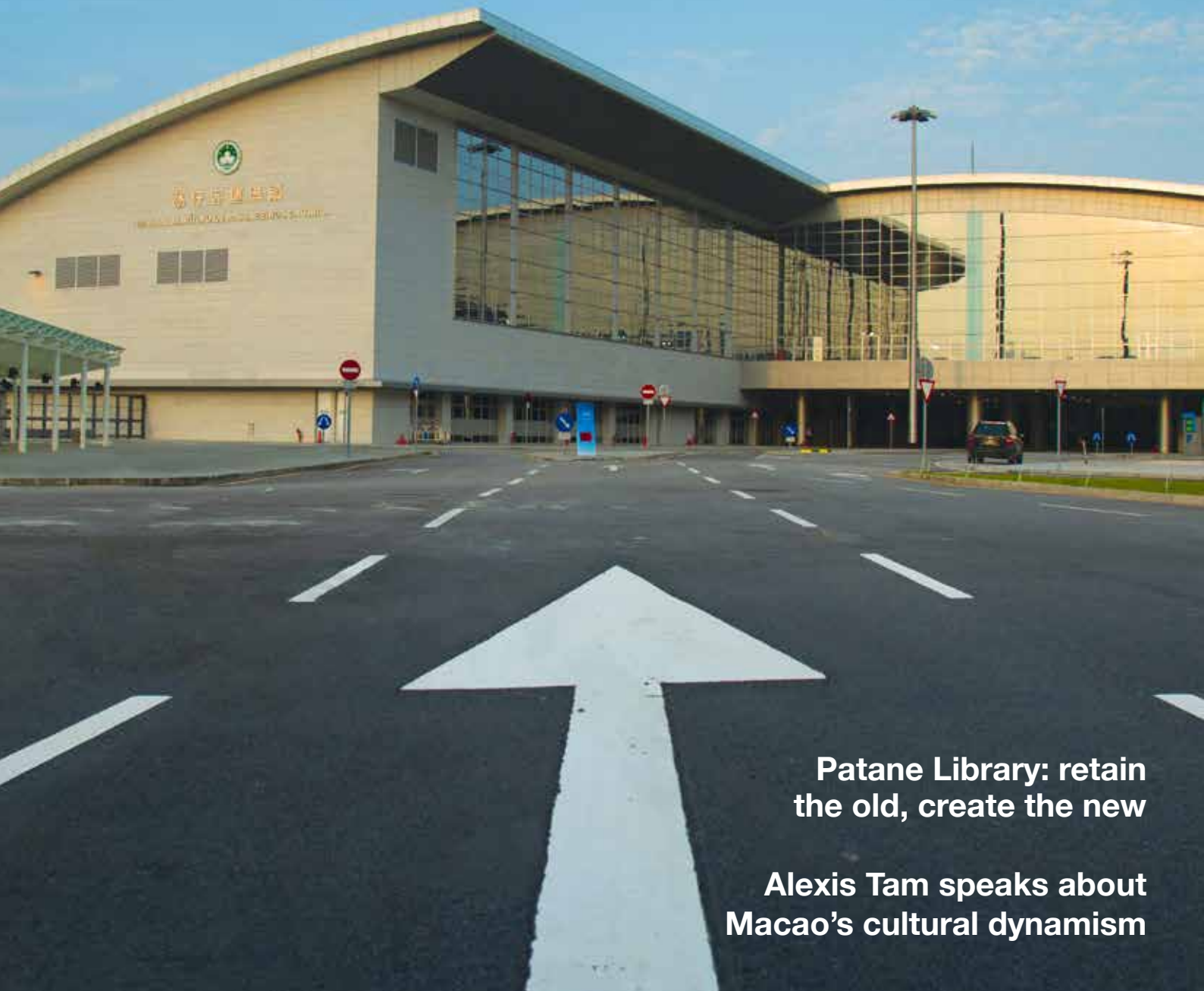


Macao

澳門

TAIPA FERRY TERMINAL OPENS FOR BUSINESS



**Patane Library: retain
the old, create the new**

**Alexis Tam speaks about
Macao's cultural dynamism**



第五屆澳門國際旅遊（產業）博覽會

The 5th Macao International Travel (Industry) Expo

2017
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ON THE COVER Taipa Ferry Terminal opens its doors 12 years after construction. The terminal has an annual capacity to handle 30 million visitors

