years setting up a permanent exhibition of Na Tcha near the temple. In July 2012, the one-storey, 70 square-metre exhibition hall was opened, one month after the Na Tcha Customs were officially listed as a non-tangible asset of Macao. Inside are relics such as the furnace for burning joss sticks, the red bucket for storing "sacred water" and wood blocks used to print prayer scripts. Some believers donated to the hall little statues of Na Tcha, a few over one hundred years old.



New platform to promote heritage

While the preservation of the Na Tcha temples was going strong, other temples in Macao were declining, because of the lack of funds and proper management. Ip and Fong decided to reach out to all the temples, via an organisation formed in 2009, the Macau Temple Civilisation. "There was little communication among temples. We said we'd start with ourselves; we wanted a platform to promote common causes," said Fong. The response was tepid initially, with only the two Na Tcha and another temple joining. Still, they proceeded with the planned temple festival, even though they had to lose money in the first year.

In the second year, the Macau Government Tourist Office provided some subsidies, which were used to print fliers, set up a website and other activities. Slowly, other temples joined. "To interested participants, we stressed the benefits they would enjoy in joining us. Ours is a platform to lobby for more support from the government and to promote

Ip Tat





Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Alexis Tam (centre) talking with festival organizers

cooperation among temples. We do not interfere in the administration of individual temples," said Fong.

This year, the organisation has 14 temples and two religious associations at the annual festival.

Fong said the festival, with parades, performances and other rituals, helps temples to generate revenue from visitors. It also helps to rejuvenate declining neighbourhoods where many temples are located. "People from all sectors approve of our work and enjoy the performances," said Fong.

Tours of temples

Since 2013, the organisation has also been organising tours of temples, with the support of the tourism office. The first year attracted 30,000 visitors to the 19 temples participating in four specially designed tours. In 2014, 23 temples took part and there were nine routes offered. There were 50,000 visitors, many of whom received gifts for collecting enough "chops"

stamped on the "temple passport" freely distributed to them.

The tours were particularly popular with students and teachers who used the brochures and fliers as textbooks in classes.

The Macau Temple Civilisation also organises study tours overseas, through which members can learn how temples are run in other Chinese societies. Ip was inspired by what he saw in Malaysia. "The temples there used 80 percent of the funds they received to build schools, charities and carry out other non-commercial activities," he said.

When compared with temples elsewhere, according to Fong, some temples in Macao need to reform. "The management of some temples is stuck in the past. For example, there is the need to introduce a modern storage system for the many inflammable items lying around in temples. Fire prevention is far from satisfactory." In this area and others, Fong said his organisation can help temples to learn from each other. ■



▲ Temple Civilization Promotion organizers





An irresistible offer

By Filipa Queiróz in Macao

Antonio Sanmarful and Luís Vasconcelos /
Courtesy Unidade Infinita Projectos



Portuguese contemporary artist invited to install giant artwork in Macao

The Chinese debut of Portugal's most successful contemporary artist took place recently when businesswoman Pansy Ho challenged Joana Vasconcelos to install her largest ever work of art in Macao.

She adorned the 17th century Palace of Versailles in France with plastic pots and cutlery and the mythical Arsenal of Venice in Italy with tampons. But it was in Macao that contemporary artist Joana Vasconcelos exceeded herself with Valkyrie Octopus, which she has left anchored to the Grand Plaza of the MGM. "It had never occurred to me to do something for such a large or special space as a casino, it was a

very unusual proposition," the artist told Macao magazine.

As she walked on the Portuguese cobbles in the lobby of the hotel-casino-resort decorated with replicas of facades of Lisbon's most important buildings, Vasconcelos talked about her biggest work of art to date.

She said she was surprised when Pansy Ho, daughter of Stanley Ho and Macao casino and hotel entrepreneur, visited her studio in the Portuguese capital last year and invited her to design a large piece of art for MGM Grand Plaza. "If you get the opportunity and the privilege, you should visit the

studio of this brilliant woman," said the co-president of the MGM company at the inauguration on 15 March a year later.

Pansy Ho asked Vasconcelos for a piece of art that would fit in with the space, whilst interacting with the giant aquarium that was being installed in the meantime.

The artist settled on a Valkyrie. For years, Vasconcelos has created art inspired by Norse mythology representing war goddesses who, according to legend, flew over the battlefields and gave life to the brave men who died in combat.

"She brought them back to life and that is a concept that interests me. What these pieces do is bring new life to these spaces," she explained.

According to the artist, she was given complete freedom. It was unlike her experience a few years earlier in Paris, when her sculpture entitled *The Bride (A Noiva)*, a chandelier made of tampons, was not allowed to be exhibited in Marie Antoinette's bedroom in the Palace of Versailles.

"Here I had total freedom. The only thing they asked was that I take into account aspects of Chinese culture, so we talked with a feng shui master who advised us on the colours. The chosen colour palette was light colours and pastels that relate to the aquarium, along with gold and silver. They are colours that I don't normally use but here they made perfect sense because of the lack of light," the artist said.

