

Macao 澳門



WOMEN OF MACAO

**Belt and Road, a priority for Macao
China and São Tomé and Príncipe re-establish relations**





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ON THE COVER Eight influential women leaders in Macao. First row (left to right): Sonia Chan, Marjory Vendramini, Tracy Choi, Michelle Ho. Second row: Lúcia Lemos, Paula Carion, Sister Juliana Devoy, Sabrina Ho

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MARCH 2017

INSPIRING PROGRESS

International Women's Day is the inspiration behind this issue of the Macao Magazine. We speak to eight women leaders from all walks of life who have excelled and successfully challenged the role of "traditional women" in both business and social structures. In Macao, women score well on a global equality index and the most significant percentage increase in the female work force over the last 20 years has been government officials, directors and business leaders.

Susana Chou, one of Macao's famed women leaders and former president of the Macao Legislative Assembly, shares insights on her charitable association Tong Chai and philanthropic endeavours in Macao and beyond.

In the political realm, Macao's increasingly active participation in the Belt and Road initiative clearly shows the local government's policy alignment with China's strategies. An article written by Dr Chao Peng, Director of the "One Belt, One Road" Research Center from the City University of Macao details how Macao can implement a "regional vision and direction" within the context of the Belt and Road initiative.

To this end, Chief Executive Chui Sai On recently visited the provinces of Fujian and Guangdong in mainland China to strengthen their bilateral co-operation.

As the Macao government seeks to expand its role as a platform in facilitating relations between China and Portuguese-speaking countries, Macao Magazine is publishing an exclusive interview with São Tomé and Príncipe's Prime Minister, Patrice Trovoada, on the re-establishment of diplomatic relations with China and their prospects for the future.

China recently offered two furry red pandas to Macao, both now living in Coloane's Seac Pai Vai Park. Our writer talks to their caretakers on the pandas' traits, habits and favourite treats.

GONÇALO CÉSAR DE SÁ
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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龍舟賽
2017**

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Belt and Road, a priority for Macao

2017 marked by the
Chinese initiative

PHOTOS GOVERNMENT
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The Chinese Central Government's Belt and Road initiative is set to mark Macao's political and economic agenda in 2017. For the last two years, leading groups, companies, figures and institutions have become increasingly aware of the importance of the Belt and Road and the advantages it could bring to the territory.

The participatory role of Macao in the Belt and Road initiative was clearly outlined for the first time in March 2015 in a document jointly issued by the National Development and Reform Commission, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Commerce of the State Council.

An excerpt of that document reads as follows: "We should give full scope to the role of Qianhai (Shenzhen), Nansha (Guangzhou), Hengqin (Zhuhai) and Pingtan (Fujian) deepening their co-operation with Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan and help build the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (...). We should leverage the unique role of overseas

Chinese and the Hong Kong and Macao Special Administrative Regions (SARs) and encourage them to participate in and contribute to the Belt and Road Initiative."

When the Macao government presented the first Five-Year Development Plan in 2016 for the 2016-2020 period, it indicated that necessary steps would be taken, specifically regarding the Portuguese-language countries, to actively participate in the 21st century Maritime Silk Road, a key component of the Belt and Road.

In October 2016, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang visited Macao to preside over the Forum Macao Ministerial Conference. He reaffirmed the importance of the Belt and Road initiative with respect to the Portuguese-speaking countries, stating that the Chinese Central Government would strongly support Macao's participation in the initiative.

In November, Macao Special Administrative Region Chief Executive Chui Sai On presented his policy address for 2017 to the Legislative Assembly, emphasizing that his administration would take full advantage of the support granted to Macao by the Central Government for the construction of Belt and Road.

Leong Vai Tac, secretary for Economy and Finance and Tam Chon Weng, secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, have reiterated in recent months the advantages of Macao's participation in the initiative.

Besides serving as a platform to connect China and Portuguese-speaking countries *vis-à-vis* the Belt and Road and the Maritime Silk Road, the initiative will also boost Macao's role as a hub for tourism, increasing connections between this region and the rest of the world, taking advantage of eventual input to the project from overseas Chinese associations.

CHUI VISITED FUZHOU AND GUANGZHOU TO DISCUSS THE BELT AND ROAD

In February, Macao Chief Executive Chui Sai On visited the capitals of Fujian and Guangdong provinces to study potential mutual co-operation in the Belt and Road context. The year 2017 thus began with the Macao government taking another important step on the path to achieving the initiative, focusing on those two provinces, which have historical ties to both the Maritime Silk Road and Macao.



At the end of the Fuzhou visit, where he met with the province's governor, Yu Weiguo, Chui stated that both Macao and Fujian aim to jointly participate in the Belt and Road initiative. Both Chui and Yu stressed the importance of using the two regions' advantages with respect to geography, human and cultural relations to join forces and coordinate participation in the Belt and Road.

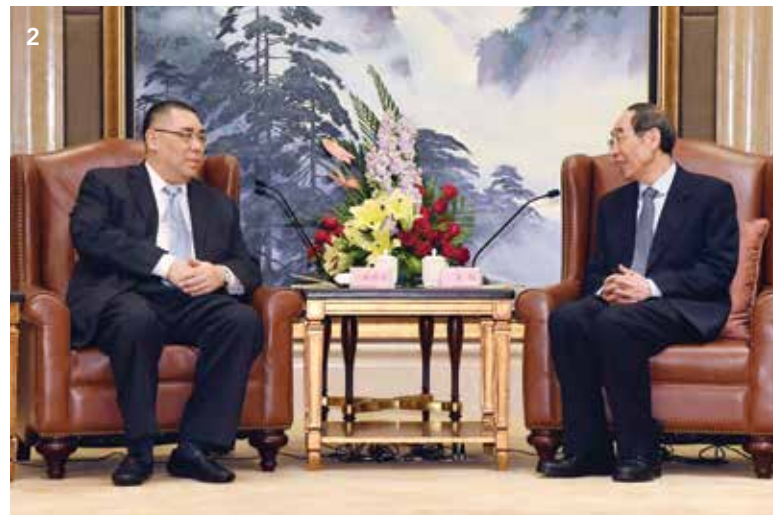
Fujian province is a part of the core Maritime Road region, while Macao serves as a platform for Portuguese-speaking countries and for the outreach to Chinese communities in Southeast Asia. Their mutual relations ensure that there is a great deal of potential to undertake and carry out joint actions.

The visit resulted in an agreement that Macao and Fujian would boost Belt and Road-related co-operation. Macao's role as a platform for services and trade co-operation between China and Portuguese-speaking countries was highlighted, along with the desire to enhance co-operation between Fujian and countries taking part in the Belt and Road initiative. Macao also proposed coordinating with Fujian in areas such as tourism, conventions and exhibitions, bringing benefits to both regions.

Chui Sai On then travelled to Guangzhou, the capital of China's Guangdong province, where the two governments agreed to take the necessary steps to integrate Macao's development policies in the Belt and Road, specifically to make the territory "an international tourism hub and economic platform" and support Guangdong's efforts to achieve their targets.

After the meetings between Chui Sai On and Guangdong governor Ma Xingrui and Guangdong Communist Party Secretary Hu Chunhua, the two governments agreed to promote participation in the Belt and Road by improving co-ordination between Macao's Office of the Chief Executive and Guangdong Province's Office for Hong Kong and Macao Affairs.

The two sides also agreed to boost relations in the areas of trade and investment, using Macao as a platform for services and trade co-operation between China and the Portuguese language countries and Southeast Asia. Guangdong and Macao will continue to publicise abroad the specific advantages of each region, jointly taking part in conventions and exhibitions to promote investment and bilateral



1. Chief Executive Chui Sai On with Guangdong Party Secretary, Hu Chunhua (left to right)

2. Chief Executive Chui Sai On and Fujian Party Secretary, You Quan (left to right)

co-operation with other countries. They will also continue working to firmly establish the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, a major goal for China. Moreover, they consider tourism and Chinese traditional medicine important aspects to develop with associations of overseas Chinese and Portuguese-speaking countries, so they can be included in the Belt and Road initiative.

Finally, the two governments affirmed that they were determined to strengthen mutual relations, especially among the two regions' young people, fostering conditions that enable them to set up and develop their own businesses.

ONE MORE STEP FOR MACAO TO PARTICIPATE IN THE BELT AND ROAD

In early March the government established a working committee for the city's participation in the Central Government's Belt and Road, according to an announcement in the Official Gazette. One of the duties of the committee is to coordinate the planning for the city to participate in, as well as contribute to the initiative. The committee will also promote studies to formulate respective policies.

The committee, chaired by the Chief Executive, consists of his five policy secretaries, the chief-of-cabinet of the Chief Executive, the

government's spokesperson, a representative from the Macau Foundation, two representatives from the Policy Research Office and two representatives from the Chief Executive Office, as well as a representative from each of the five police secretaries' offices.

By paving the way for the next stages of Macao's participation in the Belt and Road, Chief Executive Chui Sai On gave clear indication that the proposals for economic, social and cultural development envisaged for the Special Administrative Region are clearly integrated in the major objectives of this Chinese Central Government initiative. ■



Macao to set sail on Belt and Road route

TEXT **PROFESSOR CHAO PENG***
PHOTOS XINHUA NEWS AGENCY

*Director of "One Belt, One Road" Research Center
City University of Macau

The Belt and Road initiative is China's state-level vision to promote common prosperity through regional co-operation. As an important member of this national effort, Macao needs to participate and work hard to come up with its own regional vision based on the Belt and Road theme.

Such kind of planning is absolutely necessary for Macao. It will provide the city with direction in the Belt and Road development. It will also enable Macao to exercise its comparative advantage and consolidate regional co-operation.

Taking into account of Macao's economic structure and demographic constraints, the Special Administrative Region (SAR) should take a practical step by step approach. Then tackle the easier issues first, and move with a steady pace in implementing the Belt and Road vision – we propose: One Objective, Two Levels, Three Regions, Four Sectors.

By One Objective, we mean the use of the Five Co-ordinations (to be explained below) to draft plans; and the Two Levels refer to the policy and implementation levels. With the Three Regions, we refer to the positioning of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area as the central region of Macao; Macao's co-operation with Fujian to build the core area of the 21st century Maritime Silk Road; and the further expansion of co-operation with Portuguese-speaking countries.

As to the Four Sectors that will receive priority attention, they are: legal, cultural and commercial services serving Portuguese-speaking countries; offshore and port economy; specialised financial services; and maritime resources.

PREMIER LI KEQIANG

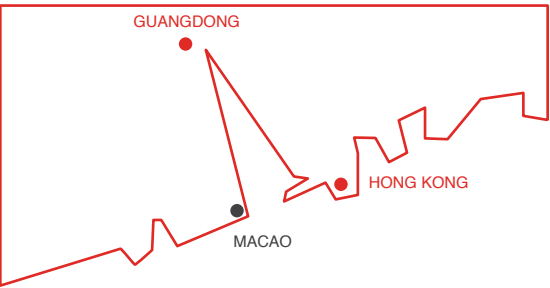
ONE OBJECTIVE

In proposing the Belt and Road initiative, the Central Government uses the Five Co-ordinations as its overall objective; they are the co-ordination of policies, connectivity of facilities, unimpeded trade activities, ease of capital flow, and people-to-people links. The aims are to facilitate the joint development of countries along the Belt and Road route, and to promote co-operation in areas such as culture, economy, finance and infrastructure development. When Macao drafts its top-level regional vision, it should also use these Five Co-ordinations as its main objective.

TWO LEVELS

Macao should formulate specific policies and plans at both the governmental and operational levels. There will also be a government-designated committee to reorganise the SAR's various special governmental departments. This is to abolish the existing constraints on job responsibilities. There will also be the facilitation of relations with various public organisations, institutions and enterprises, to formulate concrete and feasible plans.

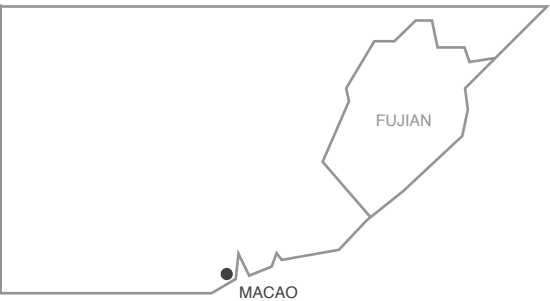
THREE REGIONS



A. Establish the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area as the centre

At the policy level, the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area concept is a decision by the Central Government incorporated into the State Council's *Guidelines concerning the deepening of co-operation within the Pan-Pearl River Delta region*. It will take co-operation between the nine provinces and two SARs (Hong Kong and Macao) that constitute the delta to a higher, deeper and wider development level. It will be an important gateway linking up to the Belt and Road route.

Geographically speaking, Macao is an inseparable member of the Greater Bay Area. Macao is linked to the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao bridge, Xijiang (West River), the Shenzhen-Zhongshan bridge and the area that includes Zhongshan, Guangzhou, Shenzhen and Hong Kong; all these places complement each other economically. So, location-wise, Macao is a land and sea intersection point of the Belt and Road route. Macao also has a unique culture that cannot be replaced by other Bay Area members. Therefore, taking the Greater Bay Area as the centre of Macao brings it in line with both the Central Government's and Macao's own long-term planning and development needs.



B. Connect Fujian and jointly build the core area of the 21st century-Maritime Silk Road

Fujian was an important starting point and birth place of the ancient Maritime Silk Road. It was also an important window for China's foreign trade and cultural exchanges, especially with Southeast Asia, Central Asia, the Middle East, and other countries and regions.

According to the *Vision and Actions on the Promotion and Joint Construction of the Maritime Silk Road Economic Belt and 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road*, China supports Fujian as the core area of the 21st century Maritime Silk Road. Of the 15 ports in Belt and Road key development plan, three are Fujian's Fuzhou Port, Xiamen Port and Quanzhou Port. This gives Fujian a competitive advantage in the Maritime Silk Road. If Macao and Fujian jointly build the 21st century Maritime Silk Economic Belt, it will not only speed up the construction of Belt and Road plans, but also promote the long-term development of Fujian and Macao.

Fujian and Macao have a long and deep history, with a close affinity in geography, people and culture. This forms a good basis for co-operation, with great potential in the joint participation in the

Belt and Road initiative. This is a win-win situation that is favourable to the development of Macao as a World Tourism and Leisure Centre. The two could also further explore how to better manage, utilise and protect marine resources and culture.



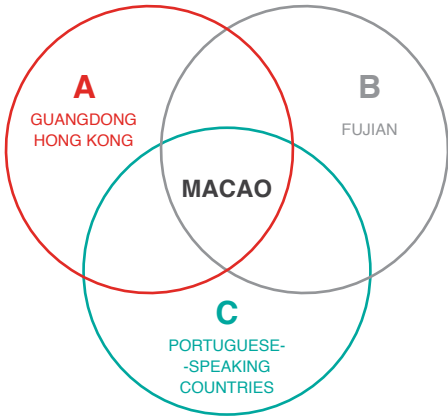
C. Special co-operation areas for Portuguese-speaking countries

Macao and Portuguese-speaking countries have always maintained a close historical and cultural relationship. Since the establishment of the Forum for Economic and Trade Co-operation between China and Portuguese-Speaking Countries (Macao), the Portuguese-speaking countries have gained a deeper understanding of the SAR and increased their trade and economic co-operation through Macao and mainland China. The degree of industrialisation is not high in African and Asian Portuguese-speaking countries. If they use the Forum Macao as a platform for co-operation with China, these countries will have great potential in their economic development.

Both Chinese and Portuguese are the official languages of Macao, with Macao and Portuguese-speaking countries sharing a similar administration and legal system. Macao's culture, food and architecture give a sense of cultural exchange and integration; this increases the chances of success for Macao to realise its potential abroad and attract foreign investment.

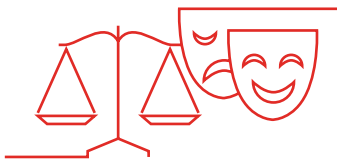
From the long-term perspective, the relationship between Macao and Portuguese-speaking countries in the Belt and Road vision is unique. Such a distinct advantage forms the focus of Macao's future development. So the SAR is not only developing itself as an economic and trade services platform for China and Portuguese-speaking countries; it should further use its competitive advantages to expand further co-operation with those countries and make progress in the development of the Maritime Silk Road.

Macao and the three regions



FOUR SECTORS

The four priority development sectors are selected in consideration of Macao's shortage of manpower, land and other resources. The choices are made to ensure sustainable development, involving limited use of manpower and resources but which produce results quickly.



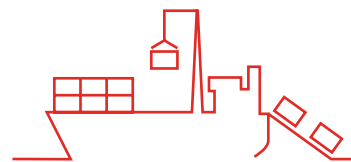
A. Legal and cultural services for Portuguese-speaking countries

In the legal and cultural services sector, we should focus on legal, translation, publishing and training services.

1) Establish a national commercial law service centre for Portuguese-speaking countries. Law is essential in policy communication and trading. Macao can start from the commercial law of Portuguese-speaking countries, compiling and publishing the commercial law of these countries. It can train local people in such commercial law and it can establish a centre in the future Service Platform Building for Commercial Co-operation between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries for this purpose. Its graduates can provide advice and hold legal training courses for foreign institutions and enterprises setting up in China. The centre can offer accommodation for

legal practitioners familiar with such commercial law, so that they can provide related services. Universities in Macao can set up non-academic courses on commercial law.

2) Establish a training centre for Portuguese language and culture. With its rich history with Portuguese-speaking countries, Macao has an abundance of Portuguese-speaking talent. But, in the long term, the city still needs more talent to develop trade further with these countries. Therefore it should establish a training centre for Portuguese language and culture. This can develop language training and nurture more Portuguese-speaking talent equipped with this unique communication skill.



B. Offshore economy and port economy

Macao should make full use of its status as a free port and as an offshore economy. It should take advantage of the latest trends in international development and digital technology and provide resources to facilitate the Belt and Road initiative. Despite its small size, Macao has many ports and should maximise their economic role. Near these port areas, it could set up markets selling high-quality merchandise and gifts catering to international taste, to meet the demand of tourists and attract buyers to source what they need in Macao.

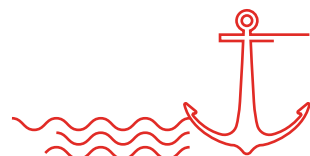


C. Distinct financial sector

Although Macao's economy is not large, it has its own financial characteristics and advantages. It needs to make best use of its financial sector and create a distinct platform that includes banking, insurance and leasing for the business of construction, fine arts and creative industries.

