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MACAU GOVERNMENT TOURIST OFFICE

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Ambition [Chih]

We sometimes speak of ambitious people as having their mind or heart set on their goal. Since the Chinese make no distinction between the 'heart', and the 'mind' or 'intentions', we find the 'heart' pictogram at the root of the character for 'ambition'.

Above the 'heart' is the 'scholar', represented by character for 'ten' or 'complete'. Scholars who have set their heart on it complete their studies, and in so doing become complete persons.

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



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Elegant sword game

By Louise do Rosário in Macao
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The presence of Portuguese-speaking countries stood out, thanks to the hard work of the Portugal-China Association of Young Entrepreneurs.

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Looking North: new Macao zone takes shape in Zhongshan

By Luo Xunzhi in Zhongshan
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In Cuiheng, the hometown of Dr Sun Yat-sen, the government's latest initiative to diversify the economy and cooperate with neighbouring cities is taking shape.
The Guangdong-Macao Cooperation Pilot Zone is being built inside the Cuiheng New Zone, in Zhongshan, which is 30 kilometres north of Macao. It is part of the national 13th five-year plan (2016-2020).

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Macao SMEs prosper despite difficulties

By Luciana Leitão in Macao
Photos by Eric Tam, Nuno Veloso@Core Productions and courtesy of Macau Closer
To be a small or medium-sized enterprise (SME) in Macao is no easy matter. Rents are high, the labour market is tight and access to capital is difficult.
Despite these obstacles, many are prospering – the economic slowdown has helped to bring down rents a little and the government offers a wide variety of financial help.

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Huaiyang cuisine: a great tradition

By Mariana César de Sá in Macao
Photos by Leong Sio Po and courtesy of MGM
Huaiyang cuisine, one of the "Four Great Traditions" and a prestigious culinary heritage in China, is one of the country's cultural crown jewels, yet remains little known to the outside world.
But, with the help of MGM Macau, this national treasure has recently found itself in the international spotlight. During the month of October, the world-famous casino resort and hotel featured the last of its Four Great Traditions in a celebration of the rich culinary heritage of China.

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Ancient Engineering Feat

By Ou Nian-le in Nanjing
It is the longest canal in the world and was built by more than one million workers. It has been in continuous use for more than 2,500 years and now carries tens of millions of tonnes of cargo a year.
The Grand Canal that links Beijing with Hangzhou, the capital of Zhejiang province in east China, a distance of 1,776 kilometres, was the biggest engineering project in the world before the Industrial Revolution.

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Man with a Mission

By Louise do Rosário in Zhuhai
From the early 19th century, China's most important export was tea. The profits from this lucrative business went to foreign companies backed by their global networks and the military might of their governments. Little of the profit went to the Chinese.
The man who broke this monopoly was a native of Xiangshan (now Zhongshan) county that borders Macao. In 1916, Tang Qiao-qing established Hua Cha (Chinese Tea), the country's first tea export company. He signed an agreement with Carter Macy, one of the best-known importers in the US, and exported 80,000 crates in its most successful year, 1925.

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Giant of Chinese Music

By Mark O'Neill in Macao
Photos by Eric Tam
This year, with the rest of the country, Macao is remembering Xian Xinghai, who was born in a boat in the harbour in 1905 and went on to compose the most famous piece of music during the Pacific War.
During a short and dramatic life of 39 years, Xian wrote two symphonies, a violin concert, an opera and nearly 300 songs, including his masterpiece, the Yellow River Cantata in 1938; it became the battle hymn of China during the war with Japan and has had a lasting impact on Chinese music.

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By Maya Leonor in Dili
"The Tale of the Timorese Coffee Farmer" – Timor-Leste's booth at the 2015 Milan Expo – showcases one of the region's main exports. This exhibition marks the country's biggest international promotion event to date, representing a significant moment for the country's ascension onto the world scene. Members of the Timorese government have visited Milan, and a permanent delegation has been established to help promote a country that remains, for the most part, completely unknown around the world.

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Ua-Kuong, the god of Lin Kai Temple

By Maria João Janeiro
Illustration by Fernando Chan
The Lin Kai temple or the Lotus Stream Pagoda is located in the district of San Kiu (Ponte Nova/New Bridge) and its name derives from the fact that there was a small waterway, the San Kiu Canal, that passed by it and where numerous boats were anchored, directly opposite the temple.

Elegant sword game

A new generation of young fencers winning international tournaments

By Louise do Rosário in Macao

Photos by António Sanmarful and courtesy of Macau Fencing Association



Ice Ho and Hannah Ho (Left to Right)

Fencing, the elegant sword-wielding sport, is relatively new in Macao. As little as two decades ago, it was only played by a handful of interested amateurs. In 1997 the Macau Fencing Association (MFA) was formed, to promote the game among youngsters and to help them participate in competitions worldwide. The efforts paid off, as evident in the prizes Macao has won in recent years. Jacqueline Chek Soi Lin was

among the first to receive formal fencing training in Macao. She won the eighth place (in the individual foil category) and the seventh position (in the team foil category) in the two Asian Games of 2002 in Busan (South Korea) and 2006 in Doha (Qatar) respectively. Foil fencing, which uses a lighter weapon, is the category in which Macao athletes usually do well. As the champion queen moved from front-line

competitions to become president of MFA, a new generation of athletes emerged, doing equally well. At the Asian Junior and Cadet Championships in the Philippines in 2010, Macao won the fifth place in one category.

The Three Gold Flowers, as fencers Ho Peng I (Ice Ho), Ho Ka U (Hannah Ho) and Huang Li Ya are called by the local media, came sixth at the 2014 Asian Games team

foil competition in Incheon (South Korea). In 2015, the trio was eighth at the Asian Fencing Championships in Singapore. "We could do better and make it to fourth," said Ice Ho.

These are no easy fights for Macao's athletes who either work or study during the day. In the many overseas competitions they participate in each year, they face world-class top players who are full-time fencers.



half hours.

Jack Long, a veteran fencing athlete in China and now a member of the Macao team and a coach, said, "Fencing is a relatively young sport in Macao, but we have a lot of support from the government. Our athletes are getting better; they are willing to practise long hours, no matter how tough the training is."

To stimulate the interest of both veterans and newcomers, the MFA has a round-the-year calendar of fencing competitions, for all levels and ages.

One important local event to encourage young fencers is the intra-school tournament, which has attracted about 150 students annually in the last three years. "The number has stabilised nicely. The participants are aged ten upwards," said Chek.

Zhang said, "This year we have taken more students (for training) than in previous years, with most in the age group of 12 to 18 years old. Fencing is becoming better recognised in Macao."

Zhang was a fencing athlete from 1984 to 1994 and later a coach of the Guangdong Provincial Fencing Team. This year, he was invited to coach Macao's fencers, an offer he readily accepted.

Hardworking athletes

Zhang Jianzhong, a coach from Guangzhou, said that Macao's fencing students are hardworking and determined. They know that their competitors are strong; without sufficient practice, they cannot compete effectively. Determination, inner strength, speed and endurance are the essential qualities an athlete must have. They practise four times a week, every week. In theory, each session is a two-hour class, but they often extend it to up to three and a

Support of parents

More parents are encouraging their children to pursue fencing, another factor boosting the sport's popularity.

As Long explained: "In the past, parents thought that the game was only for the well-off, concerned that the gear and clothing required were expensive. Today, these items have become more affordable. In fact, the fencing association can provide them for free to the athletes."

"Many parents have told me that they like their kids to practise fencing. It has helped children to focus, observe and think; their studies have improved. Just look at how many parents drove their kids to the junior and cadet competition today," he said, referring to an event held one Sunday afternoon in Taipa.

"Fencing is not a dangerous sport," continued Long, who himself won many top prizes in China between 1986 and 1994. "There's no punching of opponents, just mere light touching with the sword. Fencing helps both men and women to build stamina and a good physique. Young people are attracted by its quick and smart movements. It also help them to develop team spirit and prepare them to integrate better in society after school."

Chek's career path – from champion, international referee to executive head of MFA – underscores how the once-exclusive game has become a popular activity.

Chek, an active girl who was keen to learn the quiet activity of painting as much as sporty martial arts, first learned about fencing in the summer of

1998, when she was 18. "I wanted to learn Kendo (a ritualised sword game originating in Japan), but there were no classes available. I took up fencing thinking I would switch back to kendo later," she said.

A coach spotted her potential and encouraged her to continue with fencing. Since then, Chek has not looked back, being the first in the local women's foil game for the five consecutive years of 2001-2005.

Of fencing's three kinds of combat weapons, the foil, with a maximum weight of 500 grams, targets the torso, neck and groin of the opponent, but not the arms or legs. The sabre, also of maximum 500 grams in weight, targets the entire body above the waist. The epee is the heaviest, with a maximum weight of 770 grams, and aims at the entire body.

In 2008, Chek was one of Olympic torch bearers – marking another high point in her career and making her think about her future commitments. "I said to myself, I had had the honour to be a torch bearer and had also participated in two Asian Games. I was a top foil player in Macao, but it was time to make way for younger athletes."





From athlete to referee

In 2009, still at the top of her athletic form, Chek decided to quit competitions and concentrated on her work as referee and an executive of MFA. She was an international referee in major competitions, such as the Asian Fencing Championships in Shanghai in 2012 and the Asian Games in South Korea, experiences she described as "unforgettable". "It was a great moment for me to hear the words "Macao, China" (when I was introduced as a referee) in the final rounds of such important events." In 2013, and again in 2015, Chek was elected as president of the MFA.

The MFA is a member of the International Fencing Federation, Fencing Federation of Asia and a member of Macao's Olympics Committee under China. It offers free training courses to athletes, students, coaches and referees. It also arranges for athletes to take part in international events, such as the Asian Fencing Championships, the Asian Games and national tournaments in mainland China. "These competitions have broadened our athletes' international perspective and help them gain valuable experience," said Chek.

In Chek's second term as head of MFA, she wishes to achieve three tasks. First is to make deeper inroads into schools, aiming to offer fencing classes to more students.

Second is to have a full-sized fencing academy. At the moment, MFA has its classes in various places, with no permanent venue. Third is to develop a proper junior and cadet team.

Better facilities needed

Fencing athletes will definitely benefit from a bigger and better-furnished space for their practice. On a hot Saturday afternoon, several were practising inside a spartan industrial building far away from the glittering casinos and hotels. Sweating with a heavy mask on, Ice Ho manoeuvres with agility in a single, narrow lane. Ho, 20, started fencing at the tender age of 13, in a summer class. "All other sports classes were full. I ended up in a fencing class, with little idea of what it was about," she said. "It was not an easy game, not like badminton or basketball, which we were familiar with." Ho started with epee fencing, which required more



strength and was demanding for someone with a small stature like hers. Two years later, a new coach advised her to switch to foil fencing, which stresses dexterity. It was an appropriate change for Ho, who said she was a fast-playing athlete and was used to speed as a running champion at school.

In 2011, Ice Ho competed as a single foil fencer at the Asian Junior and Cadet Fencing Championships in Bangkok, Thailand, having practised foil fencing intensively for only a few months. "On the first day, I was scared and was hit by an opponent. The next day, I recovered and got into the finals. I didn't win anything at the end, but it was valuable experience for me, my first exposure to an international contest. In facing strong competitors, Ice Ho learned more about herself. "I have a tendency to make my moves too soon, exposing myself to an opponent who will manipulate such weaknesses."

The Three Golden Flowers

In Macao, she was the top female foil player in 2012. In overseas matches, her results took off when she joined two other female athletes, Hannah Ho and

Huang to play as a team. In a 2012 Indonesia match, the first time they played as a team overseas, "we encouraged each other and tried to boost each other's confidence. We did well at the end, securing the eighth position," she said.

Hannah Ho too remembered the 2012 match well. "It was a major breakthrough for us." Just a year earlier, she suffered a big defeat at her first overseas match, in Nanchang, China. "My legs were shaking beyond control. I was so nervous that I could not even button up my jacket properly. The judges got impatient watching my clumsiness," she said.

Henry Leong, 25, secretary general of MFA, also underwent the same baptism of fire when he competed overseas after a mere year of training. It was an international championship for young fencers in 2005 in South Korea. "I was very nervous. The standards were much higher than in Macao." It was good experience for him, even though he did not make it to the finals.

Leong's most unforgettable tournament was the 2014 Asian Games held in Incheon. His opponent was a silver medallist at the London Olympics. "I beat him in one session. I was performing better

than usual," he recalled.

Leong said winning a fencing match depends on many variables. "With sports like swimming, you are competing against your own limits. With fencing, you need to analyse your opponent and the overall situation. You need to react quickly on the spot and to restrain your emotions at the same time."

Leong, no longer an athlete, said the benefits of fencing went beyond physical ones. "I used to love to play often and pursued many different interests. I was not good at managing time and had no sense of priorities. As a fencer, I learned the importance of discipline and clear thinking. In my job now, when I encounter difficulties, I will try different ways to make improvements, just like I did with fencing."

Young and dedicated

Romano Maximo Do Rosario, 16, started fencing a year ago. Thanks to the encouragement of his coach, he has increased his training to two hours in the evening on most weekdays and a gruelling six hours on Saturdays. With such a heavy training schedule, he has to sacrifice personal time and often works late into the night to catch up with schoolwork. Still, the young fencer remains undeterred, "I really enjoy fencing. I'm good at it. I like it. It's definitely



Leong Cheng Wai

worth my time." He has played other sports, such as basketball, tennis, hockey, skating and soccer, but he likes fencing better because it's more hands-on and interactive. With his long arms and heavy build, he certainly has a physical advantage.

Do Rosario speaks well of his coach, who has encouraged him to think positively, be strong and not to give up easily. In two years' time, he will be going to university, but hopes to participate in competitions on graduation.

Leong Cheng Wai also started fencing young, at 15. When friends asked him to join a summer fencing programme, he did not expect it to become a long-term commitment. He has won easily in local matches, but found opponents overseas very competitive.

Now aged 19, he practises for three hours a day, four days a week. Early in his training, he lost a competition, motivating him to train really hard. He now competes six to seven times a year. He has taken part in tournaments in Thailand, Malaysia, China and South Korea.

Leong has much admiration for his first coach whom he describes as harsh. "He pushed us to improve our skills. It was a good thing. Fencing is a game that involves spontaneous power, speed, strength and techniques. I find it exciting, a great challenge for me."

He hopes to continue fencing for many years. ■



Romano Maximo Do Rosario

Macao Schools Fencing Competition





Jack Long Jie

Veteran Fencer

Among Macao's male fencers, one athlete stands out, Jack Long Jie. At 44, he is the oldest of the team. Born in Guangzhou, Long had had an outstanding fencing career for a decade in China. He quit in 1995 to start a business. In 2009, he moved to Macao as an investor immigrant. Soon, the veteran fencer got itchy and looked for opportunity to pick the sword up again. "I was living in Taipa and noticed the Olympics Sport Centre. I thought it would be nice to be able to do sports in that stadium." Soon, he was practicing again and took part in his first contest fencing in Macao, the Open Competition and won the first prize.

"It was slightly embarrassing. I was even older than the coaches. "Still, he soon joined other players for regular training and represented Macao in international competitions. In April 2012, the first time he competed as a player from Macao, he made it to the finals in the epee category at the Asian Fencing Championships in Wakayama, Japan. In January 2015, he won first place as an individual epee player at the National Fencing Club League in Suzhou.

Long has made a strong comeback but aware of his physical limitations, he plans to concentrate on training the young in future.

Long's earlier career in fencing was mixed with glory and frustration, a story that inspires up-and-coming players in Macao. Born to athlete parents, Long was pushed to do more sports from a young age. At 15, he had his first taste of fencing. "It was new to me and I thought it was less vigorous than other sports," he recalled. Only one month after formal training, Long won first prize in a contest for junior players in Guangdong. "I won because of my speed; the local media wrote much about my victory then. My coach said I had potential and urged me to join the prestigious sport training academy in Ersha island of Guangzhou. It was a dilemma: I was doing well at school and quitting at such a young age was a major life decision. The academy had its attractions though: it had well-furnished dormitories complete with electric fans for the hot summers of southern China – a luxury for a young person like me then."

Height limit

Long was evidently a natural in fencing, but he had an disadvantage: his height. At 1.72 metre, he was considered to be "short", compared to other fencing athletes of 1.8 - 1.9 metres. "My coach tried to help me grow taller quickly, using various devices to pull my legs longer. I managed to grow slightly, to 1.75 metres."

Long failed to enter the academy, but continued to win in national competitions. In 1986, he came first in a national junior fencing competition in Xian. In 1987, he was first again, at a national competition for players from central and southern China.

In light of Long's achievements, the sport academy eventually offered a chance to prove he was good enough for it. "My new coach there said I had to prove myself and the only way to do so was to win competitions. Subsequently, I did well in the junior section of a national tournament, but not so in the adult category. The older athletes were much bigger and taller. There were few words of encouragement and I was frustrated."

In May 1990, there was a national competition for adult fencers in Yangzhou. "I knew it was my last chance, if I wanted to join the academy." There were 200 participants. Long fought hard and came out sixth in the epee category – the best result for Guangdong in a decade for that event.

Long's impressive results finally got him a place at the academy. In late 1990, he got an offer to join the prestigious national team to prepare for the Olympics at Barcelona in 1992, but he decided to stay with the Guangdong team for loyalty reasons. In March 1995, Long won the gold medal in a national fencing competition held in Guangzhou – his last major tournament before quitting the sport later that year. After a decade of training and competitions, Long was ready to move on.

Long said his experience has showed that the smaller stature of southern Chinese is not a handicap to winning. "We are more flexible; fencing is not just about being bigger and taller. It's a sport about courage and intelligence."

A man with a shaved head, wearing a light blue short-sleeved button-down shirt and khaki pants, stands outdoors with his hands in his pockets. He is looking slightly upwards and to the left. Behind him is a large, colorful mural of a woman in a red dress holding a long staff or wand. The background also includes a building with a grid-like facade and some greenery.

Inquisitive Mind

**“My writing is the curiosity
I have about the world”
Joe Tang**

By Catarina Mesquita in Macao

Photos by Cheong Kam Ka

Joe Tang is in his element. Sitting in a cafe surrounded by books, he speaks in the perfect English he learnt after studying in London and tells us the story of his life.

He grew up amongst books, which nurtured the dream that would come to be realised later in life – of becoming a writer.

He harbours no illusions of having his work read by thousands of people, but would like writing to become a full-time job. That way he could divide his days between coffee shops and his manuscripts.

"Isn't it the dream of every writer to spend the day writing whatever comes to mind?" he asks with a laugh.

At the age of 22, he left Shanghai and Guangzhou and moved to Macao to settle in the city where his grandmother and mother's family reside.

After studying Chinese Literature at the University of Macau, he left for London, where he graduated in Business Administration.

Years later, he returned to Macao, where he joined the Cultural Institute of Macao; during the week, he works as an administrative officer, a job he enjoys immensely. But it is still a far cry from his dream of being a full-time writer.

"I also do research. It is a job that seems boring from an outside perspective, but one I like a lot," he says. The writer longs to be buried under piles of paper; his curiosity about the world led him to do even more research out of the office and to write about what he discovered - for pure pleasure.

Macao is the ideal setting to satisfy his curious soul.

The boy who demanded books

When he was in school, holidays for the young boy were boring. For Joe, the solution lay in books. "When I was growing up, there were no televisions, video games or Facebook. Books were the only thing that I and kids my age had access to. I remember, during the winter and summer holidays, going to a very small library in my middle school – I think it's no longer there – and bringing back books that had to be read very fast, as they had to be returned. I read dozens of them," he recalls.

During that period, he became familiar with writers such as Ni Kuang (a.k.a Ngai Hong), Isaac Asimov and Lu Xun; they have remained references ever since.

With little access to material goods, Joe Tang's

"thirst" for more was voracious. "Today everyone has access to so much, they don't have that thirst any more. At the time I wasn't able to buy books, but I was so eager to have them that there were times where I felt like stealing them," he confesses.

Today Joe Tang not only buys books, but is also the author of several works of fiction, plays and children's stories. The boy who borrowed books from the library has today published five of them and given talks at literary festivals such as the one in Macao, as well as the famous Book Fair in Hong Kong.

"If I'm reading a book, my daughters will want to copy me. The act of picking up a book and starting to read becomes natural," he says of the influence he hopes his reading habits will have on his two girls.

But do the young generation, like his daughters aged four and seven, have less and less desire to read books with the same fervour that Joe had? He answers that everything passes as a matter of evolution.

"We are addicted to phones that have text and people continue to read. Simply put, new media has been changing the way we have read for decades. Children are always curious and want to listen to what we have to say. The only difference now is that the channels for this have changed, but the essence remains the same," is his conclusion.

This curiosity is a key element for readers of any age, as well as for the writer.