At night, the luminous quality is enhanced with dozens of LED lamps transforming the sculpture by "combining the manual with the technological side, which gives the piece a second life in the dark". Just like on the seabed.

Getting to work

About 50 people were involved in assembling the Valkyrie Octopus in the MGM Grand Plaza over ten days. It was a job that had to be done at night, because many people walk through the area by day to reach the casino and different areas of the building.

The piece was entirely hand-made in Vasconcelos' studio in Portugal, using "Nisa" crochet techniques, knitting and other techniques. The work took about ten months; in the final four months, the team was dedicated exclusively to the project.

The Valkyrie with eight legs - a lucky number in China - is 35 metres long, 20 metres high and weighs 1,200 kilos. It is made from 4,000 metres of cloth of various colours, patterns and textures, decorated with thousands of beads and LED lights powered by 3,100 metres of electric cables.

It is the largest work designed by the artist to date. In addition to the central structure, Valkyrie Octopus has three Tetris tiles that represent three Lisbon neighbourhoods - Chiado, Madragoa and Alfama. Vasconcelos designed the patterns, which are related to the facades in the Grand Plaza. The Viúva Lamego ceramics factory, which has worked with artists since the 1930s, made the hand-painted pieces.

"The idea was to anchor the work to the space. At the same time, these are elements of urban architecture where people can sit and interact."

Memories of Macao

"My grandmother lived and was happy here in Macao in the 1950s. I have an uncle who was born here and so Macao is part of my imagination," says Vasconcelos.

Her grandfather was a military man and the artist recalls her grandmother telling stories of the "beautiful life" she had for a few years in the territory. Her grandfather loved the casinos, could cook Chinese food and even gave his future wife a Buddha, purchased in China, as a wedding gift.

Joana grew up, just as her own three-year-old

daughter is now, between museums and airports. She was born in Paris during her parents' exile from the Portuguese regimes and was three years old when they moved back to Portugal in 1975. She spent the rest of her childhood in Linda-a-Velha, a suburb of Lisbon.

Joana Vasconcelos' father was a photographer, owned a print works and edited magazines and newspapers. Nowadays he accompanies his daughter, is her official photographer and was by her side for this interview. Her mother made drawings and historical restorations at the Ricardo Espírito Santo Foundation. Joana has a sister who designs and makes jewellery; she had another grandmother who was a painter and a grandfather who worked in antique shops.

It's easy to see how Joana's interest in art happened

naturally and was encouraged by the family. She took her first steps in artistic creation at the António Arroio technical and vocational school in electrical engineering, antique embroidery and numismatics. There she met her husband and now business partner - architect Duarte Ramirez.

She then studied for seven years at Ar.Co. - Centre for Arts and Visual Communication, in Lisbon, where, as she repeatedly says in interviews, she studied to become an artist. To make a living, she gave out gifts on skates in a hypermarket and worked in public relations for a night club in the Portuguese capital.

The very first art that Vasconcelos was involved in was a martial art. She used to do karate and even took part in competitions. She left the sport because of a knee injury but has kept its teachings in mind - concentration, dedication, tolerance, courage,

strength and team spirit.

Vasconcelos began working on projects for opera and in 2004 took part in her first group exhibitions. In 2000, she won the EDP Award for new artists. These days she is no longer just Joana Vasconcelos. She is a Foundation, a brand, a factory filled with staff of Portuguese, French, Cape Verdean and other nationalities.

"I always bring several things with me; I bring some artifacts from Portugal, items made in Nisa, in the Azores, Portuguese fabrics, things we do well in Portugal. We are known for textiles and our ability to manufacture things. My team is multicultural despite actually having a strong Portuguese side, particularly the work done with the artisans of Nisa which is clearly visible in this piece (Valkyrie Octopus) in various parts."

A certain "je ne sais quoi"

Vasconcelos' creative process is multi-faceted. One of its features is to carry things over from the private to the public sphere. The artist takes lace, pots, embroidery and tampons out of the domestic world.

In 2002, she created a Burka with seven skirts underneath, in an allusion to the traditional dress of women in the Portuguese fishing town of Nazaré. In 2006, she won the Berardo Foundation Sculpture Prize with Néctar, a candlestick made from bottles of sake exhibited in Japan.

The artist has also developed a creative process of appropriation, de-contextualisation and subversion of objects and everyday realities that she uses to depict a latent Portuguese feminine identity. In 2006, she coated urinals with crochet as a tribute to one of her major inspirations, the forerunner of the Dada movement and conceptual art, Marcel Duchamp.

Since the mid-1990s Vasconcelos has created sculptures and installations that reveal both a sense of scale and mastery of colour, as a critical view of contemporary society using aesthetic currents such as pop and nouveau réalisme.

There are those who accuse her of being kitsch. Her best-known works include Marilyn, a pair of high-heeled shoes made with stainless-steel pans, and Independent Heart (Coração Independente), a traditional heart from the Portuguese town of

Joana Vasconcelos





Marilyn (AP) (2011) Collection of the artist

Viana do Castelo, usually made into jewellery, made from plastic cutlery. The artist receives her criticism with grace.

