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ON THE COVER This is the first time the SAR has created a Five-Year development plan. Five-Year plans have been an important part of China's economic planning. The 13th Five-Year Plan runs from 2016 to 2020

PHOTO CHEONG KAM KA



POLITICS

- 04 Think Big**
Macao's first Five-Year development plan
- 12 Beyond the Shore**
Macao gains 85 square kilometres of coastal waters

ECONOMY

- 16 Macao's Backyard**
Hengqin to double land area, welcomes Macao projects
- 24 Tradition in a Modern Setting**
Guangdong-Macao park aims at world status for Chinese medicine
- 32 Feeding the World's Most Populous Nation**
Sino-Lusophone Agricultural Co-operation proves to be a win-win for all

CULTURE

- 40 Another Brick in Macao**
Exhibition shows local landmarks made from miniature blocks
- 48 Crossing Continents**
New book details dramatic odyssey of Macao people

TOURISM

- 54 Macao joins Winter Wonderland**
Macao's presence in the Sapporo Snow Festival kicks off in February

HISTORY

- 58 Bringing Western Music to Ancient China**
Jesuit built China's first pipe organ

TRADITION

- 64 Flower of Nobility**
Xiaolan celebrates eight centuries of chrysanthemums

ZOOM

- Parade through Macao, Latin City**



16 The Free Trade Area of Hengqin receives approval from the State Council to double its land area. A giant construction site that welcomes projects from Macao



32 China is increasingly turning to overseas farming and agriculture investment to meet this demand for food



40 A work of time and patience. 120,000 LEGO bricks replicate Macao's iconic landmarks in an exhibition in the city

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NEW ERA, NEW VISION

Macao Magazine's January issue will mark the debut of a complete redesign: from graphic layout to a new format, the magazine now has a fresher and more modern look.

We have designed these changes to create more accessibility for you, our readers. Macao Magazine will place more emphasis on stories of Macao and its new generation of leaders, artists and entrepreneurs. The Pearl River Delta will again be one of our focuses. We will also start producing short videos to bring those stories to life.

In this issue, we focus on Macao's first Five-Year Plan and how it aims not only to modernise the Special Administrative Region, but also to create further regional integration into mainland China. We also cover the recent decision to diversify Macao's economy by granting it jurisdiction of the surrounding sea and offshore border with neighbouring Zhuhai, which increases Macao's size by 85 square kilometres. Both decisions mark a new era and vision for Macao.

In line with these improvements, we have also modernised digitally. An iOS and Android mobile app with the contents of the Macao Magazine and daily news updates has been launched for those on the move and who want a convenient, instant, user-friendly platform.

To make your experience even better, Macao Magazine has partnered with the renowned Macauehub news agency to add their daily news updates on the economic news of China and the Portuguese-speaking countries.

Our vision is to expand Macao Magazine's readership across borders via the Internet. With 41 per cent of the world's population online, accessing us is now only one click away.

Macao Magazine believes in the power of great stories. We believe that you will be our next story.

GONALO C SAR DE S 
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



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An aerial photograph of Macao, China, showing a dense urban landscape with numerous high-rise buildings and residential structures. A large body of water, the harbor, is visible in the center, with a bridge crossing it. The city is surrounded by green hills and a coastline with a curved road and some open land. The text "Think Big" is overlaid in a large, white, serif font.

Think Big

Macao unveils Five-Year
Plan for the first time

TEXT **MARK O'NEILL**

PHOTOS **GCS**

ILLUSTRATIONS **FERNANDO CHAN**

T

he government has unveiled a Five-Year Plan for the first time with the aim of turning Macao into a world tourism and leisure hub.

Despite falling tax revenues, it promised an increase of nearly eight per cent in spending in 2016 and will maintain annual payments of 9,000 patacas to every permanent resident and 5,400 patacas to non-permanent ones.

On 17th November, Chief Executive Chui Sai On delivered his Policy Address for the fiscal year 2016 to the Legislative Assembly. The next day the legislature passed the government budget. It estimated total revenue of 155 billion patacas, up 0.7 per cent over 2015, while spending will rise 7.8 per cent to 83.7 billion.

Chui estimated 2016 income from the gaming industry at 200 billion patacas, the lowest since 2010. It will be the third consecutive year of decline. In the first ten months of 2015, he said, the income fell 35.5 per cent to 196.07 billion patacas.

He said that inflation in 2016 would fall to four per cent and unemployment would remain below two per cent.

The government is operating under strong financial pressure after a three-year fall in casino revenues; they peaked at US\$45.2 billion in 2013, the highest in the world and seven times that of Las Vegas.

Figures from the Financial Services Bureau showed that the government's surplus for the first 10 months of 2015 fell by almost 60 per cent to 34.583 billion patacas from 85.855 billion in the same 2014 period.

In the third quarter of 2015, gross domestic product (GDP) fell 24.2 per cent in real terms from the same 2014 period, compared to a 26.4 per cent drop in the second quarter, according the Statistics and Census Bureau. For the first three quarters, the economy dropped by 25 per cent in real terms.

POLICY SPEECH

It was against this difficult background that Chui presented his budget.

"From an overall perspective, the whole economy of Macao is operating in a healthy way, public finances are steady and the government is maintaining a surplus," he said. "All major construction projects are proceeding in an orderly way and the rate of unemployment remains low. Inflation has come down."

He reported fiscal reserves of more than 570 billion patacas and no outstanding liabilities, after more than 10 years of rapid economic development.

The government has recently set up a committee, headed by the Chief Executive, for the construction of a world tourism and leisure centre. "We also have drawn up a Five-Year Plan for the 2016-2020 period," he said.

This is the first time the SAR has created such a plan. This has been an important part of economic planning in the mainland since the People's Republic of China was established in 1949. The 13th Five-Year Plan runs from 2016 to 2020.

The plan, published on 17th November, said that the city's future role as a world tourism and leisure centre, had already been included in the national 12th Five-Year Plan.

"We must wholeheartedly promote the diversification of the Macao economy and improve the livelihood and welfare of the people," it said.

"Its future development is full of opportunities and challenges... Now the economic development of Macao is not to seek high growth but to seek high-quality growth. Our development model should gradually turn from an intensive form into a refined form."

It sets out seven major targets, including maintaining overall stable economic growth; improving the structure of industry; improving construction of an international tourist city; continuing to raise the quality of life of the residents; raising the quality of education; clear results in environmental protection; and strengthening the efficiency of the government and deepening the building of the legal system. It does not give numerical targets.

It lists priority infrastructure projects for the next five years. They included the construction of the light rail system, new links between



Macao and Guangdong; a fourth bridge to Taipa; expanding the waste incinerator; expanding and improving the treatment of waste water; building a general hospital for the outlying islands; and building an electronic surveillance system for the whole city.

The fourth bridge will link new urban zone A, near the present jetfoil terminal in Macao and zone E in Taipa near the airport, and aims to ease traffic congestion in the two areas.

"The government is facing many kinds of difficulties and challenges," said Chui. "It is deeply analysing the source of the problems and is setting fixed strategies... it is calmly facing the accumulation of new and old contradictions and the complications arising from the internal and external environments."

From an overall perspective, the whole economy of Macao is operating in a healthy way, public finances are steady and the government is maintaining a surplus, said Chui



SPEECH Chui Sai On delivers his Policy Address

We must wholeheartedly promote the diversification of the Macao economy and improve the livelihood and welfare of the people,
the Chief Executive stated

GIFTS TO RESIDENTS CONTINUE

Despite the economic slowdown, the government will continue to pay annual cash handouts to Macao residents.

The Chief Executive said that the budget included a cash payout of 9,000 patacas to permanent residents and 5,400 for non-residents, the same as in 2014. In addition, he proposed that the Old Age Allowance be increased in 2016 to 8,000 patacas from 7,500 patacas last year.

"I hope Macao residents understand why the government is not increasing the cash handout as in previous years," he said.

The pay of civil servants rose by 6.8 per cent as from January 2015. The new pay scale was set at 79 patacas, up from 74, but below the 80 requested by the Macau Civil Servant Association.

REVIEW OF GAMING SECTOR

2016 will be an important year for the city's gaming sector. Chui said that the government would conduct an analysis of the sector after completing its mid-term review.

The factors in the review include how agreements set out in the gaming concessions have been executed; synergies between gaming and non-gaming elements; the development of the gaming promoter industry; and the influence the sector has had on the local economy, small and medium enterprises (SMEs), the community and the livelihood of residents.

"We will encourage gaming operators to engage more in large-scale tourism projects that will help diversify the sector by offering more leisure activities and non-gaming elements," Chui said.



"We will continue to strengthen supervision of the gambling industry and perfect the legal and regulatory system... We will standardise the management of middlemen and prevent and control illegal activities," he said. In October 2015, the gaming regulator issued internal guidelines to all the middlemen in the industry, "to further perfect the regulatory system and promote the healthy development of the industry."

On the positive side, he noted that revenue



COTAI

from non-gaming elements accounted for about one third of the revenue of the gaming industry and more than 45 per cent of employment in large hotels and resorts; this compared to only 10 per cent in the past.

He reiterated the policy that only SAR residents can work as dealers in the city's casinos.

The city will further promote its role as a destination for cultural heritage and leisure tourism, diversify international sources for

tourism, promote its historic centre and ensure it is marketed via multi-destination travel packages.

Chui identified three emerging sectors – Chinese medicine, the cultural and creative industries and meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions. The growth of these sectors will create new employment opportunities and further diversify the economy.

The official document given out with the policy

speech said that construction of a Macao-Guangdong traditional Chinese medicine technology industry park in Hengqin will be accelerated.

It also said that it would continue to make good use of CEPA and other related policies and create a new co-operative model between Guangdong and Macao, promoting the liberalization of the service trade of the two. It would work hard to create better conditions for local SMEs, specialists and young people.

Macao will take an active role in the construction of the free trade experimental zones in Guangdong, it said. These are in Nansha, Qianhai and Hengqin.

Chui said that seizing development opportunities arising from national strategies – such as the pilot free trade zones in Hengqin and Nansha – would help Macao's economy to thrive and achieve its goal of becoming a “World Centre for Tourism and Leisure” and a commercial and trade co-operation service platform between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries (PSCs).

PLATFORM FOR PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING COUNTRIES

The Chief Executive reaffirmed Macao's role as a commercial and trade co-operation platform between China and the PSCs.

This includes the role to help SMEs operate in these countries: a distribution centre for goods from them; and a convention and exhibition centre for the PSCs, China and Macao.

Chui said that the government would continue to play its special role in China's 13th Five-Year Plan and would gradually invest part of its fiscal reserves in large-scale construction projects in Guangdong and Fujian provinces, and elsewhere, to guarantee returns on and the value of the reserves.

These investments would have guaranteed returns and low risks of losses, he said. They would require approval from the Legislative Assembly. Compared to countries around the world whose GDP is falling, Macao is in an enviable position. It has enormous reserves in real and per capita terms and no debt; it can still afford to give cash payments to all its people, even those who are not permanent residents.

It remains by far the globe's largest gambling centre, in the middle of the world's fastest growing region. It is within easy flying distance of major tourism markets – South Korea, Japan, Taiwan and countries in Southeast Asia – not to speak of the mainland.

It is adjacent to large areas in Guangdong that offer land and opportunities for growth not available in its limited space. ■

MACAO Aerial view



Priority Engineering Projects for the Five-Year Plan



1 Transport

- Build the light-rail system
- Build a new transport link between Macao and Guangdong
- Plan and build the fourth bridge between Macao and Taipa

2 Environmental Protection

- Build a high-class waste incineration centre
- Build a fixed land-fill site for flying dust
- Enlarge and improve Macao's peninsula waste water treatment plants located in Hac Sa Wan



3 Health

- Build a general hospital for the outlying islands

4 Urban Development

- Plan and implement land-fill sites for the new urban area
- Build the fourth water pipe system



5 Urban Security

- Build an "Electronic Surveillance Digital System" for all of Macao's urban area

Beyond the Shore

Macao gains 85 square kilometres of coastal waters

TEXT CHRISTIAN RITTER

PHOTO MACAULINK

MAP XINHUA NEWS AGENCY



By a decision of the State Council, Macao from 20th December 2015 gained jurisdiction over 85 square kilometres of its coastal waters and part of the Duck Channel – nearly three times its land area.

In addition, 28,000 square metres of land where the Border Gate checkpoint is located will also become part of Macao's territory on the same date. Previously, it leased this land from the Zhuhai government.

These dramatic developments were announced at a news conference on 16th December 2015 given by senior members of the SAR government.

O Lam, the chief-of-cabinet of the office of Chief Executive Chui Sai On, said that an executive meeting of the State Council passed the draft of the new map of the administrative division of the SAR. "The council will promulgate the map, which will clearly demarcate the land and maritime border between Macao and Zhuhai on December 20th," she said.

During the pre-1999 period, Portugal and China were unable to agree on the border. As a result, unlike Hong Kong, Macao had no jurisdiction over coastal waters next to its coastline. This settles the issue for the first time.

O said that three local by-laws related to marine affairs would be enacted in December. The Macao Post Office will also issue a commemorative stamp and envelope to celebrate the event, she said.

She added that the SAR government would still have to seek the approval of the central government before starting land reclamation projects in the waters, even after they came under its jurisdiction, and that gaming-related projects could not be built on such reclaimed land in the future.

Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak said that the Macao Customs Service had acquired several additional vessels to patrol the water and planned to recruit 100 additional officers; three new bases came into operation on December 20th, he added.



The Chief Executive said that the new demarcation would allow for development of the city's waterfront area and plans to boost its maritime economy.

Asked by reporters how the newly granted jurisdiction over Macao's coastal waters would benefit the local economy, Leong Vai Tac, Secretary of Economy and Finance, said the government was still in the initial stage of planning, but added he believed the new territorial waters would benefit the further diversification of local industries. "The government welcomes suggestions from the public and the business sector about how to take advantage of the city's newly demarcated coastal waters," he said.

One area full of promise is yachting and water sports. Zhuhai is keen to develop marinas and yacht ownership, for use by China's new rich class as well as owners in Macao and Hong Kong. It is developing yacht resorts along its long coast.

The area is blessed with excellent weather, sunshine and hundreds of kilometres of coastline, little of it covered by industry. Zhuhai is also one of China's principal manufacturers of yachts.

During his visit to Macao in December 2014, President Xi Jinping said that the central government was willing to let the local government manage its coastal waters. From that time, the SAR government began to study how to use the new space. It is nearly three times the region's land area, 30.3 square kilometres at the end of 2014.

In a statement on 16th December 2015, the Liaison Office of the Central Government in Macao said that the decision of the State Council would provide Macao with strong support in keeping its prosperity and stability as well as its sustainable economic and social development. ■

MAP Macao's new coastal area

The government welcomes suggestions from the public and the business sector about how to take advantage of the city's newly demarcated coastal waters, said the Secretary for Economy and Finance



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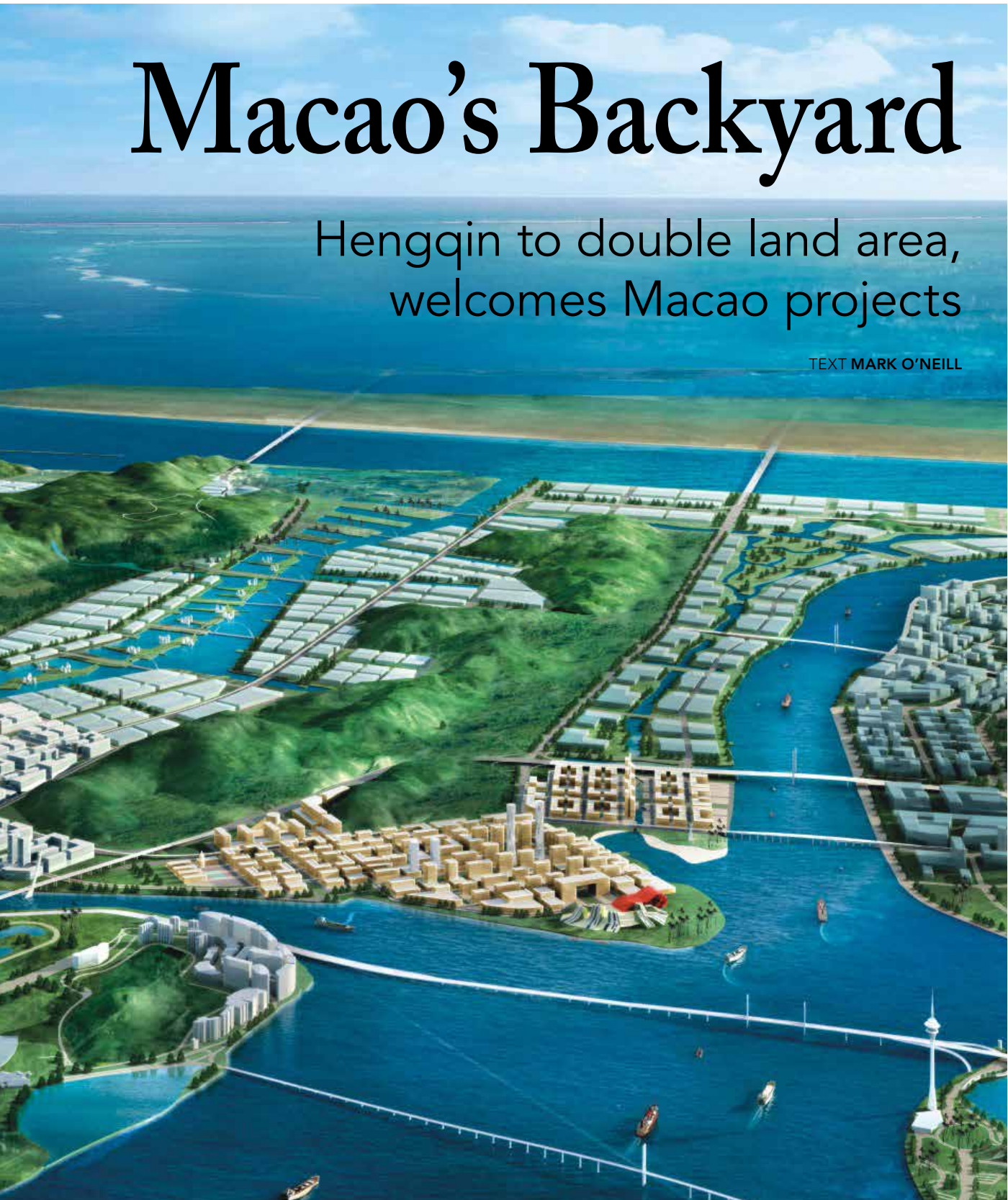
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Macao's Backyard

Hengqin to double land area,
welcomes Macao projects

TEXT MARK O'NEILL



T

he Free Trade Area (FTA) of Hengqin has received approval from the State Council to double its land area and promised a warm welcome to projects from Macao.

In early December, 2015 Niu Jing, director of the Hengqin New Area Management Committee (HNAMC), announced that it had received approval to land-fill an area of 27.9 square kilometres of sea off the southern tip of the peninsula in Zhuhai; it is the closest part of the mainland to Macao.

That is almost equivalent to the entire land area of Macao, 30.3 square kilometres, and equal to the 28 square kilometres of land being developed in the existing Hengqin FTA.

This dramatic announcement was evidence of the popularity of an area that was established only in 2009, when it had a population of a several thousand farmers and fishermen. Now it is a giant construction site, with hotels, apartment

Companies from Macao and Hong Kong can have unlimited use of land in Hengqin, said Niu Jing

buildings, offices, factories and holiday resorts rising out of the earth like mushrooms after the spring rain.

The expansion is necessary because demand for land in the FTA has greatly exceeded supply. "Companies from Macao and Hong Kong can have unlimited use of land in Hengqin," said Niu. "The key is to see their projects. Good projects will certainly receive adequate support."

The district has grown at breakneck speed

HENGQIN

Niu Jing,
director of
the Hengqin
New Area
Management
Committee





TEA AWARDS

Chen Wancheng,
president of Guangdong
Chimelong Group (left)
and Niu Jing (right)

since it was established as a New Area in 2009 and since it was declared one of three Free Development Experimental Areas in Guangdong province in April 2015, together with Nansha and Qianhai.

According to HNAMEC figures, as of the end of November, 14,585 firms had registered in Hengqin. Of these, 1,097 were from Macao and Hong Kong, including 875 from Macao and 222 from Hong Kong; these are involved in commercial services, retail and wholesale, culture and creativity, tourism, hotel and leisure.

INTEGRATION ACCELERATES

Its integration with Macao is proceeding rapidly. On 18th December 2014, the two opened a 24-hour border at the Lotus Bridge, to facilitate the movement of people and goods. Since then, the flow of both has increased by more than 30 per cent.

One result is that Macao people have started

to buy residential properties near the border, from which they can commute easily.

According to HNAMEC figures, Hong Kong and Macao people have borrowed more than US\$150 million to buy property in Hengqin and applied to conduct cross-border RMB business exceeding 2.56 billion yuan.

Property prices in Hengqin are the highest in Zhuhai, but still less than half the average in Macao.

The Zhuhai government will soon approve the entry of cars with Macao licence plates to drive in Hengqin without having to apply for a mainland licence.

The HNAMEC is building a checkpoint at the northern end of Hengqin, next to a bridge that connects it to the rest of Zhuhai. The Macao cars will be allowed to circulate in all of Hengqin but not to cross the bridge.

Despite the rapid growth of Hengqin, the

vast majority of Macao people are unwilling to move there. They say that transport links are not convenient and the supporting infrastructure of shopping, schools, hospitals and other facilities are not in place. They say that their families, work and lives are in Macao. So most of those who are moving are those who cannot afford to buy an apartment in Macao.

EXPANSION

The expansion is a dramatic increase in the size of the area. While the State Council has given its approval in principle, the proposal must still be evaluated by environmental experts and the State Ocean Administration.

While Hengqin has a total land area of 106.46 square kilometres, most of it is hilly and not suitable for economic development. Only 28 square kilometres is being used for development. So the expansion is equivalent to a doubling of the current area.

Experts say that the landfill of the sea is not technically difficult.

The decision is a sign of the enormous demand for land from companies all over the mainland, not to speak of Macao and Hong Kong and overseas, and the fact that there is insufficient supply of it.

This demand has intensified since the announcement that Hengqin is one of the three Free Trade Experimental Zones in Guangdong. Niu said that, from the end of 2009 to 2014, 8,000 companies had registered.

"In the first 10 months of this year, more than 4,000 registered," he said. "The attraction of the free trade zone to companies is extremely great and the collective effect is very evident. This



is especially the case with financial firms. In 2012, one financial company came and now we have more than 1,600."

In the northeast of the island is the Shizimen Central Business District, which involves a total investment of 36 billion yuan. Office blocks have been built and China's major banks have opened there for business.

According to preferential policies approved by the State Council in July 2011, financial institutions in Hengqin can set up offshore foreign currency business and trust funds and do currency conversions for individuals.

According to figures from the HNAMEC, as of the end of November 2015, 1,770 financial firms had registered in the area; they had a registered capital of 183 billion yuan and capital under management of 1.5 trillion yuan.

On 11th December 2015, the People's Bank of China announced that the yuan would be freely convertible for corporations registered in the free trade zones in Guangdong, Fujian and Tianjin; this

By the end of
November 2015, 1,770
financial firms had
registered in the area



OCEAN KINGDOM World's largest water theme park

includes Hengqin. There are several conditions; one is that the firms are not involved in sensitive industries on the government's 'sensitive' list and the total to be converted in one year may not exceed US\$10 million.

WHO WILL GET THE LAND?

What is driving the expansion is the need for more land to accommodate the many projects under construction or planned in Hengqin.

The four strategic areas are a national food security innovation centre; an international Internet creativity centre; a national traditional Chinese medicine modernisation science and technology centre; and a high-technology culture and creativity city.

For example, as part of the culture and creativity city, Lai Fung Holdings and eSun Holdings, both part of Lai Sun Group of Hong Kong, are investing in an "Immersive Experience Centre," with 22,000 square metres in 'Creative

Culture City' in Hengqin. The city involves a total investment of 22 billion yuan and will include a hotel, performance halls, workshops, e-sports gaming area and other entertainment facilities.

There are, in addition, large leisure, residential and commercial projects. Shun Tak has invested 721 million yuan to buy 23,834 square metres of land to build an office, hotel, commercial and service apartment complex in Hengqin close to the border. Galaxy Entertainment is investing 10 billion yuan in a luxury Maldives-style holiday resort on 2.7 square kilometres in the southwest, with a shoreline of 2.5 square kilometres.

The biggest project, up and running since March 2014, is the Chimelong Ocean Kingdom, the world's largest water theme park that opened in March 2014 at the southern tip of Hengqin. It includes one of the world's large aquariums, with rare whale sharks, beluga whales, polar bears and other exotic animals.

According to official figures, it has so far



HENGQIN Reclamation

attracted 20 million visitors, of whom 10 per cent come from Macao, Hong Kong and overseas.

In early December 2015, Chen Jie, president of Chimelong Group (Zhuhai district), told the Second Global Conference of the Cantonese in Zhuhai that his company intended to invest 50 billion yuan in five more theme parks to be built on an adjacent site in Hengqin. Its aim is to attract 50 million tourists a year, he said.

The themes of the parks will be physical education, films, performances, rare animals and science. "The construction of these theme parks will create a world-level national tourism brand, implement the national strategy for Hengqin and bring new development to the area as 'an international tourism island', working with Macao toward its objective of being a world travel and tourism centre," he said.

The University of Macau is using a site of 1.1 square kilometres in Hengqin as its new campus; the area is under Macao law.

The HNDMA has set aside an area of 4.5 square kilometres as a joint Guangdong-Macao industrial zone. The Macao government has proposed 33 projects in the park, with a total investment of 140 billion yuan. The administration has also established a centre for innovation projects with young Macao entrepreneurs; 90 such companies have moved in.

The announcement in April 2015 of Hengqin's new status has only intensified the demand for space. No wonder it wanted to create new land.

ROLE OF MACAO AND HONG KONG

In announcing the new land, Niu was at pains to stress the important role played by Macao and Hong Kong in the area.

He said that negotiations on Macao cars entering the zone were proceeding smoothly and had entered their final stage. "This policy will be implemented shortly," he said.

"Concerning the border, Hengqin will in future promote a model of 'co-operative inspection, one-stop tourism'," he said. The aim is to shorten the border-crossing time for Macao residents.