Stories made from history

It was from this curiosity to know more and the importance of keeping alive the memory of historical events that shaped Macao that he took the battle of 1622 as a starting point for the work *Lost Spirit*.

"One day I read a newspaper article about the attack. It spoke of a man who had been the director of São Paulo College for a year and suddenly disappeared without a trace. I was intrigued and understood that I had an angle to create my story," Tang recalls.

For about a year, he thought about the missing director as the main character and studied in depth the period of history of which he was part.

"There was little information in Chinese about the attack by Dutch forces on Macao in 1622. We know a lot about the event but are not sure about how everything happened, what kinds of weapons were



Mount Fortress

used, where the protection buildings were located and how many boats docked in Macao."

The date of 24 June 1622 is etched in Macao's history as a victory achieved "at the hands of the people", as described by historian João Guedes.

Dutch troops had taken up positions to attack Macao. Fortaleza do Monte was still without walls and the city seemed particularly vulnerable, as much of its garrison had moved to the Canton Fair.

At what appeared to be the perfect time for the Dutch to attack, one of the musketeers of Fortaleza de São Francisco struck the Dutch colonel in the chest, causing the troops to mobilise to Praia de Cacilhas – the current Reservoir – the only place where they did not meet any opposition.

In entering the city, the Dutch forces did not see a large garrison and did not know what awaited them. But they were bombarded by one of the cannons of Mount Fortress, fired by Jesuit Father Jeronimo Rho; it made a direct hit on one of the wagons loaded with gunpowder and unnerved the Dutch troops.

Seeing what was happening, "the population took

to the streets laden with opium and brandy, knives, weapons and guns they had, for example, in the kitchen to defend the territory and caused the Dutch to panic and retreat," wrote João Guedes. Tang understands some episodes of that battle and there are monuments popular today with thousands of tourists and local people, such as Mount Fortress or Victory Garden, dating back to the period.

He admits to not having all the answers to the questions that have arisen during his investigation, such as what support the Chinese gave Portuguese forces in the battle against the Dutch.

"I never have enough information to finish a book. And that's one of the issues I battle with when I write this type of work. Nothing is ever clear in Macao, so you have to look very closely and see all the details," he explains.

"The biggest challenge is this lack of clarity in Macao's images of the past for me to create the plot for my stories. I imagine things that sometimes may not be part of the reality and have no way of confirming them."

The challenge of interpretation

"When I do research, I'm always open. I don't expect to find a conclusion at the outset, especially when I write works related to history, and ones which I do not know much about," Tang admits.

He says that, before starting the text, he tries to understand fully what happened and that, in the case of Macao, it is essential to understand both the Chinese and Portuguese sides to the story.

In February this year, *Lost Spirit* was translated by professor Ana Cristina Alves, making it available to the Portuguese-speaking public. The book was included in a collection of works that the Cultural Institute would like to make available to the Portuguese public.

Tang says that, a few months after its publication, he has not yet received feedback from the Portuguese side; he stresses that this is a work of fiction and only serves to tell the story, without value judgments on the events.

In March last year another of his works reached the shelves of the bookstores in Macao – a trilingual version of a short story entitled "The Assassin".

The story fictionalises the death of the Portuguese Governor Ferreira do Amaral, recounting an episode in which Macao was host to regional conflicts between the local Chinese and Portuguese authorities, and the British in Hong Kong, in the mid-nineteenth century.

The real motives behind the murder are still a mystery to the author. But he strongly believes there are two sides to the story.

"In this event, there is the side of the colonisers and there is the side of the Chinese, who see Shen Ziliang as a national hero, while others see him as a murderer." Even with the limitations of publishing a story rather than a novel, Tang did not neglect to include all the details found in an investigation of Ferreira do Amaral's life, which eventually may have led to his murder.

"I never intended to be the judge of what happened in the death of Ferreira do Amaral, but only to see it through the eyes of different cultures."

To Helder Beja, vice-director of the Macau Literary Festival, the writing of Joe Tang has its own special characteristics. "As a Chinese local writer, Joe Tang pays a special and almost unusual attention to Macao's history and its Portuguese sources

and episodes. Not being able to read or speak Portuguese, Joe didn't give up on telling the story of the assassination of Ferreira do Amaral. In a very interesting twist, the narrator is actually the assassin, so we have a very famous episode of Macao's history transported to fiction and with a great amount of originality.

"Joe is a good storyteller, and I believe that, especially when talking about his translated works, that comes before any aesthetic evaluation. While putting his words into English and afterwards into Portuguese, we certainly lose a bit of his original style, as in any translated work. But we are able to keep his capacity to tell a good story and reflect on Macao's past and its very particular identity."

The magic formula

The combination of the past and the future that Joe Tang incorporates in his stories has sparked interest in the public.

In 2008, when the first Chinese version of *Lost Spirit* was published, it was unusual to find books with characters who travelled in time in Macao.

"Today in China, we see stories in which a journalist undertakes an investigation and travels back in time. But, when I wrote this book, that was very innovative. That's why I found it interesting to take a person who travels back in time in search of memories of Macao."

In a city of constant change, Joe Tang feels that memories have to be passed from generation to generation.

"There are those who don't think they need culture or history. But, without it, everything is meaningless," he says.

"If we do not pay attention to the past, we will constantly be repeating the same mistakes. For example, today everyone around the world talks about reform and trying to make things better. But, if we had always paid attention to how things were done, over time we would have saved a lot of money, energy and time."

The author does not believe in "magic formulas" in writing. But there are two creative processes he abides by – the idea of free exploration that occasionally arises in him and producing contracted works that have to fit within a certain framework.

"There are clearly two creative processes: the first is when I have an idea that may come from a

conversation and that is then developed with research, if the subject matter so requires. The second is when there are commissioned works that are given to me with a theme, and I have to create within certain guidelines and restrictions. "The second is more difficult than the first, but it's also fun because it lets me see how far I can stretch my creativity."

A writer in Macao

In Macao, the author is often asked to write columns and plays. Tang admits that it is still not possible to survive on writing alone.

"At least in my lifetime, it will not be possible. Perhaps, in future generations, I would say yes. Today anyone who writes well can go to Amazon and dozens of other websites in China," he says.

Joe Tang believes that, if you write a good story about casinos, moving away from books already published that focus on the "dark side" of the game, and speak about the innate feeling that man has to gamble, you may be on to a "formula" for success.

"I think there will be opportunities for those who want to be professional writers, solely dedicated to books. Macao is not as isolated as it was before; there are now more links with Europe, with the other regions of the Pearl River Delta. Platforms, markets and opportunities are growing.

"There is a niche market for us – story-telling from the East to the West and vice versa. There are opportunities, but it depends on how we view them.

A few decades ago, certain professions did not exist in Macao. It was hard to imagine people studying certain subjects, so I don't see why that can't be the case for writers too."

He says with a resigned laugh that he will always see writers having a difficult life, in Macao or elsewhere in the world.



"If I'm a hairdresser, I charge and earn per cut. But, if I'm a good writer, I'll probably just write between two and five good 'pieces' throughout my life and only earn from those."

He is satisfied with the existing freedom in the territory. "The market in Macao still operates on a very personal basis. If you go to China, Taiwan or Hong Kong there is a more commercial line, where you need to assess what you write so as not to create conflicts in society. But that's not the case in Macao. We can write whatever we want."

At times, he thinks about non-fiction, but admits he does not have the time and energy. In reality, time is limited in his life and the writer must end the conversation about his passions and return to the obligations that await him at the office.

He describes himself as a man who is a fusion of all the places he has visited, "in love with reading and writing".

"Every time you meet a new person, every time you open a new book, it's a new adventure. That's why I say that, in this way, I am also an explorer and my writing is simply my curiosity about the world. I hope that, at the age of 80, I still have this spirit. That would be fantastic."

An exhibition within an exhibition

The Macao International Trade and Investment Fair held its 20th edition from 22 to 25 October, with representatives from over 50 countries and regions attending.

The presence of Portuguese-speaking countries stood out, thanks to the hard work of the Portugal-China Association of Young Entrepreneurs.

By Catarina Mesquita in Macao

Photos by Edgar Cardoso, Leong Sio Po and GCS



Alberto Carvalho Neto, AJEPC president

This year the great exhibition hall of the Venetian, home of the Macao International Trade and Investment Fair (MIF), hosted the 20th edition of what has become Macao's biggest investment fair. Between 22 and 25 October, more than 50 countries and regions were represented at the event with about 2,000 exhibitors. This year the invitees that stood out were those of Portuguese-speaking countries in one of the eight largest stands, along with large pavilions like the Macao Pavilion and the Macao Manufacturers and Trades Pavilion. The desire for a larger presence came from the Portugal-China Association of Young Entrepreneurs (AJEPC). Its president, Alberto Carvalho Neto, believes that not only was there an improvement in quantity this year – 150 companies – but also of quality. "This increased presence is a result of great teamwork between Portuguese associations, Macao and the Portuguese-speaking countries. This shows

great unity, that we really have the ability to work together and that business owners are beginning to see some results," he said. The AJEPC, established in June 2012, is an association of Portuguese volunteer entrepreneurs interested in strengthening their position in China; they focus on development and investment in the Portuguese and Chinese markets, using Macao as a platform for liaison and strengthening economic cooperation and trade between the two countries. "China is a tough market. So we understand that there must be a flagship and Macao has been and may continue to be that flagship. I believe that Macao has worked well as a platform but we need to work together. The more we work together, the greater our potential," he added. "As that portal, Macao invites Chinese entrepreneurs and the various delegations to come to MIF and show them that we are here to provide business solutions and cooperation."

A new perspective

This year the joint efforts of the association's members made it possible for companies from Portuguese-speaking countries, particularly from Portugal, to showcase both products and services. According to Alberto Carvalho Neto, the presence at MIF showed that Portugal is not only "a gourmet country in Europe" but also that "there are great services in areas such as technology and tourism". His heart belongs to the agro-food sector, in which he has worked for several years with his family, particularly in the production of organic olive oil – but Alberto Neto says: "Portugal is more than that." The pavilion of the Portuguese-speaking countries – Angola, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique and East Timor – had the diversity of the rest of the fair. Visitors were able to find business sectors ranging from food and clothing to design, technology and traditional music.

A work in progress

Showcasing one's company is important – and so is improving it. The Portuguese-speaking countries are developing rapidly but have significant weaknesses in terms of infrastructure.

Cecília Candrinho, director of the Mozambique Export Promotion Institute, agrees. She said that, despite showcasing products with export potential such as cashew nuts, particularly from Nampula province, Mozambique also had weaknesses that could be improved with negotiations at events like MIF. "Our weakness is, for example, packaging. We are also seeking a supplier," she said. Speaking to the China Daily newspaper, Zhao Ying, researcher at the Institute of Industrial Economics under the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing, noted that the needs of developing countries could also be of benefit to Beijing. "Zhao said the Portuguese, Brazilian, Angolan and Mozambican markets all have huge demand for infrastructure construction and modern agricultural and service projects, and forming closer partnerships or joint ventures with companies in Macao will help Beijing enterprises expand their global presence effectively," the newspaper said.

Humility, commitment and patience

Alberto Carvalho Neto admitted that sometimes, at these events there are opportunities that are too big. He recognised that the solution lies in the humility to create partnerships with those who know more than we do.



China and Portuguese-Speaking Countries' Young Entrepreneurs Forum held in Macao

"Therein lies the great value of working in partnership and working with friends. It is knowing exactly who has these values and knowing the right door to knock on when there is a business opportunity that is too large for us," he said. "This involves dedication and patience and often it only has long-term results." The association also gives advice to young entrepreneurs on how to constantly follow up relations they have established.

"The various cooperation agreements between associations and companies are the result of agreements made last year. Now, after a year of cooperation, firms are willing to make their first orders," he added.

On the first day of MIF alone, there were 90 trading sessions and 17 protocols were signed by different delegations.

Keyword: cooperation

Asked about the prospects for next year's MIF, Alberto Carvalho Neto said: "We want quality, not quantity." He did not reveal the size of the AJEPC presence at the 2016 MIF but the ongoing work of

his association over the next year is a guarantee that it will be significant.

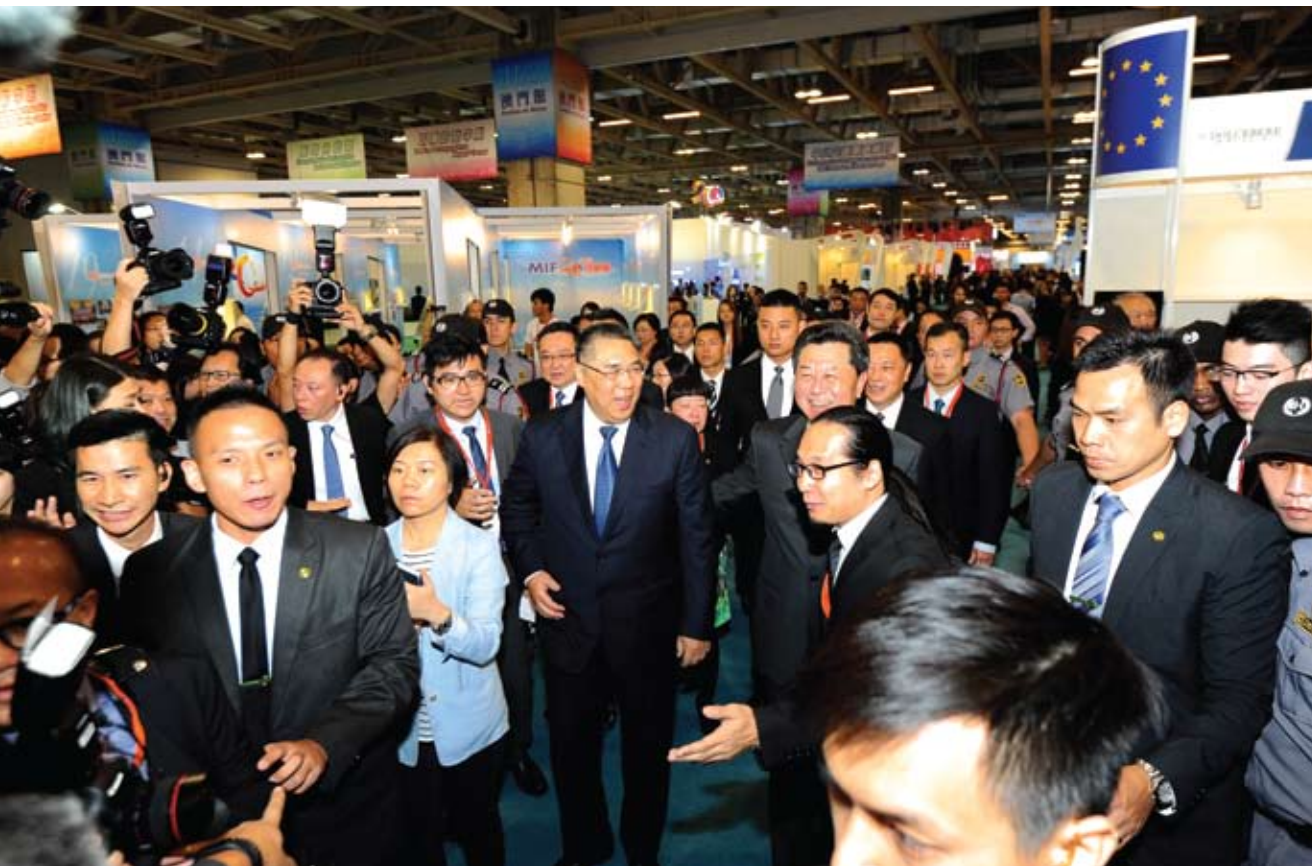
"We must not be afraid to open our borders," he concluded. He always bears in mind the cooperation of young entrepreneurs in Portugal, the Portuguese-speaking countries and Chinese markets.

"Cooperation" was the theme of the 20th edition of MIF, organised by the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM).

Glória Batalha Ung, executive director of IPIM, said in October that, based on the results of the pavilion dedicated to Portuguese-speaking countries at MIF, IPIM would consider organising a new fair in Macao focused on cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking countries.

Ung said the institute played an important role in supporting SMEs in Portuguese-speaking countries and would continue to make that a priority.

IPIM plans to open new offices in Lisbon, Portugal, and São Paulo, Brazil, and two more in China, in addition to its existing offices in the provinces of Guangdong, Zhejiang, Sichuan, Fujian and Liaoning.



Chui Sai On with guests

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星期一至星期五，早上9時至下午6時
星期六、日及公眾假期休館

Horário de Funcionamento

Segunda a Sexta, 9:00-18:00
Fechado aos fins de semana e Feriados

澳門宋玉生廣場263號「中土大廈」19樓
Alameda Dr. Carlos d'Assumpção, nº 263,
Edif. China Civil Plaza, 19º andar, Macau

<http://macaoideas.ipim.gov.mo>
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Looking North

New Macao zone takes shape in Zhongshan

By Luo Xunzhi in Zhongshan

Photos by Eric Tam





In Cuiheng, the hometown of Dr Sun Yat-sen, the government's latest initiative to diversify the economy and cooperate with neighbouring cities is taking shape.

The Guangdong-Macao Cooperation Pilot Zone is being built inside the Cuiheng New Zone (CNZ), in Zhongshan, which is 30 kilometres north of Macao. It is part of the national 13th five-year plan (2016-2020).

The largest project in the township's history, the CNZ

has a planned area of 230 square kilometres and is the newest phase of the development of Zhongshan. It is designed both for production of pharmaceuticals, precision machinery and "intelligent" electronics, finance, culture and tourism and as a desirable living space, with recycling of waste and water and a 50 percent covering by trees, lawns and water.

For Macao, the attraction is that the zone offers not only new choices for its business people and entrepreneurs but also an alternative area for

those who want to retire in a place with more open space and greenery than at home. One legislator has proposed building a "little Macao" within the zone.

In July 2014, the SAR government signed a framework agreement with Zhongshan city to establish the pilot zone. In the first phase of the project, an area of five square kilometres will be developed; the two sides will establish a joint venture investment company for this purpose.

It will include an industrial park, an international trade services platform, an education and training park, an international cultural exchange zone and a tourism cooperation zone.

In January 2015, Chief Executive Chui Sai On went to Zhongshan to meet its Mayor and the Communist Party Secretary. He said that he had received positive feedback on a proposal to include the pilot zone in Cuiheng in the framework agreement between Guangdong and Macao.

"It could become one of the highlights in the framework and become part of the country's development strategy," he said.

Attractions of Zhongshan

For Macao, the great attraction of Cuiheng is its proximity and cheap land. It is one of the least developed of Zhongshan's 18 townships and eager to attract outside investment. It is the township closest to Macao; cross the city limit of Zhuhai and you enter it.

Land prices in Hengqin, the part of the mainland closest to Macao, have risen sharply and become the most expensive in Zhuhai; the city government is reluctant to set aside land at lower than market prices. A plan to build clinics, nurseries and retirement homes for Macao people in Hengqin remains on the drawing board.

In April, Secretary of Social Affairs and Culture Alexis Tam Chon Weng said that the government's acquisition of land for these facilities required central government permission.

"We have met the Hengqin authorities and they are open to this idea, and they have been collaborative. We can buy the land in Hengqin for our purposes, but we need the approval of the central government," Tam told the Legislative Assembly. "The legal status of the acquisition of land parcels is still being discussed, as is the price the Macao government will pay for them."

By comparison, land in Zhongshan, especially Cuiheng, is substantially cheaper. The new zone would provide such land for Macao companies to expand and promote the diversification of the SAR's economy away from gambling. The agreement calls for the establishment of a wide range of sectors, including industry, trade, education, culture and tourism.



"The zone will be different to that of an industry park," said the joint statement in July 2014. "The cooperation will break the limitations of the 'industrial park' cooperation model. It will work with small- and medium-size enterprises to transform their operations and alleviate the domestic demand for medical and health care, leisure and housing in Macao: and extend reciprocation in education, tourism and cultural and trading services."

At a news conference to announce the agreement, Chief Executive Chui Sai On said: "There are strong ties between the people of Macao and Zhongshan. There are a lot of (local) entrepreneurs who invested in Zhongshan a long time ago. Since the Guangdong government announced the plan, many companies in Macao, including large companies and SMEs, have expressed their interest (in investing in the zone). I am optimistic about the development."

At the same news conference, governor Zhu Xiaodan said that Guangdong would continue to encourage Macao enterprises to invest in the province with four measures, one of which was land.

"Little Macao"

Eric Yeung, chairman of the Macau Productivity and Technology Transfer Centre, has proposed turning the new zone into a "Little Macao".

"We have learnt the lesson of Hengqin," he said. "We should develop in Cuiheng an industrial and living space with Macao characteristics. Make it suitable for production, living and tourism, a "little Macao". We should develop industry and livelihood together. We should not pursue height and speed but emphasise the Macao style. In terms of retirement and public housing, Hengqin cannot meet our needs."