She says that "kitsch" assumes that an object is not useful or is distasteful – but crochet, for example, was once used to protect furniture in Portuguese homes and was the "only form of expression for many women who could not do anything else" in a predominantly macho society.

"As I usually say, artwork can only go where the world allows it and I just go where my work takes me. And my work has brought me to Macao and has led me to many distant places in the world. That means that other cultures accept my work and internationally many people appreciate what I do. I think what I do deserves to be shown in places as extraordinary as this," she said.

Artistic rover

Vasconcelos, a woman of superlatives, became internationally known after taking part in the 51st

International Art Exhibition - Venice Biennale in 2005, where she returned eight years later with another project that stood out: Trafaria Beach (Trafaria Praia), a boat decorated with tiles, cork and textiles.

In 2012 she was the third artist - after Jeff Koons and Takashi Murakami - to breathe "new life" into the Palace of Versailles. About 1.6 million people visited the exhibition, a record for the last 50 years in France. Another exhibition at Ajuda Palace (Palácio da Ajuda), viewed by 232,000 people, was the most visited ever in Portugal.

In collective exhibitions from Manchester to Tel Aviv, Palma de Mallorca, Sao Paulo, Moscow, Istanbul or Stockholm, there are works by Vasconcelos in public and private collections around the globe. The nearest to Macao was, until recently, at Amorepacific in Seoul.

Now, as well as Valkyrie Octopus, which is on display until the end of October at the MGM, the artist will also have "a show in Beijing with Dior". Her work, made from hundreds of perfume bottles at the invitation of the fashion house, has already

been shown in Paris and Shanghai. In addition, she mentioned exhibiting in Hong Kong at the Pearl Lam gallery, as well as other projects in Macao.

"Let's say this is the first step on a long journey," said the Portuguese artist. "All the baggage I bring along with me is important and Macao will obviously influence my future and upcoming work. At heart, I'm an artistic rover who fills her bag with a variety of cultural experiences and, if I carry on like this, I'll carry on experiencing new cultures and enriching my future."

The Joana Vasconcelos Foundation was set up two years ago to preserve her work and create scholarships for arts students. It has set up several protocols in Macao because the artist wants to "continue to establish this relationship with Lisbon and Macao, to make it strong and lasting".

In Portugal, the foundation seeks to help at a time that "is not easy for culture". "We've created a kind of air pocket in a very troubled ocean," said the artist, who believes that the lack of state support for culture

is "very serious", as is the fact that there is no minister of culture or an established cultural policy.

Concerned about the future of many people, especially the younger generation, Vasconcelos believes the drain of talent is a matter of survival. "I hope this is a temporary situation. I think the country is making an effort to get out of it and I have become part of that effort myself. So I do what I can within my means."

The artist will continue her tour of the world, which started at Art Stage Singapore 2015 in the city-state with her piece Tetris 17th Century. In Brazil, she took part in an exhibition at Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil in Sao Paulo, in celebration of 100 years of the creation of the first "ready made" by Marcel Duchamp. She is now preparing to participate in the celebrations of 450 years since the founding of Rio de Janeiro with her project Pop Galo. A seven-foot Barcelos cockerel covered with tiles and LED lights will be installed on a beach on 10 June, the Day of Portugal, Camões and the Portuguese Communities. ■

Lilicoptère (2012) Courtesy Haunch of Venison/Christie's, London

Work produced in collaboration with Fundação Ricardo do Espírito Santo Silva, Lisbon



In the Name of Great Grandpa

By Mark O'Neill in Macao

Photos: António Sanmarful
and Courtesy of Mr. Pathorn Sequeira



Pathorn Sequeira

Thai musician finds Macao ancestry

In the middle of March, a famous Thai musician came to Macao in search of his ancestors. In the vault of Sao Lourenco's church, he found the document he was looking for – the baptismal record of his great-grandfather.

This was the proof that Pathorn Srikanonda Sequeira belongs to a family that lived here for six generations.

The certificate belonged to Lourenço Justiniano Sequeira, a merchant who was born in 1874. At the age of 16, he moved with his father and two of his siblings to begin a new life in Bangkok. Other members of his family remained in Macao and their descendants are here to this day.

Great-grandfather was passionate about music – a tradition that has continued in the family in Thailand for more than a century. Pathorn is a professional musician who performs all over the world and is,

like his father, the member of a jazz band that plays with King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

"When I grew up, my father said that we were Portuguese. We were proud of it," he said in an interview during his visit to Macao. "I deeply feel like a man stuck between two worlds. When I think about it, I belong to the world. Eventually, I would like to move to Portugal."

With this baptismal record, which has been certified by the Portuguese consul in Macao, Pathorn's father should be able to obtain Portuguese citizenship and then Pathorn will be able to himself.

On 14 March, Pathorn spoke at a seminar in Macao on Macanese families with Portuguese historian and genealogist Jorge Forjaz. "Over many centuries, foreigners had settled in Macao and later followed different paths, departing for various countries," said Forjaz. He is preparing a new edition of Macanese Families, a book of 3,300 pages in three volumes.