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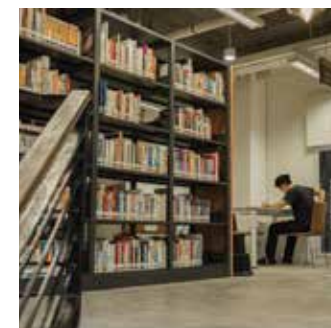
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BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

China's major project for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area takes centre stage in this issue of the Macao Magazine. During a recent visit to Macao, the Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, Zhang Dejiang, emphasised that the territory will benefit from participating in China's Belt and Road initiative, which aims to strengthen trade and investment relations between China and the world.

Zhang indicated that Macao should continue to innovate, as it is well positioned for growth in the region. A good example of this is the new Taipa Ferry Terminal, which shows how the territory is improving its transportation infrastructure.

Culture is also high on the local agenda currently, with the 28th Macao Arts Festival and the opening of the Patane Library taking place. In this issue there is an exclusive interview with the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam Chon Weng, who discusses how Macao can become an international tourism hub and a platform for international relations, all while maintaining a high standard of living for its citizens.

This issue also reports on economic and financial relations between China and Brazil, one of the main Portuguese-speaking countries receiving extensive Chinese investment.

GONÇALO CÉSAR DE SÁ
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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Zhang Dejiang's visit to Macao



"Since Macao's return to the motherland more than 17 years ago, the Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR) has witnessed overall progress in its socio-economic life, with remarkable achievements made in practicing the 'one country, two systems' principle," said Zhang. China's top lawmaker also noted the effective implementation of the Central Government's overall jurisdiction, the full guarantee of Macao's right to a high degree of autonomy.

During his visit, Zhang met separately with Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference National Committee Vice Chairman Ho Hau Wah and Chief Executive Chui Sai On and spoke highly of their contributions to the motherland as well as Macao.



Macao: a good role model

TEXT AND PHOTOS XINHUA NEWS AGENCY

Zhang Dejiang, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, visited Macao in May for three days.



After listening to a report on the work of the local government, Zhang noted that the current administration has seized the strategic opportunities brought about by the country's 13th Five-Year Plan (2016-2020) and the Belt and Road Initiative and pushed ahead with Macao's role as "One centre, One platform." Macao is striving to become a world tourism and leisure center and a platform for business and trade cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking countries. Zhang noted that the current administration has made positive progress in promoting the appropriate diversification of the city's economic development and improving people's livelihood.



In a meeting with representatives from the education sector held at the University of Macau, Zhang said, "educators should always stick to the right direction and lead students to build character, improve their knowledge, gain innovative thinking and serve the country."



At a symposium attended by more than 150 representatives from all walks of life, Zhang called for cherishing the successful experience of the city's development. He also called for further implementing the Central Government's overall jurisdiction over the MSAR and its right to a high degree of autonomy in accordance with the law, so as to push for its economic development and further improvements in people's well-being. "The mainstream values of promoting outstanding Chinese culture and loving the country and Macao should be carried forward and to nurture local talents for the city's development," Zhang said, adding that a solid foundation in this regard should be laid.



In a visit to the Legislative Assembly, Zhang noted that the legislature has earnestly performed its duties to support, coordinate and supervise the local government according to the law, and also has contributed significantly to Macao's prosperity and stability, rule of law and social advancement.

During his visit, Zhang was also briefed on the construction of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge and visited the Joyful Family Service Center of the Women's General Association of Macau and the Taipa Houses.



Leaving Macao after a three-day official visit.



MACAO AND ZHUHAI Aerial view

A regional economic transformation

China’s Central Government promotes the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area

TEXT **THOMAS CHAN***
PHOTOS **GOVERNMENT INFORMATION BUREAU AND GETTY IMAGES**

* Director of the One Belt One Road Research Institute of Chu Hai College of Higher Education in Hong Kong.