It is important to point out that fine art finance is different from the selling of arts works. Macao is a city with abundant finance and remarkable art pieces. It requires talent that can appreciate, identify and evaluate the value of such pieces. Macao has many skilled artisans that make beautiful jewelry and it also has many middle class collectors who are passionate about art. Opportunities abound for the development of future markets of art financing.

In addition, this kind of financing will create many businesses, including insurance, exhibitions and processing of art products. A good example is Jieyang city in Guangdong province, the world's leading jade manufacturing base. Its revenue in the trading of jade exceeds RMB10 billion (MOP11.6 billion).



D. Develop the new sea area

Macao has a special geographical location, connecting land and waterways. This has made it an important city throughout history and given Macao an important role in the Belt and Road initiative. In addition, the Central Government has granted 85 square kilometres of sea territory to Macao for its long-term development and diversification.

Therefore, it is very important to make use of this new marine territory. Macao has received more room for development which can promote the economy. This makes it easier for Macao to work with other regions taking part in the initiative. The city was the ancient starting point of the Maritime Silk Road. At the same time, Macao is new to this sector, so there is room to expand research and protection of marine resources, marine culture, water boundary development and the marine economy in general, to connect to the Maritime Silk Road and beyond. Macao should build deep water ports with sand-pumping islands and dredging, and build solar and wind power generation systems.

With the Central Government's Five Co-ordinations for Belt and Road initiative, it is the best time for Macao to set sail on the 21st century Maritime Silk Road. ■



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Macau Trade and Investment Promotion Institute

Macao's fashion designers exhibit in Shanghai for the first time

Macao Fashion Pavilion at CHIC 2017

TEXT ELKY SIU IN SHANGHAI

PHOTOS ZHU JIA JIE



Since its debut in 1993, the China International Fashion Fair (CHIC) has been one of the biggest and most influential fashion exhibitions in Asia. It is organised by China Fashion Association and Beijing Fashion Expo International Exhibition Co. Ltd; it brings together buyers, entrepreneurs, professional merchandisers and fashion designers from all corners of the globe to discuss business. Items on display at the fair include casual wear and clothing for men, women and children. The 25th edition of CHIC was held from the 15th to 17th March in the National Convention Centre, Shanghai. With the support of Macau Productivity and Technology Transfer Center (CPTTM), Macao had for the first time its own pavilion, featuring six young and rising Macao fashion labels, including Auralo Arte, Axoxyxoxs, Jade.L, KC Gideon, Pourquoi and Worker Playground.

CPTTM AND CFI

It was not the first time that CPTTM has brought local fashion designers to the international stage. CPTTM is a non-profit organisation jointly established by the Macao government and the private sector in 1996. It promotes training and growth of new businesses as well as supporting local entrepreneurs to improve their competitiveness by providing lifelong learning opportunities.

Among the different departments in CPTTM, Creative Fashion and Image (CFI) specialises in providing support to the fashion industry in production, image design, prototyping, manufacturing and then retailing by providing supervisory management through technical training and technological promotion.



MACAO'S FASHION DESIGNERS

CHIC 2017, Shanghai

As a major supporter of the development of the local apparel industry, CPTTM has previously organised and brought different made-in-Macao fashion brands to participate in several fashion events around the region since 2009. This includes Hong Kong Fashion Week, Taipei IN Style, Guangzhou Fashion Week, and Shenzhen Fashion Week.

The Macao fashion industry is now more mature as shown by the positive reviews from overseas buyers, media, and visitors, as well as the emergence of more full-time fashion designers starting their own labels in Macao. CHIC hopes that by bringing the six fashion labels to participate in the event in Shanghai, Macao fashion designers can improve their connections with the overseas fashion industry, expand their business networks, and create more business opportunities, especially in the mainland market.

DESIGNERS AT MACAO PAVILION

Of the six labels at the Macao Pavilion, Jade.L and KC Gideon are the only two that participated in a fashion fair with CPTTM for the first time. Jade Leong, designer of Jade.L, said: "This is actually the first fashion fair I have ever joined. My aim is to let more people outside Macao know about my brand. As I noticed, Macanese in general do not have much faith in young local fashion labels as they are not recognised. I want my brand to gain approval in places such as Hong Kong, Zhuhai and mainland China. So, when I come back to Macao, locals can have more faith in my brand," she said.

"I also believe that, although Macao is a small place, there are many opportunities for fashion designers. There is also less competition in the local market compared to mainland China and Hong Kong."

For Gideon, the designer of KC Gideon, it was also the first time he applied to join a fashion fair through CPTTM. His brand has been invited to many international fashion events, including Tranoï at Paris Fashion Week, Berlin Fashion Week, Copenhagen Fashion Week, PH Value in Shanghai organized by China Knitting Industrial Association, Beijing Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week, as well as other fashion fairs in New York and Guangzhou. Commenting on the resources and support available to Macao fashion designers, Gideon said: “I think the Macao government is supportive of the fashion industry. Apart from CPTTM, there is also the Macao Cultural Affairs Bureau that has been putting efforts into promoting the industry. For example, they offer a subsidy programme for Fashion Design on Sample Making.”

The subsidy program Gideon mentioned has indeed funded many local fashion designers, including all the designers behind the six brands from the Macao Pavilion.

Almost all the designers say that their passion for fashion started when they were young. Cheang Chi Tat, designer of Worker Playground, showed his persistence, and his consistence in personal style had been uncompromising. “I never bought any off-the-rack school uniform since secondary school. I always had it made at a tailor. I would draw fashion sketches and give him very detailed specifications,” Cheang recalled.

Apart from being a fashion designer, Cheang is also a media producer, DJ and musician. “But the effort I have spent in building my fashion brand Worker Playground exceeds everything else,” he said. “Fashion designing and retailing, they are two different things. However, there are few in Macao who specialise in fashion retailing. Almost all the marketing talent goes to the industry that makes the most money – gaming. Therefore, the fashion supply chain is incomplete and we [fashion designers in Macao] have to do everything at the same time, including design, promotion, production, marketing and so on,” he explained.



Another designer who has been passionate about fashion since she was young is Lalaismi, the designer of Pourquoi. “I enjoyed making outfits for my Barbie dolls when I was in primary school. Then, when I went to secondary school, I started to become obsessed with Lolita fashion. It was by then I really wanted to make clothes for myself,” she recalled. Standing out among the six brands is Lalaismi’s playful and colourful designs that are still greatly influenced by Lolita fashion.

“I always hear people stopping by my designs and say ‘I love your designs! But they are just not something I would wear.’ I believe my work still has its market. Also, as Macao is a small place, whenever there is a style that gets recognised and approved, it becomes a trend that spreads contagiously,” she added. Having participated in Beijing Fashion Week, Tranoï at Paris Fashion Week and others, she has received much positive feedback, especially from the mainland China market.

Apart from taking made-in-Macao fashion labels to exhibitions and events to allow the designers to gain experience and exposure, CPTTM has also been a pioneer in providing fashion programmes in Macao for over a decade. Since 2003, the centre has offered a Diploma Program for Fashion Design and Manufacture, the only local fashion diploma course available in Macao.

Among the 500 fashion designers CPTTM has trained throughout the two decades are Rainie Choi and ALo Lo from Auralo Arte, as well as Tom Wan. Liz Cheong and Eva Wong from Axoxyxoxs, designers

1. **JADE LEONG** Designer of Jade. L
2. **GIDEON** Designer of KC Gideon
3. **CHEANG CHI TAT** Designer of Worker Playground
4. **LALAIsmi** Designer of Pourquoi
5. **RAINIE CHOI** One of the designers of Auralo Arte
6. **EVA WONG, LIZ CHEONG AND TOM** Designers of Axoxyxoxs



VICTORIA KUAN (RIGHT) Head of the Creative Fashion and Image Department, CPTTM

of two of the brands at Macao Pavilion, are also graduates of CPTTM's Diploma Program for Fashion Design and Manufacture.

On graduation, both Rainie Choi and ALo Lo were invited to join the CPTTM Fashion Incubation Program, in which they have worked for two years as fashion designers for CPTTM's brand MaConcef; it stands for Macao Concept.

Victoria Kuan, Head of the Creative Fashion and Image Department said: "CPTTM Fashion Incubation Program is a bridging programme for the centre's graduates to adapt to the business world. I always encourage them to use as much imagination as they can for their graduation shows. Sometimes they might find it hard to find a balance between creativity and commerce when they are actually in business. I have heard from overseas enterprises saying our students are too academic and impractical. Some of our students may tend to be too creative and, as a result, make items that are not 'wearable'."

As such, CPTTM has run the Fashion Incubation Program since 2009. Every year, it invites three award-winning graduates from the "Diploma Program for Fashion Design and Production" to join the programme together with the other three members selected from the previous year. The six then work together under a

design theme designated by CPTTM. The six will be responsible for the whole business process, from design, tailoring, production management, sales techniques, fabrics sourcing and catalogue production. The final 30-piece collection will then be showcased in a fashion show.

CPTTM'S RECENT PROJECTS

Apart from fashion diploma and fashion incubation programmes, the centre has recently collaborated with the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) to offer a new Bachelor Degree programme in Fashion Design. The courses take place in USJ's Faculty of Creative Industries, starting from the 2016-2017 academic year. "We [CPTTM] haven't slowed down a bit in promoting Macao fashion industry," said Kuan.

"In March, we set off to Beijing for China Fashion Week to attend the final round of the famous Hempel Award China Young Fashion Design Contest. We are very proud to have one of our final year students enter the finals. Then we will go to Hong Kong in July and September for Hong Kong Fashion week and Centrestage respectively, as well as organising our own Macao Fashion Festival in October, to name just a few." ■



THE NEW PALACE ON COTAI



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A full-page background image of a tropical beach. On the left, a dense line of tall palm trees stands on a sandy shore. The beach curves from the bottom left towards the right. Gentle waves with white foam are washing onto the sand. The ocean extends to the horizon under a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds.

Establishing a presence

São Tomé and Príncipe's tranquility meets
China's fast-tracked mentality

TEXT PAULO FIGUEIREDO IN SÃO TOMÉ



SÃO TOMÉ CITY

Ask a local from São Tomé how he is doing, and he would likely reply, “Leve leve!” with a smile. It’s an expression unique to the islands of São Tomé and Príncipe meaning that one is simultaneously patient, peaceful and carefree. In its essence, “leve leve” defines the pace and spirit of the land and is at the heart of the tropical islands’ appeal. The Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe, situated in the heart of the Gulf of Guinea, is now an official member of Forum Macao.

Since gaining independence from Portugal in 1975, the island nation has maintained its natural beauty and diverse history. The tropical interior of the islands is lush green. Príncipe Island has earned a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve distinction for its rich biodiversity. The capital island, São Tomé, is dotted by charming colonial buildings engulfed in peaks of dense vegetation. The majority of the buildings date from the 19th to mid-20th centuries. Some of the more modern structures, like the Parliament, were built by China post-independence.

Despite its idyllic surroundings, the island nation has struggled with a number of fundamental issues. A high unemployment rate has plagued the population, and lack of infrastructure is another major unaddressed concern for the locals. Travelling to the island’s interior by car is impossible, as all the roads, constructed from tar end just outside the city limits. Power blackouts are also frequent.

Even prior to the official December 2016 declaration of bilateral ties between China and the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe, China’s notoriety for laying down infrastructure in African nations, allowing for efficient and effective flow of people and goods, had arrived in São Tomé. Now, with the signing of the bilateral agreement, residents eagerly look forward to the roll out of long-awaited infrastructure projects and improvements and anticipate the melding of the island nation’s “leve leve” spirit and the fast-track mentality of Chinese co-operation.

TIME TO THINK BIG

Until now, the African archipelago was the sole Portuguese-speaking state not a formal member of Forum Macao, a circumstance Minister of Foreign Affairs Urbino Botelho worked to rectify, spending last Christmas on a plane en route to Beijing to sign the declaration on behalf of the democratic republic. Minister Botelho admits there is pressure to deliver. “We are pressed by time; we have already lost a lot of time, and we have to do something to signal the direction in which we envision the country going.” From his office in São Tomé, he confides to Macao Magazine: “We want to reverse the course of things and stop this lethargy we have lived through in recent years. We have to change. The country has a future so long as it has imagination, a vision and is willing to work hard.”

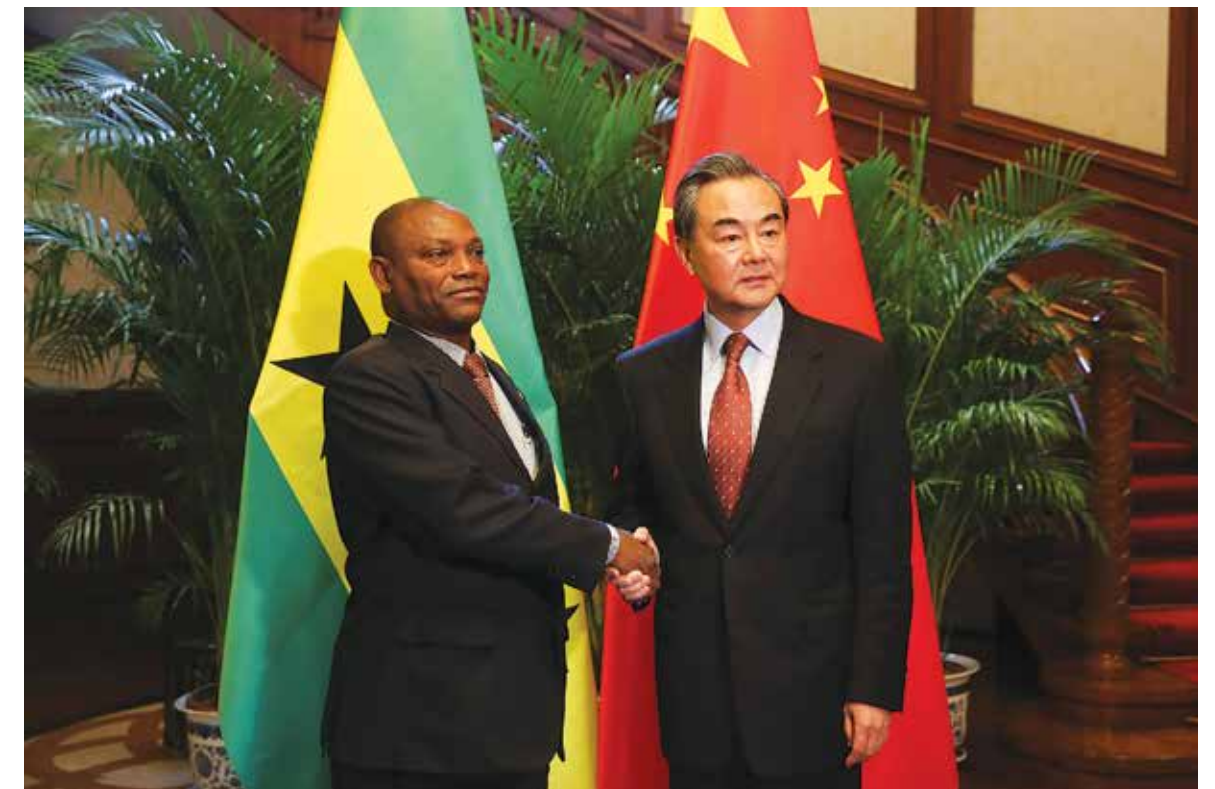
As the foreign minister of a country with little international traction, Botelho came under global limelight when Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and he signed a declaration re-establishing diplomatic relations between São Tomé and Príncipe and China on 26th December 2016, on

behalf of their respective governments. “We have an updated agenda for transforming our country, and we realised that we needed to change our paradigm. Forty years of independence have brought us nothing substantial,” Minister Botelho asserts. “We have to take advantage of projects that can leverage the country and create jobs instead of maintaining a philosophy of small co-operative projects. Looking towards the middle of the country, we saw nothing!”

Botelho highlights the central role China has played in international relations, particularly within Africa, having become the continent’s main partner. He advocates that in order to make its own transformation agenda a reality, São Tomé and Príncipe needs to leverage its resources and exploit its strategic location in the Gulf of Guinea, close to regional powerhouses such as Nigeria, Angola and Equatorial Guinea. Historically, the island nation has emulated development models employed by city-states like Dubai and Singapore.

The current agenda consists of a regional transport and logistics hub – a public-private partnership built around a new deep-water port and airport – servicing countries in the region.

Wang Yi, Chinese Foreign Minister (right) and Urbino Botelho, Minister of Foreign Affairs (left)



The government expects to attract Chinese commercial companies to conduct regional business from São Tomé. “With China’s help, we will completely transform the vision of the country and bring projects that completely change the course of things, that create jobs and provide services to the African region in general,” Botelho asserts. Tourism, already a key industry, is also expected to get a boost with newly established links to China and other Asian and Gulf nations.

AN ABUNDANCE OF UNTAPPED POTENTIAL

Even before construction on major infrastructure projects began, which occurred immediately following the signing of the bilateral co-operation agreement, São Tomé and Príncipe has been one of lusophone Africa’s hotspots of economic growth. GDP growth is projected to reach 5 per cent in 2017, from 4 per cent in 2016. Moreover, its macroeconomic situation remains stable, with inflation at a mere 3.5 per cent.

With a little over 200,000 inhabitants, its appeal as a consumer market is limited, but its close proximity to major regional markets makes it a competitive regional base. Flights to Lisbon (Portugal), Accra (Ghana), Praia (Cape Verde) and Luanda (Angola), to name a few, are frequent.

Historically, the islands have produced high-quality cacao as well as some of the most premium coffee beans in the world. Most of the farms, or “roças,” where these goods are grown have been abandoned and are waiting for new investors.

Monte Café, an internationally prized coffee bean plantation and coffee roasting facility, was run by Libyan investors for a few years as part of a cooperative, but it has stood empty for the past five years, the machinery left behind. The same farm also contains an early 20th century roasting facility run by the Portuguese.

The government is eager to revitalise investment and has rolled out a comprehensive agenda. According to the latest projections issued by The World Bank’s Doing Business report, São Tomé and Príncipe ranks an impressive 35th when it comes to best nations in which to start a business. A recently amended tax code, complete with investment incentives, has been key to this transformation. The country’s political stability – with a cohesive majority in parliament and recently-elected President Evaristo Carvalho who encourages collaboration – has paved a path for economic reform.