Lourenço Sequeira with the Sociedade Philharmonica de Bangkok (first row, second from left) (1895)

Six generations in Macao

Great-grandfather Lourenço Justiniano Sequeira was born in 1874 into a middle class family that had lived in Macao for six generations. He was one of 12 children.

His father was a merchant who made his living out of trade with Japan, Siam and the Philippines; he owned a ship.

In 1889, the young man moved with his father and two of his brothers to Hong Kong; his mother died there. The following year he, two siblings and their father moved to Bangkok, where they lived initially in the house of the Portuguese consul.

In 1890, his father, a keen guitarist, set up the 'Philharmonic Society of Bangkok' and invited members of the nobility to play with him. The upper class of Siamese society was interested in Western music and patronised the band. It was the reign of Rama V, one of the greatest kings of Thailand; the king, who reigned from 1873 to 1910, succeeded in saving his country from being colonised. He devoted himself to modernisation and wide-ranging social and government reforms.

He visited British colonies in Asia and twice went to Europe, where he developed an interest in Western music. He and those close to him listened to the

band; it played light classical music, such as Strauss and marches.

Pathorn's great-grandfather remained very Portuguese – he spoke the language and did not learn Thai. All his letters and personal records were in Portuguese and he married a Portuguese lady, Antonia Josefa Favacho, also from Macao. He made his living as an auctioneer of furniture and art works.

Pathorn's grandfather, Reinaldo Maria Sequeira, was born in Bangkok in 1899. He attended Assumption College, a Frères de Saint-Gabriel institution in the city, and became a polymath who spoke Cantonese, Mandarin, Thai, English, Spanish, French and Portuguese; at home, he spoke Portuguese to his parents. He worked as a translator at the US embassy in Bangkok for over 20 years.

He was also a keen musician and discovered jazz. He set up his own band 'Gitasewi', which means 'free music' in Sanskrit. It was one of the first jazz bands in Thailand. He played piano and violin.

His life was destroyed by the Japanese during World War Two after their invasion of Thailand in 1942. They arrested him for working for the US embassy and put him in a prisoner-of-war camp, where he had to play music to entertain his captors.

His health declined; after the war, he smoked and drank heavily and died in 1947.



King Bhumibol and Reimondo Sequeira (1956)

Father plays with King

Pathorn's father, Reimondo Amato Sequeira, was born in Bangkok in 1928. He was only 18 when his father died and the family could not afford to pay his fees at Assumption College; so he had to drop out and take his father's place in the jazz band. He played drums and later piano.

The Sequeira family had long had a connection with the Thai royal family. One worked for Rama VI, who was on the throne from 1910 to 1925.

In June 1946, the current King Bhumibol Adulyadej took over the throne, aged 19. He was a keen jazz musician, having developed an interest during his years as a student in Switzerland during World War Two. Many famous American jazz musicians who had been playing in Europe took refuge there during the war. From 1933 until 1950, the king lived nearly full-time in Lausanne; in 1942, he became a jazz enthusiast and started to play the saxophone, a passion that he has kept throughout his life.

After his return to Thailand, the king founded his own jazz band, mostly of royal relatives. In 1953, Pathorn's father joined this band and eventually disbanded the

one he had inherited from his father.

This royal band has played every week since then, except for a short period recently when the king's ill-health did not allow it. They practised in the royal palace on Fridays and Sundays, with broadcasts on the royal radio for 20 years during the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s. It was amateur and unpaid.

After severe flooding in 1973, the king took the band to public functions to raise money for the victims.

To earn a living, Pathorn's father worked as a clerk for Exxon-Mobil, before the king sent him to study in the United States.

On his return, he founded the Yamaha Music School in Bangkok, from which he retired only in 2014.

Professional musician

Pathorn was born in 1973. He began his musical training at an early age at the Yamaha Music School and received scholarships from the King of Thailand to study abroad. He received three degrees, including a PhD in composition, from two universities in the United States and Edinburgh University.

He began his undergraduate career at the University of Michigan, majoring in saxophone-performance. The head of its composition department offered him a place on the composition programme.

In 1996, he composed a quintet work at the request of the German Embassy and Goethe Institut in Thailand to commemorate the 140th anniversary of friendship between the two countries. It was performed first by the Corda Quartet in front of the Crown Prince and Princess of Thailand.

In 1998, he represented Thailand at the Five Lyra World Festival in Budapest, where his Portrait of Siam for alto saxophone and piano was premiered, to critical acclaim.

He performs frequently in Thailand and abroad. He has appeared with many famous orchestras, including the National Symphony Orchestra, the Bangkok Symphony and l'Orchestre National de Lille in France.

In 1997, he and his father released an album with his own and his father's jazz compositions for the Polygram label; he played soprano and alto saxophones and sang. In the following decade and a half to come, he would release fourteen more albums. These included a grammy-nominated album performing the music of King Bhumibol with the Preservation Hall Jazz Band in 2010.