Yeung said Macao should work closely with Cuiheng to improve transport between them, including a light railway and moving freight by river.

Looking after the elderly is an important policy question in Macao and will become more urgent in the future. At the end of 2014, there were 53,600 people over 65, accounting for 8.4 percent of the population. By 2016, this number will reach 157,300, 20.7 percent of the population.



Eric Yeung

In August 2013, Macao and the Ministry of Commerce signed an agreement under which private companies from the SAR can set up retirement homes and services in Guangdong.

Some Macao people have moved for retirement to the province, where the language, customs and lifestyle are the same as at home and they can enjoy more space and lower costs. But they are not eligible for mainland medical care or benefits and must return to Macao to receive them.

In recent years, with the rise in the value of renminbi and higher costs, this option has become less attractive. Some retirees have even decided to move back to Macao.

If Cuiheng or other places in Guangdong are to attract large numbers of Macao retirees, the two governments need to work out an arrangement whereby they can enjoy medical and other benefits where they live, perhaps funded by the pension and benefits they are eligible for in the SAR.

Another question is whether old people are willing to move to a new place that is 30 kilometres away

from their family, friends and the place they have lived in all their lives.

Cuiheng New Zone

The zone is the most ambitious project in the history of Cuiheng. Approved by the provincial government in May 2012, it is working to an 18-year plan that runs until 2030. It covers a total area of 260 square kilometres and has 26 kilometres of coastline along the Pearl River.

In the first phase up to 2015, the city government is building roads and other transport facilities and basic infrastructure. By the end of 2015, the planned population is 350,000, with greenery covering half of the area. The built-up area will be 40 square kilometres. The service sector will account for half of employment, 90 percent of the polluted water will be treated and 100 percent of the daily waste. There will be an international tourism area.

By 2020, the population will have risen to 550,000 and the share of people working in the service sector

will have reached 60 percent. The green area will reach 60 percent and the built-up area 60 square kilometres.

By 2030, the population will have reached 850,000, with a built-up area of 80 square kilometres. "It will be a new city, with a green culture, good public facilities and a good living environment, well known among Chinese at home and abroad. It will be a modern Lingnan coastal city," the plan says.

According to the Zhongshan city website, the zone will include a China-Switzerland Industrial Park, with an emphasis on companies in pharmaceuticals and precision machinery. It said that nearly 30 of the Fortune 500 companies had invested in the city, including Novartis' Sandoz and ThyssenKrupp.

The most famous son of Cuiheng is Dr Sun Yat-sen who was born and spent the first 12 years of his life there. A house he built there and a large museum in memory of him have become one of China's most popular sites, attracting hundreds of thousands of visitors, local and foreign, every year.

The area was previously called Xiangshan (Fragrant Mountain). After Sun's death in 1925, it was renamed Zhongshan, after his Chinese name. Such a renaming is extremely rare in China.

According to the 2004 census, the village had 3,786 local residents, 20,000 migrant workers from outside: in addition, there were 2,351 Cuiheng people living in Macao and Hong Kong and 593 overseas.

Zhongshan powerhouse

Zhongshan city is one of the powerhouses of the Guangdong economy. In 2014, its GDP reached 282.3 billion yuan, an increase of eight percent over 2013. In GDP, it ranked fifth in the province, after Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Foshan and Dongguan.

Its main products are textiles and garments, steel, furniture, paper, plastics, household appliances, especially air conditioners and heaters.

In 2014, exports were US\$ 27.88 billion, up 5.3 percent, and imports US\$9 billion, down 0.7 percent. Contracted foreign investment in the year was US\$ 886 million, down 33 percent.

The CNZ is part of its ambition to spread this prosperity to a less well developed township in the city.

Zhongshan and Portuguese-speaking countries (PSCs)

The hard-working entrepreneurs of Zhongshan are always looking for new markets, including the PSCs. In 2014, trade between Zhongshan and Brazil reached US\$ 430 million.

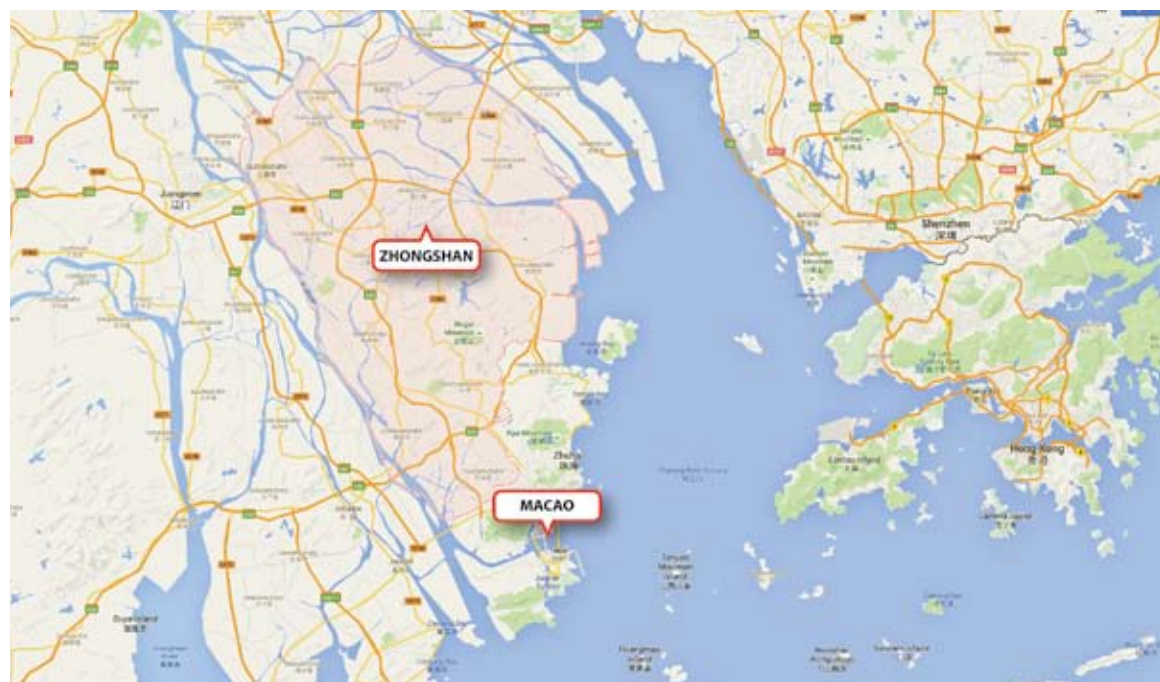
In July 2015, Yang Wenlong, one of the city's vice-mayors, led a 30-member delegation to the Brazilian city of São Paulo to look at business opportunities.

He was received by Roberto Ticoulat, vice-president of the Commercial Association of São Paulo (ACSP) and president of the Brazilian Council for Import and Export Companies. ACSP has an office in Macao to support business with China.

On their way home, Yang's delegation visited the Permanent Secretariat of the Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and the PSCs, known as Forum Macao.

Yang said that Zhongshan and the seven PSCs that are members of Forum Macao had great potential for cooperation, using Macao as a bridge to connect them. He asked for a commitment to promote the CNZ in cooperation with Macao.

Chang Hexi, secretary-general of the forum, introduced the role of Macao as a service platform, especially in economic and trade cooperation, human resources and cultural exchange. ■



Sun Yat-sen memorial park

Silver Linings

Macao SMEs prosper
despite difficulties



By Luciana Leitão in Macao

Photos by Eric Tam, Nuno Veloso@Core Productions
and courtesy of Macau Closer

To be a small or medium-sized enterprise (SME) in Macao is no easy matter. Rents are high, the labour market is tight and access to capital is difficult. Despite these obstacles, many are prospering – the economic slowdown has helped to bring down rents a little and the government offers a wide variety of financial help.

In 2003, at the height of the SARS epidemic, the government introduced three funding schemes to help SMEs. Since then, it has provided more than 120 million patacas to thousands of companies in a wide range of sectors.

Businesses welcome this support but say that not all the schemes are working as well as they would like. The Macao Small and Medium Enterprises Association believes that the government should be more generous, especially to help firms overcome high rents and the difficulties of hiring staff.

Macao magazine took a look at how different SMEs are coping in the current climate. Some have applied for government funds, others have not.

Art gallery

Florence Lam is director of the Lao Hin Gallery. She said that business has been better and not only because of the general economic conditions. “We have been experiencing organic growth year-on-year. Part of it is due to general market conditions, but it also has to do with how we run our business.”

She said that the economy was in favour of her line of business. “People have more disposable income. A good location fulfils all the potential.” The firm has two venues, of which only one, in Rua da Terenca, is open to the public. The increases in rent there have not been so sharp, which she is relieved about.

“There are also challenges, the largest being human resources – to be able to compete with so many big corporations and with the quantity of big projects in the pipeline.” She said that she had not applied for funding from the government, as the firm had good relations with the banks.



Florence Lam



Clement Cheng

Spatial Design and Living

Clement Cheng is director of CINCH Studio Spatial Design and Signum Living Store. His great advantage is that he owns his store at Barra, so that he is not at the mercy of changes in the rental market.

“Market conditions are different for the retail and construction sectors, two areas in which my company works,” he said. “The retail sector is tough, as spending is reduced. But, for interior design, usually people plan ahead. Even if the economy is not that great at the moment, people still need to refurbish their offices. It’s something that cannot be put off, so it’s good to have steady growth.”

A few years ago, he applied for government funding at the start of his project. “It was a small amount that helped to increase the facilities of my office.

“I believe that the existing government funding schemes should only be considered as ‘bonuses’, as a business should not rely on such kinds of support,” he said.

Considering the more recent Creative and Cultural Industries Fund, Cheng said that it was still at a very early stage. “A lot of terms were not clear. I don’t need any money for further expansion.”

Macao Creations

Wilson Chi-lan Lam founded Macao Creations, a

design company; it has two shops, one in Macao Tower and the other in Cunha Street, Taipa. Previously, he had one close to the ruins of St Paul’s – but closed it due to high rents.

“The market is not favourable to my line of business. Rents are getting higher,” he said. “I am not thinking of expanding, in view of current market conditions.”

Online magazine

Raquel Dias is the co-publisher of online magazine Live and Love Macao with Sally Victoria Benson and Katya Maia, a lifestyle guide. “There are two parts: one is a daily update and the other part is a city guide,” she said. The partners have very different backgrounds; the guide is their selection of what is happening in Macao. Targeting non-Chinese speakers, the magazine is written in English.

Two years ago they applied for the Young Entrepreneurs Aid Scheme. “The application was fast, despite being bureaucratic, but everybody worked well,” Dias said. They applied for the maximum amount, 300,000 patacas, and received a percentage of it. They used most of the money to create the website.

“Two years after receiving that amount, you need to start paying back, every three months, she said.



"Even though the fund given by the government was not a big amount, it was essential for the launch of the magazine. It is a wonderful help, but, of course, if someone needs space [and has to pay rent], it may not work. For those with a different business model or who already have some start-up money and only need complementary funds, it is useful," she said. The website aimed to be operating from September this year.

Three funding schemes

The government introduced three credit-guarantee schemes, aimed at tackling the difficulties faced by SMEs, such as lack of financial resources, according to the website of DES (Macao Economic Services). One is the SME Credit Guarantee Scheme which provides each beneficiary with credit guarantees equal to 70 percent of the loan approved by the participating banks; the maximum amount of guarantee offered is 3.5 million patacas. The repayment period is a maximum of five years.

The second is the SME Credit Guarantee Scheme Designated for Special Projects. It provides credit guarantees of up to 100 percent of the amount needed by SMEs to finance special projects, "so as to support them to develop projects to reform and alter their type of business; to promote and advertise their own brands; or improve the quality of their products. It also aims to assist SMEs to acquire from banks the capital needed to resolve short-term financial difficulties arising from payment of employees' salaries, rental expenses (and other expenses), if these SMEs are directly affected by extraordinary or unpredictable events beyond human control, especially natural disasters or epidemic diseases," according to the scheme's official website. The maximum amount of guarantee offered is one million patacas and repayment must be made within five years.

The third is the SME Aid Scheme – interest-free financial assistance to help SMEs, such as financing purchasing of equipment, renovation, decoration and expansion, funding technology, advertising and

promotions. The maximum amount of each loan per company is 600,000 patacas, with repayment within eight years.

Up to May 2015, there were 7,778 approvals for the aid scheme, totalling 2.1 million patacas; 450 approvals for the credit guarantee scheme, totalling 786,600 patacas; and 60 credit guarantee schemes designated for special projects approved, totalling 49,600 patacas.

The major sectors to benefit have been retail, wholesale, construction and public works and restaurants. The DES said that, as announced in the last Policy Address, it was planning to double from 3.5 million to seven million patacas the maximum credit guarantee loan amount, while the guarantee ratio will remain at 70 percent.

In addition, administrative formalities have been simplified through cross-departmental cooperation. "By obtaining information through the inter-departmental network, the number of documents required for the application of the schemes has been reduced, such as the business tax - the new registration form, industrial tax form and business registration certificates," DES told Macao magazine.

A cross-departmental task force will be formed to formulate the policy of revitalising the economy of old city districts. The government has also started research into how to reserve space for SMEs in the new urban reclamation areas.

New funding schemes

There are two other government subsidies that may benefit SMEs - the SME Website fund and the Young Entrepreneurs Aid Scheme.

The first was introduced in September 2014; it provides subsidies of between 6,000 and 50,000 patacas for SMEs to set up or maintain their own website. As of the end of April this year, this fund has granted 15.4 million patacas to 805 local SMEs. According to the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM), the fund received a total of 4,725 applications from local SMEs, in the retail, property, restaurant, hotel and construction sectors.

The second government initiative was the Young Entrepreneurs Aid Scheme, introduced in August 2013. It offers interest-free loans of up to 300,000

patacas for young people to start their own businesses. Entrepreneurs aged between 21 and 44 are eligible for a loan for eight years, with repayments starting after 18 months.

Sou Tim Peng, DES director, told the media that, since the establishment of the scheme in August 2013 up to May this year, the government had granted a total of 104 million patacas to 434 out of 737 applicants. The beneficiaries of the scheme were primarily from the sectors of retail, food and beverage, and wholesale.

In addition, IPIM gives its own funds. The E-Commerce Promotion Incentive Measures award gives subsidies of up to 20,000 patacas to local SMEs if they promote their business on the online platforms operated by "IPIM Eligible E-commerce operators or websites". These include Alibaba Hong Kong, Ebay Hong Kong and four other operators. As of 24 March this year, it had approved 377 out of 388 applicants.

SMEs would like more funds

Victor Leng, director of the Macau Small and Medium Enterprises Association, said that the government could be more generous. "Some funding schemes offer up to 300,000 patacas, but this is nothing in the current Macao economy." He said that the situation for SMEs had improved, with lower rents and landlords more willing to negotiate.

"SMEs related to creative and cultural industries are growing more, while the food and beverage sector is suffering due to the economic slowdown. Young people are now willing to open new business design and advertising companies. In this competitive environment, it takes creativity to survive," he said.

The difficulties in high rents and a tight labour market persist. "Even though we read about junkets firing people, I don't see that labour going to SMEs (from casinos)," he said. "Maybe they are still looking for opportunities in large enterprises."

The Cultural and Creative Industries Fund

In October 2013, the government announced the creation of the 200-million-patacas Creative and Cultural Industries Fund, which provides

grants and makes interest-free loans to deserving enterprises or projects in this field. Since the first application to the fund last year, a total of 321 applications have been received. Only about 27 percent – 86 cases – have been approved by the administrative committee and board of trustees. According to Leong Heng Teng, the Fund's Administrative Committee, the funded projects range from creative design, cultural

performances to multimedia. The 86 qualified applicants were supposed to receive the money this year. At least 14 of them, however, have cancelled their application for funds, as they found the financial support too little. Lam, founder of Macau Creations, applied successfully two years ago for this fund for a specific project but has yet to receive the money. ■



34th International Marathon
www.macaumarathon.com
www.sport.gov.mo
06/12/2015

**澳門
銀河娛樂
國際馬拉松**
6:00 am

**Galaxy Entertainment Maratona
Internacional de Macau
Macao Galaxy Entertainment
International Marathon**

授權機構
Autorização do
funcionamento

 主辦
Organização

 澳門特別行政區政府
 體育發展局

 澳門田徑總會
 冠名贊助商
 Patrocinador Principal
 Oba Sponsor

 銀河娛樂集團
 Galaxy Entertainment Group

**慶祝澳門申遺
成功十周年**
 系列活動 2015
 ACTIVIDADES COMEMORATIVAS DO 10.º ANIVÉRSARIO DA INSCRIÇÃO
 DO "CENTRO HISTÓRICO DE MACAU" NA LISTA DO PATRIMÓNIO MUNDIAL
 COMEMORATIVE ACTIVITIES OF THE 10.º ANNIVERSARY OF THE INSCRIPTION
 OF "THE HISTORIC CENTRE OF MACAO" ON WORLD HERITAGE LIST

**澳門拉丁城區
幻彩大巡遊**
 Desfile por Macau, Cidade Latina
 Parade through Macao, Latin City
4:00 pm

Huaiyang cuisine: a great tradition

Huaiyang cuisine, one of the “Four Great Traditions” and a prestigious culinary heritage in China, is one of the country’s cultural crown jewels, yet remains little known to the outside world.

By Mariana César de Sá in Macao

Photos by Leong Sio Po and courtesy of MGM



With the help of MGM Macau, however, this national treasure has recently found itself in the international spotlight. During the month of October, the world-famous casino resort and hotel featured the last of its “Four Great Traditions” (Cantonese, Sichuan, Shandong and Huaiyang cuisines) – in a celebration of the rich culinary heritage of China.

This event is yet another example of MGM Macau’s commitment to bringing cultural diversity to Macao. Since its grand opening in 2007, the five-star luxury venue, featuring an 8,000-square-foot ArtSpace, has been host to countless exhibitions, cultural exchanges and fine arts events, including an exhibition featuring Sandro Botticelli, the Red Sandalwood Art Exhibition of Old Beijing City Gates and showcasing twelve local Macao artists in the “Saudade” exhibit.

To represent the best of Huaiyang cuisines, MGM Macau partnered with Ye Chun Catering Company Limited, a state-owned company that owns the world-renowned Ye Chun Tea House in Yangzhou. Founded in 1877, Ye Chun Tea House is today classified as a cultural heritage location. This event marks their first time in Macao.

Charlie Chen, General Manager of Ye Chun Catering, sees this culinary exchange as a fruitful platform upon which to promote the history, significance, and, most importantly, the flavours of Huaiyang cuisine to the hundreds of thousands of guests who visit MGM Macau.

The leaders’ chosen cuisine

A 22-year veteran in the culinary arts, Chen describes Huaiyang cuisine in a greater context: “Behind every dish, there is a legend, and with its history and culture, the cuisine can enable us to understand Chinese culture. It is easily accepted because it is light; it focuses on nutrition, which is the current trend, and most interestingly, it is a beautifully presented cuisine.”

With such high praise for its merits, it should be no surprise that Huaiyang cuisine is often featured at state occasions in China. Most notably, it was the chosen cuisine in 1949 for China’s first state banquet, and it continues to be the cuisine of choice featured at every dinner held for international heads of state.



Charlie Chen (Middle)



Chen recalls when former French president Jacques Chirac was welcomed to China in the early 2000s: “These exchanges of state are not only political; they are cultural exchanges too. Through cuisine, we can show China’s culture. In preparing for this visit, we had to think of a way of demonstrating the shared cultures of France and China via cuisine and how the two cultures can compliment one another.”

In addition to the traditional Lions’ Head dish of pork meatballs, considered one of the most important national dishes and served at every banquet, they also created new, fusion dishes to represent the symbiotic relationship of the two countries. For example, pairing Yangzhou sweet buns with French baguettes, creates a beautiful, golden display of French and Chinese partnership.

The golden age of Yangzhou

"You have left me behind, old friend, at the Yellow Crane Terrace

On your way to visit Yangzhou in the misty month of flowers

Your sail, a single shadow, becomes one with the blue sky,

Till now I see only the river, on its way to heaven."

Written by Li Bai (701-762 AD), one of China's most famous poets, these poignant lines illustrate the historical importance of Yangzhou. Located on the Yangtze River in Jiangsu province in eastern China, Yangzhou is one of the epicentres of Huaiyang cuisine (Huaian and Zhenjiang being the other two).

Yangzhou was founded in the fifth century BC, during the Spring and Autumn periods. It was the southern capital of China during the rule of Emperor Yang in the Sui dynasty (581-618 AD). Under his rule, Yangzhou thrived as a hub of innovation and progress.

Emperor Yang ordered that the sections of the Grand Canal be connected to create the longest artificial river in the world, running a length of 1,776 kilometres. Linking Hangzhou in the south to Beijing

in the north, the canal supplied the emperors who lived in Beijing with grain, food, and other produce needed to sustain their army and court. Running parallel to the canal was an imperial road and post offices with a system of couriers.