Oil reserves, the biggest attraction for international companies, including Sinopec, have become a long-delayed promise with no progress in sight. Recently, Portuguese oil company Galp Energia and U.S. based Kosmos jointly began large-scale seismic data gathering, the results of which should be released in 2018.

MAXIMISING THE OPPORTUNITY AT HAND

Liberato Moniz, Chancellor of Lusiada University in São Tomé, expects the government to take full advantage of Chinese support to finally provide the country with much needed air, sea and road infrastructure as well as water access, sanitation and electricity. “China is in a position to help us, but at the same time, we must make the most of this bilateral co-operation so that we build a country that really works. We have to prepare ourselves to make the best use of what we are given,” he tells Macao Magazine. “Currently, there is some discouragement in society about what could have been done and was not done. We need to find common ground as a nation. People have to share the same goals.”

Moniz, who is an architect by training, looks forward to a boost in professional training



COFFEE BEANS



COCOA

CATHEDRAL OF SÃO TOMÉ



which the country lacks. The scarcity of qualified professionals in many areas is compounded by the abundance of public workers who need training.

Improved training and education, according to Moniz, is essential to ensuring that local public and private entities benefit from Chinese co-operation. “We have not truly monetised our great assets. The country can grow if we know what we want. I potentially see São Tomé and Príncipe, in 10–15 years time, taking a major leap and servicing the African coast, Brazil, Europe.”

En route to a conference on the “Blue Economy,” another area which the government is keen on developing, analyst Gualter Vera Cruz reports that locals are very optimistic at

the prospect of resuming ties with China, with high expectations of impending benefits and improvements. “The population is tired of waiting for things to happen. They expect more jobs and more investment from Chinese companies.” He cautions that those expecting instantaneous changes are being unrealistic, but projects, “In two to four years, I think we will really see some results. We have everything to gain.” Cruz has faith in the success of the relationship due to China’s commitment to improving ongoing efforts. Tourism is one area that could most benefit from the new diplomatic alignment, he believes, pointing out that the tranquility and stability of the country are both highly conducive to encouraging tourism.



SÃO SEBASTIÃO FORT Ana Chaves bay, São Tomé

ESTABLISHING A PRESENCE

Not long after Foreign Minister Botelho returned to São Tomé from Beijing, teams of official Chinese cooperative envoys began arriving in the capital. Welcomed by interim permanent representative Wu Yi, they have been convening at the Permanent Representation of China, a large building in the city centre that will soon house the new Chinese Embassy.

The medical team was the first to arrive on 7th January 2017, followed by teams specialising in energy, agriculture, malaria prevention, etc. More recently, officials from China's Ministry of Commerce as well as various state banks have arrived to assess the country's needs and discuss future agreements. In the first week of March, Minister Botelho received a delegation headed by the Director General of the Department of African Affairs from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Lin Songtian. A draft co-operation agreement was put together soon thereafter. "We acted very quickly after the reestablishment of diplomatic relations. In the future, we will discuss further co-operation in agriculture, fisheries, tourism and infrastructures with the local government," asserts Representative Wu.

Previous to the reestablishment of relations, only two or three Chinese companies had a presence established in the country. Just in

the first two months of 2017, that number has already doubled, proving that there is interest in the market. The influx of Chinese companies is expected to grow even further, judging by the overwhelmingly positive feedback from visiting business delegations. "The market is not very large given its small population. Despite this, many Chinese companies have expressed an interest in this country and have very positive expectations," Representative Wu assures Macao Magazine.

More than 10 major state companies landed in São Tomé in January, among them some of the most internationally well-known Fortune Global 500 entities, including technology conglomerate Huawei, the China Road and Bridge Company and state-owned aerospace and defense company AVIC (Aviation Industry Corporation of China).

Companies from China's fishing industry and specialised housing construction have also visited the archipelago. "For us, the greatest potential is in agriculture, fishing and tourism. Therefore, future co-operation between China and São Tomé and Príncipe will be more focused in these areas," says Wu. "Our government wants to advance relations and co-operation with São Tomé very quickly. China and African countries have been developing their co-operation very quickly, so with the reestablishment of relations here, we believe the same will happen."

São Tomé and Príncipe is the newest member of the Forum on China Africa Co-operation

(FOCAC) and will soon join the Forum for Economic and Trade Co-operation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries (Forum Macao). The Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) stands to play a particularly important role in establishing the economic link between China and São Tomé, according to interim Representative Wu. "By joining Forum Macao, São Tomé will benefit a great deal economically as well as culturally by virtue of sharing the Portuguese language with the SAR."

BREAKING OUT ONTO THE WORLD SCENE

While São Tomé and Príncipe's official acceptance to Forum Macao is weeks away, Foreign Minister Botelho looks forward to the event with great anticipation and optimism as an "opportunity to contribute to the development" of his country. Botelho is not subtle regarding his intentions of seeking increased funding from FOCAC and Forum Macao. "With future accession, we will finally be in a position to take full advantage of all the opportunities that the Forum offers to Lusophone countries." He expects to visit both Macao and Hong Kong – "two territories that have rich histories and cultural landmarks

For us, the greatest potential is in agriculture, fishing and tourism. Therefore, future co-operation between China and São Tomé and Príncipe will be more focused in these areas, said Wu Yi

and are highly developed international economic powerhouses" – in the near future.

Macao's São Tomé community has already established important links with the island nation, namely, through international exchanges and training programmes in the SAR. These opportunities can now be further leveraged. "In the new context, these exchanges and partnerships will be strengthened. Our community in Macao has a wealth of knowledge that could be very useful to our country," attests Botelho. ■

CÃO GRANDE PEAK Ôbo National Park





China and São Tomé and Príncipe join hands for a brighter future

TEXT **PAULO FIGUEIREDO** IN SÃO TOMÉ

PHOTOS **LOURENÇO DA SILVA**

COLLABORATION **RICARDO NETO**

Patrice Emery Trovoada is already well-known beyond the borders of São Tomé and Príncipe, well into the region of Central Africa. In just a few weeks, his notoriety will significantly increase the world over as he arrives in Beijing to sign a historical co-operation agreement between the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe and the People's Republic of China.

The agreement will mark the return of São Tomé and Príncipe back into the fold of the Sino-Lusophone family as well as the nation's formal entry to Forum Macao. Brimming with confidence and anticipation, Prime Minister Trovoada sat down with Macao Magazine to discuss the future of this partnership and how it could transform the island nation.

Macao Magazine (MM): Prime Minister, what are the main unexplored potentials of São Tomé and Príncipe today?

Patrice Trovoada (PT): I think among the most unexplored is the fishing sector, which until today, even at a national level, has been limited to small-scale fishing, even though we control an immense maritime territory bigger than that of many countries, including Cameroon.

There is the possibility of advancing our industrial fishing, especially by establishing a fish processing industry. This is something that has not been explored much but could be a great boom to our domestic economy that would not require much initial investment. We already own the maritime territory and resources; what we need is a port infrastructure capable of receiving and servicing modern fishing boats as well as a land infrastructure capable of handling product exports.

Then there are other sectors with great potential that are already in place but require some support in terms of infrastructure in order to expand. For example, tourism: an airport that could service direct flights from Asia, the Americas and even Northern Europe – markets with tourists looking to take vacations abroad – would really help the tourism sector grow exponentially. Aerial connectivity is fundamental; it could catapult regional weekend tourism growth into the double digits. There's Accra in Ghana, Lagos in Nigeria

– a city with 20 million inhabitants, one of only five cities in all of Africa to have over a million residents – Luanda in Angola, Cairo in Egypt and Cape Town and Johannesburg in South Africa.

These are just a few of the nearby major urban hubs: two of them, Luanda and Lagos, are less than two hours away by flight. At the sub-regional level, the major concern is air traffic safety, and when it comes to intercontinental tourism, the major obstacle is having a modern and capable airport. We could potentially have very strong growth in the tourism sector which would substantially improve the sustainability of São Tomé's economy.

Our geographical position is very conducive to supporting both airport and port logistics and creating moderate-sized infrastructures for service and transport. What we have to be careful of, with industrial growth, is maintaining the nature of the islands and our beautiful beaches. We also need to ensure safe transport of people and goods.

There may also be a wealth of untapped potential, although to date this has been mainly speculation, in natural oil and gas reserves. The African continent is rich in oil and gas – from Senegal to Angola, it seems there is no spot without one or the other – so it would seem anomalous if there was not a bit here! (laughs) It is still speculative, but I believe that we could be producing oil within the next five or six years.

MM: And what are some of the difficulties and challenges that must be overcome?

PT: There are several types of difficulties. Lack of infrastructure is first and foremost, but I am convinced that our advocacy has helped our partners realise that financing infrastructure is a priority. It is simply a question of the appropriate business model: the interest rate, payback capability, etc., but we are on the right track.

Another difficulty is available human resources. We are an extremely young country. Our education system is good overall, but it needs to be polished. We need specialised labour; more specifically, we need to adapt training programmes to the labour market as well as to regional economic reality. Currently, our jurists all speak Portuguese; none speak English or French. We own maritime territory, but nobody specialises in maritime economics or maritime law. We are an island, yet we have few sailors, sea captains, naval repair engineers, etc. So it is necessary to consider the market when guiding human resources training.

This is a major challenge that could be compensated with foreign labour, but that would have to be accompanied by policies preserving the interests of our nationals and maintaining the identity of São Tomé.

These are not insurmountable challenges. The technological challenge is easier to solve; the issue of human resources is more complicated. It requires a mobilisation of our citizens to define a collective vision for our development. Vision can not be just dreaming, it must include a component of realism and a reasonable timeframe. If we only dream, nothing will happen.

MM: How does the decision to resume the relationship with the People's Republic of China factor into these challenges?

PT: One cannot play a role in the provision of services and logistics or participate in the global economy and international trade while excluding the largest bilateral partner on the African continent. Thus, the development vision of São Tomé and Príncipe and the well-being of our people necessitate resuming economic, political, cultural and diplomatic relations with China.

Another important point is that long-term policies and political and societal stability must have a legal basis. After 20 years, we recognise that, in terms of international law and among the

The technological challenge is easier to solve; the issue of human resources is more complicated. It requires a mobilisation of our citizens to define a collective vision for our development, said Patrice Trovoada

international community, there is a growing sense that there is only one China, which is represented by the government of the People's Republic of China.

Our ambition for our country and for our people is exercised alongside the humility and self-awareness of our size and our potential, and above all, we must correctly align with what is commonly recognised as international law. We accept, in general, universally accepted values regarding environmental preservation and fundamental rights and freedoms and adopt a policy of non-intervention when it comes to the internal affairs of other countries.

We recognise that the Taiwan issue is an internal matter of the People's Republic of China and support solutions of harmony rather than encourage situations of friction and rupture. We continue our friendship with the people of Taiwan without question. We also understand that under a one-China policy, the values of all native residents of China are preserved.

Our shift in allegiance is a matter of political domain: twenty years ago, the reality was very different. Today, the world is different, the options are different. Taiwan has failed to gain official recognition in the eyes of international law, while China has made great progress in all areas – its economy, its understanding of human rights – including ratification of the Paris Treaty. All this has factored into our decision. We are pro-globalisation because a country such as ours relies on trade to flourish. China will help open us up to many opportunities.



MM: What can you tell us about the content of the agreement to be signed between the two countries?

PT: Obviously we want this to be a relationship of mutual advantage, with both governments cooperating for respective economic growth. China does not throw money out the window: it invests in its interests, and there definitely are many projects of mutual interest. We need time to assess our capacity to take on debt as well as our capacity to supply and support these projects – the materials, workers, infrastructure and equipment required. There is also detailed technical-financial cross-analysis that needs to be done. We have nearly completed this step, after which we will be able to detail our infrastructural collaborations.

Given China’s access to funding, it will be Chinese companies carrying out the work, but we also have to repay China, so we need to discuss how to do that while still optimising our domestic economy to benefit our people. But I want to emphasise that neither government wants to gift white elephants. These investments will generate revenue, which will in term pay for themselves. They are well-studied, well-financed and well-prepared. Their internal rate of return is on par to that used by private investors to ensure that these investments are repaid as the economy simultaneously grows.

This partnership will provide political, diplomatic and geo-strategic advantages for both parties, but I think most importantly, there is great potential for mutual profit. That is the only way to ensure that the flow of investment and credit continues. We have a very clear idea of what funding is needed over the next 30 years, but for that to happen, there needs to be mutual confidence that the projects are sound and that they have financial backing. Hopefully they will inspire our other partners to take the plunge (laughs) and invest more in this country. We are banking on simultaneously diversifying both our economy as well as our foreign policy.

MM: What kind of partnership do you expect with China?

PT: I am convinced that this new partnership will bring many positive outcomes; however, our co-operation may not be the “classic” model that China has with many other African nations.

Today, there are roads, hospitals, schools, public buildings, water and energy infrastructure all over the African continent built by Chinese companies. But predominantly, this has been in countries with vast oil, gas and mineral reserves, which is not the case with São Tomé.

We are a small but well-situated nation with many appealing factors in our favour: we are streamlining our visa application process for visitors, lowering taxes, pro-reform, pro-business, pro-trade, just to name a few. We are not interested in what has become the standard model for Sino-African co-operation. We envision a truly long-term intellectual partnership upon which to build a platform of understanding. I am convinced that there is much to do together.

As I see it, there are two African continents: the first is dominated by capitalistic international mega-companies like Total S.A., Shell Oil Company, Sinopec Limited and other Chinese companies. But there is also a continent which, in 30 years, will have 2 billion eager consumers. Hopefully the standard of living will have increased and poverty decreased and a growing labour force will entice China to relocate some of its major industries, as in the case of Ethiopia, which has been transformed into a hub for the production of footwear. It is with this perspective that we seek this long-term partnership.



SANTO AMARO POWER STATION



SÃO TOMÉ CITY

I am quite confident that this co-operation will transform São Tomé and Príncipe. But it’s a matter of expectations. There are people who may be waiting for castles, but we will not build castles or palaces (laughs), nor will we offer cars to every government official. We will, with China’s help, build up our infrastructure, thus creating employment and a good business climate which will attract more companies here, which will again create more jobs. As household income rises, people will be able to send their children to school. It will be a process but will provide a basis for a more independent, sustainable, tranquil and optimistic future.

One issue we are currently analysing is inflation. When an economy “overheats” from an influx of investments, how will we control inflation? Over the next two years, we have to control inflation to ensure that our people do not lose purchasing power and that wages remain competitive.

The government’s plan to maintain political and social stability is to call on the population to remain calm and confident. Opposition parties have been stirring the pot and trying to complicate the situation. They are playing their part in politics, and their time will come, but for now, we have to put aside our differences and partake in a

climate of responsibility, because at the end of the day, we all share a common goal and want the best for our country. I often say that my political base consists of the poor. 65 per cent of this country’s citizens live in poverty. We have to make the fight against poverty a priority. Economic development and private capital inflow will only happen if the State provides basic infrastructure.

MM: Are you going to China in April to sign the agreement?

PT: We have established a timeframe to finalise the agreement before the end of April, and probably at that time I will visit China with great pleasure, but we will see.

MM: When you talk about the port and the airport, you underline the issue of profitability. Does that mean Chinese groups could use São Tomé as a platform for distribution of goods and services to the region?

PT: Yes. The port and the airport are six kilometres apart. We want to connect them via a highway and build warehouses and offices, etc., along this corridor. It would be the ideal place for Chinese companies to facilitate re-export activities, as long as some value is added locally.

As I see it, there are two African continents: the first is dominated by capitalistic international mega-companies like Total S.A., Shell Oil Company, Sinopec Limited and other Chinese companies. But there is also a continent which, in 30 years, will have 2 billion eager consumers, said Patrice Trovada

This would be set up in phases. In the first phase, we need to see how things evolve at the port and analyse business growth. Given São Tomé and Príncipe's geographic situation, the port ought to be highly competitive with others on the continent. The port allows a draft of less than 14.5 metres, which is unusual for most African ports. So this first phase, in which risk is controlled, allows for the establishment of an industrial fishing operation as well as a transshipment operation, where arriving goods are re-exported regionally. Additionally, should the country enter oil-related industries, it is ideal to have the airport and port in close proximity. Having the two infrastructures side by side would facilitate efficiency in exporting relevant goods by sea, by cargo plane, by speed boat to the oil rigs, etc.

MM: These kinds of agreements with China tend to include a training component, given the capacity of Chinese universities. Has a training or educational exchange been established?

PT: This year, we have already sent about 90 university students to China. We also want to promote short-term but in-depth training in various fields: media, public and private management in different sectors, building and factory maintenance, defense, security, traffic policing, nonprofit agencies – these are areas in which we particularly need qualified workers.

Collaborating with a small country like ours, the opportunity costs to China are minimal. When, for example, China invests US\$200 million in a massive road project in the middle of the forest, no one sees that road. But invest US\$200 million

in São Tomé and Príncipe, and you could see the changes it brings even if you were on the moon!

We must prove that this partnership can indeed be a success story with regards to transparency and maximum impact for the people of our country and the businesses of theirs. I am convinced we're going to make it happen.

MM: When do you expect to visit Macao?

PT: I do not know yet if I'm going to Macao (as part of the visit to China in April), but I hope to. I told our Minister of Youth and Sports that we should use the upcoming CPLP Games taking place in São Tomé and Príncipe in 2018, as an opportunity for our populations to meet and mingle, to learn about Macao's culture and history over the comradery of sports.

MM: Entrance to the Forum also opens the door to China's investment funds, right?

PT: Exactly. We have expressed to the Chinese government that we wish to utilise all existing mechanisms available for economic and human development. So it is true that we see Forum Macao as a major bonus and means by which we may mobilise financial investment to aid in our country's growth. Forum Macao is unique in that it allows us to interact with others in the Portuguese-speaking world, to share knowledge and learn from each other's experiences.

I do not believe that failures perpetuate themselves. It's the success stories that repeat themselves. Business ventures can only create potential opportunity; how they turn out – good or bad – depends entirely on the effort and dedication put forth. In São Tomé and Príncipe, a million-dollar business or investment could be a great thing.