Beijing has thrown its weight behind the ambitious Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area project that it hopes will build a world-class urban cluster in the region by 2020. In terms of territorial coverage, the Greater Bay Area includes the nine cities in the Pearl River Delta (PRD) region of Guangdong along with the two Special Administrative Regions (SARs) of Hong Kong and Macao.

These are the constituent areas of the Greater Pearl River Delta region that have been under discussion for decades, although the concept never reached the planning stage until 2011; the cities and Special Administrative Region have remained independent of each other. Efforts have been made by the provincial government to group the nine cities into three sub-regions of economic integration led respectively

by Guangzhou, Shenzhen and Zhuhai by means of bilateral agreements among the city governments. The process of sub-regional economic integration is already underway, with the Guangzhou-Foshan-Shaoqing hub the most successful and the single-city integration of Guangzhou and Foshan advancing most quickly, thanks to the long economic and cultural integration of the two cities and their spatial proximity. There has also been bilateral economic cooperation between Hong Kong and the Guangdong provincial government for decades. A similar bilateral mechanism also exists for Macao. It is easy for the PRD to connect closely through the recent installation of a dense web of railways (subways, inter-city railways and inter-provincial railways that intersect the region), in which the cities are all within one to two hours of each other, despite the relative administrative and financial independence of the cities in the region. The development of cross-boundary railways and highways between the SARs and the PRD has been lagging by a large margin. Moving around the region is still time-consuming, although transportation is much better than before the establishment of the SARs in the late 1990s. Cross-

-boundary travel in the region remains difficult when compared with neighbouring countries in other parts of the world. The PRD is a functioning concept that has grown in dimension and intensity with time. To residents and firms there are no visible barriers to mark the boundaries of the constituent cities in the PRD. For them, the region is increasingly becoming a single space – economically, socially and soon even for government policies and regulations. If the Greater PRD has yet to be born, what does it mean when the Central Government introduces the regional concept of the Greater Bay Area, which is spatially the same? One may speculate that there may be some particular intentions behind the government’s policy initiative. First, even though the Central Government does not push for any planning and administration integration or coordination for the local economies involved, it nevertheless appears to want to see closer cooperation among them, particularly for the two SARs. The Greater Bay Area concept is modeled on the San Francisco Bay Area in California, which centers on the cities and towns adjacent to San

To residents and firms there are no visible barriers to mark the boundaries of the constituent cities in the PRD. For them, the region is increasingly becoming a single space – economically, socially and soon even for government policies and regulations

Francisco. The metropolis and neighbouring cities and towns are closely integrated together to form a functioning regional economy and society, making the Bay Area one of the most innovative and dynamic regional systems in the world.

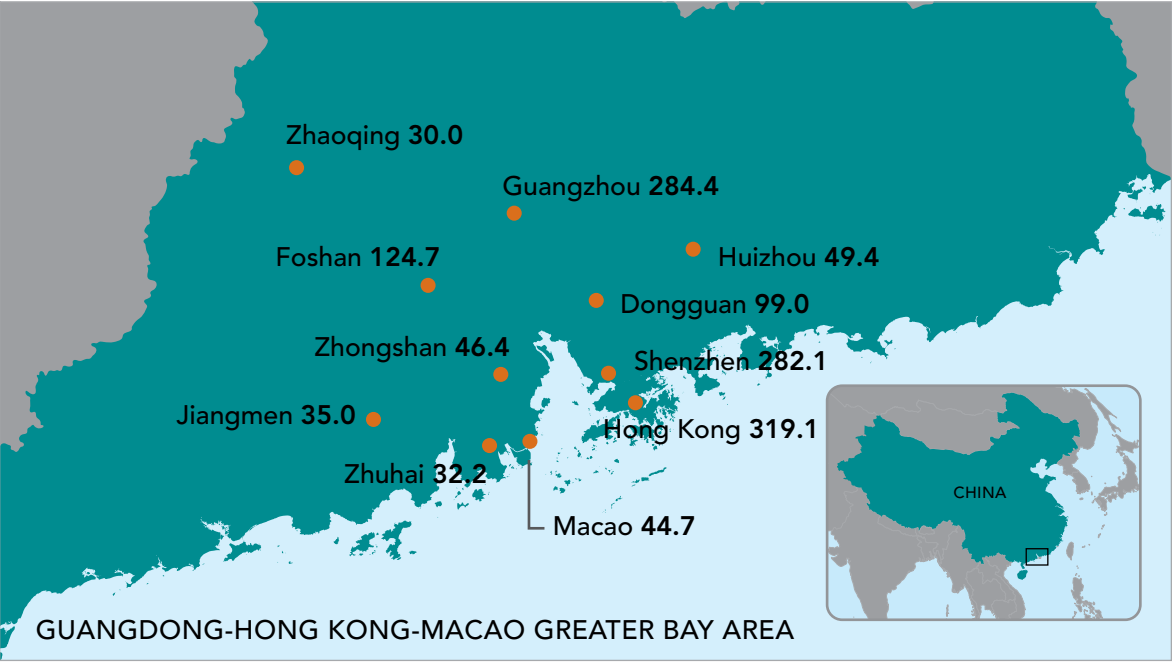
The Central Government would like the nine cities and two SARs of the PRD to follow the example of the San Francisco Bay Area by joining together to push for regional development for