It is to this canal and Yangzhou's geographical location that the city owed its prosperity for the next 1,200 years. Located in the northern part of Jiangsu at the junction of the Yangtze and Huaihe rivers (both of which run through the city itself), the city is squarely situated in the centre of the Jianghuai plain, one of the most fertile farming regions in China. This agricultural powerhouse supplied the country with a rich cornucopia of food: rice, wheat, maize, sorghum, cotton, peanuts, rapeseed, and tea, and produced many kinds of fruit, fish, and silkworms.

These goods were stored in warehouses in Yangzhou and sold to merchants from not only China but the Middle East and Southeast Asia as well. Yangzhou has a long history of cultural diversity. During the Tang dynasty (618-907 AD), it was home to thousands of Korean, Arab, and Persian traders, establishing it as one of China's leading ports and trading centres.



According to some accounts, Italian explorer Marco Polo even lived in Yangzhou in the 1280s during the Yuan dynasty, working as an official in the salt industry. Later, archaeologists discovered the 1342 tomb of Katarina Vilioni, who belonged to an Italian trading family, offering evidence of an established Italian community.

During the Ming dynasty (1368-1644 AD), the city as we know it today was built, surrounded by nine kilometres of walls. During the Ming and first part of the Qing dynasty (1644-1911), Yangzhou was a major trading centre for salt, rice, and silk. Rich merchants built spacious houses, gardens, and other monuments, including a Western Lake, parks, and temples, which attract visitors from all over the world today.

Such a rich history has left Yangzhou with a treasure trove of monuments dating back to the Han dynasty (206 BC-220 AD). To date, the city counts 476 protected historic sites and attracts ten million tourists a year, all of whom also enjoy its famous food.

The taste of Huaiyang

Bai Baosong, Food and Beverage Deputy Director at Ye Chun and a top-ranking chef, has been cooking up Huaiyang cuisine for over a decade. He explains that the four cuisines that make up China's "Four Great Traditions" are very different from one another; Huaiyang cuisine is light and, being near the Yangtze River, utilises a lot of seafood from the rivers and lakes, whereas other cuisines, he says, have stronger flavours and can be very spicy.

"The most renowned dishes are Lion's Head, Braised Fish Head, Stewed Crab, and Yangzhou Fried Rice - most of these dishes have chicken soup as a base, an essential part of Huaiyang Cuisine."

Innovation of Huaiyang cuisine

Bai worked as the executive chef at China's Foreign Ministry in Beijing from 2009 to 2013. Together, his team prepared official banquets at least four times a week for hundreds of guests. He has proven his vast expertise in Huaiyang cuisine as well as his ability to adapt to more modern culinary preferences.

"Working in the Ministry, we must understand the tastes, cuisines, and customs of different countries. On one occasion, we received a VIP guest from

Argentina - this guest was a vegetarian, and on top of that, would not consume salt, soya sauce, sugar or any oil. We had to prepare a dish with meticulous care to cater for the guest's needs."

Bai speaks highly of MGM's team and explains that not only has this culinary exchange developed the local population's understanding of Huaiyang cuisine, he has also learned a lot of management skills from the chefs at the hotel. "I learned a famous Cantonese dish: "Roast Duck", a dish that I will surely be bringing back to my kitchen in Yangzhou."

Chef Louie Vong, MGM's Chinese Executive Sous Chef of Chinese Cuisine, explains that the hotel often partners with famous restaurants and groups from around the world to bring different cuisines to the hotel's guests.

Vong says that the most popular dishes from October's culinary exchange gradually will be added to the menu at MGM Macau's Imperial Court restaurant as well as to larger banquets and VIP dinners. "The knife skills and techniques used by Huaiyang chefs are exceptional. So is their pastry. Our chefs have been learning these two skills in particular."

Bai Baosong





Louie Vong

Many of the dishes served at MGM today are a result of cooperation, for example, the Beijing-style, braised South African abalone at the Imperial Court – a classic Shandong dish – was created with the cooperation of the teams of Master Chef Qu Hao and Master Chef Li Ke at the Grand Imperial Court in the hotel.

Vong emphasises the importance of training Macao's young people and asserts that Macao provides a great culinary environment in which aspiring chefs may blossom. "MGM feels it has a responsibility to allow aspiring young chefs to become familiar with different cuisines so that one day they can gain enough experience to cook for banquets and restaurants."

The future of Yangzhou

In 1800, Yangzhou was one of ten cities in the world with a population of over 500,000.

The city went into economic decline after the Taiping Rebellion (1850-1864), whose capital was the nearby city of Nanjing. Railway construction fell by the wayside, and the waterways of the Grand Canal

were neglected. The centre of China's commercial life moved to cities on the coast and the northeast like Shanghai, Tianjin, and Xiamen.

Foreign companies invested in these ports and developed shipping networks along the coast, replacing the routes that had formerly run along the Grand Canal and other inland routes. The southern half of Jiangsu, which includes Suzhou, Wuxi, and Kunshan, became more prosperous than the northern to which Yangzhou belongs.

Today, Yangzhou ranks as a second-tier city with an urban population of 4.6 million over a land area of 6,000 square kilometres. In 2014, its GDP was 369.79 billion yuan, up 11 percent from 2013, with an average per capita GDP of US\$ 13,470, according to the city's official website. Its main industries are automobiles, shipbuilding, chemicals, electronics, IT and biotechnology. It has come a long way from the agriculture powerhouse it once was.

In 2015, the city is celebrating 2,500 years since its founding, and with tourism on the rise, Yangzhou hopes that its delectable cuisine will help it return it to its Golden Age. The city even plans on spending millions of yuan in restoring old houses, lanes, and alleys originally slated to face the demolition ball in order to provide a more authentic feel.

Bringing Huaiyang cuisine to the world

The Ye Chun Catering Company is the first Chinese chain restaurant to expand beyond China: their Taipei branch opened four years ago, and their Singapore branch has been open for almost a year. It aims to open their second Singapore branch by the end of 2015, and there are even plans to expand to Italy, which would be a new milestone. Cultural and promotional exchanges in the United States, Australia, and Europe are also in the pipeline.

As with all products and services, cuisines also need to adapt to local palates and customs. In Singapore, the famous Brine-Boiled Goose was altered to Brine-Boiled Duck. "It was very hard to find goose in Singapore, so we had to alter this dish. It has been welcomed by locals and has become a popular choice for them. Adjustments are not solely made outside China; even in Yangzhou we make adjustments to the dishes to suit the locals' preferences," says Chen.

By all accounts, the culinary exchanges put on by

MGM Macau, including October's culinary exchange, have catapulted Macao to the forefront of the international culinary scene. At the 2015 Hong Kong International Culinary competition, MGM Macau

received three awards in various categories and won the Gold award in the category of "Modern Chinese Cuisine Challenge Hot Cooking—Creative Appetizer".



Yangzhou city



**Macao through the
eyes of Julius Santos**





Cotai



Nam Van Lake



Macao Science Centre



Oriental Games Roundabout



Senado Square



Guia Lighthouse



Kun Iam Statue





2015/08/18 WHO chief praises Macao for developing TCM

The World Health Organisation (WHO) Director-General Margaret Chan Fung Fu-chun praised Macao for its "good work" on developing traditional Chinese medicine (TCM). Chan gave the praise at the opening ceremony of the International Forum on Traditional Medicine and the inauguration of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Traditional Medicine in Macao. The centre will work under the supervision of the local Health Bureau (SSM). The Macao government set up the TCM Science and Technology Industrial Park on Hengqin Island in 2011. Its establishment is ongoing.



2015/08/20 IFT looking to expand and enroll more students

The Institute for Tourism Studies (IFT) president Fanny Vong Chuk Kwan said she hoped to increase the intake of students, as the tertiary education institution on Mong Ha Hill had recently been given a building at the former University of Macau campus in Taipa by the government. According to an IFT statement, the government-owned institute has grown from just 100 undergraduate students when it was set up in 1995 to around 1,600 now. Over the past two decades, over 6,000 degree and higher diploma students have graduated from the institute.



2015/09/01 Macao's GDP shrinks by 26.4 percent in Q2

Macao's gross domestic product (GDP) dipped to its lowest since 2011 as high-stakes gamblers avoided the world's largest casino market. GDP tumbled 26.4 percent year-on-year in real terms in the second quarter, the Statistics and Census Bureau said in a statement. The drop worsened from 24.5 percent in the previous quarter and 17.2 percent in the fourth quarter of last year. The decline took Macao's GDP to 77.5 billion patacas at constant prices, making it the weakest since early 2011. At current prices, GDP stood at 88.3 billion patacas in the second quarter. Macao has seen its gross gaming revenue plunge for 14 straight months.



2015/09/07 IFT President urges cooperation with HK & Zhuhai to boost MICE sector

The Institute for Tourism Studies (IFT)'s president Fanny Vong Chuk Kwan suggested that instead of competing with Zhuhai and Hong Kong in the MICE sector, Macao should look to cooperate with the two cities to help the business grow in Macao. Additionally, she said, the city needed to improve its infrastructure and human resources to be able to support the MICE business. Vong made the remarks on the sidelines of the 3rd International Conference on Events at the IFT campus.



2015/09/13 Cinematheque Passion starts its trial run

Cinematheque Passion, an art house and film archive run by the Cultural Affairs Bureau, started its long-awaited trial run on 13 September according to a statement from the bureau. The trial will end on 31 December. Cinematheque is located at the Travessa da Paixão next to the Ruins of Saint Paul's Church. The name of the alley means "passion" in Portuguese and "love" in Chinese. According to the bureau, Cinematheque is part of a three-storey townhouse, which includes the ground floor cinema while the other floors are used for storing locally made films and publications.



2015/10/05 Taiwan wins international fireworks contest

Yung-feng Firecrackers & Fireworks Co. Ltd from Taiwan won the 27th Macao International Fireworks Display Contest, followed by China and France's fireworks teams in second and third place respectively. The ten participating teams of came from Malaysia, Finland, Taiwan, Korea, Italy, Portugal, France, Austria, Australia and China. This is the first time the contest has featured teams from Malaysia and Finland. The pyrotechnic companies from Italy and France also made their debut in Macao.



2015/10/12 Macao should develop as a multi-destination tourism city

Macao's tourism sector should connect with surrounding areas, particularly Hong Kong and the mainland, to develop a multi-destination approach, United Nations World Tourism Organisation Secretary-General Taleb Rifai said during the opening ceremony of the Global Tourism Economy Forum at the Venetian in Macao. Describing Macao as "a success story", Rifai said he encouraged the city to stage more mega events. "Not only sports events, which are very important, but cultural events, family events," Rifai said. Addressing the ceremony, Chief Executive Fernando Chui Sai On pointed out that the forum has been held for four consecutive years in Macao, adding that it has provided the global tourism sector with a wide range of important ideas.



2015/10/15 The Parisian Macao's Eiffel Tower tops out

The Parisian Macao resort, in the Cotai Strip, reached one of its most significant milestones with the symbolic act of capping the dome and lantern structure. Expected to open in the second half of 2016, The Parisian Macao will feature an integrated resort with about 3,000 rooms and suites, as well as conference rooms, restaurants, shops, a spa and health club, a children's club, two observation decks and a pool deck, including Aquaworld – a themed water park aimed at mostly business, leisure and family travellers. Upon its completion, The Parisian will increase the visitor capacity of Sands China in the Cotai area to 12,000 rooms and suites and 800 duty-free shops.



2015/10/21

New Silk Road brings opportunities to Macao

The New Silk Road will increase the commercial ties between China and other parts of the world by bringing many opportunities to Macao, said former President of the European Commission José Manuel Barroso, who received an honorary professorship from the Macao Polytechnic institute (IPM).

"Tourism is a great opportunity for Macao, and globalisation can promote more opportunities in this area and create employment and career opportunities for young local people. The idea of the New Silk Road and of more interaction between China and parts of the world is certainly an opportunity for Macao," Barroso said.

The former Portuguese Prime Minister also said: "The strategic choice of making Macao a centre for tourism and leisure activities, and the opportunity from a cultural point of view of creating a platform for Portuguese-speaking Countries is a good choice."



2015/10/27

Studio City opened its doors

The "Studio City" project, an investment of US\$ 3.2 billion has opened its doors in Macao. The opening ceremony was attended by actors Robert De Niro, Leonardo DiCaprio and director Martin Scorsese responsible for the film "The Audition" purposely created to promote the new hotel-casino.

"Studio City", the third venture of the Melco Crown Entertainment Group in Macao, as well as a casino with 200 tables includes a shopping centre, the only figure-eight Ferris wheel in the world, two towers with hotels of 1,600 rooms, over 30 restaurants, an event centre with 5,000 seats, concert halls and a park with a 4D flight simulator dedicated to Batman, and an indoor Warner Bros. theme park.

Macao currently has 37 casinos that belong to six gaming operators – Sociedade de Jogos de Macau, Galaxy Casino, Melco Crown (Macao), SA Venetian Macao, Wynn Resorts (Macao) and MGM Grand Paradise.



2015/11/01

Macao's gaming revenue fell 28 percent in October

Gross gaming revenue in Macao fell 28.4 percent in October from the previous year, narrowing from a 33 percent decline in September and a 35.5 percent decline in August, according to Macao's Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau.

Gaming revenue for the month totalled US\$ 2.5 billion (20.059 billion patacas), up 17 percent from September and its highest since May, thanks in part to the "Golden Week" holiday that ushered in the month.

In the first 10 months of 2015, cumulative gaming revenue was down 35.5 percent from a year ago, versus a peak decline of 37.1 percent in April and May.



2015/11/22

Swedish Felix Rosenqvist wins F3 Macao Grand Prix

Swedish driver Felix Rosenqvist won the Macao F3 Grand Prix in a Dallara/Mercedes. He finished the race in 24m 52.619s.

In 2014 Rosenqvist also won the F3 Macao Grand Prix, Second in line was Monaco born, Charles Leclerc (Gap 0.503s) in a Dallara/Wolkswagen followed by British Alexander Sims (Gap 2.701s) in a Dallara/Mercedes.

MACAO YEARBOOK 2015

The Chinese, Portuguese and English editions of Macao Yearbook 2015, an annual publication compiled by the Government Information Bureau (GCS) of the Macao SAR, are available now.



The Macao Yearbook is a comprehensive chronicle. It outlines major events, details of progress achieved, and changes made in the course of Macao's political, economic, social and cultural development, with the aim of promoting Macao and providing detailed information and data for all who wish to study and understand Macao.

The Macao Yearbook 2015, together with a complimentary CD-ROM containing the PDF version of the yearbook, can be purchased at the following places at 120 patacas per copy: major local bookstores; the Government Public Information Centre at Rua do Campo; and the Macao Post Office (Macao Post)'s Philatelic Division, Rua do Campo Branch, Outer Harbour Ferry Terminal Branch, Macau International Airport Branch, and Nova Taipa Branch, as well as the book stores of The Commercial Press Ltd, in Hong Kong.

Taking into account the rising popularity of digital materials and in order to minimise the environmental impact of the publication, the Macao Yearbook - published in Chinese, Portuguese and English - will, from 2016, no longer be available in print. We will focus instead on improving the yearbook's digital edition by adding more pictures and even video content to meet the changing needs of the readership.

Readers can access the content of the Macao Yearbook via the following website:

<http://yearbook.gcs.gov.mo>

or by downloading the following mobile applications:



Android



iOS



Waldseemüller World Map - XVI Century

Seeing the West through Chinese Eyes

By Mark O'Neill in Macao

China's Marco Polo discovers the West on Portuguese ships

"It is a sparsely settled island, with a large number of rich families. Maritime commerce is one of their chief occupations and, wherever there is a region in which profits could be reaped by trading, these people strive for them, with the result that their commercial vessels are to be seen on the seven seas."

"It is a small island in the middle of the ocean. Water transportation in this country is done by means of boats which have wheels on the side and a fire engine in the centre. When a strong fire is generated, the wheels are set in motion, thereby propelling the boat forward."

Which are the two countries being described by a Chinese traveller at the end of the 18th century? They are Britain and the United States.

They come from *Chronicle of the Sea* by Xie Qing-gao, one of the most remarkable Chinese books published in the 19th century.

It is an account of countries in Asia, Africa, the Americas and Europe which Xie, a sailor on Portuguese ships, visited at the end of the century.

After returning to China, he settled in Macao. He had lost his sight but was determined to leave a record of his travels before he died. So, in 1820, he persuaded a friend named Yang Bing-nan to write down what he said. The book was published at the end of the year. Xie died the next year, aged 56, at his home in Guangdong province.

The book created a sensation. In the early 19th century, China was a closed country; it was almost impossible for people to go abroad, while the entry of foreigners was tightly restricted.

Chinese believed their country was the centre of

the world and able to produce everything they needed. In 1800, China's GDP was the largest in the world, three times that of India in second place and seven times that of Japan, France, Germany and Britain. Why did it need to know the life and habits of the barbarians who lived in the far West? They had nothing to give China that it did not already have.

"Our Celestial Empire possesses all things in prolific abundance and lacks no product within its borders. There is therefore no need to import the manufactures of outside barbarians in exchange for our own produce," was the edict of Emperor Qian Long to British king George III in 1792.

When British envoy Lord George Macartney visited the Emperor in Beijing the next year, he declined to accept the many gifts the Lord had brought with him all the way round the world, saying he did not need them.

FormembersofChina'sgovernmentandintelligentsia starved of information about the outside world, Xie's book became an invaluable source.

It contained a wealth of information about foreign countries, including topics such as geography, products, buildings, clothes, manners, religion, language and customs—subjects about which China's ruling elite and educated class knew nothing.

In the first four decades of the 19th century, before the British arrived and provoked the Opium War, it was one of the most important books in the Chinese language about the outside world.

Especially useful was the way Xie described the lives, customs and beliefs of people that were different to those at home—which was just what his countrymen wanted to know.



He was later called China's Marco Polo. Jin Guoping, a Chinese scholar, has called him the "Chinese Fernão Mendes Pinto", the 16th century Portuguese adventurer who wrote *Peregrinação* (Pilgrimage), the story of his adventures and explorations in the Far East.

Lin Ze-xu, the righteous mandarin who burnt 1,200 tonnes of opium in Guangzhou in 1839 – a main cause of the Opium War with Britain – recommended the book to the Emperor Dao Guang.

The first version in a Western language, in Portuguese, was published in Macao in 1840.

Leaving home, looking for adventure

Xie was born in what is now Meizhou city in Guangdong province in 1765.

At the age of 18, he left home to seek his fortune. He went to Macao and found a job as a sailor on a Portuguese vessel that was about to visit the different cities of the country's vast empire that spanned the world.

It was the era before the steamship; vessels moved

through their sails. So they travelled close to the coast where possible.

As he would later describe in his book, Xie's ship went down the coast of Indochina, through the Straits of Malacca, up the coast of Myanmar to what is now Bangladesh.

Then it hugged the coast of India before reaching Goa, the first Portuguese settlement in Asia dating from 1510. The next stage was to cross the Indian Ocean and reach the east coast of Africa.

In his book, Xie describes Mauritius, Zanzibar, Mozambique, the Cape of Good Hope and Guinea Bissau. Then came another ocean-crossing to Brazil, the pearl of the Portuguese empire. Finally, it was across the Atlantic to Lisbon, Vigo in Galicia in Spain and over the Bay of Biscayne to England.

For a Chinese who had never seen anything but the rice paddies, crowded villages and ancestral temples of Guangdong, this was an adventure that could not be imagined. He saw the wealth and diversity of the non-Chinese world and people of every colour, religion and customs. Few people in the world at that time had such an experience.

“Portuguese wear tight-fitting clothes”

The descriptions in Xie’s book are very vivid. He paid particular attention to the growth of the maritime countries – Portugal, Holland and England and their expansion overseas. This was prescient because these were the countries which could and would threaten China’s sovereignty. It seems probable that he spent most of his time abroad in these European countries; he writes less about Africa and South America.

He visited England at a time of intense rivalry with France. He observes: “Male inhabitants from the ages of 15 to 60 are conscripted into the service of the king as soldiers. Moreover, a large foreign mercenary army is maintained. Consequently, although the country is small, it has such a large military force that foreign nations are afraid of it.”

Of America, he writes: “It can be reached by sailing west for about ten days from England. Formerly, it was part of England but is now an independent country, although the customs and practices of the two countries remain alike. Minerals found

in the country include gold, silver, copper, iron, lead and tin. Manufactured products include tin plate, glass, snuff, wine and woollen and cotton goods.”

He is impressed by the dress of the Portuguese: “The people are white in colour and are fond of cleanliness. The men usually wear trousers and short upper clothes, both very much tight-fitting. Women also wear short and tight-fitting upper clothes, but instead of trousers they wear skirts, which are sometimes eight or nine folds deep. Among the poor, this is made of cotton and, among the rich, of silk. When rich women go out, they often wear a veil made of fine black silk. Both men and women wear leather shoes.”