It is not enough to dream big, nor is it enough just to have an abundance of resources. Sometimes it is better to leave something well enough alone than take a chance and ruin it. Success takes partnerships and collaboration, working together with people who have the know-how and skills. This is our attitude, how we want to approach our future: partnerships, partnerships, partnerships, openness, openness, openness, so that we can build a sustainable economy. Ultimately, the end goal is not growth but happy citizens and higher standards of living for all. ■

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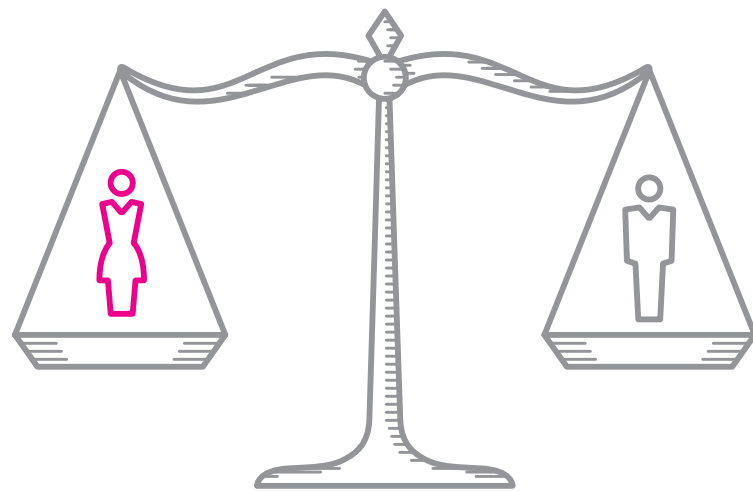
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Founded on equality

Women in Macao score well on global equality index

TEXT **MARIANA CÉSAR DE SÁ**
INFOGRAPHICS **FERNANDO CHAN**



Historically, Macao has been a safe haven for men, women and children fleeing conflict and persecution in neighbouring countries. Within this small community, mutual respect has always been fundamental.

YESTERDAY'S TRADITIONS

Around the world, the idea that women are inferior has deep roots in our cultures, in both the west and east. It has been woven over millennia not only into our social, economic and political fabric but also into our language. Ancient Greek philosopher Aristotle once wrote, "The female is, as it were, a mutilated male... the female, as female, is passive... and the male, as male, is active." The impact of these attitudes has varied in different societies, making a "one size fits all" approach to changing them impossible.

Agnes Lam, University of Macao Department of Communication assistant professor, has been working on gender equality in Macao for years.

For her, the biggest challenges to equality are ideologies rooted in tradition and culture. "Culture and tradition are often the primary source of suppression. Although many women in Macao are free to decide their own path, when it comes to raising a family, some women abandon their careers as they deem it necessary to 'abide' by a tradition that frowns upon mothers who do not stay at home. It becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy."

Women in Macao have grown up in a tradition where they are expected to be caretakers to the family and the home. But culture is not written in stone; it is ever changing. Our customs develop and ideologies adapt to the times. In some places this has happened more slowly than others.

LAW AND POLICY

Macao was forward-thinking in its approach to gender equality before it became a Special Administrative Region of China in 1999. Portugal ratified the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discriminations against Women in 1980 by way of Law No. 23/80, which was then extended to the Portuguese administration of Macao by Decree No. 25/98. After Macao's return to China in 1999, the law was made applicable to the city via the Chief Executive Notice No. 3/2001.

The Convention seeks to understand how gender equality can be achieved. Every four years, it expects state parties to "submit a national report to the Committee, indicating the measures they have adopted to give effect to the 30 articles of the Convention." The latest report published by the Macao government was in 2012.

Article 25 of the Basic Law of the Special Administrative Region (SAR) of Macao also provides that "Macao residents are equal under the law, without discrimination on the grounds of nationality, ancestry, race, sex, language, religion, political or ideological convictions, economic standing and social conditions."

But what is the value of laws if they are not applied? Lam argues that the laws lack teeth and appropriate punishments are not handed down to those who break them.

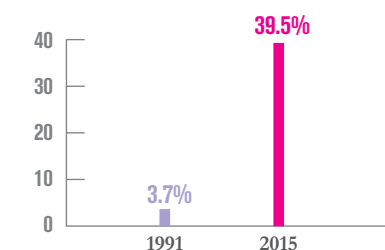
PROGRESSIVE OUTLOOK

We have advanced far from the conception of Nora seen merely as a "little bird" and an object of desire in *A Doll's House* (Henrik Ibsen, 1879). Similarly, in our society the virtuous submissive Jane in *Pride and Prejudice* (Jane Austen, 1813) no longer reflects the modern woman. So who is the modern woman in Macao and how has this city encouraged and supported her?

In talking to women in different sectors, all share a similar sentiment on gender equality: It has never been something that limited them or constrained their thoughts. They believe that both SARs (Macao and Hong Kong) are forward thinking and being a woman has never been a hindrance to progressing in society. This sentiment was shared by Sonia Chan Hoi Fan, Secretary for Justice and Administration; Sister Juliana Devoy, Director of Good Shepherd Center; and Michelle Ho, CEO of McDonalds.

Free education from kindergarten to secondary education was implemented in public schools and semi-private schools in Macao in 1995, an important factor that contributed to gender equality. According to the latest social characterisation of women in Macao (Caracterização social das mulheres de Macau 2013, original document in Portuguese) released by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) and a 2015 women's report published by professor Agnes Lam, 39.5 per cent of the female population had received a higher education degree in 2015 compared to only 3.7 per cent in 1991 (See Figure 1).

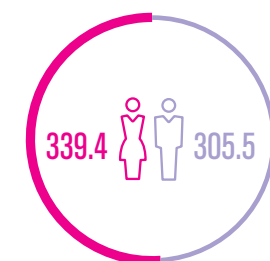
Fig. 1 Percentage of females with higher education degree



"Education is the most powerful weapon, which you can use to change the world," said Nelson Mandela, former president of South Africa. Lam echoes this view; "Education is the only way to change ideologies." Marjory Vendramini, founder of Cradle of Hope Association Macau, ensures that all the children in her centre receive an education, "it is the most important thing I can do for them." To have a gender-equal world is to place a strong emphasis on education.

As at the end of 2016, Macao's population stood at 644,900, with females accounting for 339,400, representing 52.6 per cent (See Figure 2). As at January 2017, women accounted for 21.2 per cent of the Legislative Assembly deputies, 55.5 per cent of local judges and 19 per cent of heads of government departments.

Fig. 2 Population as at end 2016 ('000)



Source: DSEC 2016

Macao's total employed population in the fourth quarter of 2016 stood at 385,000. Of this, females accounted for 191,100 or 49.6 per cent. 25.9 per cent of females work in the recreational, cultural, gaming and other sectors (See Figure 3). Eleven years earlier in 1996, 44.8 per cent of the employed population was female.

According to the latest available statistics, in 2011, 52 per cent of technicians and intermediate level professionals in the work force were women, compared to 44.9 per cent in 1991 (See Figure 4). The most significant change was among government officials, directors and business leaders; in 2011, the percentage was 31.8 per cent, 10 per cent higher than in 1991.

However, the Women's Issues 2015 Research Report also recorded that 60 per cent of its participants did not get promoted in a period of five years of employment.

According to the United Nations "The World's Women 2015" report, globally, approximately three quarters of all men and half of women participate in the labour force. Women's labour force participation rates are the lowest in Northern Africa, Western Asia and Southern Asia. Women earn less than men across all sectors and occupations and this gender pay gap persists across all economic sectors and occupations. In global terms, then, Macao is ahead of many jurisdictions.

THE GUARDIANS OF MACAO

The Women's General Association in Macao was founded in 1950; today it has over 30,000 members. It is the oldest group in Macao offering support to women. It aims to unite and encourage women from all walks of life to take an active part

Fig. 3 Percentage of women in the work force by occupation

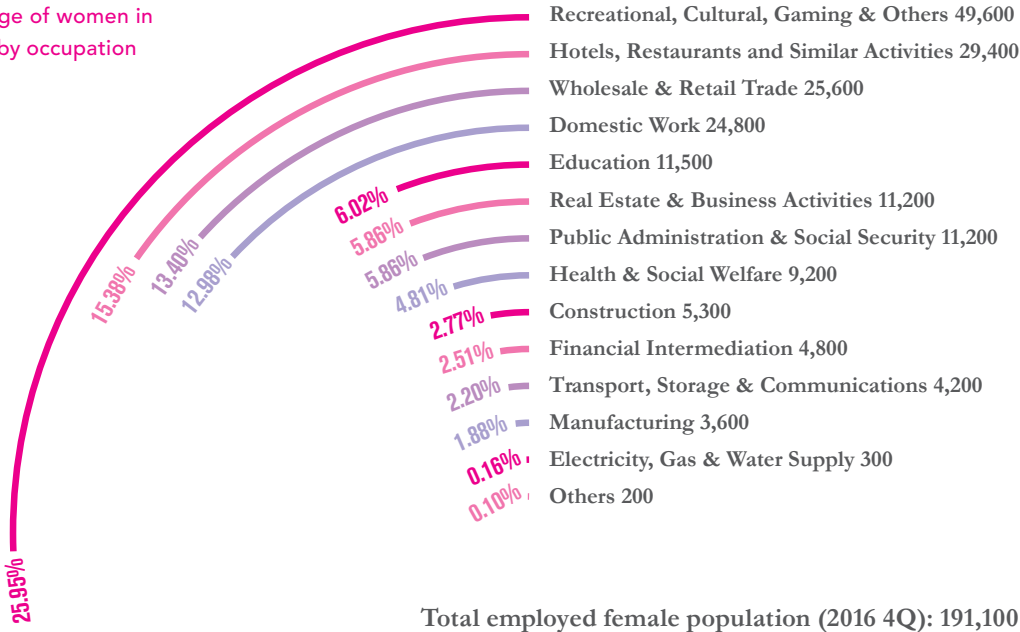
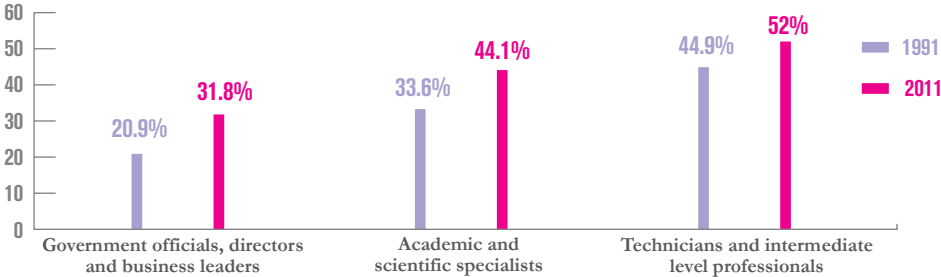


Fig. 4 Percentage of female managers, specialists and professionals



in Macao's community. It also seeks to protect women's rights. It has refugee centres, support groups, health centres, counselling and other services. With the increase of divorcees and single mothers during the past decade, the association also now focuses on day care facilities.

Supporting full-time working mothers is also one of their priorities. In 2011, 71.8 per cent of females were full-time working mothers compared to 56.2 per cent in 2001. The average woman in Macao has two children.

Another important organisation is the Good Shepherd Centre in Macao, founded in 1990 to respond to the needs of women in crisis situations. It offers shelter, counselling, and advocacy services to victims of domestic violence, pregnant girls, women in family conflicts and more serious situations such as human trafficking. According to their annual report in 2015, Good Shepherd sheltered a total of 63 people. The biggest reason for seeking shelter was domestic violence.

Sister Juliana Devoy from Good Shepherd moved to Macao in 1989. She said, "Doing small actions in Macao can have such a big impact; in Hong Kong, it is not like that. Here, almost every day, I bump into someone on the street that has either lived at the Good Shepherd or has received help from us in one form or another."

She has moved mountains – she brought to light human trafficking in Macao and caused an anti-trafficking law to be implemented in 2008. In 2016, Good Shepherd had another victory – a cause they had long been fighting for, listing domestic violent as a public crime: Law Number 2/2016 on the prevention and combating domestic violence (Lei n. 2/2016 Lei de prevenção e combate à violência doméstica). Sister Juliana now plans to work on the issue of child adoption in Macao to try to update its outdated laws.

In 2005, the Consultative Commission for Women's Issues (Comissão Consultiva para os Assuntos das Mulheres), comprised of government and private entities, was formed in Macao; in late 2016, it was renamed as the Commission for Women and Children's Issues. (Conselho para os Assuntos das Mulheres e Crianças). It now serves as an advisory body for the promotion of issues related to women and children; its president is Alexis Tam Chon Weng, Secretary for Culture and Social Affairs. The Commission is being integrated into the governmental social affairs office of Macao.

Education is the most powerful weapon, which you can use to change the world, said Nelson Mandela, former president of South Africa

Some ask whether the scope of this commission is too wide, pointing out that women and children's issues are different and they should not be put in the same organisation. On the other hand, Macao is a small city and the number of cases and issues is manageable and can be dealt with by a single commission.

The World Economic Forum Global Gender Gap Report aims to quantify gender equality progress in each state. In 2016, it listed the highest ranked country for gender equality as Iceland at 0.874 and the lowest as Yemen at 0.516.

As a SAR, Macao is not included in this report but using the same criteria (economic opportunity, education, political rights, health and mortality), a 2008 report on the condition of women in Macao (Relatório sobre a Condição da Mulher em Macau em 2008) calculated Macao's score to be 0.7067 out of 1. Mainland China's 2016 score was 0.676. Since 2008, no other official report has been published documenting Macao's gender equality index.

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

In the past, migrants from around the world came to Macao with different beliefs systems, cultures and traditions. And the famous term of "melting pot of cultures" very much describes how this society was built.

An open-minded, multi-cultural, educated society enables people to challenge outdated traditions and beliefs empowering women to succeed and this can be shown by the case study of Macao.



POWER WOMEN

TEXT **CATARINA MESQUITA AND MARIANA CÉSAR DE SÁ**

ILLUSTRATION **RUI RASQUINHO**

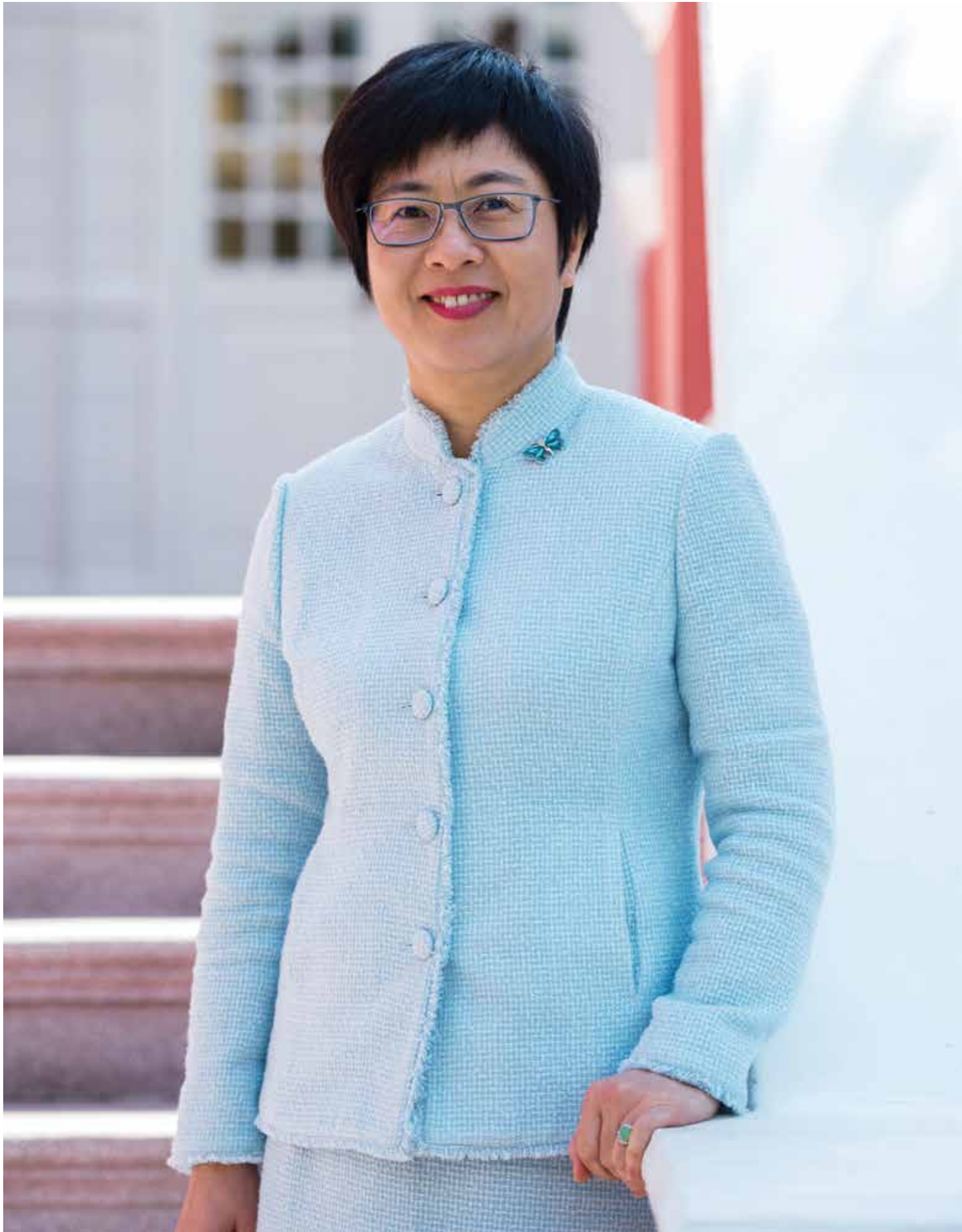
PHOTOS **CHEONG KAM KA AND LEONG SIO PO**

More than forty years after the United Nations started celebrating International Women's Day on the 8th March, Macao Magazine dedicates this issue to celebrate women in Macao and their accomplishments.

There are thousands of stories to tell on women who have helped build this city into a home for all members of the society.

Here are merely eight examples of women that have taken on the role of "superwoman" in their various field and have pursued their dreams and passions.

From politics to sports, business to social work and arts, they share their inspirations and their fight. We hope that these stories will inspire you and make you reflect on how far we've come in regards to having a society that treats both men and women equally.



SONIA CHAN

Sonia Chan Hoi Fan is Secretary for Administration and Justice for Macao. As the only female member on the team of cabinet secretaries, some have portrayed Chan as an ambitious “Iron Lady,” but she insists that she simply is on a mission to help build a better Macao. A native of Guangzhou, Chan has been a resident of the Special Administrative Region for nearly three decades. She recently shared her experience as a government official as well as insights into her personal life with Macao Magazine.