innovation and socio-economic advancement. This may be a lesson learnt from the very modest progress that has been made under the Greater PRD. The Central Government has tried to take the lead by persuasion, incentivisation and other means to nudge the cities and SARs to work together for a common goal.

Second, the San Francisco Bay Area is famous for the continuous evolution of its local innovative information and telecommunication industries and services. Shenzhen and other cities in the PRD are moving towards this direction and have shown initial successes under local initiatives and national programmes, such as “Made in China 2025” and Internet Plus.

China’s State Council announced “Made in China 2025” in 2015 as a national initiative to improve the manufacturing industry with the goal to transform China into a leading manufacturing power. The Internet Plus action plan aims to integrate the Internet with traditional industries in order to fuel economic growth. The action plan will integrate mobile Internet, cloud computing, big data and the Internet of Things with modern manufacturing to encourage the healthy development of e-commerce, industrial networks, and Internet banking, and to help Internet companies increase their international presence.

GDP in 11 cities in 2016 (US\$ billions)



HONG KONG

The Central Government hopes that cities in the PRD will join hands with the SARs in their fast industrial and knowledge upgrading so as to capitalise on the competitive advantages of the latter and to move forward quickly to achieve the goal of becoming the Silicon Valley of China, or the Chinese example of a global competitive innovative region for fast growth and development.

Third, given the unsatisfactory economic performance of Hong Kong following the Occupy Central movement and Mong Kok riots and that of Macao due to the decline in casino revenues in 2015 and 2016, the Central Government has to take the lead to push these cities forward for better integration with the more innovative and dynamic PRD local economies.

So far it has not been evident that the Central Government has directly intervened in

the establishment of the Greater Bay Area, except perhaps for the establishment of a new science and innovation region on the bank of the Shenzhen River.

The involvement of the Central Government is mostly through persuasion and encouraging Guangdong province to play a more active role. One still needs to see what concrete policies and measures will come forth from the province and city governments and how they will push the two SAR governments to participate more willingly in regional cooperation.

The past experiences of Guangdong-Hong Kong cooperation might suggest that this will be an uphill struggle. The best hope for turning the Greater Bay Area into reality will depend on having policies initiated by the Central Government for local governments in the region, including the SAR governments.



GUANGZHOU

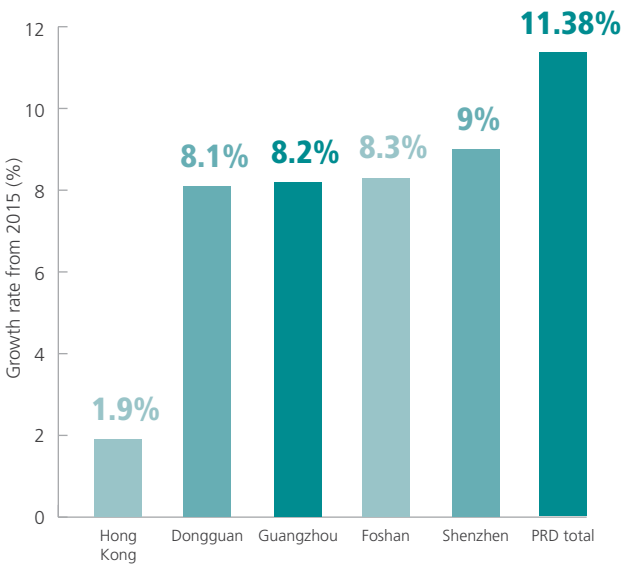
An important factor for the development of the Greater Bay Area is the recent transformation of the PRD economies, which has fundamentally altered the economic balance between Hong Kong and Macao and the PRD economies.