Another policy to attract Macao and Hong Kong residents is an income tax rate of 15 per cent, the same as they pay at home.

Niu said that the area was working to bring its administrative system closer to that of the two SARs, to facilitate investment by their companies. "In the mainland, we have many management rules and regulations that do not exist in Macao and Hong Kong." His staff are working on a new set of legal regulations to address this problem.

The HNDMA has set up offices in Hong Kong, Spain and Mexico and plans more in Brazil and Chile, to attract investment.

The doubling of Hengqin's land area is good news for Macao; it will offer its companies and people more opportunities for investment, property, leisure and enjoyment.

But it will have to compete with investors from all over the mainland, not to speak of foreign firms, who want a piece of this valuable piece of real estate. The competition will be intense. ■

福星澳遊 耀新歲

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13/2

20:00 - 21:30

路線 • Percurso • Route

沙梨頭北街
Rua Norte do Palácio

青洲大馬路
Av. do Concelheiro Bojo

拱形馬路
Estrada do Arco

黑沙環馬路
Estrada da Areia Preta

慕拉士大馬路
Av. de Venâncio de Moraes

祐漢街市公園
Jardim do Mercado Municipal de Iao Hon

市場街
Rua do Mercado de Iao Hon

長壽大馬路
Av. da Longevidade

黑沙環第四街
Rua Quatro de Setembro da Areia Preta

主辦單位 / Organizador / Organizer



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同善堂





Tradition in a Modern Setting

Guangdong-Macau park
aims at world status for
Chinese medicine

TEXT MARK O'NEILL
PHOTOS ERIC TAM AND GCS

In the northeast corner of Hengqin is growing an industrial park with an ambitious goal – to win international recognition for traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) and turn it into products that are sold around the world.

The Guangdong-Macau TCM Science and Technology Industrial Park is being built on 500,000 square metres of land, with the first structures to go into use in the first half of 2017 – a headquarters building and pilot production base.

“We must go out and earn world recognition for TCM,” said Yuki Lu Hong, the president and the chief executive of the Guangdong-Macau Traditional Chinese Medicine Technology Industry Park Development CO., Ltd. (GMTCM Park) that is building the park. “This is a major strategy of the nation. We will make high-quality TCM products including TCM medicine, healthy food and provide high-quality TCM health care service.

“This will take time in the western

countries,” she said in an interview. “We must not be in a rush. This will be a very big change. This will be a window for the culture of TCM to the world especially for the Portuguese-speaking countries (PSC).”

TCM received unprecedented global attention last December 10th, when Chinese pharmacologist Tu Youyou received a Nobel Prize for Medicine in Stockholm, Sweden.

She is the first Chinese scientist to win a Nobel prize for work done in China. In a speech in Stockholm on 7th December 2015, she said: “Chinese medicine and pharmacology are a great treasure house for medical research which should be explored and raised to a higher level. Adopting, exploring, developing and advancing these practices would allow us to discover more novel medicines beneficial to world health care.”

The development company was founded in November 2011 for the industry planning, construction, operation and management of the park. It has a registered capital of 1.2 billion yuan, with 51 per cent held by the Macao government and 49 per cent by state-owned Zhuhai Da Hengqin Investment Company.



YUKI LU HONG

President of the
Guangdong-Macau
Traditional Chinese
Medicine Technology
Industry Park
Development Co. Ltd.



MEDICINE PARK

500,000 square metres of land

The SAR government has chosen to develop TCM as a new industry, part of its strategy to diversify the economy. It has no area within the SAR large enough for such a park and so chose to develop one in Hengqin.

ELEMENTS OF THE PARK

The park was planned for different functions; they include an R&D center, incubation centre, exhibition and exchange platform, a health and wellness demonstration area, warehouse and logistics and TCM lifestyle experience. The exhibition and exchange platform will put on cultural shows, exhibitions, trade technology exchanges and training and conferences.

Lu said that land in Macao was very expensive. "It is not a good environment. It was a good choice to come here, giving us space for R&D." Of the 50 staff working there now, 10 are from Macao, using a shuttle bus which the company provides.

The infrastructure linking the two places is falling into place. In December 2014, the border at Lotus Bridge started opening 24 hours a day.

Lu said that they had asked the Hengqin government to improve public transport to the site. The headquarter building which is under construction will include restaurants and convenience stores, to facilitate those who will work there.

For the moment, the park is a lonely place in the northwest corner of the island, surrounded by giant construction sites.

One of Lu's tasks is to attract investors to the park. And it received a major boost in September, when the first large company in this sector signed a contract.

Guangzhou Pharmaceuticals Corporation (GPC) signed a framework co-operation agreement, to work with the park in a strategic partnership to register Chinese medical products and spread the culture of the medicines.

The importance of the signing, in Guangzhou, was underlined by the presence of senior officials from Beijing, including Wang Guoqiang, deputy director of the National Health and Family Planning Commission and director-general of the State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine.

Established in 1951, GPC is one of the biggest companies in this sector, with sales in 2014 of 33.53 billion yuan, up 16.24 per cent over a year earlier. It has 21 subsidiary companies and makes nearly 50,000 different products, including Chinese and western medicines, chemicals, medical equipment and health products.

In his speech at the signing, Wang said that he hoped more mainland companies would follow GPC and accelerate the industrialization of Chinese medicines, in their research and development and help to diversify the economy of Macao.

"We want to turn the culture and philosophy of Chinese medicines into products and equipment which we can export to western countries," he said.

In his speech at the signing, Leong Vai Tac, Macao Secretary for Economy and Finance, said that the park would benefit from the policies favouring the Hengqin area of Zhuhai as part of the Pilot Free Trade Zone of Guangdong.

"The government attaches great importance to the development of traditional Chinese medicine, which is regarded as an important strategy to diversify the economy," he said.

Another major investor is Gansu Qizheng Industry Group, a Lanzhou company that makes traditional Tibetan medicines. Founded in 1993, it has 10 subsidiaries and 1,300 employees and is listed on the Shenzhen stock exchange.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The park is part of a national strategy to turn TCM into products that can be exported around the world.

In China, there are 3,397 traditional medicine hospitals which in 2012 received 451 million patients, including 17.99 million inpatients. Among Chinese communities outside the mainland, TCM is well accepted, although most people prefer western medicine to treat urgent diseases.

China is spending more than one billion yuan a year on TCM research; this is included in the



13th Five-Year Plan (2016-2020) for TCM. During this period, the use of TCM will be explored in the rehabilitation, prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDs, chronic liver infection and diabetes.

The SAR government has chosen TCM as a new industry. The department of Chinese medicine at the University of Macau has 29 faculty members and several hundred graduates.

"We have invested in new laboratories in Chinese medicine and this was recognized by the Ministry of Science and Technology in Beijing," said Rector Zhao Wei. "This is exceptional in Hong Kong and Macao. Academically speaking, this is challenging and exciting."



HENGQIN Construction site of the park

The government attaches great importance to the development of traditional Chinese medicine, which is regarded as an important strategy to diversify the economy, said Wang Guonqiang

This is the State Key Laboratory of Quality Research in Chinese medicine, one of two state key labs on campus. This year the two labs have a research budget of close to US\$17 million.

“In the past, Chinese medicine was not treated as a science,” said Zhao. “We did not know the side effects of a herb or how to control the quality. We are using scientific methods to measure their side effects and hope to translate this into real products in a few years that are scientifically proven. A university cannot sell products, so we will transfer the technology to a company and hopefully receive a portion of profits.”

BRIDGEHEAD INTO PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING COUNTRIES

Lu said that the PSCs were an important export market for TCM.

“People there have close feelings toward Macao and understand TCM better than in Europe and North America. We are holding discussions with them.”

In November 2015, in Lisbon, GMTCM Park co-organised the Culture and Traditional Chinese Medicine meeting which was the second of its kind. It sent a delegation to attend the meeting and visited the Direcção Geral de Saúde (the Portuguese Health Bureau), Instituto de Medicina Tradicional (the Institute of Traditional Medicine) of Portugal, INFARMED and Associação Portuguesa de Suplementos Alimentares (Portuguese Health Supplements Association) and other associations relating to herb medicine and TCM.

The meeting heard presentations of the latest advances in TCM, relevant scientific studies and clinical applications. The delegates discussed the best strategies to ensure sustainable globalization of TCM through compliance with international

quality standards that can be verified.

“The PSC is a very good platform,” said Lu. “It covers a very wide area, with countries in Europe, Africa, South America and Southeast Asia. Everyone realises that quality and safety are key. We need to improve the understanding of the west.”

In June 2015, Macao hosted the first such meeting. It attracted over 150 experts in the field and representatives of famous traditional medicine companies from the mainland, Hong Kong, Portugal, Brazil, Angola and Mozambique.

On July 1st, the participants visited the park in Hengqin and studied the policies for admission and possibilities for co-operation.

GOALS FOR 2016

In 2016, the development company will continue the construction work of the park. It will contact major companies and small and medium-size enterprises to invite them to invest and strengthen its co-operation with government and academic institutions.

It will also through international exchanges expand its contacts with the PSCs. ■



CO-OPERATION Forum Macao
Delegation visited the park in 2015



GRACE YEU

Fantasy

Oil Painting

13 January - 13 February

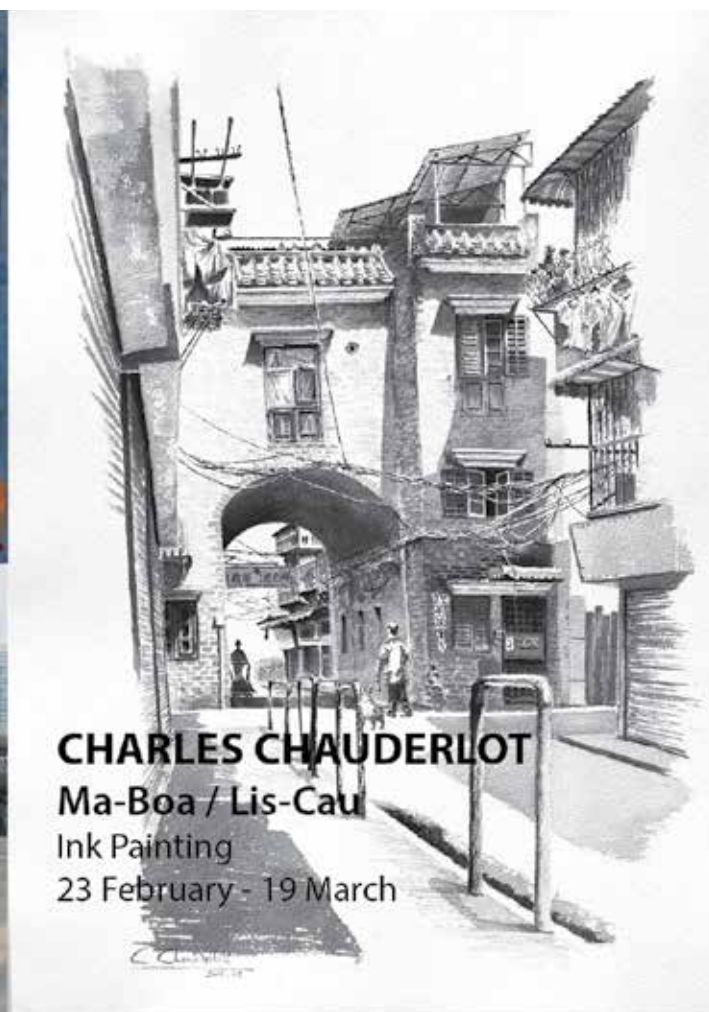


TANG KUOK HOU

Human Scenery

Photography

23 March - 23 April



CHARLES CHAUDERLOT

Ma-Boa / Lis-Cau

Ink Painting

23 February - 19 March

SOUND & IMAGE CHALLENGE FESTIVAL 2016

submission from March to June



CCI is a project of Institute of European Studies of Macau
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Feeding the World's Most Populous Nation

Sino-Lusophone
Agricultural Co-operation
proves to be a win-win for all

TEXT LORO HORTA

PHOTOS XINHUA NEWS AGENCY AND MACAULINK

With growing wealth in China, the Chinese are getting more sophisticated and demanding in their food habits. For example, in 1985 they consumed 25 kilos of meat per person; in 2010 it grew to over 50 kilos. This voracious appetite for meat and other food products has put a severe strain on the country's ability to feed itself.

However, recent Chinese overseas investment in agriculture in the Lusophone world offers a way to ease the problem of supply. Such collaboration will benefit both parties.

Commendable work by Chinese scientists has increased agricultural yields at home, but a growing number of specialists believe that they have reached a ceiling and China needs to look abroad to meet its food demand. China has 22 per cent of the world population living on seven per cent of the world's arable land.

China has 22 per cent of
the world population living
on seven per cent of the
world's arable land

In recent decades, millions of peasants have moved into cities; by 2014, half of the population was urban. Mega cities such as Chongqing, Shanghai, Beijing and Guangzhou require larger and more complex food supplies.

Environmental challenges such as soil pollution, water poisoning, deforestation and erosion have seriously strained the country's arable land.

In 2014, the Ministry of Agriculture reported that 40 per cent of the country's arable land was degraded as a result of pollution. To attain self-sufficiency in basic staples, most arable land is dedicated to crops such as grain and rice. The country cannot use arable land for non-essential food crops such as vegetable and fruits.