Macao Magazine (MM): As a child, what did you dream of being when you grew up?

Sonia Chan (SC): Actually, when I was little, I loved dancing. But growing up in the 60s was a different time. Life wasn’t as exciting. There weren’t as many opportunities as there are now. My family had to focus on working and making a living, so I didn’t have the chance to pursue my dancing dream. But I still love watching performances such as ballet shows, even though I’m not dancing!

MM: Who are your female role models?

SC: I have admired many ‘Iron Ladies’ throughout my career, including former Chinese Vice-Premier Wu Yi, former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, former President of the Legislative Council of Hong Kong Rita Fan Hsu Lai-tai, etc. They are all very capable and successful women in society.

MM: Do you have a mentor?

SC: My primary school teacher inspired and influenced me the most. She was like a loving mother to me. We still keep in touch regularly, decades after we first met. Actually, we just met up not long ago! I am very grateful to have this teacher who is also a motherly figure to me in my life.

MM: How would you like to be remembered for your contribution to Macao?

SC: I hope we (i.e., Chan’s team as well as those of the other secretaries) can work together and show the world Macao’s uniqueness as well as provide a peaceful and harmonic society for our fellow citizens.

MM: What do you think is the most significant barrier to more female leadership?

SC: Working in government, we are all driven by the same goal regardless of our gender – to do our best to

support the Chief Executive’s administration in an effort to construct a better Macao. Maybe because I am the only female on the team, the Chief Executive and the other Secretaries are always extra considerate of me. So from my own experience, I think we definitely need to encourage more women to join the ranks of female leadership and let their voices be heard.

MM: What are the best and worst decisions you’ve ever made?

SC: I rarely qualify my life through this lens. I believe we can never do anything perfectly in any phase of life. Although I am an introspective person who tends to ponder what I might have done better or differently in certain situations, I have never really tried to categorise which decision was the best or the worst.

MM: Where do you find your motivation, and do you have a general work or life motto?

SC: I believe that no matter what job is at hand, one always has to be responsible and do one’s best. This is what I always tell myself in all situations. What keeps me motivated every day is faith and a sense of responsibility.

It is also very important to have one’s mindset ready and clear for work every day. It affects your decisions as well as the vibe of the whole team. So I face every day with a positive attitude. Even when facing challenges, I stay calm and objective, and I’m not afraid to ask for opinions and help if I can’t solve a problem alone.

Talking to someone I trust, such as family, friends or colleagues is helpful in seeing the whole picture clearly. I am very lucky and grateful that I have my family, friends and a great team supporting me.

To be honest, what I can do alone is very limited. For the most part, it’s about gathering intelligence together. What we do in public administration reform or law reform to improve citizens’ livelihood and welfare, it’s always the whole team’s effort. It’s also necessary to remain objective when working towards the greater good of the public.

Even when there is something that I might not personally favor, if it’s agreed upon by the majority [of my team] and considered the best option, I gladly subordinate my opinions to that of the team. When I make a decision at work, I am always thinking on behalf of the welfare of Macao’s citizens and the government, not based on my personal interests. My motto is, “No matter what you do, always make sure you can face your conscience.”

MARJORY VENDRAMINI

The very first thing one notices when meeting Marjory Vendramini is that she carries her emotions in her voice and wears her heart on her sleeve. When telling a story, she may laugh one moment and struggle to hold back tears the next.

Born in Minas Gerais, Brazil, Vendramini moved to Macao with a mission: to improve the lives of children in need. What was intended as a four-year mission has now stretched to 26 years and counting.

Founder and president of the Cradle of Hope Association in Taipa, she strolls the corridors every day, speaking to her staff in Cantonese – a Cantonese that is unique to her. The children of the residential home recognise it instantly as belonging only to this vibrant, loving woman. This is pure Vendramini: a strong woman who is always ready for a new challenge, and her life thus far has been full of new adventures. “When I know I have to change, I change. Maybe it’s a consequence of having had a free and detached childhood, one without negligence on the part of my parents.”

An evangelist, Vendramini feels that God has a path for

her. On July 1993, she heard of a child found in the trash and instantly felt that it was a divine sign. “It was a God-sent opportunity for us to give back to society and make a difference in this child’s life. That moment I said to myself, ‘Finally I know what I’m here for’.”

Since that fateful day, she has helped nearly 300 children ranging from infants to 18-year-olds, providing shelter, food and access to education through her children’s home that now employs a staff of 66. She showers the children with treats and love but emotionally admits that Cradle of Hope isn’t a replacement for a family or a home.

Vendramini draws inspiration from great women of history, including Mother Teresa and Sister Juliana Devoy, but says she can see the goodness in people everywhere she looks.

With a degree in Social Work from the Polytechnic Institute of Macao, she also has a Masters in Business Administration from the University of San José in Macao. There is no end in sight to her heart-warming contribution to Macao and no limit to the extent of her dreams.



SISTER JULIANA DEVOY

At the age of 80, Sister Juliana Devoy from Good Shepherd Centre, a shelter for women in crises, still goes up and down the stairs with the same energy she had when she was a teenager, campaigning for the position of vice-president of the student body of her high school.

A native of the United States, Devoy has lived in Macao since 1989, but her work is well known beyond the city’s borders, including leading marches and speaking at conferences on women’s rights. Her efforts in the fight against human trafficking and domestic violence are almost synonymous with her name. Truly an inspiration to others, Devoy saw the Law of Prevention and Combat Against Domestic Violence approved in Macao after years of tireless dedication and effort.

Devoy first decided to be a Sister of the Good Shepherd after completing high school, a decision she knew would distance herself from her family in the United States. But for her, embarking on this mission to improve the lives of others in distant parts of the world “was a matter of love for God.”

At the age of 26, she moved to Hong Kong where she began working with adolescents in need. Her missions have since led her all over Asia – mainland China, Thailand, Vietnam, South Korea and Myanmar – always in an effort to improve women’s lives.

Devoy rarely forgets her experiences at Good Shepherd Centre, but even so, she is still surprised by people who approach her on the street to thank her. This sort of intimate community is something unique to Macao: “Elsewhere, it wouldn’t be possible to encounter the people I helped when they were children who are now married adults,” she asserts.

Devoy draws her inspiration from former mentors, remembering in particular one Sister who she met during her one-year stay at the Mother House in France before her final vows. “At the time, I was 22 years old, and Sister was about 60 years old, but she treated me as an equal.” It was an experience that left a profound mark on Devoy, who treats everyone with the same respect and care and seeks to help others attain it for themselves.

Having already experienced eight decades of life, Devoy welcomes the evolution of the role of women in society with open arms and praises the capable ladies who have attained leadership positions around the world. The next project for which she will take up arms is improving Macao’s adoption laws. “If God gives me more time, I hope to be here to see the change!”



MICHELLE HO

Michelle Ho cannot recollect a time in her life when McDonald's wasn't a part of it. "I have ketchup in my veins," jokes the early 30's businesswoman, CEO and Developmental Licensee of McDonald's.

One of four sisters, Ho grew up surrounded by women, so it is fitting that her story is one of female inspiration. Her strength also hails from her mother and grandmothers, both over 90, and "sources of strength and longevity" for the young entrepreneur.

Ho has dedicated much of her career to the development of the McDonald's brand in Macao, Zhuhai and Zhongshan, carrying on her father's 26-year legacy. Having studied and worked in hospitality, her father felt that of her siblings, she was the most natural fit to continue the family business.

Her previous work experience includes a stint in spa management at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group in Hong Kong. She was also Director, Marketing Planning and Consumer Relations Management at Banyan Tree Hotels and Resorts in Singapore. By her mid-20s, she was the company's youngest director.

Despite at first declining her father's proposal for many years, Ho finally accepted it in 2012, having considered the empowering experiences of becoming a business owner and female leader.

The young entrepreneur has never felt that being a woman has been a disadvantage; rather, she believes what is most important is the self-confidence gained from education. "Both my parents raised me to be strong and independent, to stand on my own and not to see finding a husband and settling down as the only target in life. Their philosophy was to have a good education and be able to stand on your own two feet," says Ho, who graduated from Cornell University's School of Hotel Administration in Ithaca, New York.

Given the opportunity to dine with anyone of her choosing, Ho's number one pick would, of course, be a strong female role model: American media host and philanthropist Oprah Winfrey.



LÚCIA LEMOS

Founder of Creative Macau, a platform for local creative industries, Lúcia Lemos has a desire to make a difference along with her abiding passion for and commitment to art and culture rank her at the top of any list of female role models.

An independent spirit, she has little interest in how she is perceived and "doesn't worry about the expectations of others." Throughout her life, she has sipped from various fountains of inspiration which allow her to express her creativity through drawing, painting and photography.

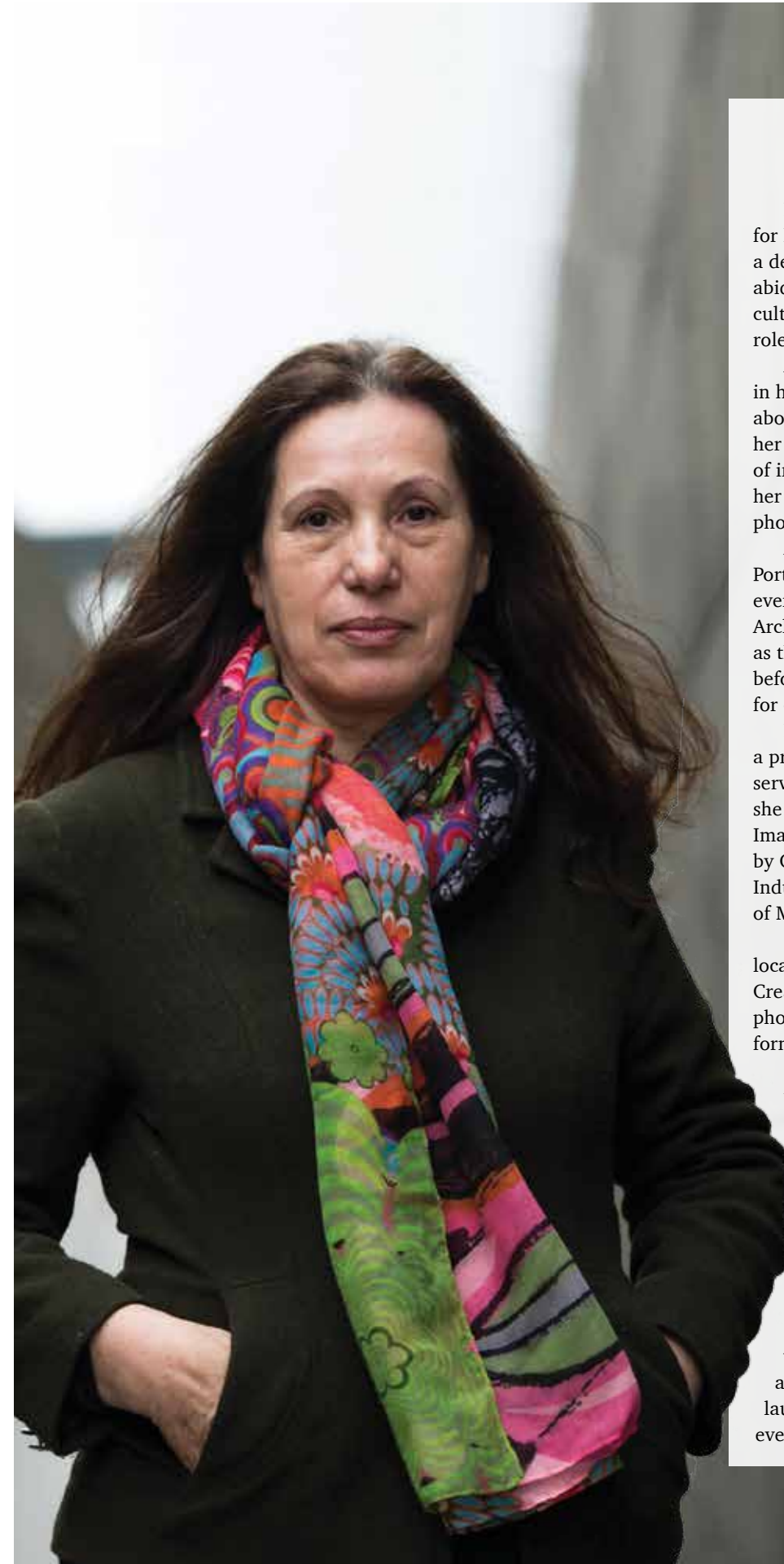
A love story brought Lemos, a native of Portugal, to Macao in 1982, and she has stayed ever since. She was a librarian at the Historical Archives and Central Library, formerly known as the National Library of Macao, for six years before she was invited to create a local centre for creative industries.

For two years, she dedicated her life to a project that never saw the light of day but served as the basis for Creative Macau. Today, she devotes much of her time to the "Sound and Image Challenge," a short film festival organised by Creative Macau – Center For Creative Industries with the Institute of European Studies of Macau.

Several prominent names within the local artistic scene have collaborated with Creative Macau through a variety of mediums: photography, painting, sculpture and other 3D forms, cinema and design, among others.

Lemos is grateful to Macao for giving her the opportunity to live freely and make her mark as a woman. "Macao is a safe place in every sense of the word, and this allows both men and women to live an easier life."

She is a dreamer, yet one who acknowledges her limits. Mother to two boys and a girl, Lemos encouraged her children to also pursue their dreams. Mention her daughter who dreamed her way to becoming a brilliant astrophysicist, and Lemos will respond with the same pride, laughter and sincerity with which she greets everyone who comes to Creative Macau.





SABRINA HO

Sabrina Ho Chiu Yeng has been drawing on every surface available to her since she was just a little girl. The tables and walls of her house were all canvases for her colourful works in pencil, pen and paint, and her parents quickly accepted that her life would be in the arts.

Ho graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Hong Kong, in pursuit of her dream, even though she knew that she might eventually follow in her parents' footsteps and go into business.

Today, Ho's name is a staple in both the Hong Kong and Macao art scene. Recently, she has been focusing more on dedicating the greater part of her energy to projects here at home.

As the daughter of casino mogul Stanley Ho and Angela Leong, Managing Director and Chief Administrative Officer of Sociedade de Jogos de Macau, S.A., Ho admits she feels pressure from her parents, friends and society at large to be successful and continually produce new work and complete new projects. "When people have high expectations of you, it adds even greater pressure," the 26-year-old admits.

When the family bought the former Regency Hotel Macau in Taipa, Ho decided that this would be the perfect opportunity to bring together the best of both her worlds: hospitality and art. "Revamping a hotel is more difficult than creating it from scratch. However, I saw the ideal place to create a space that provides young local creators an opportunity to exhibit their work and those interested in art the opportunity to see something different." The hotel was thus placed in the hands of the 26-year-old and transformed into the Regency Art Hotel, the city's only arts hotel.

Ho, who inherited and is inspired by her mother's energy and drive, divides her time between Macao, Hong Kong and other international cities with strong art and fashion scenes. "Although I lived in the country when I studied in England, I became quite a city girl."

Ho has many dreams and desires, and if she could have dinner with one being, living or deceased (or magical), she would choose the Genie in Aladdin's lamp so that she could have three wishes granted.

Ho has been invited to be a member of the Committee of Cultural Industries of the Government of Macao SAR; she is also the founder of Chiu Yeng Culture Limited as well as the co-founder of the auction house Poly Auction Macau Limited. As a young woman with great responsibilities, Ho is not at all daunted by her position of power, but she admits that being a businesswoman "in a still-traditional society where women are expected to stay home" remains a challenge. But we are not worried: Ho seems quite up for the challenge.



TRACY CHOI

Tracy Choi is an emerging filmmaker in Macao most notably recognised for winning the "Eye of the Audience" Award at the 2016 inaugural Macao International Film Festival and Awards.

The film *Sisterhood* – a story revolving around a lesbian couple – isn't her first film to hit the big screen featuring this theme. The documentary *I'm Here*, which follows the personal narrative of Choi and a friend, earned her local and international recognition: she won the Jury Award at the 2012 Macao International Film and Video Festival and was invited to join numerous international festivals, including the line-up of the Paris International Lesbian and Feminist Festival in France.

Her work has been praised for focusing on women and the reality of feminism and feminine identity in today's society. As a result, all of her leading figures have thus far been women. Choi doesn't reject the idea of featuring a male protagonist in her films one day, but she feels there is an abundance of compelling stories about women to tell first.

Born and bred in Macao, 26-year-old Choi got her bachelor's degree in Film Production from Shih Hsin University in Taiwan and a master's in the same field at the Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts. Having lived abroad has allowed her to see "that women in

Macao have freedom of choice to do whatever they want with their lives. There isn't only one path" – a realisation that she both appreciates and features in her work.

Choi's inspiration and motivation to address taboo subjects that society would prefer not to discuss, such as homosexual relations, comes from the mother. The filmmaker prefers to view the world primarily as one in which equality is prioritised, a value instilled in her by her mother.

Overwhelming positive public reception of her women-themed films reassures and bolsters the filmmaker that she is doing important and relevant work, but she acknowledges that the subject matter is difficult to present in a blockbuster movie. "People are still used to watching movies where a woman is looking to fall in love with the perfect man. And this man is always a kind of hero who is either a policeman or a fire fighter," Choi asserts.

For now, Choi is happy with her formula, despite its challenges. "I have a few options as to how to depict a lesbian relationship, but I try to avoid labels and to add new ideas. But I must admit that it's becoming harder to find a new way of doing things."

If she could have dinner with anyone living or deceased, Choi would love to meet writer Virginia Woolf, who she admires for being "so contemporary for her time."

PAULA CARION

When you hear the words “karate champion,” the first image that most likely comes to mind is that of a robust, strong and intimidating male figure, like Bruce Lee, right? But what if we told you that one of Macao’s most prized karate fighters is a woman who fights with perfectly manicured nails, is an active member of her community and exemplifies an all-around feminist?

Paula Carion exudes femininity: the 34-year-old athlete who won three medals at the 2014 Asian Games is all smiles off the mat and admits that she employs her “innate aggressiveness” and sheer physical strength to her advantage only during competition. Outside the competitive arena, she is a highly sociable person who enjoys being involved with the Macanese community in which she grew up.