GDP statistics for 2016 confirm the lacklustre performance of Hong Kong, the largest economy in the 9+2 Greater PRD system. Its annual growth rate that year was only 1.9 per cent, showing the downturn trend since the post tsunami financial recovery of 2010 and 2011.

The PRD regional economy is now about three times larger than that of Hong Kong, and with the large annual growth differential, in two years the local economies of Guangzhou and Shenzhen will be on a par with Hong Kong and will start to overtake the SARs.

More importantly, the retail sales, fixed asset investment and research and development (R&D) spending of the two PRD cities have been

Table 1: GDP growth rate of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, from 2015 to 2016



The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area may well be the policy instrument and platform needed for the Central Government to push the two SARs to work with the aggressive PRD to transform the Greater PRD area

Guangdong province on average is similar to the average OECD economies, which represents the level of advanced industrial countries.

Shenzhen has taken the lead in R&D investment, and the other PRD cities are following its example. Foshan is cooperating with Germany in the development of the robotics industry and the training of skilled labour. The PRD cities have been seeking help and cooperation from the United States, Germany, Israel and Italy.

The nominal GDP of the PRD was RMB6.79 trillion in 2016, close to US\$1 trillion. In terms of its economic size, the region ranks 16th in the world, on a par with Mexico, and larger than Indonesia, Turkey and Saudi Arabia; its per capita GDP was over US\$16,000, breaking through the middle income trap, with Shenzhen at US\$25,000.

The PRD is export-oriented with large recurrent trade surpluses. By whatever definition, it stands very competitively in the world and has a strong motivation and capability to move further forward, in particular when it is part of the huge national economy of China.

The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area may well be the policy instrument and platform needed for the Central Government to push the two SARs to work with the aggressive PRD to transform the Greater PRD area. ■

The long-awaited ferry terminal

Macao welcomes new Taipa Ferry Terminal

TEXT MARK O'NEILL
PHOTOS ANTÓNIO SANMARFUL
AND CHEONG KAM KA



The long-awaited new ferry terminal on Taipa island, capable of serving twice as many visitors as the current main sea entry point into the city will open to the public on 1st June.

Susana Wong Soi Man, Director of the Marine and Water Bureau, which took over the temporary terminal when it was completed in August 2016, describes in an interview what to expect from the massive new Taipa terminal. Covering 200,000 square metres, an area equal to 25 football fields, it boasts 16 berths for passenger ferries, 3 berths for larger ferries and cruise ships, and 127 immigration counters. The heliport, with space for five helicopters, takes advantage of the close proximity to the city's international airport to develop sea-air transport, offering faster and simpler means of transport for tourists.

"It has a final annual capacity of 30 million visitors," Wong says. "Initially, we expect the new terminal to handle about 30 per cent of the traffic, against 60 per cent at the Outer Harbour. This will gradually shift to 50-50." Wong adds that there are no plans to close the Outer Harbour terminal. "It still serves an important purpose, and both Macao residents and foreigners are used to it."

The new terminal has 740 parking spaces for cars and 196 for motorcycles, far more than at the Outer Harbour, making it simpler for residents to park there before taking the boat,

and for buses to pick up and drop off tour groups.

Within a few minutes walking distance of a stop on the new Light Rail System that will connect to stops in Taipa, it gives visitors easy access to its big casinos and hotels. Construction of the Taipa section began in 2012; it is due to be operational in 2019. This 9.3-kilometres long section will have 11 stations with stops at the Cotai casino resorts and the international airport, as well as the Taipa ferry terminal. Once all of these are operational, it will greatly reduce the road congestion in peninsula Macao. Currently, most visitor groups arrive at the Outer Harbour and take buses to reach the resorts. In the future, they will be able to walk to the Light Rail Station and go directly to their destination.