MOZAMBIQUE

Furthermore, there are few areas suitable for cattle raising. Even grain production is struggling to meet demand. In 2013, four per cent of the world's grain imports went to China; its fruit imports were valued at US\$9.1 billion.

CHINA LOOKS ABROAD FOR FOOD

China is increasingly turning to overseas farming and agriculture investment to meet this demand for food. This can bring significant benefits to both China and the Lusophone world; its countries have different ways to benefit from this co-operation.

ANGOLA has a population of 16 million living on 1,243,564 square kilometres. It has 35



million hectares of arable land; only five million are being used and 30 million are virgin land. In other words, her potential for Chinese investment is limitless.

In November 2014, CITIC, one of China's large state-owned enterprises, announced a US\$5 billion investment in Angola to develop large farms producing soybeans, grain, sugarcane and raise cattle. If the project materialises, it will be one of the biggest agricultural investments in the world.

The CITIC project is immensely beneficial to Angola. The recent slump in oil price has prompted the Angolan government to seriously consider diversifying the economy. With adequate investment and planning, agriculture can make a significant contribution to this diversification.

China is increasingly turning to overseas farming and agriculture investment to meet this demand for food

During the Portuguese colonial period, Angola was a powerhouse exporting coffee, cotton and citrus to the world.

Chinese investment in agriculture can help her regain her status as a leading agricultural exporter. Since most of the population is rural, this agricultural project can generate hundreds of thousands of jobs, alleviate unemployment and mitigate rapid and chaotic urbanisation.

MOZAMBIQUE, with an area of 800,000 square kilometers and a population of 24 million, is equally promising as a major agricultural centre; her potential has remained largely untapped. She has 35 million hectares of arable land, with only 10 per cent being used. So far the largest Chinese project is a US\$250 million investment by a Hubei group in a rice farm in Gaza province. Other Chinese companies have invested in cotton mills.

China has also funded an agricultural research centre with over 100 Chinese experts dispatched to Mozambique. In 2015, another Chinese company was reported to have invested US\$5 million in a cashew nut project.

GUINEA BISSAU is a small country with a population of only 1.6 million on 36,000 square miles. It is endowed with many rivers and streams, and its soil is fertile. The political stability after the July 2014 election offers new opportunities for Chinese investment in agriculture and other areas such as fisheries. The country was once a major producer of peanuts, cashew nuts and cotton; Chinese investment can revitalise these sectors.

A Chinese company has expressed interest in investing in rice and cotton plantations in the region of Bafata.



CABO VERDE

In contrast, **BRAZIL**, with an area of 8,511,667 square kilometres, is the fifth largest country in the world. Unlike USA and China and their large stretches of deserts or Canada with its ice-covered terrain, Brazil has many rivers including the Amazon, the longest on earth. It is dominated by forests and fertile plains. Large portions of its 600,000 square kilometres of arable land remain unused.

BRAZIL, MAIN EXPORTER OF GRAINS AND SOYBEANS TO CHINA

Agriculture has become one of the most important and lucrative sectors in Sino-Brazilian relations. Brazil is one of China's major supplier of grain and soybeans. In 2003, China was the largest importer of Brazilian agricultural products, worth US\$1.82 billion. In 2009, the Brazilian Ministry of Agriculture reported

that 12.6 per cent or US\$5 billion worth of agricultural products went to that country. Her soybean exports to China reached 11.3 million tons in 2006, an increase of 50 per cent from the previous year.

The signing in October 2009 of a Letter of Intent with the state of Mato Grosso do Sul allowed a Chinese company, Jiangxi Sanhe International Investment, to invest in state land; this marked the first major Chinese investment in Brazil.

The agreement commits both parties to develop farming ventures. The Brazilian side will provide land and basic infrastructure and the Chinese financial investment.

The acreage is not specified but will increase with the different stages of implementation. As the world's largest beef producer and exporter, Brazil is advanced in cattle-breeding technology. The state of Mato Grosso do Sul will also contribute agricultural scientists and experts

in cattle-raising. Jiangxi Sanhe will invest up to US\$1 billion in the project. Most of the land will be used to grow maize and soybeans and to raise cattle. Smaller portions will be dedicated to plant trees for timber.

The project also expects to produce other goods such as honey, butter and cheese; it is expected to create up to 10,000 jobs for the state.

In 2011, Brazilian media cited a report by the U.S. Department of Agriculture that a Chinese group from Chongqing co-signed a US\$2.5 billion agreement to produce soya in the state of Bahia; the size of land to be utilised by the Chinese company was not specified.

There are also several reports of China's interest in thousands of hectares of Brazilian farmland. However, details on the location and size of these lands remain patchy.

Sino-Lusophone
agricultural
co-operation is mutually
beneficial to both parties
and can address the
challenges each faces

TIMOR-LESTE



WINE FROM PORTUGAL

PORTUGAL does not have large areas of agriculture land. But she too can offer important niche products to the smart investor.

In 2013, China overtook France as the largest consumer of wine in the world and her thirst is likely to grow; but Portugal's share of this lucrative market has remained small.

Since 2009, the severe economic crisis in Europe has led to a decline in the export of wine. One way to improve Portugal's position in the Chinese market and to compete with large wine producers from France, Australia and Chile is to form joint ventures with Chinese companies. Some Chinese businesses have already expressed interest in acquiring wineries in Portugal.

RICE AND CASSAVA FROM TIMOR-LESTE

In **TIMOR-LESTE**, a Chinese company, Longping High-tech, has been assisting the country in improving rice cultivation. The project is so successful that the Timorese government and Longping will expand the project to three other districts.

China Green Energy is currently negotiating a lease of 12,000 hectares of land for cassava plantation. There are further avenues for growth.

Timor-Leste does not have large tracks of land; but its many microclimates make it ideal for production of rare and expensive agriculture products such as spices and coffee. The reputation of such Timorese products dates back to the early 16th century. More sensitive to food safety and health concerns, better off Chinese have turned to organic



products – Timorese products are 100 per cent organic. The demand for Timorese coffee is already on the rise and businesses from Macao have expressed interest in investing in the coffee sector. Timor-Leste is yet unable to meet this Chinese demand; but Chinese investment in the sector can help to resolve the problem.

ENORMOUS POTENTIAL

The potential for development is enormous in the Lusophone countries. More work is needed to facilitate the implementation of these projects. There are minor irritants. For

In 2013, China
overtook France as
the largest consumer
of wine in the world



BRAZIL

instance, a US\$250 million Chinese investment in rice farming in the Limpopo has been controversial, with an estimated 80,000 people displaced from their land.

In Angola, accusations of Chinese ill-treatment of farm workers have strained relations between local people and Chinese. Problems such as bureaucratic hurdles, unclear laws on land ownership and fear of Chinese land grabs must be addressed. Transparency and, in particular, dialogue with local communities will avoid misunderstanding and malicious rumours.

Sino-Lusophone agricultural co-operation is mutually beneficial to both parties and can

address the challenges each faces. Chinese investment in agriculture creates millions of jobs and reduces the over-dependence of countries like Angola and Timor-Leste on oil exports.

China will benefit by getting access to large areas of fertile land and reduce the costs of feeding a more demanding society.

By investing abroad in the production of non-essential food like tropical fruits, soybeans and spices, China can use its scarce land resource to cultivate essential products such as rice and grain. The benefits to both parties are simply too great to be ignored. ■





Another Brick in Macao

Exhibition shows local landmarks made from miniature blocks

TEXT CATARINA MESQUITA
PHOTOS ERIC TAM AND GCS
ILLUSTRATIONS FERNANDO CHAN

At first glance, Senado Square looks lively and crowded. Local people and tourists tread the wavy black-and-white cobblestone patterns and explore the historic site. But this idyllic image of Macao's central square is not what it seems.

Upon closer inspection, one realises that this is neither reality nor a photograph, but a replica made from hundreds of thousands of the most famous building pieces in the world – LEGO® bricks.

The "Macau X LEGO® Exhibition" was on display until 28th December 2015 at the Ritz Building and the Macao Science Center. It included miniature replicas of iconic landmarks like Rua da Felicidade, the Ruins of St. Paul and even the colourful benches facing the broad Avenida da Amizade that simulate the Macau Grand Prix route.

This grand endeavor, using over 120,000 LEGO pieces, was the concept and creation of Hong Kong artist Andy Hung; his enchantment with the colourful blocks has endured since his childhood.

FROM AMATEUR TO PROFESSIONAL

Hung's story began like that of any other child: a five-year-old boy receives his first LEGO set and falls completely in love. But unlike other children, this boy does not stop building. One day, he realised that he needed to move on. It was time to stop receiving such toys as presents, leave the playing behind, devote himself to his studies and enter the job market.

But Hung could not resist the allure of LEGO. "In 2003, I was in a shopping centre and saw a set that looked very interesting. I bought and built it, and from that day on there has been no turning back."

As Internet use became more widespread and specialty forum communities emerged, Hung realised that there were people who shared his passion for LEGO construction.

The Internet has brought other advantages – procuring missing pieces at competitive prices. Collectors and aficionados can now buy a pass that



provides access to more pieces, making it possible to buy missing pieces at cheaper prices. This pass also means that one is not limited to only what is available in each box set.

Mixing pieces from different sets was vital to Hung's project. For example, the replica of the Ruins of St. Paul, built in collaboration with his friend and colleague Alex, was constructed entirely from LEGO pieces in shades of grey – from the tiny plastic screwdrivers to the hundreds of small cube bricks. "This is contrary to what our mothers told us about not mixing up the pieces from one set with another," said Hung, laughing.

So how does a 30-year-old adult start a successful career as a LEGO artist?

Hung and fellow enthusiasts from LEGO fan clubs presented their structures to the head of LEGO marketing in Hong Kong. Impressed with their work, he invited them to participate in the LEGO display at Ani-Com & Games Hong Kong.

This marked the beginning of a steady stream of invitations and commissions, ranging from displays in shopping centres for replicas of world cities to requests from government institutions for heritage building miniatures.

Hung's work proved popular, drawing large crowds of visitors. People often queued for hours to get a glimpse of his creations.

Having honed his assembly skills, Hung was ready to pit his artistry in competition. He entered a certified LEGO competition with a Japanese master presiding.

"It was the piece that changed my life."

The piece, inspired by the cartoon Totoro, earned him both the highest score awarded by the public as well as the highest score ever bestowed by the jury. His score, to date, has yet to be beaten. "It's hard to get a good score from the public and, at the same time, a good evaluation by the jury because the criteria are very different. Both have different angles, but this piece led LEGO to invite me to work with them," says Hung.

In 2013, LEGO nominated Hung for the honour of LEGO Certified Professional (LCP) in the South China region. This distinction normally requires two years of training. But, in early 2015, LEGO evaluated Hung's performance and fast-tracked his LCP title before he had completed the two-year programme.

RUA DA FELICIDADE



NO TIME TO PLAY

An LCP, according to Hung, requires both construction technique and talent. "It's not enough to build well; you also need to have some communication talent. Your marketing plan and standards need to be high."

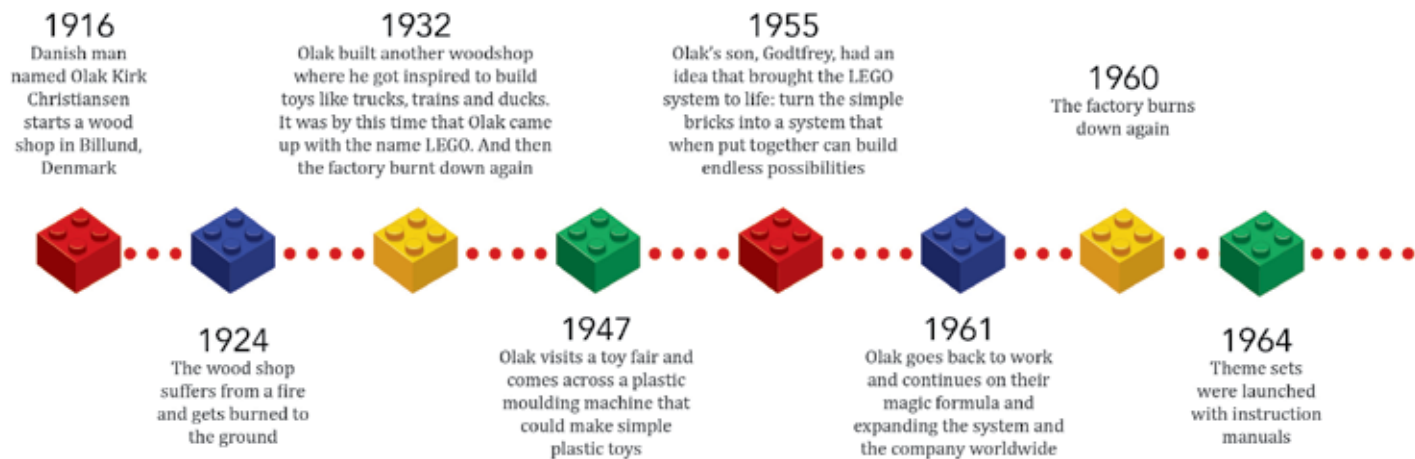
Hung's profession, contrary to popular belief, is more than just fun and games. In addition to being a creator of LEGO art, he is also a promoter of the brand, which entails great responsibility. "Some people promote a brand without having to build so much. When I build, I have many rules, first because they are often commissioned works, and also because I cannot use parts other than LEGO. All parts have to be official and cannot be modified, stuck or glued. We can mix parts from different sets, but they must always

be LEGO and can never be customised unless there is a very strong reason," he explained.