He has also performed with many famous jazz players, including J.J. Johnson, Urbie Green, Gary Burton, Benny Carter, Dave Liebman and the Preservation Hall Jazz Band.

In 2006, the Portuguese embassy commissioned him to write a work dedicated to all the Portuguese people around the world and in honour of the 60th

anniversary of the King of Thailand's accession to the throne. The title was 'E se mais mundo houvera, la chegara' ('Wherever the land may be, we will be'), for baritone, chorus and orchestra. It was the first time that a non-Portuguese had composed a piece based on Os Lusíadas, the epic poem of Luís Camões.

It had its world premiere on 10 June, the Portuguese National Day, that year in front of Thai Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, with virtuoso baritone Korawij Devahastin na Ayudhya, the chorus of the AMA studio and the orchestra Dia de Portugal, conducted by the composer.

Rediscovering his heritage

It was ten years ago that Pathorn decided to rediscover his heritage and see if he and his father could obtain Portuguese citizenship. Both hold Thai nationality; Thai law allows the holding of a second passport.

His professional career has taken him many times to Europe; he has played in Spain, Portugal, the Netherlands, Belgium and other countries.

"My father was always proud of our Portuguese nationality. I have learnt only a few words of the language, which we use at Christmas and birthday parties at home," he said. "Thailand is too small. There are many things I want to do, which I cannot do. As a musician and composer, I can make a living anywhere."

The key to obtaining the passport is the baptismal record of his great-grandfather, which he was able to obtain during his visit in March.

"I do not want to gain property nor have any other motive. My family has been in Macao for 200 years." ■

Pathorn Sequeira



2015

13-14, 20/6

澳門國際龍舟賽

Regatas Internacionais de Barcos-Dragão de Macau

Macao International Dragon Boat Races

南灣湖水活動中心
Centro Náutico da Praia Grande
Nam Van Lake Nautical Centre

主辦單位 / Organização / Organizers

澳門特別行政區政府
體育發展局

中國澳門龍舟總會
Associação de Barcos de Dragão de Macau, China
Dragon Boat Association of Macau, China

協辦單位 / Co-Organização / Co-Organizers

澳門市政局
ALCAUTON MUNICIPAL

SAFP 行政公職局
 Direcção dos Serviços de Administração e Função Pública

☎ 2823 6363

www.macaudragonboat.com

A New Lease of Life

By Ou Nian- le in

Photos: Mércia Gonçalves





Giant food factory in Guangzhou turns into art and creativity centre

For 50 years, it was Asia's biggest food processing plant, turning out canned fish and luncheon meat. Now it has become a shop window for Guangzhou's art, design and creativity, a glimpse of what the city wants to look like in the future. Redtory Art & Design Factory – in Chinese, 'the red special factory' – sits on 170,000 square metres of land on the banks of the Pearl River in the Tianhe district in the east of the city. Its history begins in 2009, when a 10-year contract was signed to lease the land from the food factory, which moved to a new location.

The buildings, trees and open spaces of the factory remain exactly as they were six years ago. The whirring machines and canning equipment has been replaced with galleries, artist workshops and design studios. The area is also home to dozens of bars, cafes, restaurants and shops that attract thousands of visitors every year.

"Here we give priority to art and creativity and not commerce," said Wang Li, a spokeswoman for the Property Service Centre of the organisation. "We judge applications on their artistic merit. We want

to promote the art and culture of Guangzhou and be a national brand."

The area is home to 60 resident companies, including designers, advertising firms, galleries, artist workshops and cultural shops.

"The output value of Redtory has already far exceeded that of the former factory," the organisation said. "It brings social as well as economic benefits. In the future, it will organise world-class cultural events to promote the development of the city's creative industries and create the most unique cultural and creative industry park in Guangzhou. It will improve the city's soft power and competitiveness so that it can become an international art and cultural centre."

To do this, the space must not be acquired by a commercial property developer who wants to turn it into up-market property. The site is on the banks of the Pearl River and in Tianhe, the most expensive district in the city with property prices of at least 30,000 yuan per square metre. It is a most desirable piece of land.

Soviet cooperation plant

The history of the factory dates back to 1893, when the technology of canning food arrived in southern Guangdong province. The city was the home of the first factory of its kind in China – the Guangdong Guangmaoxiang Canned Food Factory. Its most famous product was fried dace with black beans; the dace is a fish from the Pearl River. For a century, it has been popular with Cantonese people, including people in Macao and Hong Kong.

After the new government took power in 1949, the plant became one of the 165 key cooperation projects with the Soviet Union. Under the control of the Light Industry Ministry, the Guangdong Canned Food Factory went into production in August 1958. It was the largest canned food plant in Asia at the time, using the abundant fruit, vegetables and marine resources of Guangdong province.

It was one of the priority projects in the first five-year plan (1953-57). In 1984, it started to export its production.