Carion also enjoys the theatre and has even taken to the stage on a number of occasions to perform in plays scripted in Patuá – an old Portuguese-based creole dialect from Macao – as a member of Dóçi Papiacám Di Macau. The troupe presents revived satire annually at the Macao Arts Festival in an effort to preserve the history and cultural significance of the Patuá language.

The high-ranking sportswoman has worked full-time as a translator for the Public Prosecutor’s Office of the Special Administrative Region since 2004.

Carion considers herself a “focused person who only stops having reached an objective,” a personality trait that motivates her to prove that women are the equals of their male counterparts. The eldest of three sisters, she admits to being the protective role model.

Having already met a number of inspiring women, Carion would love to meet Hillary Clinton. She admires Clinton’s strength and poise in handling not only the massive media coverage the U.S. presidential candidate recently experienced but also her personal “courage in facing [President] Donald Trump and dealing with the aftermath of her husband’s infidelity.”

Carion believes it is possible that Macao may have a female chief executive in just a matter of a few years. “A woman could definitely lead this city. There are already women in sufficient positions of power to get there, but the whole community would have to accept this reality. Ultimately, we women are not looking to be better, just equal!”



“... a pianist with a profound gift.”
The Guardian

Piano Encounter

MEET LOUIS AGAIN

10 / 06 / 2017

20:00

Saturday

Venue

Macao Cultural Centre Grand Auditorium

Piano

Louis Schwizgebel

Conductor

Gilbert Varga

Tickets

MOP 250 / 200 / 150

Tickets available through the Macao Ticketing Network

Programme

Mendelssohn: Overture to *The Fair Melusina*, Op. 32
Saint-Saëns: Piano Concerto No. 2 in G minor, Op. 22
Brahms: Symphony No. 2 in D Major, Op. 73

Ticket Reservation

www.macauticket.com / 2855 5555



To make a difference

Susana Chou sits down with Macao Magazine to talk about the Macao Tong Chai Charity Association and her philanthropic endeavours

TEXT CATARINA MESQUITA
PHOTOS COURTESY OF MACAO TONG
CHAI CHARITY ASSOCIATION

SUSANA CHOU (front centre)
with students in Portugal



Susana Chou became a philanthropist with very humble intentions. When she founded the Macao Tong Chai Charity Association (MTCCA) in 2006, with her friend and business partner Peter Lam, her goal was simply to make a difference locally, yet today, the MTCCA has spread beyond Macao to 17 provinces and regions in China. Since its establishment, the foundation has provided educational support for more than 40,500 children, training for 2,260 teachers and established a community centre for Macao's senior citizens.

A prominent local businesswoman and former President of the Legislative Assembly of Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR) from 1999 to 2009, Chou is also a member of China's National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. However, she maintains a low profile, focusing on her work rather than on her public image.

EDUCATION IS THE PRIORITY

"Education is a priority and a basic form of development. By providing access to education, a child's mind, perspective and vision are expanded." This simple objective is the driving force behind Chou's decades-long dedication to greater access to education within Macao and mainland China. "After starting my career in politics, I learned more about citizens' lives and discovered that the number of people affected by poverty was much higher than I had imagined. I felt I had to do something to improve this situation."

After vacating the presidency of the Macao Legislative Assembly in 2009, Chou decided to help others through education. "I felt that if aid were given in the form of monetary donations, the recipients might simply take the money and not become involved in the bigger programme." To ensure greater impact, Chou established the Macao Tong Chai Charity Association to facilitate access to education.

The association's mission is to develop "literacy, numeracy, IT literacy as well as [children's] psychological and social capability." "We believe that if all stakeholders, such as teenagers, schools, educational administrative

departments at all levels, parents and communities are actively involved in the project, the most effective solution will be derived and will greatly influence a child's growth, thereby leading to social progress," according to the association's report.

TAILORED PROJECTS

The association's efforts are divided into three major areas: pre-school education, compulsory education and philanthropic development.

A substantial portion of energy and resources is channelled to rural areas of mainland China where the association focuses its major campaigns, with projects already reaching 17 provinces and regions: Beijing, Yunnan, Guizhou, Sichuan, Guangxi, Guangdong, Shaanxi, Gansu, Qinghai, Ningxia, Anhui, Jiangxi, Hunan, Hubei, Henan, Hebei and Liaoning.

CHINESE PROVINCES AND REGIONS WHERE MTCCA HAS LAUNCHED EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS



- 1. Evergreen Association
- 2. Philanthropy Development workshop
- 3. Pre-school class in rural areas of China

The projects are tailored to the needs at hand. In the case of pre-school education in rural areas, MTCCA not only paved the way for more children to access quality education by training more teachers, the organisation also oversaw textbook distribution. More specifically, in Zhenkang, located in the mountains of the Sino-Burmanese border in Yunnan province, more than 1,000 children have been integrated into pre-school education since 2013. In addition to access to education, they have developed good social habits and have access to nutritious meals offered through the school. In preparation for primary school, the students also learn Mandarin.

The MTCCA has tackled the issue of accessible education in a comprehensive manner.

In addition to helping families get their children to school, the organisation has addressed the lack of teachers in rural areas compounded by the immigration of parents to large cities. Through partnerships with other associations, such as the Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, several pilot programmes have been created, for example, a programme teaching mothers and other educators activities that actively contribute to the development of children between the ages of six months and three years.

The MTCCA advocates simultaneously supporting students along with their parents in an effort to streamline the educational process and maximise future benefits.

Portuguese language has never been well-treated: the Chinese never learned it, so it has never been treated as an official language, said Susana Chou

TO KNOW PORTUGUESE IS TO KNOW MACAO

Teaching Portuguese language is another priority for the association. In 2009, the MTCCA launched the first project to train legal staff in Portuguese and Chinese.

“Macao has been under Portuguese administration for more than 400 years, but unfortunately, the Portuguese language has never been well-treated: the Chinese never learned it, so it has never been treated as an official language,”

Chou explains. “However, the law in Macao has always been written in Portuguese, and in order to have a full understanding of how the government works, it is necessary to master it.”

Chou believes that speaking Portuguese has always been important despite the transition of administration in 1999, and she highlights that Macao today is an economic and commercial platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries, making the comprehension of Portuguese quite essential.

Since the project’s launch, the MTCCA has trained 68 law students from universities in Beijing and Zhejiang, sending them to Portugal to study not only the language but to experience the culture first hand, something Chou considers important. “Besides the language, one must know the culture, the gastronomy and how to behave.” The goal of the project is to reach 100 graduates. Those who have already successfully completed the programme are now employed in law offices, research centres and banks in Macao and China.

The MTCCA has also set up a team working directly with the language consultancy and support agency Perfeição Lda., founded in November 2015, to facilitate relationships between Chinese investors and Portuguese-speaking countries.



**VISIT TO PADRÃO DOS
DESCOBRIMENTOS** Lisbon, Portugal



ENHANCING LONGEVITY

In 2012, the MTCCA opened a recreational centre, the Macao Tong Chai Evergreen Association, to enhance the lives of around 300 senior citizens of Macao. “Today, people live longer and have a lot more energy, so we have to keep them active,” says Chou. The centre offers classes in dancing, singing, drawing, calligraphy and Tai Chi and facilitates other recreational activities by providing access to television, chess tables, magazines and books, computers and massage machines. “Members can better enjoy their free time and also feel integrated in society.”

CARRYING THE PHILANTHROPIC TORCH

Chou emphasises the limitations and high demand that challenge the organisation in the face of never-ending philanthropic work. Her greatest hope is in leaving behind a legacy of charity, the younger generation will pick up where she leaves off.

The MTCCA has already partnered with the Chinese Western Sunshine Foundation to create enlightenment sessions and roundtables to assist small non-profit organisations. Entitled Bridge Plan, this communication and learning platform helps small organisations find methods to solve social problems. ■



EVERGREEN ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES
Dancing classes for the elderly



Two pieces of a great life

Portuguese architect
and wine importer
divides his life
between Macao and
Taipei

TEXT MARK O'NEILL IN TAIPEI
PHOTOS YANG TSAI CHENG

Every Monday morning at 6:30am, Carlos Couto takes a taxi from his apartment in Taipei to the airport where he eats breakfast. He then boards the first plane to Macao, sits in the exact same seat, naps the duration of the flight and arrives fresh as a daisy at the office to begin the work week.

Couto is the founder of CC Atelier de Arquitectura, the largest private architecture firm in the city. Since its establishment in June 1989, it has designed many of Macao's most famous structures, including the Macao Government Headquarters, The Landmark Macau, the new Court of First Instance building in

Macao, Macau Fisherman's Wharf leisure complex as well as seven stations of the new Macao Light Rapid Transit system in Taipa.

Couto boards the plane back to Taipei every Thursday evening. He spends his three-day weekend running his other business, the Portuguese restaurant Tuga, which is also the largest importer and purveyor of Portuguese wine in Taiwan.

Juggling two demanding careers on such a vigorous schedule would exhaust most people, but Couto – at the age of 65 – thrives on it. "I am happy with my life. Life is always fun. I like to create new things, and retirement is boring; I could never imagine doing it."

CARLOS COUTO In his restaurant Tuga



AN EARTHQUAKE HALFWAY AROUND THE WORLD BROUGHT COUTO TO MACAO

Born in 1951, Couto grew up in Lisbon, Portugal. His grandfather captained a warship in the Portuguese navy, and his father was a director with the Shell Oil Company. Couto planned on becoming a chemical engineer, but when he showed a talent for drawing, a family friend encouraged him to consider pursuing architecture.

Having easily passed the exams for Esbal, one of the country's leading architectural schools, Couto majored in urban design and planning. At Esbal, Couto fell in love with a fellow student who became his first wife. After graduation, they both worked for the government.

On 1st January 1980, a 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck Terceira and Sao Jorge, in the Azores Islands, an autonomous region of Portugal. The government sent Couto and his wife to help with the rebuilding effort. "We spent a year in the Azores. It was a very valuable working and human experience. We worked closely with property owners in the rebuilding process." Following their efforts, the local government invited them to stay long-term.

Then, serendipitously, Couto's sister-in-law and her husband, both economists, announced a move to Macao having accepted jobs with the expanding government. Couto and his wife decided to follow along, as his wife originally comes from a large and well-established Macao family that once owned what used to be the Governor's Palace before selling it to the government to pay off gambling debts.

He welcomed the opportunity for new adventures. "I love travel. It was an opportunity to stay two years, so I applied for a job to create an Urban Planning department." In 1981, his proposal was accepted, and he set up a team of eight architects. It was a position of authority that, at the age of 31, he could not have even dreamed of attaining back in Portugal.

Two years turned into eight, as Couto and his wife worked in the Public Works department. He oversaw a team of more than 120 members and was in charge of approving new buildings. With his experience and connections, Couto then decided to set up his own firm and make the leap into the private sector. It was June 1989,

Couto's architecture firm designed the Macao Government Headquarters, the new Court of First Instance building in Macao, Macau Fisherman's Wharf leisure complex as well as seven stations of the new Macau Light Rail Transit system in Taipa

and on top of the risk of a new endeavour, the timing was a highly volatile and unstable time, politically. "We did not know which way the economy would go. Had I made a good decision?"

As it turns out, his timing was excellent. In the 28 years since, Macao's economy has experienced an unprecedented boom. "CC Atelier de Arquitectura was easy to set up. We had a lot of work; 300 architects have passed through the firm since 1989, almost like a university. Most architects in Macao have worked here at some point in his/her career. We have the biggest firm in the city."

CC Atelier de Arquitectura is responsible for designing many of Macao's famous buildings, including the Fisherman's Wharf entertainment complex. "I was asked to travel back in time and recreate classic European buildings. So we created replicas of buildings from countries that historically have conducted trade with China, including Britain, France, Portugal, Spain and Holland."

Couto prides himself on the quality of his firm's work, down to the small details. He even travelled to Amsterdam and other cities featured on Fisherman's Wharf to take exact dimensions for their replicas.

2010 EXPO IS A GAME CHANGER

The Shanghai Expo of 2010 changed Couto's life forever. The architect designed the Portuguese Pavilion, where he created a recyclable and environmentally-friendly structure entirely made of cork, a material that is sourced in Portugal. It was one of the Expo's most popular pavilions that year and catapulted Couto to fame and stardom. He won two awards: the Portuguese government's "Best Public Project" and the "Design Award" from the International Exhibition Bureau based in Paris.

"This changed my life: I had earned international fame. I was contacted by a Taiwanese firm to design an auto-racing circuit in Taichong that included a hotel and other facilities." Luckily, Couto had knowledge of the sport thanks to his son André, a professional racing driver now based in Japan, where he drives for Toyota and Nissan. "The circuit is 3,500 metres long and is being built to Grade 2 standard to handle all races except Formula One," according to Couto.

The Taichong project opened up a new world of possibilities and connections for Couto, one being the CEO of the Fullon Hotel chain. Couto invited the hotelier to Macao to sample Portuguese wine and coffee, which led to the successful negotiation of a deal in which Couto would import Portuguese wine to Taiwan to be distributed at the 18 Fullon hotels. And so came about Couto's "second" life and further adventures in Taiwan.

THE BIRTH OF TUGA

Couto travelled to Taipei and began looking for a venue to sell his wine. He settled upon a commercial space that had once been a hair salon in a street off Zhongxiao Dong Lu, one of the city's most popular dining and entertainment areas.

A Portuguese friend who also happened to be a chef, suggested to Couto that he consider simultaneously opening a restaurant. After 24 hours mulling this over, Couto convinced his friend to step in as head chef, and Tuga – half

PORTUGUESE PAVILION

Shanghai Expo, 2010



LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT STATION

Macao Airport, Taipa

CAR RACING CIRCUIT

Taichong, Taiwan



restaurant, half wine shop – came to be. The name ‘Tuga’ is an abbreviation for Portuguese.

With no previous experience in being a restaurateur, Couto took up the challenge enthusiastically, opening the restaurant in May 2015. Three months later, his friend the chef left, and Nelson Santos stepped in as head chef. Santos remains the only Portuguese chef on the island.

Couto mainly utilises social media like Facebook to market Tuga, tapping into the local vibe and culture to promote his unique investment. “Taiwanese people love new things and to eat out. They love food but do not like to cook at home. Tuga serves up Portuguese food they cannot find elsewhere. And no-one in Taiwan knows Portuguese wine.” With over 400 labels, he has become Taiwan’s biggest importer of Portuguese wine.

Since its opening, the restaurant has been a great success, with monthly revenues of up to NT\$1.8 million (US\$ 59,000). “I train and invest in my staff. They must know the wines and the food as well as the culinary process. I have taken them to Portugal so that they fall in love with the food and wine at the source.”

AMBASSADOR OF PORTUGUESE WINE

Couto has become the unofficial ambassador for Portuguese wine in Taiwan, partly out of self-interest and partly out of patriotism. He is an importer on three levels – selling wine in Tuga, to other restaurants as well as to other local distributors – and also proud of his people and his culture.

In 2015 and 2016, he organised two tours of Portugal’s vineyards, inviting a mix of wine aficionados that included members of his staff as well as public opinion-makers. “The Portuguese people were very friendly. We stayed in castles that had been converted into hotels. I will take a third tour this year.”

At the 2015 Taipei wine exhibition, he organised a Portuguese pavilion for the first time that housed 22 exhibitors as well as a folk music troupe from the Alentejo region in southern Portugal.

In 2016, with Couto’s encouragement and help, the Taiwan Wine Academy launched an advanced course in Portuguese wine. Thirty-eight people have thus far obtained a diploma in the course.



NEVER-ENDING ZEST FOR LIFE

Couto’s punishing schedule has not diminished his zest for life. He is quite happy balancing his two careers and his two lives between Macao and Taiwan. “Macao is my base, my home. It is where most of my architectural work and clients are, but I prefer the lifestyle in Taiwan. The casinos have changed life in Macao for the worse. We have more business, but the quality of life has deteriorated.”

Upcoming projects and contracts include drawing up the blueprints for a new fire service school in Macao as well as a new winery in Portugal. “I like challenges and new designs that I have not done before, like a prison, a hospital, a church or a temple,” he concludes, always looking forward to the future, and never slowing down. ■



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Red panda day out

Red pandas have taken up
residence at the Seac Pai
Van Park in Coloane

TEXT **ANDREA LO**
PHOTOS **CHEONG KAM KA, ERIC TAM**
AND COURTESY OF CIVIC
AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS BUREAU

Most Macao visitors know that in the heart of Coloane live two giant pandas and their offspring. But many are not aware that two red pandas have recently taken up residence alongside the bigger animals at the Seac Pai Van Park.

Luo Luo, a three-year-old male red panda and companion Tong Tong, a female of the same age arrived at the park via a two-hour flight from Chengdu, China in December 2016.

The red pandas were sent by the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding, and after undergoing a 30-day quarantine, officially made their appearance early this year.

They join Kai Kai and Xin Xin, male and female giant pandas who are eight and nine years old respectively. They have been mainstays at the park's 3,000-square-meter Giant Panda Pavilion since 2014. Gifted to Macao by the Chinese government to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the handover, they're parents to twins Jian Jian and Kang Kang, who also live at the park.

Though often nicknamed "the lesser panda," red pandas Luo Luo and Tong Tong hold their own at Seac Pai Van Park, drawing in admiring crowds who "ooh" and "aah" their way through their visit.

With adorable features, furry appearances and a friendly, gentle vibe, it's no wonder that the red pandas fascinate the park's visitors.

"Red pandas are small, active, and have these long tails," says Zoie

Chao, a handler at the park who looks after Luo Luo and Tong Tong.



RED PANDAS
nicknamed as
"fire foxes"

But that doesn't mean people don't love the giant pandas, too. "Giant pandas are big, round animals and look cute when they're eating. These kinds of things make people like them," says Avis Mok, who takes care of Kai Kai, Xin Xin and their twins.

The biggest differences between giant pandas and red pandas are in their appearances. Black-and-white giant pandas weigh about 110 to 150 kilograms, while red pandas are much smaller, tipping the scales at between 3 to 6 kilograms.

Red pandas are distinguished by their red and brown fur, long tails, and a "false thumb" in their paws which helps with grip. "In Cantonese they're nicknamed 'fire foxes'," says Chao.

While the red pandas' enclosures are smaller, the Giant Panda Pavilion comes complete with activity areas indoors and a yard outside. Guests can view the pandas through a glass panel as they roam around in spaces that are decorated to mimic their natural habitat, decked out with toys.