Marriage and death

He was also a keen observer of the social mores of the countries he visits. This is his observation about errant ladies in Portugal: “Women who have illegal sex enter a temple (church) to seek repentance. They sit in a small box next to an open window and kneel down. Through the window, they talk to a monk (priest) who

listens and advises them how to clear themselves of their crime. If the monk tells others about this, then he will be hanged.” This describes the practice of confession in the Catholic Church.

In what is now Bangladesh, he observes sea and river burial – something unimaginable at that time in south China, where people laid their loved ones to rest in the ground as close to them as they could.

“When the old people die, their grandsons and other relatives take them to the edge of the water, their eyes streaming with tears. They embrace the body and lick the hand that touched it as a sign of love. They throw the body into the water and return home as quickly as possible – the one who reaches there first is considered the most fortunate.”

He also records the marriage customs of the Kra peninsula in Malaysia. “The women are married from the age of 11 or 12 and begin to have babies at 13 or 14. Most husbands go to live in the house of their wives. This means that parents prefer to have daughters who will look after them at home in their old age. If the son-in-law leaves the home, he will only inherit half of the assets (of his in-

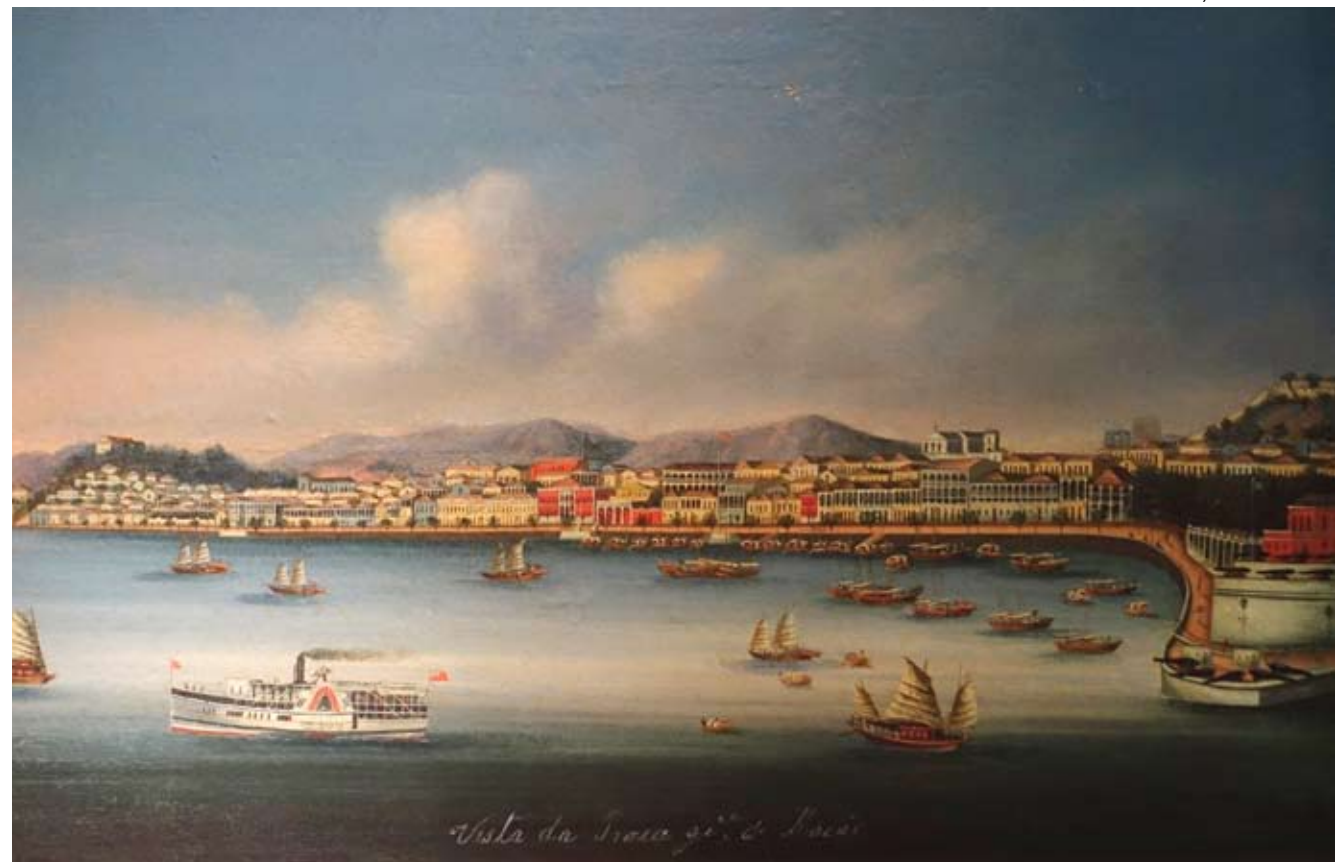
laws).” This custom of treating men and women the same left a deep impact on Xie; he came from a culture that favoured boys over girls – and, in many regions, still does.

He gives detailed descriptions of the crops and manufactured products of the different countries as well as advanced technologies which impressed him.

Return home

Then a terrible tragedy struck Xie – he lost his sight and was forced to give up his travels. He returned to China and settled in Macao in 1787, where he rented rooms from a Portuguese landlord in the Beco do Matapau and opened a grocery business. He remained there until his death.

Much about his life remains unclear. One is the length of time he spent abroad. According to most Chinese accounts, it was 14 years. But, in an essay on Xie published in 2013, Jin wrote that he settled in Macao at the age of 22 after four years at sea. “We cannot exclude the possibility that he went to sea again.”



China Trading Painting. Circa, 1840

Another question is how gifted was he in languages after all his travels, especially in Portuguese. According to Jin, he needed an interpreter to talk to the Portuguese in Macao after his return there.

Trilingual edition

A new book that is being prepared should help to clarify many of the mysteries. Jin is working with the Observatório da China in Lisbon and Wu Zhiliang, President of the Macao Foundation, to make a trilingual edition of *Chronicle of the Seas*, in Chinese,

Lisbon, 1730

English and Portuguese.

This is no easy task because Xie wrote in colloquial language with references to places and situations that are not easy to identify today. He described foreign place names and objects in Chinese characters, using the sounds he heard; many were in Portuguese, from the men working with him on the ships.

Rui Lourido, director of the Observatório da China, said: "This text has a lot of information that needs to be confirmed and clarified. This is a long process and we do not have a timetable for its completion." ■



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1 DEC	15:30	PRESS CONFERENCE
	19:00 - 20:30	OPENING CEREMONY HKNAME live music performance SIC Documentary Finalists Trailers
2 DEC	15:00 - 16:00	SCREENING, extension of 12th B&W International Audiovisual Festival 2015
	19:00 - 21:00	SCREENING SIC'15 SHORTS FICTION finalists with jury & directors ("Public Favourite Award" voting)
3 DEC	15:00 - 16:00	SCREENING SIC'15 VOLUME finalists
	19:00 - 21:00	SCREENING SIC'15 SHORTS DOCUMENTARY finalists with jury & directors ("Public Favourite Award" voting)
4 DEC	15:00 - 17:00	SCREENING SIC'15 SHORTS MACAU CULTURAL IDENTITY finalists with jury & directors ("Public Favourite Award" voting)
	19:00 - 21:00	SCREENING SIC'15 SHORTS ANIMATION finalists SCREENING SIC'15 SHORTS ADVERTISEMENT finalists with jury & directors ("Public Favourite Award" voting)
5 DEC	10:00 - 12:00	FILM SYMPOSIUM "Programming, Presenting and Delivering to audience"
	13:30 - 15:30	FILM SYMPOSIUM "Telling Stories With Camera"
5 DEC	16:00 - 17:00	MACAU PREMIERE "USELESS FICTION" by CHEONG KIN MAN
	19:00 - 21:30	AWARD CEREMONY
6 DEC	22:30 - LATE	AFTER PARTY at LMA with LIVE performance & DJ
	16:00 - 20:00	SCREENING at Cinema Alegria FICTION finalists DOCUMENTARY finalists ANIMATION finalists ADVERTISEMENT finalists MACAU CULTURAL IDENTITY finalists
7 DEC		

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Ancient Engineering Feat

By Ou Nian-le in Nanjing



It is the longest canal in the world and was built by more than one million workers. It has been in continuous use for more than 2,500 years and now carries tens of millions of tonnes of cargo a year. The Grand Canal that links Beijing with Hangzhou, the capital of Zhejiang province in east China, a distance of 1,776 kilometres, was the biggest engineering project in the world before the Industrial Revolution. It played a critical role as a transport hub, to develop the economy and culture across the nation, in the era before railways. It greatly improved irrigation

along the route and was a vital part of national defence, enabling the emperor to bring food from the south and supply his troops defending the northern frontiers. It has been admired by famous travellers throughout history. In the 13th century, Marco Polo described its arched bridges and warehouses and the booming trade of the cities along its route. In 1600, Italian missionary Matteo Ricci set off from Macao to Beijing; he travelled from Nanjing to the capital on the Grand Canal. In June 2014, the 38th session of the World Heritage

Commission of UNESCO (United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) designated 1,011 kilometres of the canal as a World Heritage site. This section passes through 35 cities and includes 59 historical sites. More than 15 percent of China's population lives in areas along the canal. "It is not only an artificial river," said Jiang Shili, deputy head of the office that applied to UNESCO. "It is a witness to the country's cultural communication and mixing of different ethnic groups." The application involved eight years of hard work.

Conceived as a military project

The canal was first conceived in the 5th century BC by a king of what is now Suzhou. He went north in an attempt to conquer a neighbouring state and ordered construction of a canal that could supply him with sufficient supplies during the war. Work began in 486 BC from south of Yangzhou to the north of Huai in Jiangsu.

The main sections in Zhejiang and southern Jiangsu provinces were built during the Sui dynasty (581-618 AD). The major construction was done in the first decade of the seventh century, involving more than one million workers, many of them women. Since the work was done by manual labour, the death rate was high. One contemporary account said: 'When you look downstream, the water is choked with corpses.'

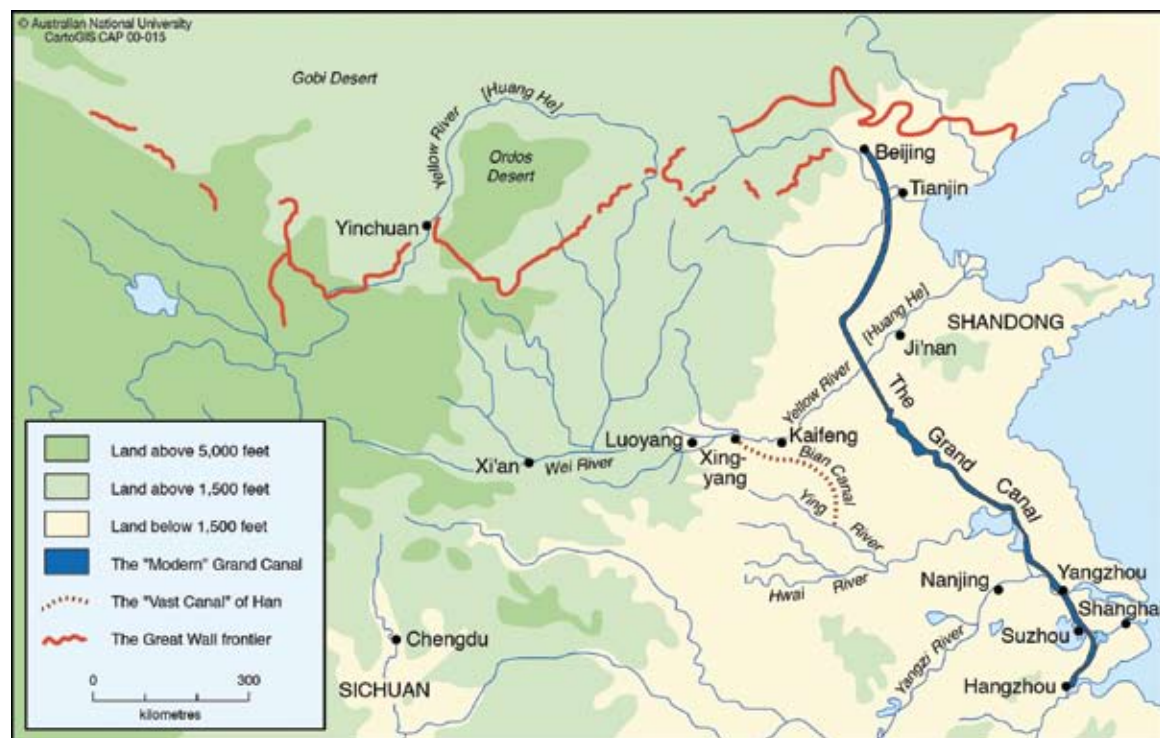
The aim of the Sui emperor was the same as that of his predecessor – to supply grain and other foodstuffs to the army posted in the north from agricultural regions in the east and centre of China. His capital was Luoyang in Henan province.

By 605 AD, the main cities of the empire were connected. According to historian Raymond Huang, it was a landmark year in the nation's history. "Starting from that year, the Sui Yang emperor could reach by canal the capital cities of all his provinces, including Luoyang, Bianzhou, Yangzhou and Suzhou. The cities of the east could send their rich agricultural produce and their commercial prosperity to the northern capital. It bound together the human and material strength and created a mighty empire."

The richest areas of China were cities downstream the Yangtze River in southern Jiangsu and north Zhejiang. By comparison, the capitals in the north like Luoyang and Beijing were less developed. Their water resources were far less abundant than those of the cities of the Yangtze Delta.

Suzhou was able to sell its embroidery, printed scrolls, textiles, jade sculpture and foodstuffs all over the country; the markets provided by the canal enabled it to become one of the most prosperous cities in China.

The city of Jining, in the southwest of Shandong province, became a transport hub. Most of its population were businessmen, craftsmen, soldiers and those who worked on the canal. In 1271, the first



year of the Yuan dynasty, it handled 3,000 boats, with 2,000 men working on the canal and over 10,000 soldiers stationed in the city. By the reign of Yongle (1402-1426) in the Ming dynasty, the garrison had increased to 100,000.

The canal helped to develop Jining as a centre of the tobacco industry, with six major factories processing the crops; they employed 4,000 workers and had annual sales of two million taels of gold and silver. For 13 centuries, the leaders of China followed the example of the Suiyang emperor in maintaining and improving this vital transport link. Dredging work to prevent silting employed tens of thousands of labourers.

Its importance began to diminish in the middle of the 19th century. One factor was the inefficiency of the Qing government in maintaining the canal. Another was terrible floods in 1855 on the Yellow River which blocked it. A third was the development of the road, ocean and rail networks which reduced the need for the canal. Steamships going from Guangzhou and Shanghai to Tianjin were faster than barges on the canal.

UNESCO

The Grand Canal was China's 32nd Cultural Heritage site. In June 2014, UNESCO chose both it and the Silk Road for this honour. In total, China has 47 World

Heritage sites, ranking second in the world.

In its citation, UNESCO said:

"The Grand Canal is a vast waterway system in the north-eastern and central-eastern plains of China, running from Beijing in the north to Zhejiang province in the south. Constructed in sections from the 5th century BC onwards, it was conceived as a unified means of communication for the Empire for the first time in the 7th century AD (Sui dynasty).

"This led to a series of gigantic construction sites, creating the world's largest and most extensive civil engineering project prior to the Industrial Revolution. It formed the backbone of the Empire's inland communication system, transporting grain and strategic raw materials, and supplying rice to feed the population. By the 13th century, it consisted of more than 2,000 kilometres of artificial waterways, linking five of China's main river basins. It has played an important role in ensuring the country's economic prosperity and stability and is still in use today as a major means of communication."

One of the main architects of China's application to UNESCO was Gu Feng, formerly Director of the Antiquities Bureau of Yangzhou and Director of the City Museum. He has lived his entire life next to the canal and has been active for many years in preserving it.

Yangzhou city began to prepare the application in the second half of 2006 and Gu became involved.

"From the 1990s, we began to clean up our section of the canal. It had many piers and workshops in which migrant labourers worked. The condition of them was not good. During the summer rains, these places were completely inundated. So we moved those who lived on the edge of the canal to other places and changed the area into a park."

He said that the application involved substantial money and work; they hoped that it would result in a new growth of the economy. "We hope that the success of the application will enable us to protect the canal better."

He said that some cities had built large shopping centres and buildings on the banks of the canal. "These things are terrible. If they continue, we will issue a yellow card and then a red one. In the end, the heritage status may be revoked."

Gu added: "The economic and cultural benefits of the canal far outweighed the benefits of irrigation," said Gu. "A great empire relied on the canal to remain in power and spread its culture. The empire relied on the canal as well as the Yellow and Yangtze rivers. It has been much more important to China than the Great Wall."

He said that Yangzhou and China as a whole prospered and declined in line with the rise and fall of the canal.

The UNESCO listing has put the canal firmly on the global tourist map; cities like Yangzhou hope that visitors and their spending will help to protect and maintain it.

The history of Hangzhou is closely related to that of

the canal. Lying at its southern end, the city owes its prosperity to the canal, which enabled it to become a transport hub and economic centre. The waterway crosses the urban area of the city for 11 kilometres. To protect and renovate the canal, the city has carried out dredging, supplied additional water and restricted navigation on it. It has implemented a series of tourism development projects, to turn its section of the canal into a leisure and entertainment district for both local residents and visitors.

It has built a China Grand Canal Museum, two landscape belts along the banks and three parks; it also offers a two-hour tour by water bus. Visitors can see many historic sites, including the customs building of the Qing dynasty (1644-1911) and the Fengshan water gate built in the Yuan dynasty (1271-1368).

Canal thrives in modern era

Even in this age of high-speed trains and Airbus that cross the Pacific in 12 hours, the canal retains its economic importance. Local governments along the route continue to invest in maintenance and upgrading to permit vessels of a larger size use the canal.

Each year, it transports up to 100 million tonnes of cargo, including grain, coal, sand, diesel, gravel and building materials. So it is both an economic artery as well as a cultural and tourism treasure.

Even the most ambitious emperor of the Sui dynasty could not have imagined such an outcome. ■





Man with a Mission

Chinese who broke the
foreign monopoly of tea

By Louise do Rosário in Macao



From the early 19th century, China's most important export was tea. The profits from this lucrative business went to foreign companies backed by their global networks and the military might of their governments. Little of the profit went to the Chinese.

The man who broke this monopoly was a native of Xiangshan (now Zhongshan) county that borders Macao. In 1916, Tang Qiao-qing established Hua Cha (Chinese Tea), the country's first tea export company. He signed an agreement with Carter Macy, one of the best-known importers in the US, and exported 80,000 crates in its most successful year, 1925.

Hua Cha exceeded expectations of the Chinese by competing successfully with powerful trading firms like Jardine Matheson, Butterfield and Swire and Dent and Company.

The brand which Hua Cha exported to the US won first prize at the Sesqui-Centennial International Exposition of 1926 in Philadelphia, a world fair to celebrate 150 years of independence from Britain.

Early life

Tang was born in 1841, the second of four sons of a poor rural family in Tangjiawan, now part of Zhuhai. Following multiple births, his mother died at an early age, leaving his father to raise the four boys on his own. Tang was only able to study for a few years before having to help his father work on the farm. Life was very hard.

His father decided that he would have a better future in Shanghai, where relatives and friends could help him find a career; so, when he was 14, he went on his own to China's largest and most prosperous city. There he met Tang Jing-xing, a relative from Tangjiawan who was working in the customs bureau; he found a job for him in a tea company.

Starting at the bottom was hard work, studying the operations of the tea shops and accompanying colleagues on purchase visits to tea-producing areas. He studied English and learnt all aspects of the tea trade, earning him the respect of his superiors. Tang Jing-xing introduced him to tea merchants and compradors of foreign trading firms. He later found a job as a comprador with a foreign company.



Tang Ji-shan, son of Tang Qiao-qing

Building his own empire

Tang's knowledge and connections served him well and his income increased. Seeing the strong growth in demand and the opportunities this presented, he resigned from his salaried post in 1867 and set up his own business, the Qian Xun An tea company, in Jiujiang; he opened branches of it in Hankou and Shanghai. In 1868, with Tang Jing-xing and Xu Run, he set up the Shanghai Tea Company; the three served as directors. He became one of the richest tea traders in Shanghai.

Production was concentrated in the south and east of China. Farmers sold their leaf to Chinese firms such as those owned by Tang or to compradors acting for the foreign companies. The terms of trade were biased against the farmer and in favour of the purchasers; for them, it was a lucrative business.

The money Tang earned enabled him to diversify into other sectors. He invested in the Renjihe Insurance Company, which between 1876 and

1886 built up a capital of one million taels; it had several major shareholders, including compradors of foreign banks. In 1883, he and two partners invested in the Chezhou coalmine in Anhui. In 1888, with two partners, he invested in a real estate firm in Shanghai. He also invested in finance companies in Shanghai and Hong Kong with other people from Tangjiawan.