Its main goods were fish, pork and papaya. The most famous was dace with black bean sauce, which it sold in China and around the world. During the 1990s, it acquired nearly ten other food and drink companies in the Guangzhou region. In 2008, it left

its site on the banks of the Pearl River and moved to the Guangdong Conghua Economic Development Zone, where it set up a new plant with state-of-the-art equipment. The machinery of the original site was no longer competitive in the world market.

It remains a state-owned company, with firms under different forms of ownership in the group, and has sales offices all over China and the Americas, Southeast Asia and Australia.

After its relocation, the company rented the original site to Redtory Art & Design Factory.

New Life

Six years on, the site remains as it was. Most of the buildings are of red brick, in the Soviet architecture of the 1950s and 1960s. They are mostly of two and three storeys. The new occupants have worked hard to retain the architecture as it was and give visitors a feeling of the factory as it used to be. Pieces of the former canning equipment, painted in strong colours, sit on the side of the street, to remind people what used to happen there.

In the era of the planned economy, factories were not only production sites but also places where people were born, lived and died. They had apartments for the workers, as well as schools and sports facilities.





The site retains this flavour, with soccer pitches and wide avenues lined with trees. It has a sense of space and calm that you cannot find in much of urban Guangzhou.

Redtory explains the thinking behind the new area. "China is undergoing a transformation from 'made in China' to 'created in China'. The establishment of a high-quality creative industrial district will strengthen our software and attract human talent from different sectors to push Guangzhou and China to achieve this goal.

"Creativity is based on conservation. La Rive Gauche in Paris and the South Bank in London are both re-constructed from old buildings on the banks of a river. Redtory gets its special character from the design institutes that have joined and the contacts that we keep with other countries. There are nearly 100 well-known organisations, employing over 2,000 people, working in creative and high-end cultural sectors in Redtory. Their annual output value is billions of yuan, more than what was produced by the former factory," the company said. These organisations include art galleries, workshops, design studios, libraries, art shops and advertising firms. Redtory arranges exhibitions and public education events.

Miss Wang said that they welcomed young artists to apply to work in Redtory. "They should give their proposal and background and what kind of work they want to do here. The decision on whether to approve them is made by our artistic director. We have no limit on age or nationality. We have galleries where they can sell their work. Currently, we have no foreign artists working here.

"We hope to become a nationwide brand. We

signed a ten-year contract with the landlord in 2009 and hope to extend it," she said. The contract requires the company to keep the site as it was and not demolish buildings. New customers can remodel the insides but must keep the exterior as it was.

After his visit, Liu Jude, the commissioner of the China Arts Association, said: "I hope Redtory will not become a commercial art gallery, but a true life arts centre which can lead the arts of China."

Lu Shang, a French photography critic and antiquarian, said: "The first time I came to Redtory, I felt it was like 798 (an artistic area in Beijing) or Shanghai's Mogan Mountain. Actually, they are different and I like it here. We can have artist residency here, letting artists live and work and have their own studios and workshops."

Tourist and Leisure Centre

Redtory also decided to market itself as a tourism and leisure centre. So it is open to the public and charges no fee to enter. It is open between six in the morning and midnight; nobody lives on the site. It has restaurants, bars and coffee shops.

The main clientele are young people, especially white-collar professionals who work in nearby offices in the Tianhe district and the Zhujiang New City. It is also popular as a venue for dating couples.

Visitors enjoy the open spaces, low population density and greenery. Cars are restricted to car parks on the outside perimeter. Redtory limits the number of restaurants because it wants the focus to remain on art and creativity and not commerce.

"This is a rare space in Guangzhou, where people can come and relax," said Liang Min-guo, a manager at the Ant Kitchen Restaurant. "When the factory moved, this was a remote part of the city, a long distance from the centre. The site was not so valuable. So it started slowly and gradually developed to what you see now. Young artists can rent space cheaply. We do good business in the evening."

Wang Qiang was visiting his friends from university who take classes on the site. "Redtory is a brand name now in Guangzhou and in southern China, if not in the north. Beijing and Shanghai have areas like this, so should Guangzhou.

"A country needs culture as well as GDP. The two are not in contradiction. Guangzhou should retain



this place. All the major cities want to attract talent of the kind they have here," he said.

Redevelopment or culture

The biggest threat to the site comes from property developers. The site is extremely desirable. It is on the banks of the Pearl River, with wide roads and good access to Zhujiang New City and the rest of Guangzhou. Property prices in the Tianhe district are the highest in the city.

It would command high prices if it was converted into upmarket commercial apartments or shopping malls.

Liang of Ant Kitchen said that a developer made a bid for the land about a year ago. "But the bid failed because of the opposition of the tenants. There are few such places in Guangzhou."

Redtory can take comfort from the words of Hu Chunhua, Communist Party secretary of Guangdong, to a meeting of senior government and party

officials in Guangzhou on 27 January, after a tour of the city including Tianhe district.

"We must aggressively develop an open-door strategy and develop technologies, brands, companies and industries that are superior at home and abroad and increase Guangzhou's international influence," he said.

The city must improve its creativity and make use of its talented people in science and technology, he said.