PANDAS – DAY IN, DAY OUT

So what's it like to care for these pandas day in, day out?

Firstly, handlers at Seac Pai Van Park undergo rigorous training before taking up their roles as zookeepers.

Mok and Chao both applied for their current roles through the Civic And Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM). "After passing tests, I went to Sichuan and did training on-site," Mok says. Pandas are native to the southwest Chinese province.

The handlers are assigned to either the giant pandas or red pandas. Although there are occasional changes to their schedules, they never have to look after both at the same time, which allows them to focus on caring for the animals.

"On a typical day, the first thing we do is check on the pandas in their resting areas," Mok explains. "We make them breakfast, then start to get their activity areas ready, so they can have their bamboo there."

"Pandas mainly feed on bamboo, which actually has relatively low nutrition levels. So they would spend the majority of their day eating bamboo," she adds.

Other handler responsibilities include upkeep of the pandas' resting areas, which are out of bounds to visitors. The handlers also record the pandas' eating habits, monitor their health, run assessments on their behaviours and create food menus for them. That involves more than just cutting up a bunch of bamboo to feed them with: the red pandas' diets are more varied than you might think.

"Red pandas mainly eat bamboo, although we also feed them biscuits, pumpkin, carrots and apples to add to their nutrition," Chao says.

Giant pandas, on the other hand, are a bit trickier to deal with.

"Giant pandas are quite big, and they eat a lot. This is true, but they're also very picky about the bamboo they eat," Mok says. "There are types they prefer and others that they don't like. Their preference for bamboo, like what variety and which part of the bamboo they like, changes seasonally."

"As handlers we have to really keep an eye on that and record what kind of bamboo they've been eating recently in order to arrange for the right type of bamboo for them. Pandas also sleep a lot in order to conserve energy. Occasionally they find interesting things to do," Mok adds.

Many who reside in Macao and neighbouring cities have been lucky enough to see giant pandas up close, but the rarer red panda is something new for visitors.

"The biggest quirks red pandas have is their behaviour. They're highly sensitive, which is part of their nature," Chao says.

And sometimes, their appearance can cause the most unexpected issues.

"Red pandas are incredibly cute, so when visitors first see them people can get very excited, or use flash photography," Chao says. "Because red pandas are sensitive to smells and sounds, this can affect their emotional state."

The handler explains that, because red pandas are a much smaller species compared to giant pandas, in their natural habitats they are more likely to end up as prey for the likes of bears and foxes. As a result they are "much more alert."

"We say that they scare easily, but really they're just very sensitive to their surroundings."



ZOIE CHAO Red pandas' caretaker

AVIS MOK Giant pandas' caretaker



“What we try to do is educate people about the red pandas’ sensitivities [so that visitors are aware].”

But because red pandas and to a lesser extent, giant pandas, are both so sensitive, it’s easy for them to figure out who’s who when it comes to humans. “Pandas are very sensitive to a handler’s voice, smells and what clothes they wear. They distinguish between people through these factors,” Chao explains.

Both handlers say that since they started working at the park, they’ve formed an emotional bond with the pandas.

“While we’re on holiday it’s easy to miss them and wonder if they will have grown any bigger, or learned how to climb a tree,” Mok says.

One of the best parts of the job is being up close and personal with the cuddly creatures.

There are fewer than 3,000 red pandas left in the world, while the count for giant pandas stands at 1,864 globally.

“The World Wildlife Fund chose the giant panda to be part of its logo, and that goes to show that pandas are an important symbol of conservation efforts,” Mok adds.

Seac Pai Van Park, which was established as Macao’s first country park in 1984, sits in an area that’s been protected by law since 1981.

There is a strong focus on animal conservation and education on the topic for the public. The park houses flora and fauna and a Pavilion of Rare Animals, where the red pandas call home.



GIANT PANDAS Eating bamboo leaves

Red Panda | Giant Panda

Did you know red pandas are not related to giant pandas? See how they compare below.

	 Red Panda	 Giant Panda
Weight	3 - 6 kg	110 - 150 kg
Native habitat	China, Nepal, Tibet, India, Bhutan, Myanmar	China
Diet	Bamboo shoots and leaves, 0.9 - 1.8 kg per day	Bamboo shoots, 9 - 20.4 kg per day
Breeding	In captivity in zoos	In captivity in zoos
Estimated numbers in the wild	Less than 3,000	1,864
Communication method	Squeals, huffs, quacks	Bleats, barks, whimpers

The IACM aims to generate awareness on the threat wild animals face, and the importance of protecting their natural habitats. While the park is free to enter, the Giant Panda Pavilion charges a MOP10 entry fee, which goes towards the government’s Panda Fund. Established in 2010, the fund was set up to promote the conservation of giant pandas and also provides a platform for the public to support them via donations.

In Chinese New Year 2017 alone, the park attracted just under 10,000 visitors in a 10-day period.

When they’re not tending to the pandas the handlers are also responsible for creating content on the park’s website, educating the public about the animals.

“Being part of conservation efforts is great. We’re not just talking about it: we’re able to actually help,” says Chao. ■

The show of a lifetime

Local artist prepares for the biggest debut of his career: the Venice Art Biennale

TEXT MARK O'NEILL
PHOTOS CHEONG KAM KA

Macao artist James Wong Cheng Pou is preparing for the greatest exhibition of his career: *57th La Biennale di Venezia*, or the Venice Art Biennale, to be held from the 13th May to 26th November. Hundreds of thousands of contemporary art aficionados will view his work, which includes paintings as well as 3D pieces.

According to Wong, "This is the most important exhibition for any artist. It is an international platform that attracts people from around the world." Inclusion was not via application; rather, Wong was chosen out of a group of nearly 40 Macao-based artists by a panel of five judges from the Macao Museum of Art.

Representing Macao at this prestigious international event will be the high point thus far of a rich and varied professional journey that has taken Wong from Macao to Hong Kong, Japan, Taiwan and the Slade School of Fine Art in London. His curriculum vitae includes arts education and museum planning as well as a wide repertoire of paintings, prints, sculptures and art installations. He has also headed the Division of Arts Research and Museology at Leal Senado and was co-ordinator of the Ethnography Exhibition at the Luis de Camoes Museum.



This is the most important exhibition for any artist. It is an international platform that attracts people from around the world, said James Wong

EARLY INSPIRATIONS: CINEMA AND MANGA

Born in Macao, Wong was the fourth of eight children. His father worked in the family business distributing fruit before gaining employment with the Macau Ferry Company where he remained until his retirement. His mother was a full-time housewife. "Life was simpler in those days. There were not so many material things. I used to play with my friends on the streets. Neighbours knew each other. Our friends included children from richer families who gave us food and toys. There was no societal pressure of any kind."

He attended Jesuit primary and secondary schools, receiving his education from priests and nuns from Britain, Ireland and Italy as well as Macao. "I was impressed by their willingness to make sacrifices and serve society. They helped students with their homework but also with more personal problems. From them, I absorbed the concepts of generosity, good behaviour and self-discipline."

Wong had his first introduction to the world of art via two weekly courses in the primary school curriculum. He began to paint at home and was further encouraged by his father. "Television had just become popular, and I liked to watch Japanese manga and cartoons, things that I could not see in Macao." He purchased foreign magazines and cartoon books for inspiration.

His artistic interests were also cultivated by cinema. "There were many cinemas in Macao then, including one opposite our apartment. I often went because they let me in for free. My father liked films too. Films had a very big influence on me," he recalls.



At the time, Macao had no universities or art schools, so upon graduating secondary school, Wong went to Hong Kong to continue his studies. He lived in Tai Wo Hao with his grandmother and uncles, "which was so lively and colourful – very different from Macao."

SETTING OFF TO SEE THE WORLD

Initially, Wong wanted to be an architect, but his family did not have the money to put him through school, so he paid his way through art school by working odd jobs. "A friend found me a job at the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club (RHKYC), which included meals and accommodation at its facility on the water... I saw a new world, in that boat on the sea, and it was a great opportunity to practice my English."

He attended art classes at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, a school in downtown Wan Chai that had a great reputation whose teaching staff often went on to become top designers in Hong Kong. To gain more experience

and inspire their nascent artistic expression, Wong and his classmates went to study abroad. "Fees in the United States were very expensive. Programs in Paris were free, but you had to speak French. Four of us from the RHKYC decided to go instead to Japan, where we could study and find jobs to pay our way. Except for the language, I felt familiar with Japan because I knew a lot of its culture from films, magazines and manga. It was an easy place to live, very clean and recognisable."

In the four years Wong spent in Tokyo, he lived in various areas of the city to be close to his place of work. "I stayed with friends to save money. I studied what I wanted to study, especially design. It was not so commercial back then."

As much as he enjoyed Japan, Wong never considered staying long term. "It is very hard to get good jobs which are reserved for the Japanese. Only if a foreigner becomes famous abroad will he be hired for a prime position."

After Tokyo, Wong stopped over in Taiwan for six months where he produced designs for a classmate.



INFLUENCED BY THE SLADE

In 1986, Wong returned to Macao, where, again, he helped a friend who had started a company. During the same time, he spent his evenings helping with translations of Japanese and English at the newly opened television station TDM.

In 1989, he proposed establishing an Academy of Visual Arts in Macao, fashioned after the prestigious School of Visual Arts in New York City. In the interim, the city prevailed upon him to teach printmaking at the Sir Robert Ho Tung Library. When the academy opened its doors in 1990, Wong became head of its Printmaking Department, a post he held until 1994.

To get the department up and running, the academy invited the input and aid of Portuguese print master Bartolomeu Cid dos Santos who had headed a similar department at University College London's Slade School of Fine Art. Founded in 1871, The Slade is considered the United Kingdom's top educational institution for art and design, recruiting a mere 40 students a year from around the world,

Upon returning to London, Cid dos Santos invited Wong to join him, an invitation he gladly accepted. From 1993 to 1996, Wong was an honorary research assistant at The Slade. "I learned so many things there. I taught students who were the cream of the crop from all over the world. We had hopes that the Macao academy could become a sister school."

When he returned to Macao, Wong continued his work at the academy, focusing on planning a new cultural project. Scheduled to open in 1999 to a cost of US\$100 million (MOP800 million), the culture centre was to include the Macao Museum of Art, two auditoriums for performances as well as the Handover Gifts Museum. However, after six months, Wong found himself disinterested in the logistics of the project. He returned to The Slade for two more years and took courses and volunteered at the British Museum and the Victoria and Albert Museum.

LIFE AFTER THE CULTURAL CENTRE

1997 was a turning point for Wong: the Macao government and his friends both beseeched him to return and finish building the cultural centre. Faced with the decision of remaining in the UK,

Wong has since devoted himself to teaching and focusing on his own compositions. He has also published two books and has penned a weekly column for *Macao Daily* since 1990

Wong ultimately made the choice to return to his hometown.

Back in Macao, Wong applied the knowledge and experience he had acquired in London to the centre. With his colleagues, he visited major regional museums for ideas and inspiration. "I urged the government to follow international standards and build facilities to last 50 years. I left the project in January 1999 and handed the work to my successor. When I see the Museum of Art and other facilities, I see them as my biggest contribution to society."

Wong has since devoted himself to teaching and focusing on his own compositions. He has also published two books and has penned a weekly column for *Macao Daily* since 1990.

He has held numerous solo exhibitions, including his first in 1987 at Macao's Museum Luis de Camoes. His work has also been on display at the Camara Gallery in Portugal, the National Gallery of Belgium, a gallery in Bunbudo, Japan, and The Slade School. Other clients include the Oriental Foundation in Lisbon, the Peninsula Hotel of Hong Kong, the Shangri-la Hotel in Beijing, the Macao Museum of Art and Macao's MGM and Crown hotels. In 2010, Wong received the Sovereign Asian Art Prize. He is currently President of the Printmaking Research Centre of Macao and also Chief Curator of the Macau Printmaking Triennial.

Wong is creating all new pieces for the Venice Biennale due to on-site space restrictions. He plans on bringing three-dimensional models, installations, paintings and mobile images to this latest honour along his journey of art and adventure. ■

The largest Script Road since 2012



The 6th edition of The Script Road – Macau Literary Festival was held from 4th to 19th March across the city. The festival was organised by the Ponto Final newspaper and the Cultural Affairs Bureau. Two Man Booker Prize finalists including Canadian Madeleine Thien and Scottish Graeme Macrae Burnet were amongst the guest speakers. International award-winning Chinese writer Yu Hua and Australian Brian Castro also attended the festival. Portuguese singer Sérgio Godinho who recently launched his first novel “A heart too perfect” performed his music live as part of his contribution to the Script Road.

56 WRITERS (FROM 21 COUNTRIES AND REGIONS)

AUSTRALIA (2)



Brian Castro



Sanaz Fotouhi

BRAZIL (1)



Natália Borges Poleoso

CABO VERDE (1)



Abraão Vicente

CANADA (2)



Madeleine Thien



Oliver Phommavanh

MAINLAND CHINA (9)



BTR



Cheng Yongxin

FRANCE (2)



Clément Balou



Philippe Graton

GUINEA-BISSAU (1)



Abdulai Silá

HONG KONG (6)



Dorothy Tse



James Shea



Liu Waitong



Mark O'Neill



Peter Gordon



Xu Xi



Jessica Faleiro

IRELAND (2)



Claire Keegan



Garry Hynes

MACAO (6)



Eric Chau



Inocência Mata



José Manuel Simões



Konstantin Bessmertny



Lawrence Lei



Rai Mutsu

MOZAMBIQUE (1)



Deusa D'Africa

NEW ZEALAND (1)



Hannah Tunnicliffe

PORTUGAL (11)



António Martins



Bruno Vieira Amaral



Filipe Melo



Henrique Raposo



João Morgado



João Nuno Azambuja



José Manuel Rosendo



José Rodrigues dos Santos



Pedro Mexia



Raquel Ochoa



Sérgio Godinho

SCOTLAND (1)



Graeme Macrae Burnet

SINGAPORE (1)



Grace Chia

SOUTH KOREA (1)



Krys Lee

SPAIN (1)



Juan José Morales

SWITZERLAND (1)



Daniel de Roulet

TAIWAN (3)



Chen Li



Lo Yi-Chin



Wang Con-Wei

TURKEY (1)



Ciwanmerd Kulek

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (1)



Benjamin Moser

CONCERTS (2)



Christine Hsu
Taiwan



Sérgio Godinho
Portugal



Branco & Vermelho



Das Palavras



Hydra & Orpheu



The Three Ladies of Macao

EXHIBITIONS (6)



Michel Vailandt
(Jean Graton)



Between Gaze and
Hallucination (João Miguel Barros)



Macau days
(John Young)



True Stories
(Philippe Graton)



25+10 (Rodrigo de Matos)



My 100 dollars note
(Wong Ka Long)

FILMS (5)



Letters to Ali
(Clara Low and Eddie Fong)



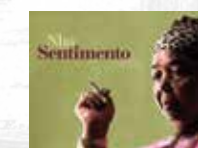
The goddess of
1967 (Clara Low and Eddie Fong)



Love marriage
in Kabul
(SanazFotouhi)



A lista de Chorin
(Sofia Leite)



Cesária Évora-Nha
Sentimento
(Sofia Leite)

Journey to the West makes a big splash in the East

The *Monkey King* comes to Macao

TEXT OU NIAN LE
PHOTOS CHEONG KAM KA

A new attraction has opened in Macao: *Monkey King China Show*, a large-scale fantasy play based on the enduring and epic Chinese legend *Journey to the West*. It is being shown at the Sands Central Cotai. Based on the adventures of Tang dynasty Buddhist monk Xuanzang who travelled on a pilgrimage to the "West" to obtain sacred texts to bring back to China, the 70-minute show is the first performance to be staged at a new 1,700-seat theatre inside the Sheraton Hotel.



XU FENG Chairman of Beijing Huayuan Group

"*Monkey King* took eight years to produce and involves an investment of US\$300 million (MOP2.4 billion), which includes the cost of the theatre," says Xu Feng, Chairman of the Beijing Huayuan Group. "Ours is a high-risk business. If your performance is good, you see a return quickly. If not, the losses can be very great. Las Vegas today is Macao tomorrow. Macao's goal is to be a world tourism and leisure centre, but to achieve this, there is still work to be done. There needs to be high-quality attractions like ours that entice families to come, keeping in mind that women and children do not enter the casinos. I hope more attractions will pop up to provide more options. Gambling turnover here is seven times that of Las Vegas, but available cultural attractions comprise only a fraction of the line-up compared to Vegas."

A CHINESE SHOW IS BORN IN LAS VEGAS

The idea for *Monkey King China Show* was born 10 years ago when Xu and his Huayuan colleagues went to Las Vegas to sample the live performances. They realised that they already had a gold mine of inspiration at home, just waiting to be transformed into a spectacular and compelling

show to rival those of America's Sin City. "With *Journey to the West*, we had the best subject matter and content. It is one of the earliest fantasy novels in the world!"

Written by Wu Cheng'en in the 16th century, the novel is based on one of the most important events in China's cultural history: the 17-year voyage of Xuanzang, a Chinese monk, who embarked on a pilgrimage to India in the 7th century A.D. There, he learned Sanskrit and brought back Buddhist scriptures to translate into Chinese.

The biggest production challenge for Xu and his colleagues was that the story has

already been told hundreds of times in comics, novels, video games, television series and films. They needed to come up with a new and original version, one that would appeal to people already familiar with the story.

Huayuan brought in a group of experts, scholars and artists to join the creative team. The script, which runs 10,000-words long, took two years and dozens of rewrites to complete. The original music score took several leading composers over three years to write. A team at Tsinghua University created the multimedia components, including LED screens and three-dimensional projections of flowers, birds, fish and the underwater dragon palace. Designer Ah Kuan created hundreds of costumes which combine cloisonné and traditional Chinese elements. "This took eight years to prepare," says Xu. "It overturns every conventional notion about the Monkey King. You have no idea what is going to happen next."

The performance troupe is young, with an average age of 22, and includes well-known performers from China, Russia, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. Some were recruited from Cirque du Soleil, including Zhong Zhiwei, who was offered higher wages by Cirque du Soleil but chose to perform in *Monkey King*.

Another performer, Jia Juan, was formerly a deputy leader of the Guangzhou Military Acrobatic Team and has won international awards for her performances. She applied to leave the People's Liberation Army in order to join Huayuan, a procedure that took over one and a half years to be approved by the Central

Military Commission in Beijing. She is now Executive Director at Huayuan.