Established in 1932 by Ole Kirk Kristiansen, a master carpenter and joiner, the family-owned business started out making useful household items as well as wooden toys. By 1934, the company adopted the name LEGO, from the Danish words "LEg GOdt" ("play well") and meaning serendipitously, "I put together" in Latin. Since then, the toy company has created more than 35,000 different LEGO elements in more than 60 different colours.



TOTORO The creation by Andy Hung that captivated experts' attention





LEGO is currently the world's leading toymaker, having surpassed the former leader Mattel, which makes toys like Hot Wheels cars and Barbie dolls. For a company that predominantly produces only one toy, this is quite a feat.

It was not always so. By 2004, with sales in steady decline since 1999, the LEGO Group felt the need to adapt to new market realities. Today, the brand creates designer pieces, furniture, a clothing line, publications and complex toys; it has produced programmes for film and television. The business remains family-owned and has even made education programmes.

A PIECE OF MACAO

Part of the company's marketing strategy is to install exhibitions in international cities, including Macao. In 2013, the Macao Government Tourist Office (MGTO) ran a promotion in Hong Kong. LEGO's beloved building blocks were featured in large-scale roadshows showcasing famous Macao landmarks. It was so well received that it inspired further collaboration. "After seeing [a replica of Leal Senado], we thought this would be a good opportunity to bring the artists to Macao to showcase their work for tourists

1968
The first LEGOLAND Park opens in Billund

1988
The first LEGO World Cup building contest with children from 17 different countries took place

1998
LEGO loses 23 million British Pounds and lays off 1000 employees

2012
LEGO produces a short film for the 80th anniversary of the company which became a great success

1971
LEGO began to launch sets for girls inspired by dollhouses

1992
Two Guinness records were set using LEGO products

2004
LEGO loses 174 million British Pounds, a dark moment for the company

2014
LEGO Group and Warner Bros. joined together and produced a computer-animated comedy using LEGO mini-figures



BUILDING MACAO

Andy Hung and
Helena de Senna
Fernandes

and residents," said Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes, Director of the Macao Government Tourist Office. Thousands of people went to the exhibition.

MGTO organised an interactive and educational element: a workshop series hosted by Hung in which children learned to build their own miniature monuments, such as the A-Ma Temple.

The workshops were extremely popular, filling the tables of the Macao Science Center with young creators. Hung did not find this surprising. Through the activity he has seen growing in fan clubs and forums, he realised that there is a lot of talent and love of LEGO in Macao, amongst both children and adults.

The Macao LEGO Fans community page on Facebook has almost 3,000 likes; there is a store exclusively dedicated to LEGO in the Red Market area.

A CHILD'S DREAM, A MOTHER'S NIGHTMARE

One mother, Mrs Lai, was at the exhibition with her eight-year-old son Jason; he was enchanted by the pieces.

She said that the family made the trip to Macao solely to visit the miniatures. "LEGO is a dream for the kids but a nightmare for mothers, because the house becomes a field of LEGO," she said. "From time to time, the vacuum cleaner swallows one or two missing pieces under the sofa, but this makes the challenge of building greater."

Creating LEGO art is a sentimental endeavour, no matter one's age. When a large tower of coloured pieces topples, it is highly frustrating for a child. Hung said that disassembling a creation was also painful. "I never want to destroy any of the creations. Transportation is undoubtedly a problem because the pieces end up falling, but, unless I think I can build an improved version of the same building, I see no reason to dismantle what's been made."

The pieces that graced Macao travelled to his studio in Hong Kong. Hung promised that more creations were destined for Macao's future. ■

LEGO IN NUMBERS

World's N°.1 toymaker

634bn

To date, LEGO has produced enough elements to average 86 pieces per person on the planet. That's roughly 634 billion pieces in total worldwide

LEGO's replica of the Star Wars™ X-Wing starfighter is the largest ever made. The life-size model weighs 23 tons and measures 3.35 meters tall, 13.1 meters long, with a wingspan of 13.44 meters

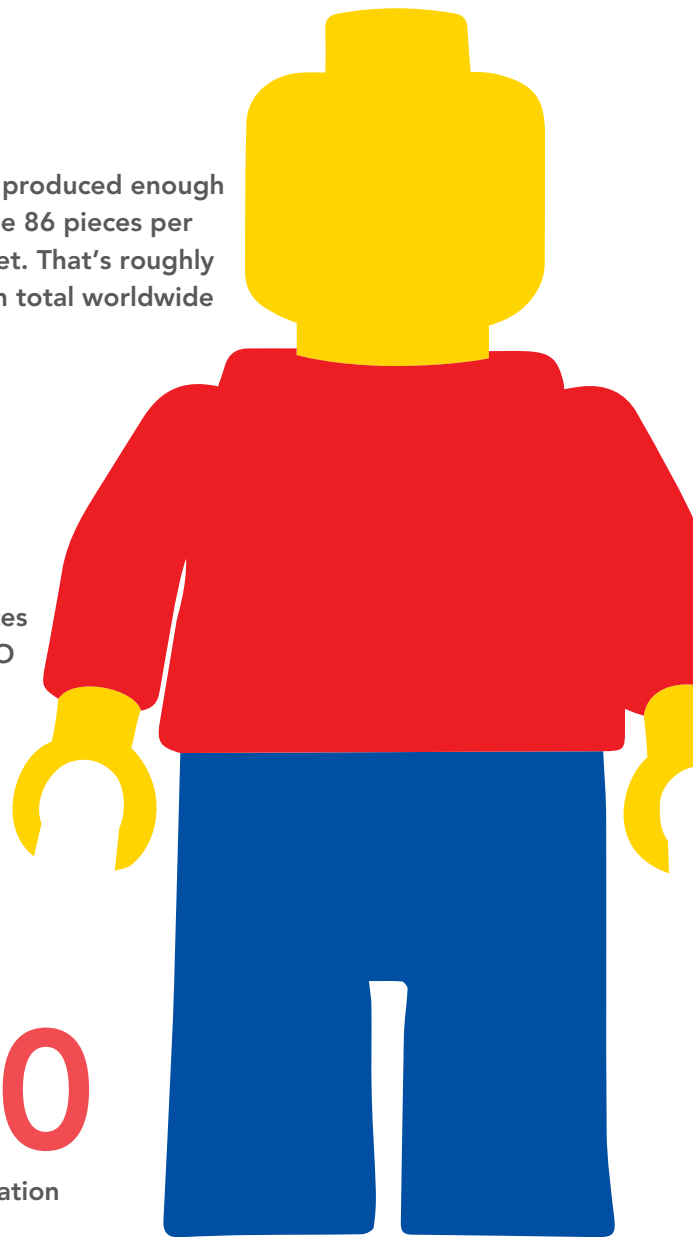
117,000

LEGO produces 117,000 LEGO pieces per minute

In 2014, LEGO launched its first animated movie and was nominated for an Academy Award and a Golden Globe

30,000,000

Currently there are 30 million videos with LEGO animation posted on the Internet and via social networks



Crossing Continents

New book details dramatic odyssey of Macao people

TEXT MARK O'NEILL

PHOTOS LEONG SIO PO AND COURTESY OF JOHN BRAGA, STUART BRAGA AND NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA

In the early 18th century, a young man left the city of Braga, in northern Portugal, for Goa. There his descendants married into a family well established in Macao. A new book tells the dramatic story of this family, in Macao, then Hong Kong and in countries around the Pacific Rim.

"Making Impressions" was published in October this year by Instituto Internacional de Macau (IIM) by Stuart Braga, a member of this family, the Bragas. He was born in Hong Kong in 1939 and emigrated to Australia with his family in 1951.

He completed his education there, and has four university degrees, including a PhD degree from the highly-regarded Australian National University. After spending 40 years in education, he turned to writing history; this is his ninth book.

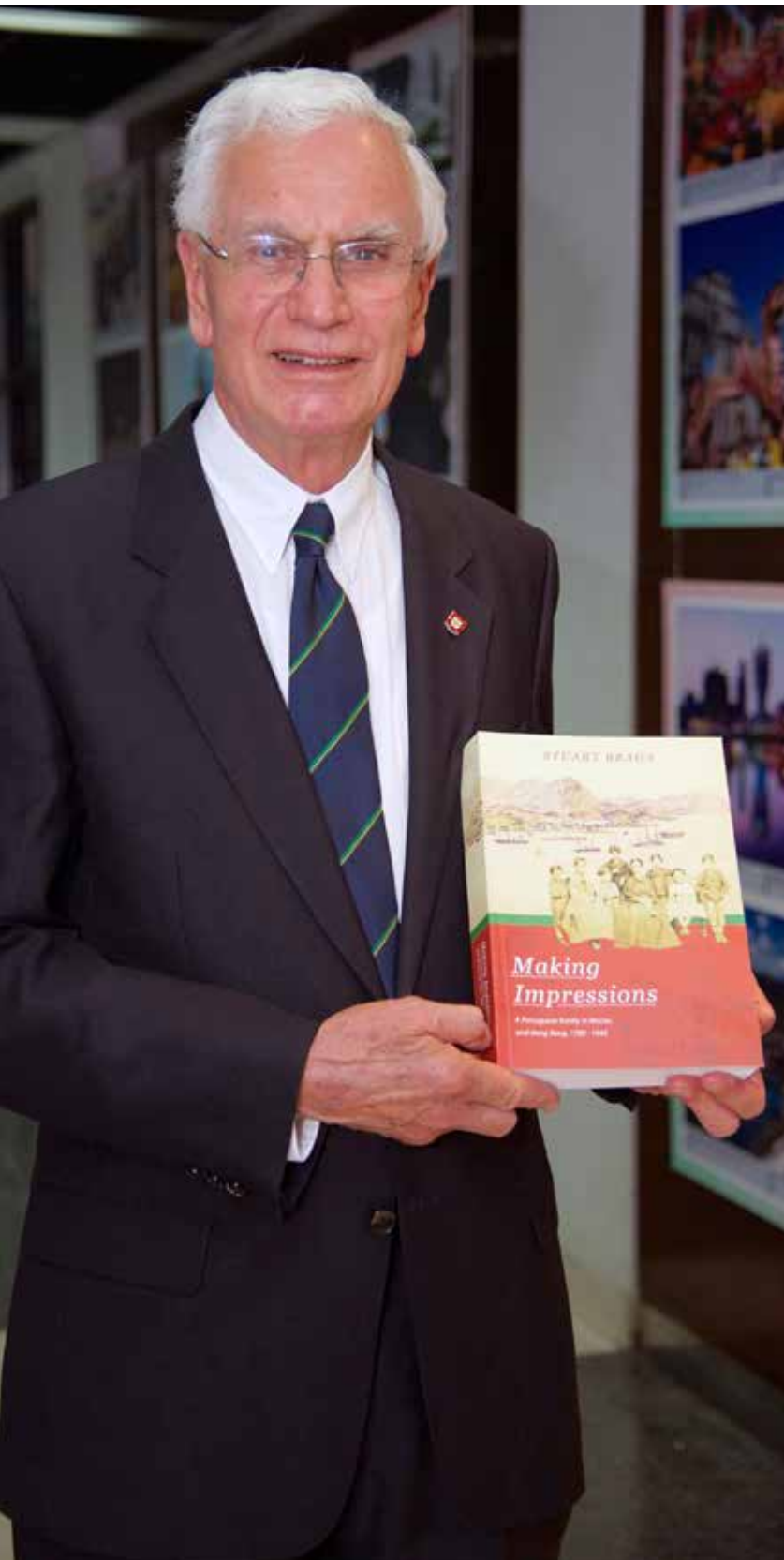
"It took 27 months of full-time work," he said in an interview. "The family wanted me, a professional historian, to write the book. It tells the story of the Portuguese in Hong Kong, always an underclass with a few exceptions, and their

emigration in the 1960s to the U.S., Canada and other Pacific Rim countries, which were more egalitarian and gave them more opportunities."

Running to more than 700 pages with notes and appendices, the book is a meticulous account of two families, the Bragas and the Noronhas, whose ancestors arrived in Macao nearly three centuries ago. It is richly illustrated with photographs, maps and family trees which capture their dramatic life.

Braga returned to Macao for the launch of the book on 22nd October 2015, at a function at the Portuguese Consulate in Macao, where it was launched by Dr José Luis Sales Marques, President of the Institute of European Studies and former President of Leal Senado.

At the event, Braga presented to the people of Macao a unique map. It was originally drawn in 1779 by a famous British naval officer William Bligh, one of the greatest navigators of his time. It is called "Sketch of the Typa and Macao" and is one of very few early maps to show the depths of the waters in the approaches to Macao.



Bligh was an officer on the third voyage of exploration in the Pacific Ocean led by Captain James Cook. After Cook was killed in Hawaii on 14th February 1779, his ship 'Resolution' returned to England; it stopped at Macao in December that year. It stayed there for several weeks until January while the crew rested and supplies were replenished in readiness for the long voyage back to England.

"Now is the right time and this is the right opportunity for this map to come to Macao," said Braga. "The original map on which it is based was drawn here in Macao by a British officer who in later years became a famous figure in naval history."