"Guangzhou is a city with a long Chinese tradition. We must build on this history and culture and develop a city with characters of Lingnan culture and its role as a centre of Chinese and Western culture ... we must develop the old and new parts of the city together to improve the environment and make a better city for our people to live in," he said.

This points to a vision for Guangzhou which cherishes the art and creativity represented by Redtory and not only the statistics that increase the annual GDP figures. ■

制罐街
CAN STREET



車間街
Workshop Street



中心街
Central Street



解冻街
Thaw Street



仓储街
Storage Street



www.soundandimagechallenge.com

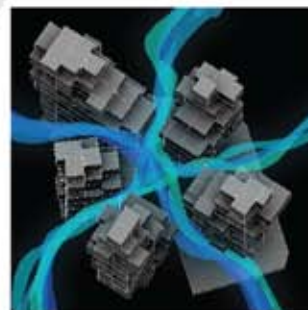


**SOUND & IMAGE
CHALLENGE
FESTIVAL 2015**

**SIC¹⁵
SHORTS**
SHORT FILM CONTEST 短片比賽
**SIC¹⁵
VOLUME**
MUSIC VIDEO CONTEST 音樂影片競賽

CALL FOR ENTRIES

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: 16 JUNE 2015



USJ

New Synergies

Architecture
29 May - 20 June



JOÃO MAGALHÃES

Pantone 0022 M

Paintings
25 June - 18 July



**IEONG MAN PAN
MARIA DO CARMO
MARINA CARVALHO
TANG KUOK HOU
WILSON CALDEIRA**

Cities
B&W photography
23 July - 22 August



CCI is a project of Institute of European Studies of Macau
創意產業中心為澳門歐洲研究學會項目
CCI é um projecto do Instituto de Estudos Europeus de Macau



本項目獲澳門文化中心支持
Com o apoio do Centro Cultural
With the support of Macau Cultural Centre



G/F Macau Cultural Centre Building, Xian Xing Hai Avenue, Macau
www.creativemacau.org.mo

T (853) 2875 3282 | F (853) 2875 3236
cci@creativemacau.org.mo

The Tou Tei Festival in Patane

By Maria João Janeiro in Macao
Illustration: Fernando Chan

Tou Tei - commonly called "god of the earth" - is the spirit who protects places, streets, neighbourhoods and villages and is usually placed at the entrance of houses or buildings and, where possible, leans against the so-called "spiritual wall." The story that follows is about the festivities dedicated to this deity, in particular the Tou Tei of the Patane temple, held each year on the second day of the second lunar month.

According to legend, these festivities originate from something that happened many, many years ago. An elderly individual with a respectable appearance decided to hire the services of a bamboo shed company to build a shed on land near the Patane temple. After coming to an agreement on price and saying that he wanted it to be very showy as it would be a venue for operas, the old man left the shop and disappeared.

When workers started to build the shed, both the residents in the neighbourhood and the Buddhist monks from the temple were very intrigued because none of them had commissioned the work. Curious about the new building, they asked the workers and were told that the shed had been ordered by a man with a white beard. So they asked all the elders with white beards who lived in the area, but none of them were even aware of such a building. One day when the shed was almost ready, one of the workers decided to go to the temple. To his astonishment, he noticed that one

of the images on the main altar was that of an old man with a white beard who was extremely similar to the old man who had commissioned the work.

He called the other workers and they marched into the chapel dedicated to Tou Tei. They noticed that the image's outstretched hand held the receipt for the order of the shed. There was no doubt, therefore, that the individual who had requested the work was old Tou Tei with a white beard.

To the even greater astonishment of the residents of the Patane neighbourhood, a few days later a renowned theatre group from Guangzhou arrived; they also claimed to have been hired by an old man with a white beard, to give a series of shows on the second day of the second moon. Then they understood that the god had decided to appear in this world to show he wanted to be honoured on that day. Since then, every year on the second day of the second lunar month, a festival has been held with great pomp, together with many theatrical performances, in honour of this man with a white beard, the God Tou Tei.

Adaptation of the legend "The Festivities of Tou-Tei Temple" published in the book Chinese Legends of Macao (Lendas Chinesas de Macau)





Muslims of Macao ask for new mosque for growing community

By Mark O'Neill in Macao
Photos by António Sanmarful

The Muslims are among the oldest residents of Macao. They first arrived as traders from Persia and the Middle East in the Ming dynasty (1368-1644), before the Portuguese, and have had a continuous presence ever since. The first mosque was built in the 1880s for soldiers of the Portuguese army from south India. During World War Two, many Muslims from the mainland and Hong Kong took refuge in Macao, which was neutral. The Islamic Association of Macao (IAM) was established in 1935.



Walking tours open new choices for visitors to Macao

By Ou Nian-le in Macao
Photos by Cheong Kam Ka

Kim Min-jun, a South Korean who works in Guangzhou, stood next to the fountain in front of Leal Senado with a detailed plan for his tour of Macao. "I downloaded it from the Internet before I came. This is how I like to have a holiday, not in a tour group." Kim is one of the thousands of visitors to the city who have since 2013 taken walking tours prepared by the Macao Government Tourist Office (MGTO). It launched four in September 2013 and added four more earlier this year. They are aimed at those travellers who want to explore on their own and not in an organised group.