For Zhong and Jia, as well as many others in the troupe, the appeal was an original script based on a famous Chinese story, written and composed by Chinese artists. Xu asserts that the message of *Monkey King* is one of universal appeal. "A devil can become a Buddha, a bad person can become good. All religions have this message. This is a message not only from the past but for the present and the future. By bringing Buddhism from India, Xuanzang changed Chinese civilisation."



SECURING A READY AND WILLING VENUE

Creating such an expensive and large-scale production required a major venue willing to host it for a long period. Huayuan began negotiations with Sands China Ltd. in 2012; at the time, Sands was building a theatre within its new complex on the Cotai Strip and was looking for a long-term tenant. It chose Huayuan out of many contenders.

"It is the on-going mission of Sands China to bring the world's best entertainment to Macao for both our fellow residents and our many visitors," asserts Scott Messinger, Senior Vice-President of Special Projects for Sands China. "We spent considerable time looking for the right entertainment show and creative force. We consider ourselves lucky to have the Beijing Huayuan Group presenting an ambitious re-telling of one of the four classic novels of Chinese literature. This represents a collaboration of amazing individuals from Chairman Xu and Director Li to the entire troupe of *Monkey King China Show* that we now consider our close friends and colleagues."

Last year, Macao received 30.95 million visitors, the vast majority of them Chinese – 20.45 million from the mainland, 6.41 from Hong Kong and 1.07 from Taiwan – who are familiar with *Journey to the West*. According to Xu, the long-term plan is to bring the

performance to Beijing, Shanghai and other major cities in mainland China as well as internationally to Las Vegas and London. "This is a show not only for the Chinese but for everyone. However, for the moment, we are concentrating on Macao."

Recently, the governments in Beijing and Macao have both been pushing the city to diversify its appeal away from gaming to truly become a "world tourism and leisure centre." To that end, the big casino hotels have begun building large performance venues, but filling the venues has proved challenging. "The owners of these venues are apprehensive," says Xu. "They hesitate to choose a performance for fear that it would fail. It is a question of face."

ABOUT THE BEIJING HUAYUAN GROUP

Beijing Huayuan Group Co., Ltd. is a private company founded in 1993 by Xu and his associates to mainly focus on cultural activities. Over the last 10 years, it has staged several large-scale works in the mainland and overseas, attracting two million spectators a year, including the grand epic *Jing Gang Shan* directed by Li Qian Kuan, the large-scale live performance *Impression Liu Sanji*, the opera *Turandot*, an opera directed by Zhang Yimou, which premiered at the Imperial Ancestral Temple in Beijing, and *First Emperor of Qin*, an opera also directed by Zhang Yimou which premiered at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York. ■



Huayuan brought in a group of experts, scholars and artists to join the creative team. The script, which runs 10,000-words long, took two years and dozens of rewrites to complete

Rice: a fertile field of creativity

Taiwan's Cloud Gate
brings *Rice* to Macao

TEXT OU NIAN LE
PHOTOS COURTESY OF CLOUD GATE
AND ARTS FOUNDATION



Liu Chen-Hsiang



On 15th April, the Cloud Gate Dance Theatre troupe will perform *Rice* for the people of Macao. *Rice* is one of the group's more recent works choreographed by its founder, Taiwanese dancer and choreographer Lin Hwai-min, who found inspiration for the piece when he visited the town of Chihshang, in Taiwan's fertile East Rift Valley, in 2011. Sandwiched on either side by two mountain ranges spanning the centre and southeast coast of the island, Chihshang is a farming community cultivated with rice paddies as far as the eye can see.

"The minute you step into the fields, you drop everything," Lin recalls. "It's healing. I thought, 'Would it not be nice to have Chihshang as a setting for dance?' It is truly spectacular." Lin not only found beauty and inspiration in the fields but in the hands that cultivated them: the farmers of Chihshang have a passion for the land and meet regularly to discuss the latest agricultural developments, such as growing organic crops. As a result, the rice produced in the region is in high demand and exported to several countries in

Europe. Historically, during the colonial period, it was known as "Land of Emperor's Rice" because the crop was exported to the Imperial Palace in Tokyo, Japan.

THE JOURNEY OF RICE

Lin set to work choreographing this 70-minute piece describing the life cycle of rice and the love and labour of its cultivators. The dance is set to a wide variety of music ranging from traditional folk songs of the Hakka people, drum music by composer Liang Chun-mei, Monochrome II by contemporary Japanese composer Maki Ishii as well as arias performed by Maria Callas from Vincenzo Bellini's opera *Norma* and classical works by Richard Strauss and Camille Saint-Saëns.

He sent cameraman Chang Hao-jan to shoot production footage, and over the course of numerous visits spanning two years, Chang compiled more than 100 hours of spectacular visuals: the flooding of the rice paddies, the



Lee Chia-Yeh

sprouting of the plants, the harvesting and burning of the fields. Lin and designer Ethan Wang spent months selecting images to use as the dance's backdrop.

To help his performers comprehend the feeling he wanted to evoke, Lin took them to the paddy fields of Chihshang, where he put them to work cutting and harvesting rice. "The farmers taught us how to do everything. We were in the fields at daybreak. Everyone took it really seriously, and finally the rhythm came. It was magical just to get in touch with the real thing."

Lin completed the choreography in 2013, just in time for Cloud Gate's 40th anniversary. Before the official debut, the company returned to Chihshang to perform *Rice* for its residents. A temporary performance platform was built above a rice field with viewing stands for the audience. The weather was extremely hot and windy; after dancing for just five minutes, the performers' feet were burning. On the second day of the performance, it was pouring rain. Still, the dancers insisted on performing for the 2,000-person audience, all in their raincoats. "It was the most intense, moving experience I have ever had. The dancers came out of the rice, which

OPENING NIGHT

Taipei, Taiwan



LIN HWAI-MIN Cloud Gate Dance Theatre founder

had not been cut – out of this proverbial 'lake'. It was so beautiful," Lin recalls.

Rice officially premiered on 23rd November 2013, in Taipei. Its debut celebrated 40 years of the company and was also a "thank you" of sorts – a tribute to the people of Taiwan for their unwavering support over the years. Outside the theatre, over 10,000 people gathered in Liberty Plaza to watch a free broadcast of the performance. Similar public viewings were available around the country. After the performance, Lin led the dancers outside to mingle with the audience.

The company has since taken the show around the world: Hong Kong, Singapore, Seoul, London, Dresden, Moscow, Paris, New York and Los Angeles. The itinerary this year includes Auckland, Macao, four cities in Spain and five in mainland China.



Liu Chen-Hsiang



Liu Chen-Hsiang



Liu Chen-Hsiang

A PASSION FOR DANCE TRUMPS A PASSION FOR WRITING

For Lin, the rice paddies of Chihshang are a reminder of his own childhood in Chiayi, a provincial city in southwest Taiwan. As a boy, he and his friends played with rice husks laid out on the side of the road, the grains drying in the sun. Rice is a theme that appears often in his works.

In 1969, at the age of 22, Lin went to study journalism at the University of Missouri and later obtained a master's degree from the prestigious International Writing Program at the University of Iowa, United States of America. Having already completed two works of fiction by the end of the programme, he looked destined to become a great writer.

But a dance class at Iowa piqued his interest and thus totally rerouted his career path. Lin enrolled at the Martha Graham Centre in New York City, and upon returning to Taiwan in 1973, he founded Cloud Gate Dance Theatre,

the first professional modern dance troupe in any Chinese-speaking community.

The troupe's early pieces, including *The Tale of the White Serpent* (1975), *Legacy* (1978) and *Portrait of the Families* (1997), were drawn from traumatic events in Taiwan's history. Following the end of martial law in 1987, civil society in Taiwan blossomed, carving out a space for cultural entities. Cloud Gate flourished and embarked on a worldwide tour. In 1999, Lin established Cloud Gate 2, a spin-off group for young choreographers who perform their own creations for the island's local communities.

Lin's overarching vision is to bring dance to as wide a range of viewers as possible. To that end, the troupe often performs in schools and public spaces in order to reach those who might not have the opportunity to attend the theatre.

In 2013, the Samuel H. Scripps/American Dance Festival bestowed its Lifetime Achievement Award on Lin, catapulting him into the ranks of such legends as Martha Graham, Merce Cunningham and Pina Bausch.



Gia To

RISING FROM THE ASHES

At 3am in the morning on 11th February 2008 – in the midst of the Lunar New Year holiday – a fire devastated the troupe's rehearsal studio and warehouse complex on the northern outskirts of Taipei. The fire was quickly contained, but the majority of the building and the props, costumes, scenery and office equipment inside were reduced to ashes. Only Cloud Gate 2's smaller dance studio survived the blaze. Lin's response to the tragedy was surprisingly zen: he attributed the fire to "a test from God. He must think Cloud Gate is still very young at 35 and can tackle a new challenge. We are ready for it."

Lin's faith and optimism proved prescient: Cloud Gate supporters – companies, institutions and thousands of individuals alike – stepped forward en masse to finance a new complex. By the end of 2014, approximately US\$21.6 million (MOP173 million) were raised by more than 3,700 donors, the largest of which was a US\$5 million (MOP40 million) gift from the Alpha Foundation of Chicago, a longstanding friend to the company. This outpouring of support has resulted in the troupe's nickname, the "Name Card of Taiwan".

Cloud Gate signed a BOT (build-operate-transfer) contract with New Taipei City under which the local government provided a 40-year lease on public land for the troupe to build and run its theatre. A larger theatre venue was raised on the former site of the Central Radio Station at the edge of Tamsui district, overlooking the junction where the Tamsui River flows into the Taiwan Strait. The names of all 3,700 donors are inscribed on the theatre walls.

The old radio station serves as a rehearsal space, with the new theatre and offices built next door. A total of 120 people work on-site, including



Liu Chen-Hsiang



Chia Jung Wu

dancers, technical staff and administration. The theatre itself is green in colour – built with green steel and set amidst green glass – in order to blend with its surroundings. An additional 200 trees were planted on the property, and there are no walls surrounding the site. A bookshop, restaurant and manicured lawn are maintained for public use. "We wanted to do something different, not just be a dance troupe," says Liu Gia-yu, Marketing Director of the Cloud Gate Foundation.

The site has become a popular public space. Since it opened in 2015, more than 100,000 visitors have come to attend tours and rehearsals, take classes and enjoy picnics with a view. When the troupe is not performing, the theatre space is rented out for music performances and exhibitions. Hobe Fort sits just next door: built after the 1884–85 Sino-French war, it became Taiwan's first golf course, transformed by the Japanese in 1919, and has produced many of the island's best golfers.

What lies in store for the future of Cloud Gate? "People always ask that. I say 'how can I know?'" says Lin. "Once life corners you, you have to cook up something, and you start an adventure. It's like going into the woods looking for a path to take. It is very scary and exciting." ■



Matt Wen



Liu Chen-Hsiang



Old buildings seen in a new light

PHOTOS **ERIC TAM**
AND **ANTÓNIO SANMARFUL**

On 20th January 2017, Macao's Executive Council designated nine local monuments and buildings as important architectural and cultural heritage sites.

Seven of the nine are classified as monuments: the four Fortune-Virtue Temples (*Foc Tac*, in Cantonese), located in Bairro da Horta da Mitra, Rua do Teatro, Rua do Patane and Rua do Almirante Sérgio; the remains of the old city walls near Estrada de S. Francisco, Estrada do Visconde de S. Januário and the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha; Dr. Sun Yat-sen's former Chinese-Western pharmacy in Rua das Estalagens; and the former Residence of General Ye Ting in Rua do Almirante Costa Cabral.

The Ox Warehouse and Municipal Kennels at the corner of Avenida Coronel Mesquita and Avenida do Almirante Lacerda and the Blue House in Estrada do Cemitério – currently headquarters for the Social Welfare Bureau – round out the list of buildings.

These constitute the first group of immovable properties deemed culturally valuable. A second grouping is pending evaluation and will be announced in June of this year.

The Macao Cultural Heritage list includes 129 monuments, buildings of architectural interest, classified ensembles and classified sites. The Historic Centre of Macao was inscribed on the World Heritage List on 15th July 2005 making it the 31st designated World Heritage site in China.

BLUE HOUSE Social Welfare Bureau of Macao



FORTUNE-VIRTUE TEMPLES

- 1. Bairro da Horta da Mitra
- 2. Rua do Teatro
- 3. Rua do Patane
- 4. Rua do Almirante Sérgio

REMAINS OF THE OLD CITY WALLS

- 5A. Near Estrada de S. Francisco
- 5B. Estrada do Visconde de S. Januário
- 5C. Chapel of Our Lady of Penha

- 6. Dr. Sun Yat-sen's former Chinese-Western pharmacy in Rua das Estalagens
- 7. The former Residence of General Ye Ting in Rua do Almirante Costa Cabral
- 8. The Ox Warehouse and Municipal Kennels at the corner of Avenida Coronel Mesquita and Avenida do Almirante Lacerda
- 9. Blue House in Estrada do Cemitério



FORTUNE-VIRTUE TEMPLE Bairro da Horta da Mitra



FORTUNE-VIRTUE TEMPLE Rua do Teatro



FORTUNE-VIRTUE TEMPLE Bairro da Horta da Mitra



FORTUNE-VIRTUE TEMPLE Rua do Almirante Sérgio



REMAINS OF THE OLD CITY WALLS Estrada do Visconde de S. Januário



DR. SUN YAT-SEN'S FORMER CHINESE-WESTERN PHARMACY

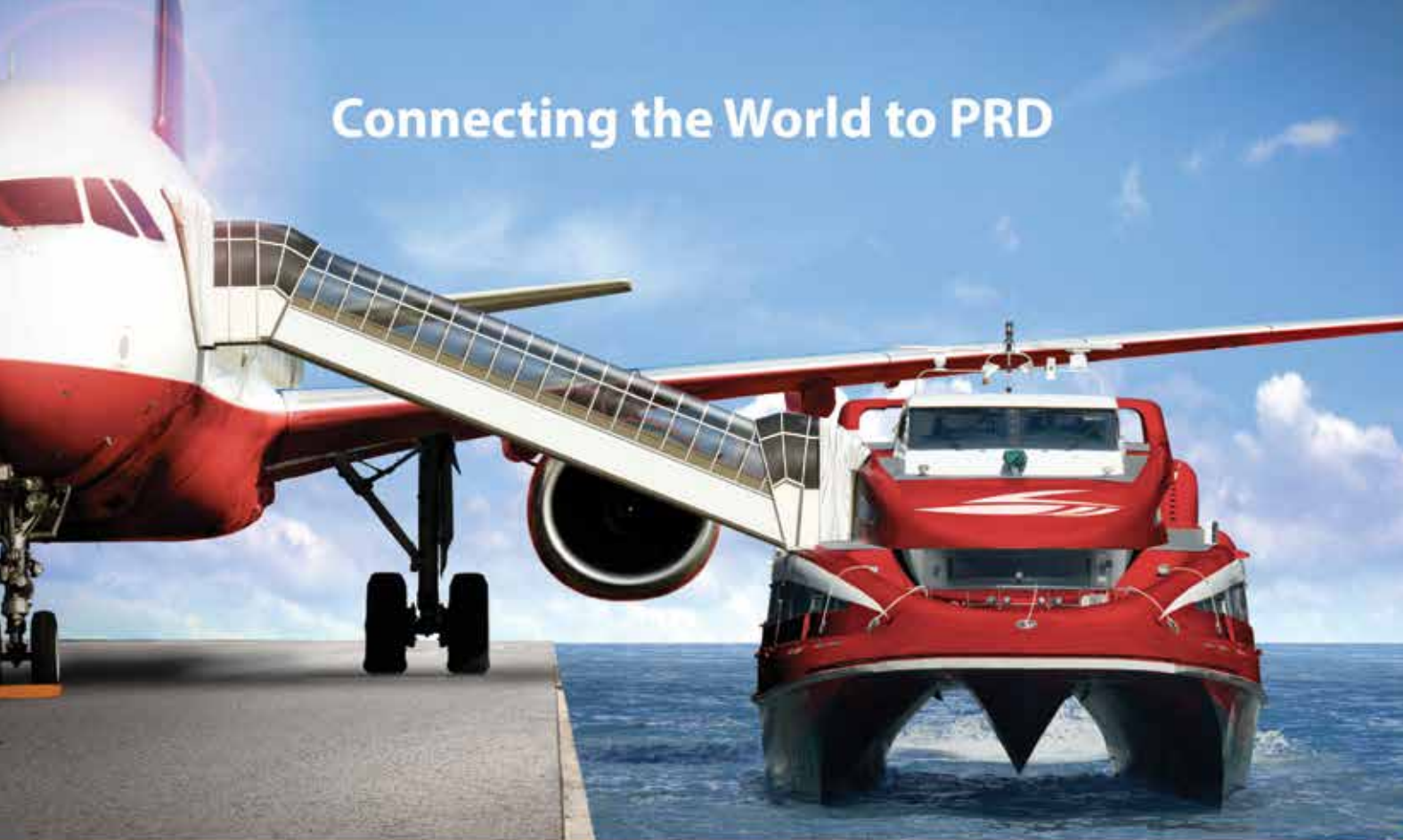


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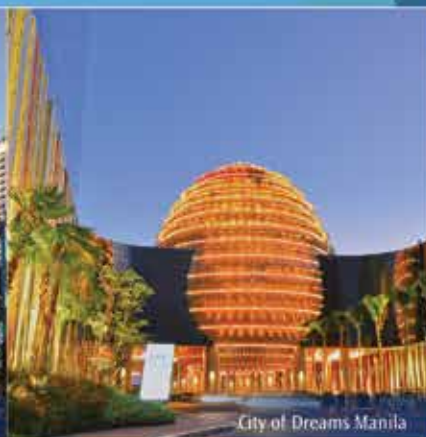


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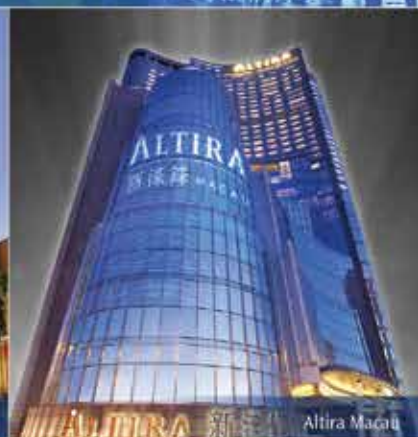
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