MOVE TO HONG KONG

The foundation of Hong Kong in 1842 dealt a severe blow to the economy of Macao. The new British colony replaced the long-standing Portuguese settlement as the centre of foreign trade in the Far East.

Companies, British and non-British, moved to the better legal and military security of Hong Kong. With them moved many of the Portuguese inhabitants of Macao who saw better economic opportunity.

Among them was João Vicente Braga, who was born in Macao in 1803 and had eight children. He took his family to Hong Kong. His eldest son, João Joaquim, was a pharmacist who started work in a city pharmacy and then opened his own. He married the daughter of a well-connected family and bought property in good neighbourhoods of Hong Kong.

He did so well that he was one of the few Macanese of his generation to emigrate to England, in November 1872, with his wife and children. His son John Francis had obtained British citizenship in March that year.

João Joaquim died in May 1876, aged only 48, but John Francis became a successful doctor in Britain.

BOOK

The story of
Braga's family

The family lived comfortably from the property investments their father had made in Hong Kong.

In the mid-19th century, the Portuguese were the second largest non-Chinese community in Hong Kong. In 1865, they established Club Lusitano, 20 years after the Hong Kong Club, from which they were excluded. Stuart Braga's great-great-grandfather, Delfino Noronha, the Government printer, was one of its founders.

A few, like João Joaquim, developed successful businesses and held senior position in government departments. But the majority held modest positions as clerks and employees in private British companies; they spoke English and Cantonese as well as Portuguese.

They took their place in an inferior role in the rigid class system which the British established in Hong Kong, as they did in other colonies. Historian Austin Coates summarised well the situation of the Portuguese there. "They could not rise. They were not Protestants; they were not freemasons; and they were not really Europeans. As clerks they came and as clerks they stayed, except for a small handful of professional men who were the natural leaders of the Portuguese community."

Stuart Braga said that, until after World War II, the Portuguese looked up to the British: "they came to admire their calm if arrogant control, their firm and usually incorrupt insistence on the rule of law, their business skill, their excellent education system and the liberalism and common humanity that were always present to a degree." However, they came to resent the arrogance of the British, who tended to treat the Portuguese with contempt.

NATURAL LEADER

One of the most remarkable was José Pedro Braga, appointed the first Portuguese member of the HK Legislative Council in 1929. In 1935, he was the first member of his community to become an Officer of the Order of the British Empire.

He was born in August 1871 in Hong Kong and was educated in English at St Joseph's College, a Catholic school. At 16, he went to boarding school at St Xavier's College in Calcutta, the leading Jesuit school in India. He excelled and won a First Class pass and the only scholarship available to a European in Bengal.

In May 1889, following the tragic death of three of his brothers from smallpox, he courageously returned to Hong Kong and worked as a junior compositor in his grandfather's printing office. In May 1895, he married the Australian daughter of English parents. They had 13 children; they and his wife were devout Protestants, while he remained a Catholic. He was unable to attend the weddings of his children that were held in Protestant churches.

He had a distinguished career in business and was *Reuter's* correspondent in Hong Kong for 25 years. He was chairman of two thriving public companies and was a board member of China Light and Power.

He took a great interest in public life. He was appointed a member of the Sanitary Board and served two full terms in the Legislative Council, during which he helped to organise two Empire Trade Fairs, in 1932 and 1933, to redress a decline in commerce.

He died in Macao on 14th February 1944 and is buried in San Miguel Cemetery, with a bronze bust over his grave by Italian sculptor Oseo Acconci. His example paved the way for other Portuguese to follow him into public life and the Legislative Council.

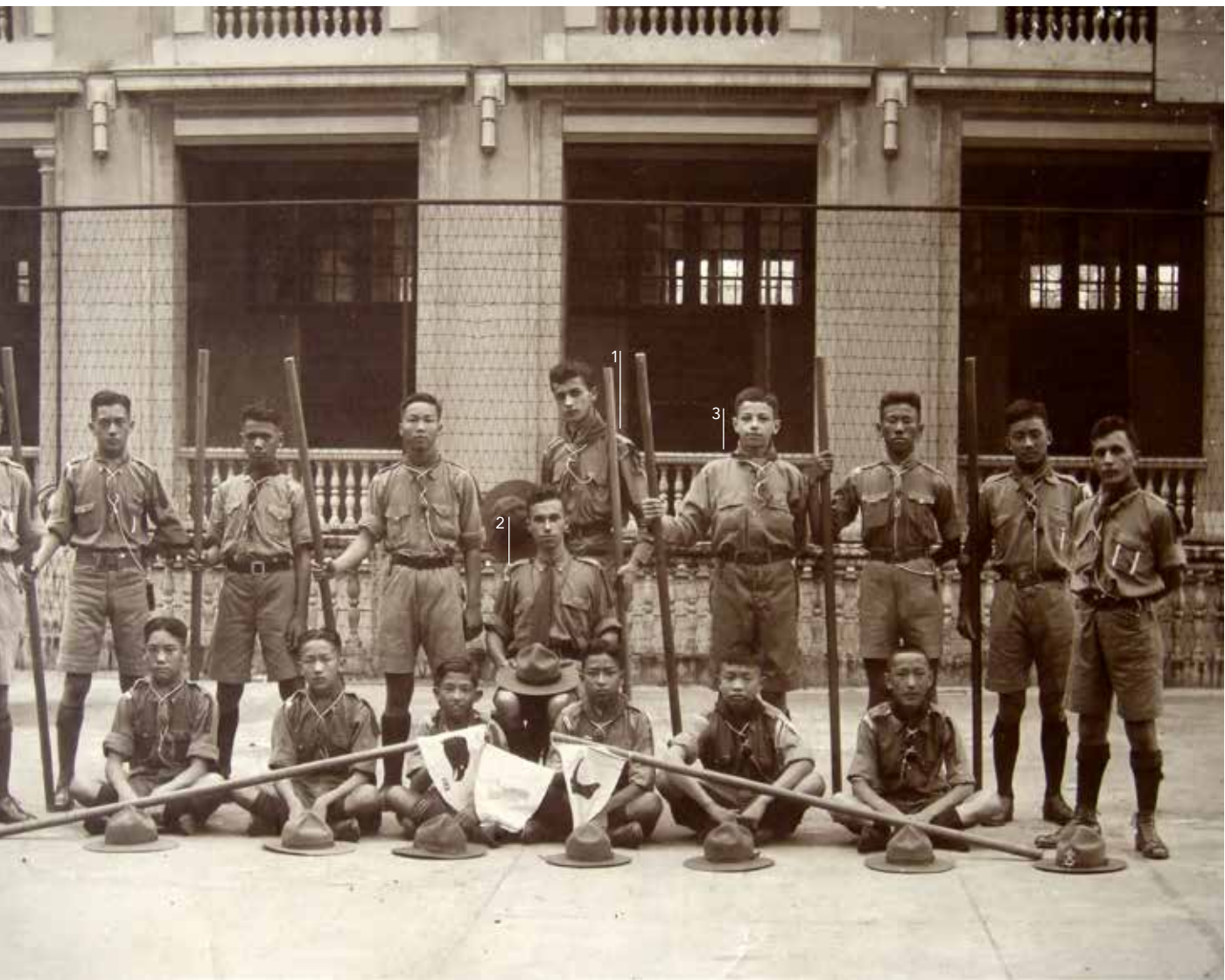
NIGHTMARE OF THE WAR

In December 1941, Hong Kong fell to the Japanese military. Suddenly, the 10,000 Portuguese, descendants of those who had emigrated from Macao now wanted to go back there, the only European colony in East Asia not occupied by the Japanese.

Macao Governor Gabriel Teixeira generously opened the door and welcomed refugees, including many people of Portuguese origin who had lived in Hong Kong for generations and no longer spoke the language. They were issued identity papers which enabled them to escape.

They included José Pedro Braga and most members of his large family. One of his sons, Jack, joined the British Special Operations Executive and, in Macao, served as liaison officer between the Chinese government and the British army; he organised a clandestine courier service which carried vital messages between Hong Kong, Macao, Chongqing and Allied radio stations behind the Japanese lines in China.





**THE
BRAGA
BROTHERS,
1925**

1. Tony
2. Hugh
3. Paul

The book is a meticulous account of two families, the Bragas and the Noronhas, whose ancestors arrived in Macao nearly three centuries ago

Although life in Macao was difficult and many people were close to starvation, it was much better than if they had stayed in Hong Kong. There was a wide gap between the Macanese and these 'returnees'. "The Braga family, with an Australian mother and having become Protestant, were far more anglicised than the rest. Many from Hong Kong spoke no Portuguese and, though many Macao residents spoke some English, the gap was always there."

The 'returnees' were indeed fortunate. Austin Coates summarised the situation in this way. "The patient endurance of the Macanese



A CARTE DE VISITE

Carolina Maria Braga and her children, 1877

during these fateful years and the sagacity and foresight of their Governor can hardly be overestimated... no-one who experienced Macao's hospitality during these years would ever forget it. The entire episode ranks as one of the city's finest moments."

RETURN AND EXILE

After the end of the war, the Portuguese were able to return to their lives in Hong Kong. But, in the 1960s, the spillover of the Cultural Revolution in Hong Kong and Macao persuaded most of them to leave; they believed that left-wing militants wanted them and the British to go. They feared that they were more vulnerable to arrest or seizure of their property than the British, who had a colonial power and membership of the U.N. Security Council behind them.

Of the 13 children of JP Braga, seven emigrated, to Britain, the U.S., Canada and Australia. The others remained in Hong Kong; the last surviving one, Carolina, a piano teacher, died in November 1998, a year after the handover and a year before Macao reverted to Chinese sovereignty.

The Portuguese community in Hong Kong declined. In the early 1960s, it was about 10,000. By the time of the handover in 1997, the number had fallen to 1,000 and has continued to decline. They went to Portugal and Brazil as well as North America and Commonwealth countries. Unlike their temporary exile to Macao during World War Two, this exile was permanent; they did not expect to return.

PRICELESS LIBRARY

Among those who left was Jack Braga, one of Stuart's uncles, who had over many years built up a library of 7,000 historical books, 500 maps and 300 paintings. "He had seen his father's library destroyed during World War Two and only four books left. He was terrified the same thing would happen to his collection."

So Jack Braga sold the library for a firesale price of 10,000 pounds to the National Library of Australia in Canberra, which invited him to move there as a consultant. He and his family emigrated there.

It was his uncle's library that was the main raw material for Stuart Braga's book; it is an edited version of a thesis awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy by the Australian National University in 2013. The university provided travel grants for two field trips to Hong Kong and Macao which greatly enriched the study.

"During World War Two, Uncle Jack knew it was a special time and collected all he could about the cultural life in Macao – musical and theatre performances, church services of thanksgiving. It was amazing," he said.

Asked how the Hong Kong Portuguese should be remembered, one of those who emigrated in the 1960s said: "they should be remembered as a people who share a strong communal bond, who worked hard and played well, who were good cooks and enjoyed their food, who were committed to family and, most important, who had the courage to surrender their comfortable lives to seek a better life for their families in countries where they could be fully fledged citizens." ■



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Macao joins Japan's winter wonderland

Building a snowman in winter is a pleasure for the average person – but the Japanese have taken it to another level at the Sapporo Snow Festival

TEXT CATARINA MESQUITA

PHOTOS ANTÓNIO SANMARFUL

ILLUSTRATION FERNANDO CHAN





The first edition of the Sapporo Snow Festival took place in 1950. Since then, February has become famous for this festival in Sapporo, capital of the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido.

Millions of tourists flock to this festival to see sculptures made of snow and hundreds of experienced teams fly in from around the world to build ice sculptures. In 2016, Macao is taking part for the first time.

This year the Macao Government Tourist Office (MGTO) decided to bring the best of Macao to Hokkaido by building a replica of the Ruins of Saint Paul.

The piece, which is 17 metres high and 26 metres wide, represents the facade of this 16th century church. It will require 2,500 cubic meters of snow, the equivalent to 464 trucks.

The Macao snow sculpture was built in 30 days by 100 members of Japan's Self Defence Forces. This team is also responsible for all the official construction at the festival.

Macao's huge ice sculpture will be displayed next to other globally famous structures that make the festival one of Japan's biggest tourist attractions.

"This is an important event to take part in, so that MGTO can project Macao's heritage and also promote Macao on a larger scale in Japan," said Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes, director of MGTO.

We believe that the participation will help to raise the image of Macao and lure more visitors to the city, not only from Japan, but from other countries, said Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes



HOKKAIDO Sapporo Snow Festival

“The Sapporo Snow Festival is a very popular annual event attracting every year around two million visitors of all ages and nationalities, as well as receiving a wide media coverage,” MGTO said. “Therefore, we believe that the participation will help to raise the image of Macao and lure more visitors to the city, not only from Japan, but from other countries.”

FROM SIX TO HUNDREDS OF SCULPTURES

The first Sapporo Snow Festival was held in Odori Park in 1950, with only six snow statues made by local high school students. Beyond all expectations, the event attracted about 50,000 people and soon became a huge winter event.

In 1972, Sapporo hosted the Winter Olympic Games, through which the Snow Festival became widely acknowledged by the international media; this created further interest worldwide.

In 1974, the Snow Festival added an International Snow Sculpture Contest; teams from different countries in the world, including China, Canada, Germany, Australia and the United States, came to show their skills.