Happiness Street returns to its original features

By Cláudia Aranda
Photos by Cheong Kam Ka

Macao Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) has already restored number 59 of the Happiness Street - the first house of a total of 86 buildings located in the iconic triangle "Happiness Street" (Rua da Felicidade), Happiness Alley ("Beco da Felicidade") and Happiness Courtyard ("Pátio da Felicidade") that used to be part of the famous Chinese Bohemian District of Macao. The IC restoration project will give a "facelift" to the facades of the houses which will return to its original architectural features: Chinese grey bricks and windows painted in green maintaining the windowpane made of mother-of-pearl.

Coleccione Selos de Macau 收 藏 澳 門 郵 票 Collect Macao's Stamps

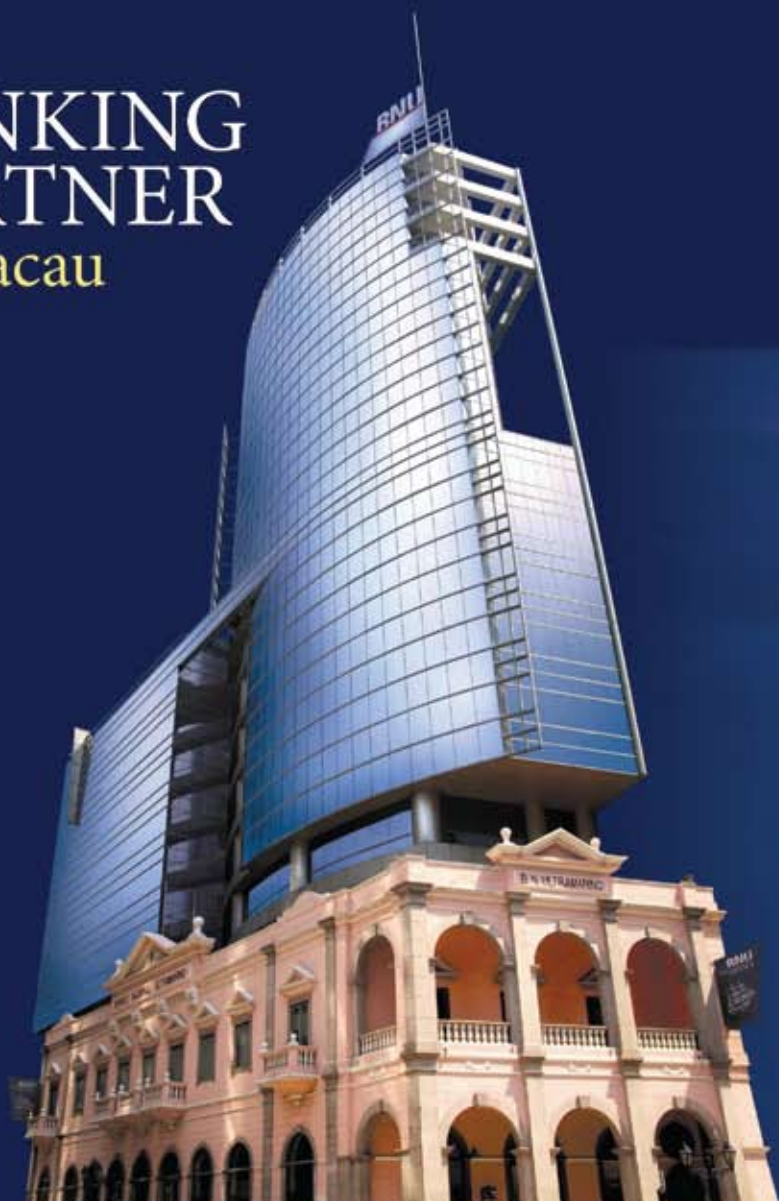


澳門議事亭前地 LARGO DO SENADO, MACAU
電話 Tel.: (853) 8396 8513, 2857 4491 傳真 Fax: (853) 8396 8603, 2833 6603
電郵 E-mail: philately@macaupost.gov.mo 網址 Website: www.macaupost.gov.mo/philately/



情牽心意 助振商貿
Aproximamos Pessoas. Facilitamos Negócios

Your **BANKING** **PARTNER** in Macau



Web site: www.bnu.com.mo

BNU is a diversified and expanding local bank which is proud of its longstanding history of supporting and serving the local community in Macau. For over a century, whether it is a business or individual customer, BNU has been working with you as a partner. Today, BNU continues this mission.

Well supported by the CGD group in Portugal, one of Europe's largest financial institutions with an extensive global network in over 20 countries in Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas, BNU combines local knowledge with international experience to offer you comprehensive and innovative banking solutions.

Let BNU be your banking partner in Macau.

BNU

Banco Nacional Ultramarino
大 西 洋 銀 行



— Since 1902 —