Competition from India

China's defeat in the two Opium Wars had brought radical changes to the tea industry. The opening of treaty ports brought a rush of foreign trading companies; by 1864, 68 of them had established offices in Shanghai, mainly British and American. One of their most important commodities was tea, especially black tea, which they exported from China to London, from where it was distributed to other markets. With the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869, the journey time to London was reduced from 127 to 58 days, cutting the price and making the business even more profitable. The habit of tea-drinking spread to the US, continental Europe and the Middle East. Considered healthier than cola or coffee, it became known as the king of the world's three major drinks.

Before 1834, China had produced the vast majority of tea traded in the world, including that imported to Britain. Eager to end this dependence on a single market, the East India Company began to cultivate tea in the northeast Indian state of Assam; in 1839, the first auction of Assam tea took place in Britain. The British greatly expanded

production in India and Ceylon, now Sri Lanka; by 1888, British tea imports from India for the first time surpassed those from China. Consumption in Britain soared; by 1901, it exceeded six pounds per person, compared to less than two pounds 50 years earlier.

Tea – with milk and sugar added – had become part of the British way of life. During the two world wars, the government took over the import of this commodity because it judged the brew essential for the morale of the troops and the general public.

Foreign firms dominate exports

The wealth created by this explosion of global demand remained largely in the pockets of the foreign firms who monopolised the export of tea. Chinese firms did not understand overseas markets, had no direct links with importers in those markets, were inexperienced in shipping and foreign exchange and did not have the qualified personnel they needed. They could not compete with their foreign rivals.

Many Chinese entrepreneurs proposed that Chinese firms should export directly, to break the foreign monopoly and retain more of the high profit margin within China. But none could do it.



Breaking the monopoly

The breaking of the monopoly became the last great mission of Tang's life. In 1916, at the age of 75, he established the Hua Cha (Chinese Tea) company in Shanghai as China's first tea export firm. In association with other prominent tea traders, Tang raised 100,000 yuan in capital; he ran the firm with two of his sons, including Tang Ji-shan, his youngest son and 16th child.

His father had sent him as a boy to Britain, where he learnt English, received his education and studied the tea trade. He returned to Shanghai in 1916, where his father appointed him general manager of the new firm. Tang senior merged his companies in Hankou and Jiujiang into Hua Cha and set up its headquarters at number 16 Museum Road, in the city. It had branches in Hong Kong and the US.

In its first move into the export market, the company sold two brands of tea bags to San Francisco where it distributed them through Chinese-owned department stores; they were in bags of one pound, 0.5 pounds and 0.25 pounds. But Liptons dominated the market for black tea and Japanese brands the market for green tea. Without proper advertising and promotion, the two brands did not sell. After three years, the bags were broken and the broken tea sold for a bargain price. The company suffered a big loss and learnt a bitter lesson.

Undeterred, the Tangs invested a further 80,000 yuan in a new factory in the Zhabei district of Shanghai which they equipped with imported machines; they bought leaf directly from growers, to reduce costs to the middlemen. They launched two new brands 'Tian Tan' (Altar of Heaven) and 'Chang Cheng' (Great Wall) and secured long-term financial help from the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank.

Business improved. In 1923, they re-organised the firm into a shareholding company with an additional 100,000 yuan in capital; the Tang family held a stake of 80 percent. They modernised the operations with new packaging and better quality and varieties. Despite his advanced age, Tang Senior threw all his energy and fortune into the new venture.

To penetrate the US market, the firm had to stop relying on Chinese companies there and join the mainstream. In 1924, it signed an agreement with



Carter Macy, a large and well-established US tea importer which had previously bought from British trading houses.

Its best year was 1925, helped by a piece of good fortune. On 30 May that year, Chinese and Sikh policemen under British command in Shanghai opened fire on a crowd of 1,500 to 2,000 protestors, killing nine and injuring many, of whom 15 were sent to hospital. The incident provoked a national uproar and a strike for three months by the city's dockworkers who refused to load cargoes onto foreign-owned ships. This was a godsend to Hua

Cha, whose shipments were not affected. It used wooden barges in Suzhou Creek to bring the crates to large vessels in the Yangtze River estuary. Carter Macy set up an office in Shanghai to establish the brands which it bought solely from Hua Cha; it helped with the promotion and marketing.

In 1925, Hua Cha exported 80,000 crates, or 2,500 tonnes, of tea; it was the highest volume during the history of the company. That year Tang died of illness in Shanghai, aged 84; he had lived to see his dream fulfilled and the monopoly of the foreign firms broken.

Film celebrities

Tang Jishan invested some of his earnings in the film industry and became a media celebrity. To promote his tea, he took Chinese film actress Zhang Zhiyun with him to the US. Company advertisements proclaimed him as the 'Emperor of China's tea' and Zhang as the 'Empress of Chinese tea.'

From May to November 1926, Philadelphia held a Sesqui-Centennial International Exposition, to celebrate 150 years of independence. Hua Cha won a first prize for the tea it displayed at the Expo.

In the 1930s, Hua Cha's exports averaged 60,000 crates or 1,900 tonnes a year, accounting for 10-18 percent of tea exports from Shanghai and ranking the company the fourth largest in its field. This earned Tang Ji-shan the title of 'the King of Tea'.



Destruction

The Japanese invasion was a catastrophe for the company. In January 1932, its factory and warehouse in the Zhabei district of Shanghai were completely destroyed by Japanese bombing and artillery. The firm had sufficient goodwill from clients and banks to remain in business and find the money to rebuild its facilities. But the facilities were destroyed again during the Sino-Japanese battle of Shanghai in 1937. The Japanese took over the city.



After World War Two, the company re-opened in 1946 and exported a limited amount; but it was short of capital and equipment. Before 1949, Tang Ji-shan moved to Hong Kong and later to Taiwan. In 1950, the company's exports were only 169 tonnes. The company in the mainland was nationalised by the new government.



Family and charity

Tang Qiao-qing had 16 children, of whom seven died young. Of the nine who survived, four studied in the US. Number 11, Tang Shu-ban, served as Chinese consul in Luzon in the Philippines; he later worked with his father and younger brother as deputy general manager of the Hua Cha Company. Tang Qiao-qing was active in public works. He helped to found an association for Guangdong people in Shanghai and gave financial help to the Ren Ji hospital; he also funded the Gezhi College and Yinghua College in the city and gave financial help to poor, uneducated students. In Xiangshan, he founded schools, helped the poor and bought a small steamer which made regular journeys, carrying goods and passengers to and from the district to Hong Kong. (In the autumn of 2014, Joint Publishing of Hong Kong published The Second Tang Dynasty – the 12 sons of Fragrant Mountain who changed China. One of them was Tang Qiao-qing. The English version appeared first and a Chinese one will follow.)

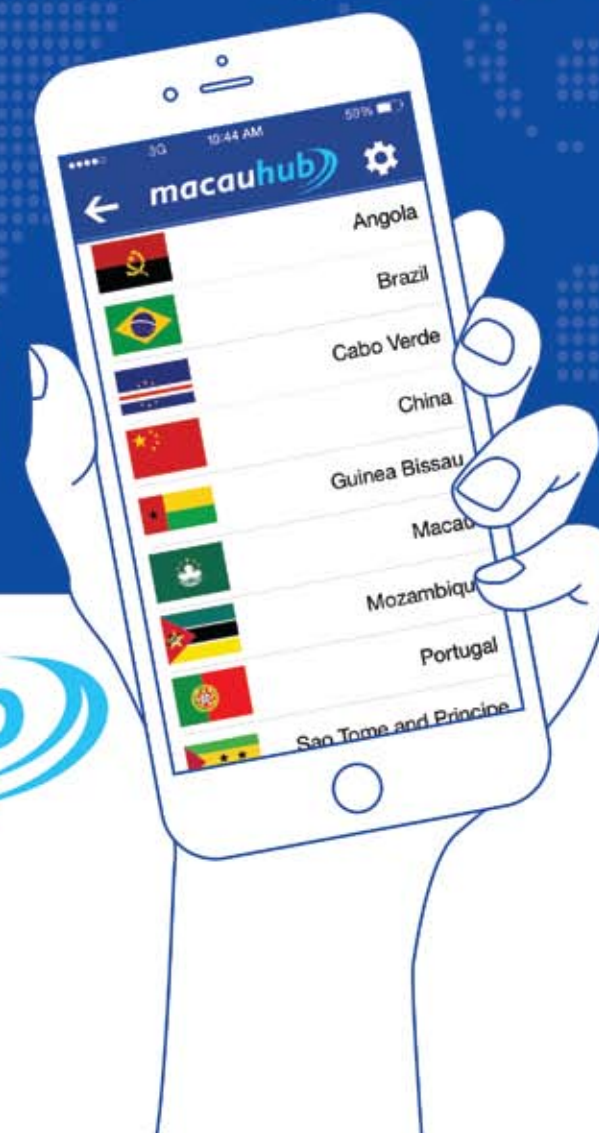
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Giant of Chinese Music

By Mark O'Neill in Macao

Photos by Eric Tam



Macao remembers composer of Yellow River, museum proposed

Xian Xinghai



This year, with the rest of the country, Macao is remembering Xian Xinghai, who was born in a boat in the harbour in 1905 and went on to compose the most famous piece of music during the Pacific War. During a short and dramatic life of 39 years, Xian wrote two symphonies, a violin concerto, an opera and nearly 300 songs, including his masterpiece, the Yellow River Cantata in 1938; it became the battle hymn of China during the war with Japan and has had a lasting impact on Chinese music. In June, Macao Post issued a set of four stamps to commemorate the 110th anniversary of Xian's birth, depicting four scenes of his life – his birth in Macao, studies in Paris, time as conductor in Yanan and his passing in Moscow. It printed 300,000 sets. In September, a Xian Xinghai Week was held in Macao. This included a concert in the auditorium

of the University of Macau, where Macao-born pianist Choi Sown-le played Xian's work with the Hong Kong Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra. Other events included a photo exhibition, film shows and a documentary.

As part of the 29th International Macao Music Festival in October, the Macao Chinese Orchestra presented the Xian Xinghai and Liu Tianhua Commemorative Concert.

Macao is not alone. Other Chinese cities, including Zhuhai, have also held commemorative events; they mark not only Xian's 110th birthday but also the 70th anniversary of China's victory over Japan. In 2009, the Salon Film Group made The Young Xinghai, about his early life: they shot it in Macao, Zhuhai, Zhongshan, Guangzhou and the Nanhai film city.

Now admirers of the musician are calling for a large museum to honour the composer to be built, in the city of Guangzhou or his ancestral home, Lanhe township in Nansha, a suburb of the city.

Museum in ancestral home

Zuo Zhenguan, a Russian of Chinese origin, is the top scholar on Xian Xinghai in Russia and Kazakhstan; the composer lived in both countries.

He is a leading campaigner for a major museum to Xian in Guangzhou. "In Russian cities, there are many museums dedicated to notable people who were born and grew up in them. Xian is the pride of Guangzhou. How should he be best remembered? The local government should provide a piece of land and build a museum in his honour. It could draw on foreign examples and incorporate Xian's music into the construction.

"What is patriotism? It means knowing your own history. But many Chinese do not know their own



history and do not know Xian Xinghai nor the Yellow River Cantata. That is very sad," said Zuo. During the Cultural Revolution, Zuo left Shanghai with his Russian mother and settled in what was then the Soviet Union; he has lived there since. After studying music at university, he entered the Russian Music Composers' Association (RMCA). At the end of the 1980s, the Chinese Foreign Ministry sent a letter to the Soviet government with ten questions about Xian's life there. The RMCA entrusted Zuo with the task of answering the questions. So he followed Xian's path to Alma-Ata (Almaty) and Kostanay in Kazakhstan. Xian went there in the summer of 1941, after the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union. Its army nearly captured Moscow. With millions of others, Xian fled to the east and took refuge in Alma Ata, capital of the Soviet Kazakh republic and now the largest city in Kazakhstan. He lived there on his own, separated from his mother, wife and daughter in China. In Alma Ata, Zuo found people who had known Xian, including the elderly woman who had put him up in her apartment. She told him how he had sold his clothes to raise money and about an illness that developed into pulmonary tuberculosis. In May 1945, after the end of the war, Xian was able to return to Moscow, where he was admitted

to the Kremlin hospital used by senior officials. In his last months, he continued to compose music. But the disease had progressed too far and he died there on 30 October 1945.

Zuo said that, over the years, he had helped producers who were making films about Xian. "I feel that it is very strange that there is not a proper official research institution that conducts in-depth research on him.

"Xian was not just a composer but a person of great significance to Socialism in China. For a person of his stature, there should be at least in Guangzhou a large-scale and authoritative museum, showing the history of his life and his compositions. There are many aspects about him that are worth researching," he said.

Building a museum

Currently, there are four Xian Qinghai memorial halls, including one in Beijing, one in Panyu and one in the music college named after him in Guangzhou. They contain photographs of his life and his compositions; but there is no space for many items donated to China by the Russian government, including compositions he wrote during his time abroad. These are "sleeping" in storage, seen by no-one.

Deng Xilu, director of the music college, said that seminars on Xian were held from time to time. "But real research on him has stopped. This is because he did not leave many items behind."

He said that the college would be a suitable place for a large museum because of its role as a place of music and a national centre for research into Xian's life and work.

"But, wherever a new museum is built, it must take research into Xian to a new level and promote the use of his music. We need people willing to take on and develop this. This is not something that can be achieved by simply building a museum. We need a group of musicians and scholars who want to do this research," said Deng.

Xian's ancestral place of Lanhe township has a society for the study of his life and work and two choirs which perform his music. But it has no plans for a major museum.

Odyssey in life

Xian was born on 13 June 1905 into a family of boat people in the inner harbour of Macao. His father died before he was born, in a boating accident in Hong Kong. He was born in a small boat that was also the family home; he lived there with his mother and maternal grandfather.

When he went to school, he was thrown out because

they did not want such low-class people. His musical education began when he heard his mother sing fishermen's songs.

He moved with his mother to Singapore, where she found work as a domestic servant. Through a relative, he got an introduction to a school for overseas Chinese; he learnt Mandarin and music. He later moved to a middle school in Guangzhou that was part of Lingnan University.

After studying music in Beijing and Shanghai, he went to France in 1929, paying for his passage by shovelling coal in the engine room. From 1931 to 1935, he studied at the Paris Conservatory with two of the most distinguished teachers of the time. He began to compose music.

In 1935, he returned to China and found an excellent job as director of the music department of a film company in Shanghai. After the Japanese attack on the city in 1937, he fled to Wuhan and then the Communist base in Yenan.

It was a productive period for him: he wrote many compositions, including the Yellow River Cantata, which took three days and nights. It became the most popular song of the war, a second national anthem. The next stop of his odyssey was Moscow. The Communist Party had made a film on the Eighth Route Army and needed music; there were no facilities for this in Yenan, so Xian took the reel to Moscow to add the music.



A film on Xian Xinghai, shot in Macao

Macao remembers Xian Xinghai



Russian days

He arrived in Moscow at the end of 1940 and stayed in the Number Three International Guesthouse, on 36 Gorky Street, as the guest of the Comintern. He borrowed a piano and worked on music for the film.

He started to learn Russian and became friends with Russian composers. On 22 June 1941 the Wehrmacht attacked the Soviet Union. Without fluent Russian, Xian could not take part in the war effort and decided to go home; he started the long journey back but found that the border had been closed by a warlord in Xinjiang. He had no alternative but to take refuge in Alma Ata, capital of the Soviet Kazakh republic, close to the frontier with China.

His life there was hard. He lived for one year in the basement apartment of a five-storey building and survived on the limited rations given to residents during wartime. He had no family or connections there.

One day in June 1942, after a chance meeting, a Russian musician invited him to his home; after he learnt of his situation, he arranged for Xian to stay in the apartment of his elder sister, where conditions were better.

In the autumn of 1943, as the bitter winter began to take hold, Xian lost the daily ration of 600 grammes

of bread; this was the most difficult period of the war, when everything was in shortage. His physical condition began to deteriorate.

Sometimes fellow musicians invited him to their homes for a treat of several slices of bread, hot soup and a bowl of corn; then he could take a nap in front of the fire.

Despite these privations, he attended concerts, maintained contact with fellow musicians and composed new pieces.

In early 1944, he went to Kostanay in the north of the Kazakh republic, where he organised a band that played in local venues; it was well received.

In the spring of 1945, during a visit to a mountainous region for performances, Xian caught pneumonia. Because of his poor diet and living conditions, his health deteriorated. It took three months to arrange a transfer to the high-class hospital in Moscow. It came too late to save his life.

After going to Moscow in 1940, he never returned to China nor saw his mother, wife or daughter again.

In the southwest of Alma Ata is a street named after him and a plaque and statue in his memory, with writing in Chinese, Russian and Kazakh.

After his death, he was buried in a public ceremony on the outskirts of Moscow. In 1983, at the request of his family, his ashes were taken back to China and buried in his ancestral town in Guangzhou. ■

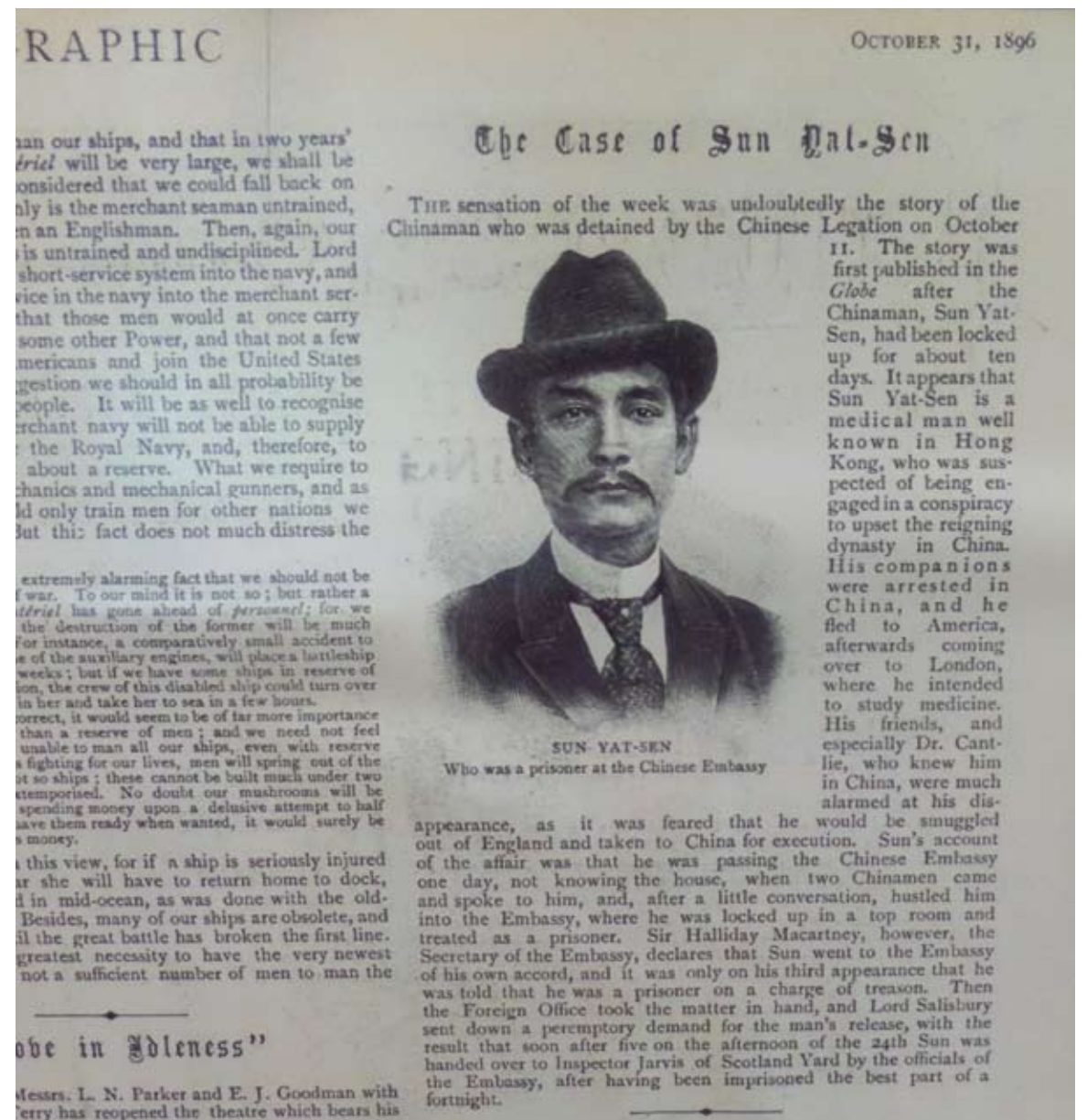


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Friend from Afar

Scottish doctor taught
Sun Yat-sen, saved his life

By Mark O'Neill in London

"On Sundays, Dr James Cantlie used to go to Macao to see his student Sun Yat-sen and advise him at the start of his practice. It was near the ruins of St Paul's."