The organisers always wanted to innovate. In 1983, they added a new dimension – the neon lights used commonly on street buildings were integrated into the ice sculptures.

With the increase of visitors, the festival was in 1984 extended to seven days, the length it is today. Currently, it is divided between two sites. The number of pieces varies each year; the

organisers try to offer the public a great variety of displays made out of snow and ice sculptures. They have created a special area reserved for the International Snow Sculpture Contest and the works in snow by individual citizens.

For risk-takers who enjoy building sculptures in temperatures as low minus 5° Celsius, the festival accepts applications three months in advance.

The Sapporo festival shows that snow is a material that inspires artists all over the world.

MACAO ROOTS AND THE PASSION FOR SNOW

Season Lao, a Macao artist and photographer who lives in Hokkaido, explained that snow landscapes have been very inspiring to him.

Born in Macao, Lao decided to move to Japan; he has dedicated most of his time to photographing the scenery of snow.

This year the MGTO invited Season Lao to be part of the team that is showing the best of Macao at the snow festival.

“MGTO contacted me a few months ago to help the creative team from Japan that is visiting Macao to produce a television series that will be showcased in Japan,” said Lao. “It was a proposal that I couldn’t refuse.”

According to Senna Fernandes, the main attraction of Macao’s presence at the festival “will be the replica of the Ruins of Saint Paul” and there will also be other attractions like 3D mapping, food delicacies and multi-media projects. ■



MACAO ARTIST

Season Lao,
artist and
photographer



Bringing western music to ancient China

Jesuit built China's first pipe
organ, helped negotiate
Sino-Russian treaty

TEXT MARK O'NEILL

PHOTOS ERIC TAM, COURTESY OF BAROQUE

AND ROCOCO IN LATIN AMERICA, DOVER PUBLICATIONS

EMPEROR KANGXI IMAGE COLLECTION OF THE PALACE MUSEUM BEIJING

IMAGE COURTESY OF LISBON'S ARQUIVO HISTÓRICO ULTRAMARINO

In the late 17th century, a Portuguese Jesuit built the largest pipe organ in East Asia, in a church in Beijing. Thousands came to hear him play the instrument, which included sounds of birds, animals and humans. It was a novel way to bring the Chinese close to Christianity.

This pipe organ was one of the many achievements of Father Tomas Pereira, who worked at the court of Emperor Kangxi for more than 30 years and was the official musician. He built a close and privileged relationship with the Emperor.

He and an Italian priest who succeeded him, the Vincentian Teodorico Pedrini, were the two men who did most to introduce western music to China.

This was the subject of a seminar "Introduction of Western Music in China and the Philippines" at the Macau Ricci Institute (MRI) of Macao on the 25th April 2015. Both priests spent time in Macao before being sent to the imperial court in Beijing.

Pereira is also famous in China for being one of two Jesuits in the Chinese negotiating team that successfully negotiated the Treaty of Nerchinsk with Tsarist Russia, signed on 27th August 1689. It was the first peace treaty between China and Russia and fixed the border for the next 171 years; the official version was in Latin, the language of the Jesuits, with translations into Russian and Manchu.

The two priests spent their adult lives in Beijing and were buried there in the Jesuit cemetery that exists today. The site now belongs to the Communist Party school of Beijing.

Music was a means to an end. It aroused the curiosity of Chinese intellectuals to understand western civilization, including Christianity. It aimed to build bridges

CHILDHOOD IN THE KINGDOM OF PIPE ORGANS

Pereira was born on the 1st November 1645 in the village of São Martinho do Vale, located in the municipality of Vila Nova de Famalicão, in the district of Braga in northern Portugal. "The northern district of Braga is well-known for its organ-building," said Cesar Guillen-Núñez, a research fellow at the MRI in Macao, who gave a talk at the April seminar in 2015 on the contributions of Fathers Pereira and Pedrini.

Pereira studied at the University of Braga and came to China in 1672, when he enrolled in the College of St Paul in Macao. "By then, the Jesuits had introduced religious music in Macao, where the Church of St Paul used a choir and two western organs at Mass for the European and Chinese believers.

"It was Matteo Ricci and Diego Pantoja who first introduced western secular music and instruments to China. This is recorded at the time of the court of Wan Li (who ruled from 1572 to 1620). Three keyboard instruments were introduced, the pipe organ, as well as the stringed instruments, the harpsichord and the clavichord, the last one also considered a percussion instrument.

"Ricci and Pantoja were clever amateur musicians but a more professional development of western music only occurred in Qing China at the hands of Tomas Pereira and flourished to an even greater extent with Teodorico Pedrini," said Nuñez.

MOVING TO BEIJING

Pereira was sent from Macao to Beijing because of his skills as a musician. He used the instruments that Matteo Ricci had brought. He played secular music, both Chinese and European.

"Emperor Kangxi was very impressed by Tomas Pereira," said Nuñez. "He was attracted by these foreign instruments. Pereira heard Chinese tunes, annotated them and played. This was a first in China, where there was no such music tradition." There musicians learnt their tunes by memory and had no system of writing it down; so Pereira's method aroused curiosity and admiration.

The Emperor appointed him musician to the court. Pereira was an innovative musician. For

the Society of Jesus, all their members in Beijing were missionaries. Music was a means to an end. It aroused the curiosity of Chinese intellectuals to understand western civilization, including Christianity. It aimed to build bridges. But the Emperor did not think of proselytizing. He was not converted.

"Pereira taught music to the Emperor and the eunuchs. He also taught mathematics to the Emperor."

BUILDING THE ORGAN

Pereira's next project was to build a comparatively large organ in the Nantang (South Church, today the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception). This church had been built in 1650-52 by a German Jesuit Johann Adam Schall. The Emperor Shunzhi liked Schall and the church and visited it no less than 24 times.

Constructing the organ was a major undertaking. It was the largest of its kind in East Asia and the first in the mainland. Pereira found the materials and the skilled helpers needed. "It was elaborate and had many stops, including the sounds of birds, animals and humans," said Nuñez.

"When Pereira played it, it became a major crowd-puller. Thousands came to listen. He played

Emperor Kangxi was very impressed by Tomas Pereira, he was attracted by these foreign instruments, said Nuñez

both western and Chinese music. The Emperor had a very close relationship with Pereira."

The church was destroyed by an earthquake in 1720, rebuilt and then severely damaged by another earthquake in 1730. It was razed to the ground by the Boxers in 1900, like most other churches in Beijing. In 1904, the fourth church on the site, the Church of the Immaculate Conception, was completed; it is in use today.

**CESAR
GUILLEN-
-NUÑEZ**

Research fellow
at the MRI



MAKING PEACE WITH RUSSIA

Pereira's next mission for the Emperor was to help negotiate China's enormous border with Russia, the longest in the world. At that time, China had no Foreign Ministry and no diplomats. It did not need them, since it considered itself the centre of the world and other countries tributary states.

"Officially, Pereira and the French Jesuit with him were interpreters and part of the Chinese delegation. But they were clearly not only interpreters. Pereira took the lead," said Nuñez. "He was instrumental in negotiating a peace which lasted a long time. This is his greatest contribution to China. Blessed are the peacemakers."

Unlike the other members of the Chinese delegation, the Jesuits had experience of foreign countries and diplomacy. The authoritative version of the Treaty of Nerchinsk was in Latin, with translations into Russian and Manchu, but these versions differed considerably. Under the treaty, Russia gave up the area north of the Amur river as far as the Stanovoy Mountains and kept the area between the Argun river and Lake Baikal. These remained the border until 1860.

Pereira died in Beijing in 1708 and is buried there. Emperor Kangxi, once his pupil, offered 200 ounces of silver to cover the funeral expenses and ordered that a suitable epigraph be inscribed on his tombstone. He is best known among Chinese for negotiating the famous treaty.

ITALIAN PRIEST TOOK OVER

Pereira's mantle as imperial musician was taken by Teodorico Pedrini, an Italian Vincentian priest. He was born on the 30th June 1671 in Fermo, on the Adriatic coast of Italy. He attended

Pereira's next mission for the Emperor was to help negotiate China's enormous border with Russia, the longest in the world



PERU 17th century
Cusco Cathedral
Pipe Organ

university in his local town and in December 1697 joined the Vicentian order.

After meeting Pope Clemente XI, he was sent to China as a missionary and part of the Papal legation to China in 1702. After a marathon journey that included South America, Mexico and two years in the Philippines, he arrived in Macao in January 1710.

Emperor Kangxi had requested a new court musician to replace Pereira; so the young man set out for Beijing, where he arrived on the 6th February 1711.

"He was a very talented musician, who played the violin, the clavicord and other instruments," said Nuñez. "The National Library of Beijing has a collection of sonatas he composed. They are the only copies in the world." These are the only compositions of western Baroque music in China in the 18th century.

"Perdrini asked for and received scores of music from Europe and played them. He played both western and Chinese music. He completed in Chinese a treatise on western music which Pereira had started." This was the first such treatise ever published in China and was included in the Siku

Chuanshu, the largest collection of books in the country's history. It consisted of 36,381 volumes with more than 79,000 chapters, comprising about 2.3 million pages and approximately 800 million characters, with Pereira and Pedrini's contribution forming just a section of it.

Pedrini worked for three emperors – Kangxi, Yongzheng and Qianlong – and taught the three sons of Kangxi. He mended the musical instruments he found at court, as well as constructing new ones.

DOCTRINAL DISPUTE

He lived as a missionary in China from 1710 to 1746 and never returned to Italy.

He had the great misfortune to be caught in the middle of a devastating doctrinal dispute, which finally led to the expulsion of the Catholic missionaries. Many believe it to be the gravest error ever committed by a Pope toward China.

The issue was whether Chinese Christians were allowed to conduct Confucian rites, that is ceremonies to respect their ancestors. The Jesuits

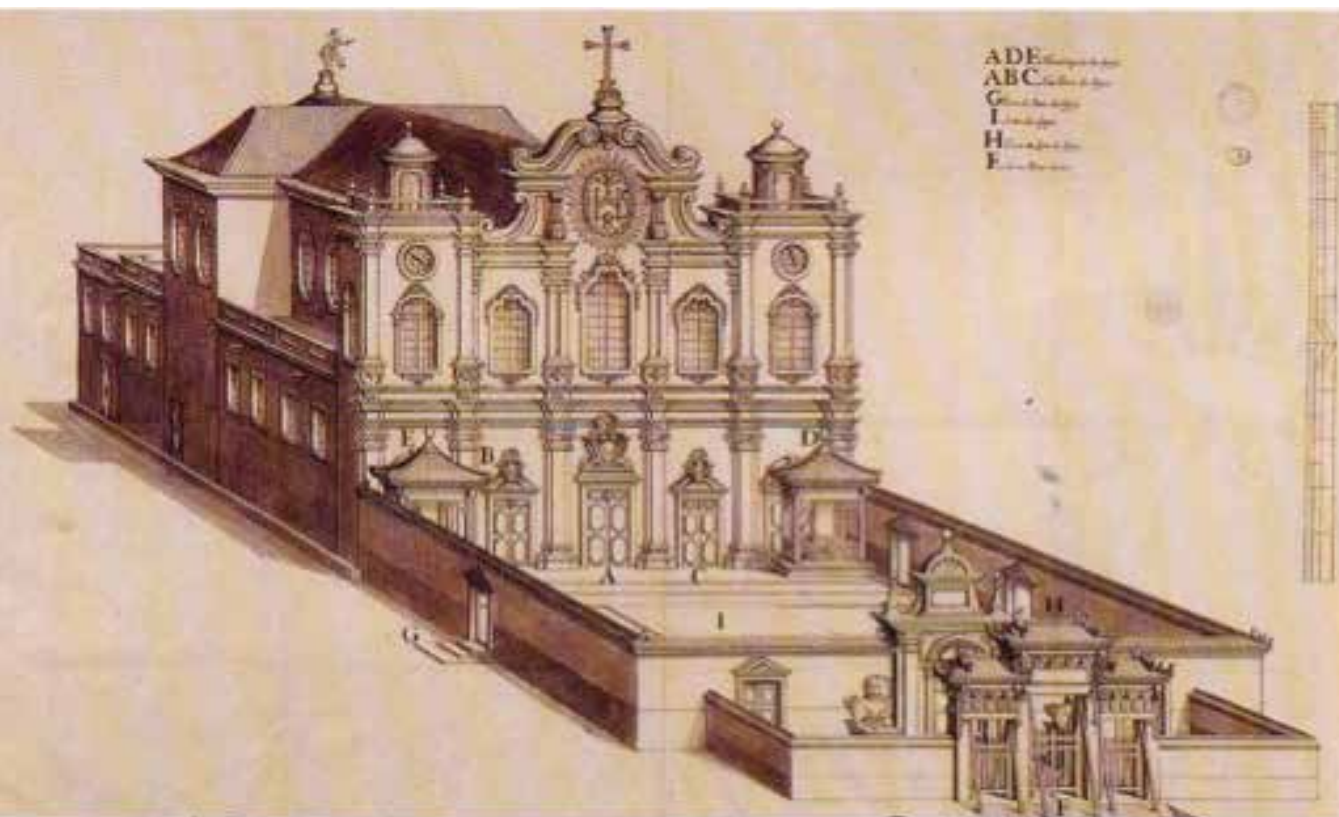
considered them non-religious and allowed their converts to conduct them.