This is Hugh Cantlie, grandson of Dr and later Sir James Cantlie, speaking about the close friendship between the two men. He was sitting in his house in the countryside of Oxfordshire; it is full of memorabilia of Dr Sun.

Sir James occupies a very important place in the life of Dr Sun. He both taught him medicine and, in 1896, saved him from death at the hands of the Chinese embassy in London which had kidnapped him. This created a bond between China and the Cantlie family which has never been broken.

In 1892, Sun graduated from the College of Medicine for Chinese in Hong Kong and moved to Macao where he became the first Chinese to practise Western medicine. Cantlie, his teacher at the college, went there to help him, including in the performance of delicate operations.

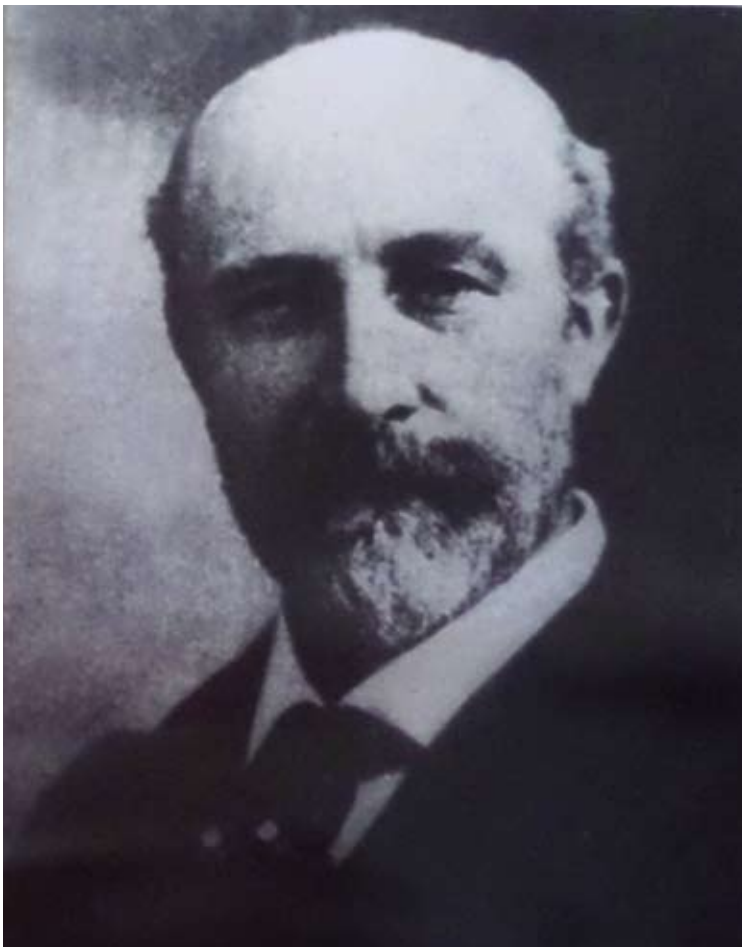
Macao was the city where his father had gone to work as a tailor because he had too little land to support his family. It was also the city where Sun bought a house for his first wife, Lu Muzhen; she lived there until her death in 1952. The house remains open today as a valuable historical site for visitors to Macao.

The city occupies an important place in the life of the father of the Chinese republic.

Closest Western friend

Sun was one of the first seven - and the brightest - students at the College of Medicine, which opened in 1887. Cantlie was their teacher and one of the founders of the college. The two men became close friends. Cantlie taught him cricket as well as medicine and took him to visit leper colonies. Sun helped him as an interpreter of English and Cantonese and with his research.

Sir James Cantlie, mentor of Sun Yat-sen



Cantlie became Sun's closest Western friend. They remained in contact throughout their lives and Sun stayed with the Cantlie family during visits to Britain.

Cantlie was born in January 1851 into a family of 11 children in Banffshire in the north of Scotland; his father was a farmer. He took a degree in arts and medicine at the University of Aberdeen and went to London to finish his medical education at Charing Cross Hospital. He became demonstrator of anatomy there from 1872-1887 and was appointed assistant surgeon in 1887.

In 1888, he accepted the invitation of another Scottish doctor, Patrick Manson, to give up his job in London and settle in Hong Kong. They were two of the three founders of the medical college there, established by the London Missionary Society. This was the first institution in the country to train Chinese in Western medicine; it later became part of the University of Hong Kong.

It was in Hong Kong that Cantlie gained extensive

experience of tropical diseases. In 1894, he encountered a serious epidemic of plague in the colony; it owed its origin to an epidemic that had killed 80,000 people in Guangzhou. In Hong Kong, he had a punishing schedule as a teacher, researcher and practising physician.

In October 1895, Sun organised in Guangzhou a rebellion against the Qing government, one of ten that failed. He managed to escape in a sedan chair to Macao and from there to Hong Kong; the authorities there put a price on his head. Together with a friend, Cantlie smuggled Sun onto a ship which took him to the safety of Japan.

Cantlie was a polymath, with a great sense of curiosity and a wide sympathy for people; it was that which enabled him to befriend the young Chinese student.

In 1896, after eight years in Hong Kong and with a growing family, Cantlie decided to return to London. They took a ship across the Pacific to Honolulu. There, as they rode in a rickshaw down the main street, they encountered Dr Sun, who was staying with his elder brother who lived there. Cantlie told him that he was moving to London and invited him to visit. That is just what he did that autumn.

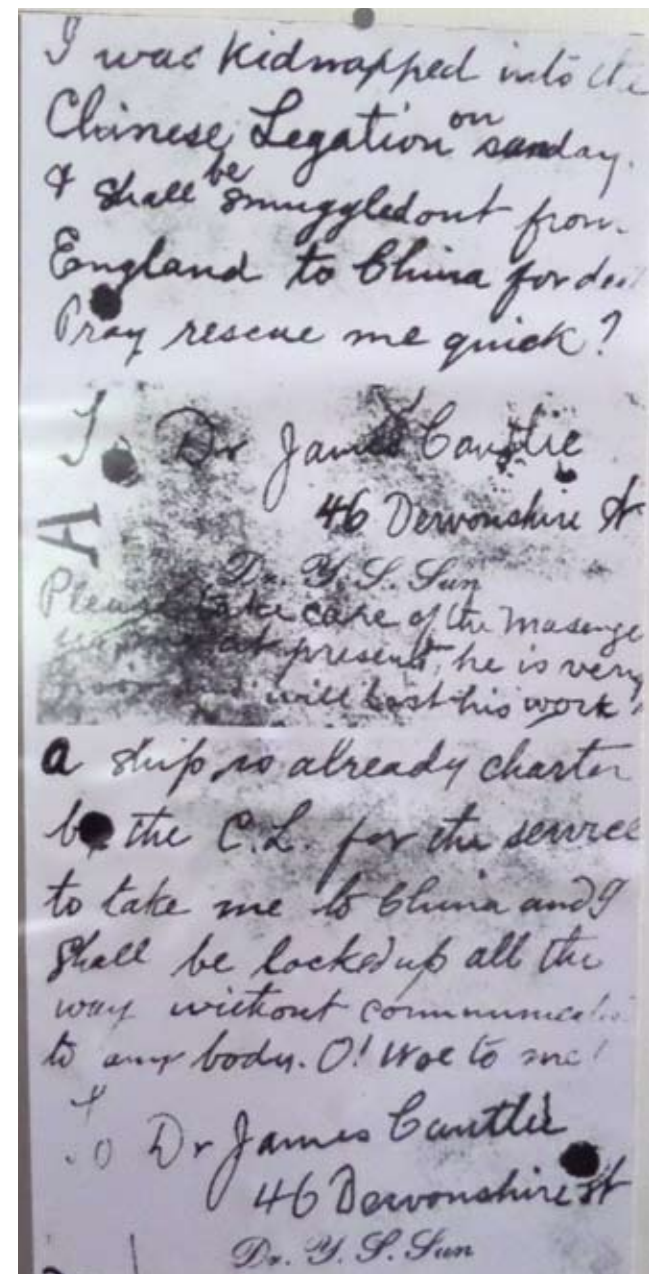
Kidnapped in London

Sun was a political exile who could not return to China. That summer he spent three months in the United States seeking support for his revolutionary cause from overseas Chinese. He was not so successful - he was constantly followed by secret police of the Qing government.

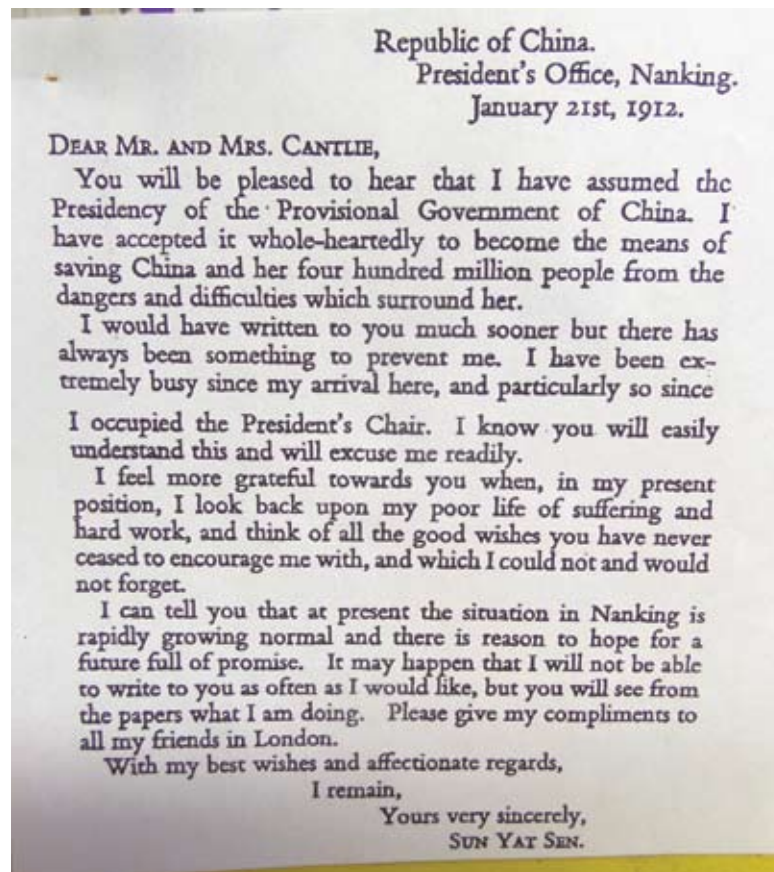
Then, at the invitation of Cantlie, he arrived in London on 30 September; there too he was followed by Chinese agents. The Cantlies received him at their home in central London and warned him not to walk close to the Chinese legation nearby. A few days later, he did exactly that. Two men came out of the building, engaged him in conversation and bundled him into the legation - he had been kidnapped.

The plan of Minister Gong Zhao-yuan was to smuggle Sun onto a ship and take him to China where he would be tried and executed as a revolutionary. Sun was locked into an upstairs room of the legation, with the windows nailed shut. He was guarded by the legation's British steward named George Cole. Fearful that food given to him was poisoned, he

refused it and accepted only bread and milk. He gave messages to Cole and asked him to deliver them to Cantlie. Cole refused. Sun pleaded with him in the name of Christianity and the Chinese socialist party which he said he led. This emotional appeal - or, according to some accounts, the payment of 20 pounds sterling - persuaded the man to change his mind. Cole delivered Sun's message to the doctor, written on the back of two name cards: "I was kidnapped into the Chinese legation on Sunday and shall be smuggled out from England to China for death. Pray rescue me quick."



Sun's hand-written letter



Aided by his friend Patrick Manson, who had also taught Sun in Hong Kong, Cantlie acted with speed and decisiveness. He approached the British Foreign Office, Scotland Yard and the media. "The Foreign Office said that, since the embassy was sovereign territory, it could do nothing," said Hugh Cantlie. "He called Lord Salisbury, the Prime Minister. He gave the same answer." So he went to the newspapers; they ran the story. This forced the government to act. Police put the Chinese legation under surveillance, ships leaving for China were searched and Minister Gong was asked to release his prisoner; if he did not, the Foreign Office would demand that he be recalled for violating diplomatic privileges. By 23 October, every morning newspaper had reported the story; the legation was surrounded by journalists, photographers and curious bystanders. Cantlie joined police and British officials in the building. Gong was forced to give way; Sun left the legation and took refuge in the Cantlie home. "Without my grandfather's intervention, none of this would have happened," said Cantlie.

Guest of Cantlie

A thoroughly modern politician, Sun turned this misfortune to his advantage. He gave press conferences and many interviews, which established his reputation as a hero against an oppressive regime. Cantlie encouraged him to write his own account, *Kidnapped in London*, which was published in England at the start of 1897 and was on sale in Shanghai by May that year. For the next eight months, he stayed in London, making the best use of his time to study and widen his network of contacts. He was a regular guest at the home of the Cantlies and accompanied them to Sunday services at St Martin-in-the Fields. He made many new friends, among British and non-

British people, who would go on to help him in his revolution.

Medical pioneer

Cantlie was a medical pioneer. In 1899, he founded the London School of Tropical Medicine and in 1907 the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene. During the early years of the 20th century and especially during World War One, he concentrated on provision and training of ambulance services and teaching First Aid to a large number of public officials. He founded the College of Ambulance and taught a large number of men and women there. He was closely involved with St John Ambulance Service and the Red Cross. In 1896, his wife Mabel bought a house, the Kennels, in Cottered, Hertfordshire, north of London for 780 pounds. It became the family home outside London. Dr Sun visited there when he went to Britain between 1896 and 1911. Cantlie died on 28 May 1926 and is buried in St John's Church in the village.

In the early 1930s, Alfred Sze Sao-ke, Chinese ambassador to Britain, unveiled a memorial to Cantlie in Cottered church. In 2011, a team from China Central Television visited the home for a ten-part documentary on the centenary of the Xinhai revolution. The house now belongs to the West family. "We think he used to stay in a room on the second floor," said Christopher West, the current owner. "We feel that this is a special house, because someone

remarkable used to live here."

At the back, it has a large orchard where Dr Sun used to walk. This is how he was described by Kenneth Cantlie, the youngest son of Sir James:

"I was about five years old. It was sunset on a summer evening and Dr Sun was walking up and down in the orchard. He was wearing a grey frock-coat and his Homburg hat was tilted forward to keep the level sun out of his eyes... I was about to rush up to him in my usual impetuous way, when



Christopher West and wife in front of house where Sun used to stay

I stopped. 'He is probably thinking Great Thoughts,' I said to myself and I went quietly away. I was not in the least afraid of Dr Sun, who was kindness itself, but my parents and my nurse may have put the idea into my head that here was a great man who must not be interrupted when he was thinking."

Born in China

The bonds between China and the Cantlie family were further strengthened in 1930 when Kenneth Cantlie, an engineer, went to work as an advisor to the Ministry of Railways in Nanjing, the then capital. The minister was Sun Fo (Sun Ke), the son of Dr Sun.

"I was born in Shanghai," said Hugh Cantlie. "In 1932, the family moved to Nanjing where we lived in a large house. My father designed the railway line between Guangzhou and Hangzhou. The house had a garden. My amah used to take me to a nearby park with a statue of Buddha. She bowed three times before it and so did I.

"In December 1937, my mother rushed into our nursery and told my brother and me to pack a small suitcase with our favourite toys, as we were leaving at once, as the Japanese army was close to Nanjing. My father drove us away in the car." They managed to make their way to Shenyang, where they took the Trans-Siberian railway to the safety of Europe. After the war, Kenneth returned to China for the first time in 1956. In Beijing, he met Chairman Mao, Zhou Enlai and Song Qingling, the widow of Dr Sun. He made several other visits.

In 2011, Hugh and his son Charles were invited to China. They went to see the mausoleum of Dr Sun in Purple Mountain outside Nanjing, which he had climbed when he was four years old.

They were also invited to Beijing to take part in celebrations to mark the 100th anniversary of the Xinhai revolution.

Hugh met the members of the standing committee of the ruling Politburo.

Then President Hu Jintao said to him: "Without your grandfather, none of us would be here today." ■



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*Observatory for
China, website
celebrates
a decade of
promoting
Lusophone ties*

By Max Tao in Lisbon

Photos by João Goulão and courtesy of OFC



Learning how chroniclers and travellers from the 16th to the 19th century regarded Macao and China no longer requires hours of research in a library or historical archive -- just an Internet search on The *Observatory for China* (OFC). This year the website celebrates its tenth birthday.

"Descriptions of Macao-China from the 16th to the 19th centuries" is a digital library launched recently by the OFC. It symbolises OFC's *raison d'être* – promoting understanding between China, Portugal and Portuguese-speaking countries (PSCs).

"This latest website is a tool for researchers, who will have access to original documents as scanned facsimiles, without having to travel to the source," said Rui Lourido, OFC president. "We have already had reactions from universities in the US, Australia and China expressing satisfaction."

Headquartered in Lisbon, the observatory has members throughout Portugal and Brazil. It has centres in Salvador da Bahia and China – Macao, Guangzhou, Shanghai and Beijing.

Established on 28 December 2005, it began with nine members and now has over 100, including academics of multi-disciplinary studies on China and people in other areas interested in Chinese civilisation. They include researchers who use the observatory as a basis for their Masters and PhD theses, former ambassadors, presidents of scientific councils of Portuguese universities, teachers, journalists,

filmmakers and business people.

The observatory's primary mission is to organise academic and cultural activities and to support the dissemination of expert papers on China. It believes that, the greater the knowledge of China and its civilisation in Western societies, the deeper the understanding and more intense the relationship between Chinese communities and the PSC.

Lourido said that the importance of the new website was to provide researchers with primary sources and original documents, which can be viewed directly without analysis or interpretation.

The collection of "Descriptions of Macao-China from the 16th to the 19th centuries" includes 35,000 scanned documents – letters, chronicles and books – and is expected initially to reach 125,000 documents. It shows Macao's pioneering role in the relationship between the West and China.

As Lourido explained: "The project is only possible because it is financed by the Macao Foundation, which has understood the importance of this work." Together with the Union of Portuguese Speaking Capital Cities (UCCLA), it has raised awareness of the project in the PSCs. The Portuguese National Library, where most of the documents are kept, shares ownership of the website.

The website, which marks a milestone in that this information can now be publicised worldwide, can be found at:

www.fontesmaacu.observatoriodachina.org



Achievements of first decade

The first ten years have been very positive, according to Lourido. "The observatory has had exponential growth, in terms of the number of members and the impact of its actions in Portugal and, surprisingly, in Brazil and China, the essential and ideal partner." There will be future projects, he assured us, in particular academic projects with the Academy of Social Sciences and the Institute of International Relations of Guangzhou.

A historian, who specialised in China since 1989, the OFC's president described the challenges the website faces as it attracts a worldwide audience. As a non-governmental association and without sponsors, the financial implications are obvious.

The observatory aims to be more than just an association of Portuguese people or citizens of Portuguese-speaking countries interested in China. It is open to Chinese members, some of whom are already on its governing bodies, including the president of the League of Chinese in Portugal, Y Ping Chow, a member of the supervisory board.

It is also part of international networks of Chinese studies, such as East Asia Net and the China-Europe Forum. Recently, it established relations with the

International Confucian Association in Beijing; in addition, it has relationships with the universities of Macao, Guangzhou, Beijing, Shanghai and Salvador in Brazil.

"The rise of China is not only legitimate but also a positive factor in international relations, because, for the world to be equal and just, it needs to be multi-polar and not be a hegemony of power, dominating global interests," said Lourido.

The latest example of China's ascent was its establishment of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), which brings together 60 countries, including Portugal as a founding member; it already has capital of about 50 billion euros.

"China is not just the world's factory; it is also a major consumer, from raw materials to luxury products," said Lourido. "Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development figures show that about 300 million Chinese are already considered middle class.

"But this new attitude of China is still often seen as a threat to the West. US opposition to the creation of the AIIB was clear. This means that there is still a lot of work to do by institutions such as the Observatory for China, which promote understanding between cultures."



Three conferences in China

An example of the OFC's work includes the three conferences it arranged during the state visit of Portuguese President Aníbal Cavaco Silva to China in May 2014. The conferences in Beijing, Shanghai and Macao focused on an academic, university audience, to discuss Sino-Portuguese relations. The OFC keeps Macao at the centre of its activities. "China may no longer need intermediaries but this does not remove the geo-strategic value from Macao; it is important in the panorama of southern China and the relationship with PSCs. Lourido pointed out that China understood the value of Macao. With its special historical, cultural and economic roots, Macao was made an official platform for contacts with the PSCs. As a result of this, Beijing became the base for the Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and the PSCs, Forum Macau. "We humbly accept the role as a small centre to facilitate relations," said the OFC's president. "What we have always tried and managed to do is to have a special relationship with the Macao government through its representatives in the Forum. We have proposals under consideration by the Forum, including training activities directed towards the PSCs and promoting Chinese culture."

Pillars of its work

The OFC has working groups that promote various fields of knowledge and culture; they organise events, gatherings and lectures. There are now working groups on Environment and Energy Resources, Science and Technology, Economics and Management, History and Politics and International Relations. Another, the audio-visual group, has film directors and journalists as members. It is preparing the second edition of the International Festival of Chinese Cinema and the Lusophone Outlook (FILE), to be held later this year. The biggest event held so far was "Portugal-China: Meeting of Cultures" in 2013 and 2014; it was marked by a medal in the shape of a screen, designed jointly with the College of Fine Arts at the University of Lisbon. It included the observatory's first international festival of Chinese cinema, documentary, art exhibits and book publishing. It also organised a Beijing opera tour across Portugal – a significant effort for a small organisation. For the end of this year, the observatory has planned a second Brazil-China-Portugal academic meeting. The first was held in 2007, with the University of Macau and the University of Salvador in Brazil.



Plans for 2016

Highlights for 2016 are a project with the Guangzhou Academy of Social Sciences, to gather historical sources about the city. "It's a project for which we are seeking the help of international research centres," said Lourido. Another project, still in its infancy, focuses on international relations. "The observatory is working with the Academy of Social Sciences on this project and with a university in Guangdong specialising in international relations," he said. For 2016, the OFC is also planning a training course in Chinese language, culture and business for Portuguese entrepreneurs who want to know more about Chinese culture, social customs and business opportunities. There will also be a tour of several Portuguese cities by a Cantonese opera troupe and a sculpture exhibition of large hyper-realistic works by artist Xu Hongfei, president of the Guangzhou Academy of Sculpture; this requires a large venue. The exhibition has already been to Paris at the Carrousel du Louvre, and London, Rome, Florence and Sydney.

Chronicle of the Seas

Another ambitious project is a trilingual edition – Chinese, Portuguese and English – of *Hai Lu* (Chronicle of the Seas), the first description of

Portugal and European countries by a Chinese traveller – Xie Qing-gao, who died in Macao in 1822, aged 57.

"The publication of *Hai Lu* presents some difficulties, because it is not a mere translation. It requires historical investigation to identify locations referred to in the original Chinese text," Lourido said. "It is a long-standing project and we are trying to garner the necessary institutional and financial support, including that from the Macao Cultural Affairs Bureau."

The OFC is working with Wu Zhiliang, President of the Macao Foundation, and Jin Guoping, a Chinese researcher. Jin calls Xie "the Chinese Fernão Mendes Pinto", the 16th century Portuguese adventurer who wrote *Peregrinação* (Pilgrimage), the story of his adventures and explorations in the Far East.

Xie, a merchant who survived a shipwreck near Japan, was rescued by a Portuguese ship; it took him through the ports of the Portuguese empire to Lisbon. *Hai Lu* is the description of this 16-year journey through Europe. The descriptions are in colloquial language, with references to places and situations that are not easy to identify today.

Xie lost his eyesight in his old age; on his return to Macao, he dictated the tale of his travels to a friend. "This text has a lot of information that needs to be confirmed and clarified. This is a long process and we do not have a timetable for its completion," said Lourido. ■



The Conundrum of Timor-Leste

Few tourists but tourism is key to development

By Maya Leonor in Dili



"The Tale of the Timorese Coffee Farmer" – Timor-Leste's booth at the 2015 Milan Expo – showcases one of the region's main exports. This exhibition marks the country's biggest international promotion event to date, representing a significant moment for the country's ascension onto the world scene. Members of the Timorese government have visited Milan, and a permanent delegation has been established to help promote a country that remains, for the most part, completely unknown around the world. The exhibit conveys much about what Timor-Leste hopes to achieve in terms of its development – tourism included – and about the challenges it faces in doing so, all against the backdrop of the country's coffee production. The Timorese coffee farmer who has "experienced not only the effects of colonisation, war and political upheaval" but also "has [had] to compete internationally with

other much larger and established coffee producing nations globally through means of producing organic, premium coffee" has met these challenges by maintaining organic farming in order to promote sustainable development and environmentally friendly practices. This sort of streamlined solution has yet to be achieved in the context of tourism.

In tourism, as in coffee, Timor-Leste must bear the burden of its past – for example, lack of infrastructure and adequately trained human resources – and it faces stiff competition from other established and emerging markets. There are many popular tourism destinations nearby, notably in the vast Indonesian archipelago, where infrastructure is better, prices more accessible, and the tourism sector better prepared.

One of the least visited countries in the world (it is difficult to come up with real tourism statistics as most tourism visas are obtained by people who actually work temporarily there), Timor-Leste welcomes perhaps only a few thousand tourists a year. Encountering visitors travelling the country is still quite a novelty, despite the growing number of programmes, tours, options, and destinations. Many simply fly into Dili on prepaid and pre-booked tours to go diving, returning to the airport immediately. Others are "political tourists" visiting the revolutionary sites and stomping grounds of political change in the newest nation of the 21st century, partaking in the history of a nation that was, in 1999, the focus of global media attention.



A study published in early 2015 by the Asia Foundation based on a survey of 700 visitors concludes that the country's tourism sector is promising. Based on inbound arrivals, it estimates that the industry is currently worth US\$ 14.6 million per annum, placing it close behind coffee, which remains Timor-Leste's primary export in the non-oil economy at US\$ 15 million per annum. "The study also indicates high satisfaction with 83 [percent] of travellers believing their experience met their expectations with almost equal proportions saying they would recommend Timor-Leste to their friends and family," the study notes.

This satisfaction is not reflected in the numbers, however. Compared to other nations in the region, for example, a recent ANZ analysis confirms that in the case of Timor-Leste, the contribution of tourism to its GDP is "n/a", while it represents 13 percent in the Solomon Islands and 40 percent in Fiji. While it is difficult to compete with the huge oil and gas industry (which almost entirely funds the country), tourism should and could have a greater impact.

To be sure, Timor-Leste is not currently a major destination on the tourism map, as a recent newspaper article would indicate: "Timor-Leste: what it's like to travel in a land without tourists."

But there have been advancements in the past few years that could turn the tide: there are now regular diving tours, both on the main island as well as on the island of Atauro, and "political tourism" continues to attract people from all over the world. Personal recommendations – often by people who live or have lived in the country – also account for a percentage.

Overall, the tourism industry has grown significantly: flights to and from the country have increased with availability from Darwin, Bali, and Singapore; there are more boats for hire; accommodation has increased; and the shopping and restaurant industries have expanded. This rapid growth is significant for a country that almost burned to the ground only 16 years ago and has since had to weather a significant civil conflict in 2006.

The capital, Dili, is a prime example of Timor-Leste's ability to meet the needs of global events. It hosted the 10th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries in 2014, and accommodated in June of this year (despite the scepticism of many Timorese and foreigners living in Dili), a one-day unprecedented influx of hundreds of tourists from the Pacific Jewel Ship, the first ever cruise ship to dock in Timor-Leste. The city's infrastructure

responded well, tours were organised both in Dili and outside the capital, and tourists reported positive experiences overall. But this may not be enough for tourism development to truly thrive. In a highly competitive global tourism market, in a region where tourism is king and visitors already have an unending range of options – from luxury to off-the-beaten-track – Timor-Leste barely registers, and changing that will require significant investment not just in marketing and brand development. Perhaps more important to determine is what ilk of tourism, exactly, Timor-Leste wants to offer and how to go about laying the groundwork for the development that would accomplish such a goal.

The majority of visitors to the country, for example, note that they relied on word-of-mouth recommendations to inform their itinerary ahead of their trip, as there was little or no information available online or in other traditional media sources. Nor was this void filled when they entered the country. For example, hotels offer little or no promotional materials at all for guests.

Currently, the government's strategy centres on five pillars: ecological and maritime tourism, historic and cultural tourism, sport and adventure tourism, religious tourism, and tourism partnered with conferences and conventions. Areas, which require shared improvements, such as basic infrastructure, but target completely different audiences and markets therefore require completely different public and private projects, which will prove both costly and inefficient. The strategy planning documents also acknowledge difficulties in a crucial element of any tourism development: human resources. Timor-Leste lacks trained staff particularly in the service industry where better language skills are required and specific technical expertise necessary.

Of course, one of the biggest challenges is the lack of infrastructure. Despite the improvements made in the 13 years since independence, much remains to be done, most notably in areas such as roads, water, sanitation, and other basic commodities, which any large-scale tourism strategy requires. Such large-scale promised investments remain on paper, and actual improvements, for example, in roads, have been slow and difficult.

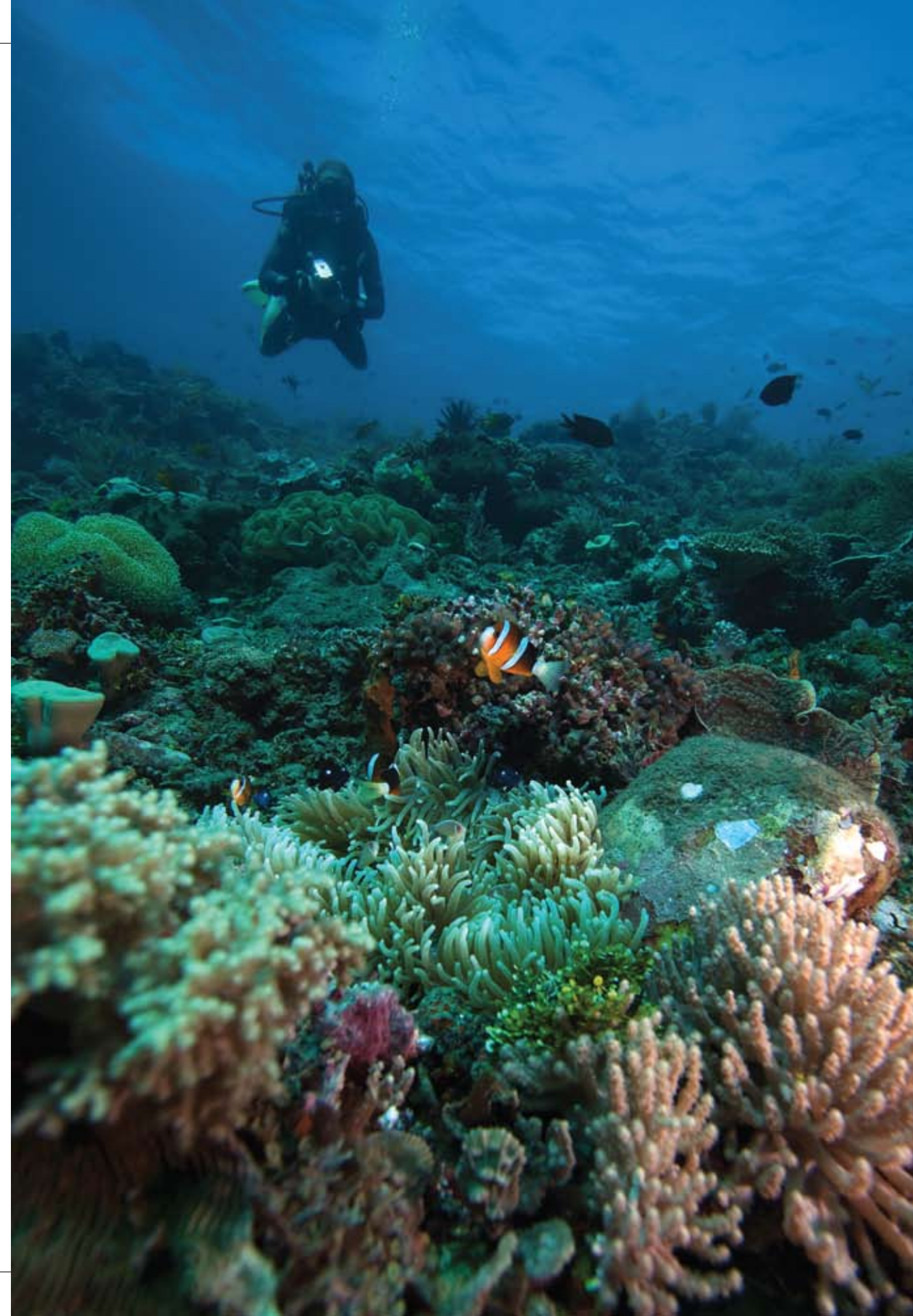
On the consumer side, just getting to the country is expensive (from Singapore it can cost upwards of US\$ 500 and from Darwin even more so); travelling

in the country is equally expensive (a 4WD car can cost up to US\$ 100 per day); and the accommodation available generally offers little value for money spent, despite recent developments and new spaces. Comparatively, the tourism dollar does not stretch far in Timor-Leste. The Asia Foundation survey, for example, notes that a visit to Timor-Leste (flights excluded) would cost around US\$ 638, suggesting that "the annual economic value-add by travellers who have participated in leisure travel during their visit to Timor-Leste is approximately US\$ 14.6 million".

For the government, tourism is – alongside agriculture and oil and gas – one of the pillars for the country's future economic development. After all, Timor-Leste has "considerable advantages" in these industries due to the country's "natural resources, geography, and economic profile." Yet, the government recognises that consolidating this objective is a mid-term endeavour, expecting that it may not be until 2030 that Timor-Leste will "have a well-developed tourism industry, attracting a large number of international visitors, contributing substantially to the creation of community benefits, locally and nationally, and creating jobs in the country". The Strategic Development Plan (2011-2030), which serves as a guide for government and state strategy across all areas, considers the "natural beauty, rich history, and cultural patrimony" of Timor-Leste of containing "great potential for the development of tourism as an important industry for economic development".

Effectively utilising this potential towards the end goal, however, has proven more complicated and less realistic: of the objectives for 2015, only one has been achieved – the Archive and Museum of the Timorese Resistance. The five Regional Cultural Centres have not been opened; the National Archive and Library remain, largely, a theoretical project; the project of building outdoor cinemas around the country has yet to take off; and the National Creative Arts Academy still does not exist at all.

This, unfortunately, points to a sluggish development of the tourism industry. But this cloud may contain a silver lining: for now, visitors to Timor-Leste may have the unique experience of travelling around a country unadulterated with the consequences of tourism. A country in its raw, genuine form. Enjoy it while you can. ■



Ua-Kuong, the god of Lin Kai Temple

By Maria João Janeiro in Macao

Illustration: Fernando Chan

The Lin Kai temple or the Lotus Stream Pagoda is located in the district of San Kiu (Ponte Nova/New Bridge) and its name derives from the fact that there was a small waterway, the San Kiu Canal, that passed by it and where numerous boats were anchored, directly opposite the temple.

The temple is dedicated to Pak Tai, the god of the North. However, among the various gods housed in it, there is one that stands out and also deserves the honours of the main deity. It is the god Ua-Kuong, whose feast is on the 28th day of the 9th moon. Ua-Kuong, the protector of actors, has three eyes, the third one in the middle of his forehead.

According to legend, one day a small wooden statue was seen floating at the door of the temple. The seafarers believed it was of supernatural origin because the statue appeared every day in the same place at high tide. When they took the statue out of the water they saw it was of a bald and bearded man, who was very similar to the god Pak Tai. They built a small shrine to worship this deity, but on the day it opened they placed the statue of Ua-Kuong on the altar by mistake. To avoid offending either of the gods they built another altar so that they could worship both of them.

Ua-Kuong became even more popular and every year on his birthday there are lively celebrations. But one year when the day of the festival arrived the neighbourhood residents, breaking with traditional custom, decided not to contribute towards the festival. Because this unusual attitude, the monks found they did not have the means to organise the festivities.

One night, a few days later, there was a dreadful fire in one of the streets of the San-Kiu neighbourhood and the flames, fanned by the wind, were impervious to the efforts of the firefighters, who made every effort but were unable to put the fire out. Suddenly, the wind died down and a heavy rain poured from the sky. The rain was believed to have been an intervention by Ua-Kuong, who since then has been considered the god of Fire. Since that day the San-Kiu neighbourhood residents have never failed to contribute generously to the annual festival in honour of the god Ua-Kuong.

Adaptation of the story "O Templo de Lin Kai" (The Lin Kai Temple) published in the book Lendas Chinesas de Macau (Chinese Legends of Macao).





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馬跳的方法

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MÉTODO DO SALTO DE CAVALO

可能的馬跳方式

DIAGRAMA DOS MOVIMENTOS POSSÍVEIS DO SALTO DE CAVALO

25	40	89	232	27	44	93	234	103	244	133	150	105	248	137	152
88	231	26	41	92	233	28	45	132	149	104	245	136	151	106	249
39	24	237	90	43	30	235	94	243	102	147	134	247	100	153	138
230	87	42	23	236	91	46	29	148	131	246	101	154	135	250	107
21	38	83	238	31	34	95	240	97	242	143	146	99	254	139	156
86	229	22	35	82	239	32	47	130	145	98	255	142	155	108	251
37	20	227	84	33	18	225	96	241	112	159	144	253	110	157	140
228	85	36	19	226	81	48	17	160	129	256	111	158	141	252	109
77	220	173	190	79	224	161	192	49	16	113	194	51	4	117	196
172	189	78	221	176	191	80	209	128	193	50	1	116	195	52	5
219	76	187	174	223	66	177	162	15	64	207	114	3	54	197	118
188	171	222	67	178	175	210	65	208	127	2	63	206	115	6	53
75	218	167	186	69	214	163	180	61	14	123	204	55	10	119	198
170	185	68	215	166	179	70	211	126	203	62	11	122	205	56	7
217	74	183	168	213	72	181	164	13	60	201	124	9	58	199	120
184	169	216	73	182	165	212	71	202	125	12	59	200	121	8	57

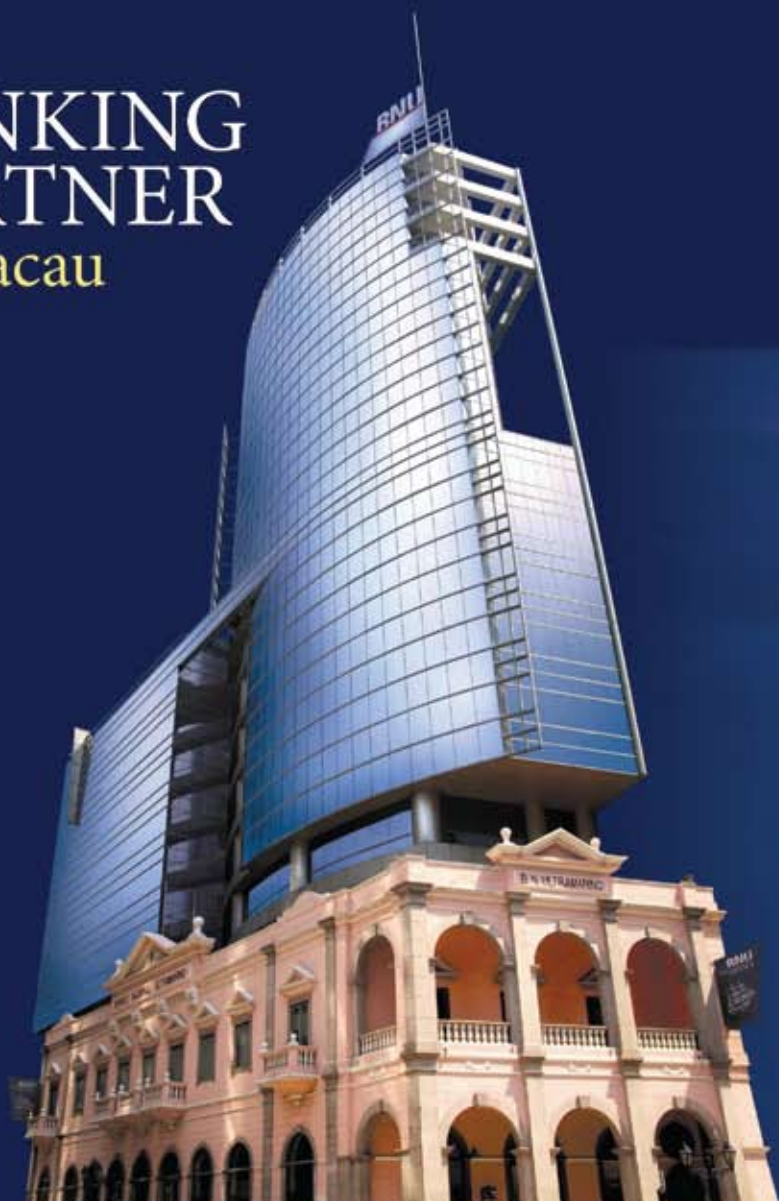


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