But other orders, including the Vincentians to which Pedrini belonged, considered them sacrilegious; the Pope adopted this position.

Pedrini was trapped in the middle; a majority of missionaries in Beijing were Jesuit. In 1721, the Jesuits imprisoned him in their residence; he was only freed on the orders of Emperor Yongzheng two years later.

In 1723, he bought the residence of the Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, also known as Xintang (western church), where he established the first non-Jesuit church in Beijing. He died during the night of 10th December 1746 in his house and was buried in the Catholic cemetery in the city, with the funeral expenses covered by Emperor Qianlong.

Xintang was twice destroyed after his death and twice rebuilt. It operates as a church today on the site where Pedrini built it, on the main road between the Forbidden City and the old Summer Palace. An inscription on one of the walls reminds the faithful who founded it. ■



DESIGN

18th century
Beijing
church





Flower of Nobility

Xiaolan celebrates
eight centuries of
chrysanthemums

TEXT LOUISE DO ROSÁRIO

PHOTOS ERIC TAM

"Every Chinese New Year we buy chrysanthemums and display them in the house. That is what Guangdong people like to do. For us, the flowers are a symbol of spring and hope."

Vicky Liang Yinfeng was one of thousands of people from all over China who have come to Xiaolan, part of Zhongshan city in southern Guangdong, to see an exhibition of the flowers and celebrate a tradition more than 800 years old.

The 2015 Xiaolan Chrysanthemum Festival opened on November 23rd at the Longshan (Hill of the Dragon) Park and ran for two weeks. It attracted tens of thousands who came to see hundreds of varieties of the flower, with different shapes and colours, and think about its many appearances in the culture, poetry and cuisine of China.

The organisers gave prizes of up to 10,000 yuan to the best variety; second and third received 8,000 and 6,000 yuan.

The flower first arrived here in 1274 brought by refugees from other parts of China. They found the soil fertile and the climate ideal for growing the flower.

Since then, it has become part of the town's history, culture and identity. It is grown not only as a flower but as a leaf for tea, to be used in traditional medicine and cooking and even as an insecticide. It is an important economic commodity.

It has become a symbol of the town. It held its first chrysanthemum festival in 1814 and organised them regularly ever since; the largest attendance was six million visitors.

WHITE A prized variety of chrysanthemums





1934 The organisers of a Xiaolan flower exhibition

HISTORY

Chrysanthemums were born in China, where they were first cultivated as a flowering herb in the 15th century BC. By 1630, over 500 varieties were recorded.

It became a symbol of different aspects of life, a sign of nobility and one of the "Four Gentlemen", together with the plum blossom, the orchid and bamboo.

It was exported to Japan, where it became a symbol of the Emperor. In 1869, a two-layered, 16-petal design was created as the symbol of the Imperial family and is still used today. It was also used at state-supported shrines.

In China, Japan and Korea, white chrysanthemums are a sign of grief and mourning; people wear them on their lapel when someone they love has passed away.

The English word is derived from two Greek words – *chrysos*, meaning gold, and *anthemon*, meaning flower.

It arrived in Xiaolan in 1274, during the Southern Song dynasty. A group of refugees from the north arrived in the area bringing the plant. They found its earth to be fertile and the weather mild and wet – ideal conditions for growing. They planted gardens of chrysanthemums.

In the Ming dynasty (1368-1644), it became popular among local residents and its cultivation spread in the area. People came from nearby areas to see the flowers at the start of their blooming. One historian in the then capital Nanjing wrote about the beauty of the flowers in Xiaolan.

In the Qing dynasty (1644-1911), the town began to sell the seeds to other places in China. It improved the quality and increased the number of varieties.

The chrysanthemum became an important commodity. Its yellow or white flowers were boiled to make a sweet form of tea that became popular in China. In Korea, it was used in the making of rice wine.

Its leaves were steamed or boiled and used



XIAOLAN PARK

as a form of vegetable in Chinese cuisine. The flowers were added to soups to improve the smell. In Japan, they were used as a garnish for sushi.

The flowers were also used as a pesticide. The flowers were crushed into a powder from which was extracted oleoresin. This attacks the nervous system of insects and prevents female mosquitoes from biting.

More recently, the flower has been used to make cakes and biscuits. In 1762, the growers set up the first society of chrysanthemum, bringing people from different villages together. They held competitions and exhibitions, to promote the growth and culture of the flower. They were displayed in temples and ancestral halls.

FESTIVALS

The first large-scale chrysanthemum festival was held in 1814. The organisers decided to hold the event every 60 years. The next two were held in 1874 and 1934.

In the Longshan Park is an exhibition hall run by the Society to Promote the Culture of the Xiaolan Chrysanthemum, which is responsible for the festivals and the management of the flower in the town.

The hall has photographs, documents and materials on the city's love affair with the flower. The exhibition in 1934 had 24 pavilions of different sizes, with 12 streets decorated with the flowers.

In 1959, to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the new state, the town held an exhibition of its flowers. There were more than 4,000 pots and 100 different varieties. It ran for seven days and attracted 300,000 people.

During the Cultural Revolution, the Red Guards banned such large exhibitions. But people in the town continued to organise small-scale displays. After the Cultural Revolution ended in 1976, then the normal exhibitions resumed.

There is a photograph of Ho Yin, leader of Macao's Chinese community for many years, visiting an exhibition. Next to him are men and women with blue cotton jackets and blue caps – the uniforms of the Maoist era. He was the father of Edmund Ho Hau Wah, the SAR's first Chief Executive who held the office for 10 years after its return to China.

A medium-size exhibition was held in 1987 and a major one in 1994, 60 years after the one in 1934. This ran for 19 days with 10 square kilometres of flowers and 820,000 pots. They covered 31 streets; the event attracted six million people, a record. They included people from all over China, foreigners and overseas Chinese.

Xiaolan Chrysanthemum Festival is listed as China's National Intangible Cultural Heritage

Since this event was held every 60 years, the organisers arranged performances by more than 20 local and visiting troupes and also held exhibitions on the development of Xiaolan and economic and trade events. The chrysanthemum has helped to put the town on the world map.

In May 2006, the State Council approved the addition of the Xiaolan Chrysanthemum Festival



The chrysanthemum has helped to put Zhongshan on the world map

to the list of China's national intangible cultural heritage. It was the first recognition from the national level and one much cherished by the town. It greatly helped residents to promote the town, not only to attract people to visit the festival but also to promote it as a trade and investment destination.

The next big exhibition was held in 2007. This covered 300,000 square metres in four city parks and nearly 1,800 varieties in 460,000 pots. It attracted 123 exhibitors from 44 cities in Japan, South Korea, Malaysia and China, including Macao and Hong Kong. A total of three million people attended.

The society decided that, from 2008, an exhibition would be held every year, starting on November 23rd and running for two weeks.

PURPLE One of the most popular varieties



DIVERSITY

The exhibition hall shows the versatility of the chrysanthemum. It displays its use in cuisine, for use in sauces and as a flavouring, as well as in cakes and biscuits. It is also a popular tea, being used to make chrysanthemum tea. The hall has a room dedicated to calligraphy and poems inspired by the flower.

"Cantonese people love chrysanthemums," said Liang Guoxiu, a civil servant from Guangzhou visiting the exhibition with his family. "We buy them for Chong Yang Festival in September and ahead of Chinese New Year, as a symbol of hope and spring."

The festival falls on the ninth day of the ninth month of the Chinese lunar calendar and is a traditional holiday in China, Japan and Vietnam. In Japan, it is also known as the Chrysanthemum Festival.

According to tradition, this day has too much "yang" and is potentially dangerous. To protect themselves from danger, people drink

chrysanthemum liquor and lay out the flower in their homes. It is considered to have cleaning qualities and can cure you from illness.

"For grief and funerals, we use a small white flower," said Liang. "But that is only one variety. In general, it is a positive and joyful flower."

He said that the industry had greatly changed over the past 30 years. "Three decades ago, transport was not so convenient and this was a flower for Guangdong. But now farmers send it all over China, to areas where it cannot be grown, and abroad.

"Many areas of Guangdong grow them, including Guangzhou. Xiaolan is not as unusual as it used to be. But it has a long history and traditions. The flower has a special place in our hearts."

Xiaolan is a township that is part of Zhongshan city. It covers an area of 754,000 square kilometres with a population of 322,000. In 2014, it achieved a GDP of 27.13 billion yuan, of which industry accounted for 58.6 per cent, the service sector 41.1 per cent and agriculture 0.3 per cent. ■







Parade Through Macao, Latin City

PHOTOS GCS, CHEONG KAM KA
AND ANTÓNIO LEONG

The “Parade through Macao, Latin City” is a grand cultural and touristic event that began in 2011 and is held annually in December. It is one of the activities that highlights Macao’s handover to China.

More than 1,600 participants and dozens of performing groups from different countries are invited to join local talents in crossing the city’s streets and lanes, singing and dancing in unison with the local public and visitors.

The parade is organised by the Cultural Affairs Bureau of Macao in co-operation and support of countless civil associations.

“The Fantastic Viva Treasure Hunt Adventure” was the theme for 2015, in line with their main concept of “Peace, Love and Cultural Integration.”

Participating local and foreign groups offer an excellent opportunity to promote mutual understanding among cultures and boost cultural integration.

The Parade ends with a grand joint performance at Tap Seac Square, where groups showcase their skills on stage, bringing the joyful atmosphere of the parade to a climax in celebration of this festive day.















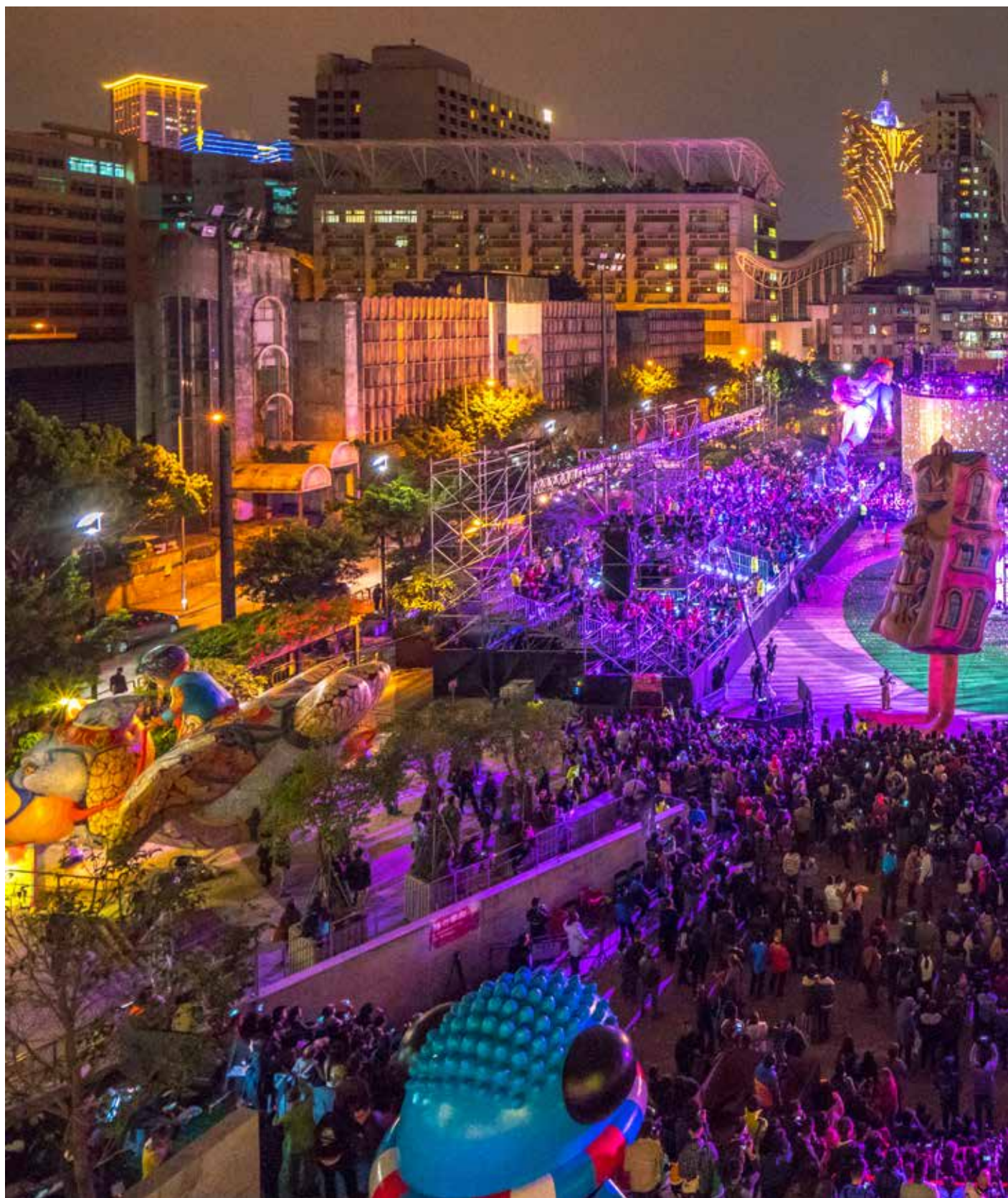


















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A photograph of the BNU Macau building, featuring a modern glass skyscraper rising from a historic, ornate pinkish-tan base. The building is set against a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. The word 'BNU' is visible on the top of the glass tower.

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