The new Taipa Ferry Terminal will roll out in a series of phases. In the first phase, ferry services moved from the provisional terminal to the new one, while maintaining the current number of ferry operators, destinations, routes, and sailings. Eight of the sixteen berths that opened give passengers access to basic services, such as self-service machines. Shops, travel agency counters, and eateries will become available in phases. This gradual process serves to optimise all types of services at the terminal.

The second phase of the Taipa terminal will include the demolition of the temporary terminal used during construction, as well as the addition of new buildings and facilities.

PLANS CHANGE TO MEET DEMANDS

Construction of the new terminal began in 2005, with a budget of MOP580 million, with completion due for 2007. A decade later, the final cost is MOP3.8 billion. Many residents question why the construction has taken so long and the cost has risen more than six-fold.

"The scale today is much larger than originally planned," says Wong. "Initially, it was to be a complement to the Outer Harbour with eight berths. But with the rapid increase in tourist arrivals, we knew the new terminal needed to be larger than the one at the Outer Harbour."

"The engineering work was also complex, to build a large platform to carry such an enormous weight. To illustrate this, the department in charge of the construction took members of the Legislative Assembly and others to the site to show them the work," she explains.

In 2016, Macao received 30.95 million visitors, up 0.8 per cent from 2015. When the project started in 2005 that number was only 18.7 million. Planners also had to account for the growing population of Macao. The city is one of the most densely populated places on earth, reaching 21,400 people per square kilometre last year, up from 21,000 a year earlier. Vehicle density is growing, too. It was 586 vehicles per kilometre in 2016, up from 583 a year earlier.

This has led to resident complaints of overcrowding, especially downtown and in areas favoured by visitors; restaurants are full and residents have to queue at their favourite shops. Despite these inconveniences, Wong believes that the people of Macao have come to accept that their city is a major tourist destination. "They are adapting," Wong says.

A SMOOTHER TRAVEL EXPERIENCE

The new terminal has facilities and services not available at the Outer Harbour. To streamline the process, the new terminal offers substantially more immigration and customs counters, equipment to handle large amounts of luggage, carousels and trolleys for passengers carrying luggage, and four electric vehicles to carry those in need. These vehicles, driven by members of staff, are especially helpful for elderly and disabled passengers.

Three ferry companies operate at the Taipa terminal: TurboJET, Cotai Water Jet, and Yuet Tung



SUSANA WONG SOI MAN Director of the Marine and Water Bureau

Shipping. They serve Shenzhen as well as Hong Kong; a third route to Nansha, in Guangzhou, is under consideration. Cities on the west side of the Pearl River, like Zhongshan and Jiangmen, are unlikely to be served from Taipa. They will continue to rely on buses that run frequently on an expressway from Zhuhai.

To prevent overcrowding at the new terminal, Wong says her staff liaise closely with the operators to ensure that there is sufficient immigration and customs staff to handle the inflow and outflow of passengers. Her department will also designate a commercial company, through a public tender, to provide retail services for passengers and staff. These will include Chinese, western, and fast food restaurants, as well as shops selling tourist goods and other retail outlets.

The berths designed to handle large ships make the new terminal a centre for tourism on the seas around Macao. In December 2015, the Central Government extended the territorial waters of the SAR eastward and southward by 85 square kilometres.



Construction of the new terminal began in 2005, with a budget of MOP580 million, with completion due for 2007. A decade later, the final cost is MOP3.8 billion

PREPARED FOR COMPETITION

One uncertainty hanging over the new terminal is the new bridge over the Pearl River that will link Zhuhai and Macao with Hong Kong. It is due to go into operation at the end of 2017 and will reduce the driving time from Hong Kong to Macao to about 30 minutes. The 50-kilometres bridge consists of a series of bridges and undersea tunnels crossing the Lingding channel. It will connect Hong Kong, Macao and Zhuhai, three major cities on the east and west banks of the Pearl River Delta.

Wong dismisses the bridge as serious competition, saying that the shipping companies have been preparing for this. “Ten years ago, they were very concerned about the bridge. Since then, they have diversified their routes, to Shenzhen and other cities in the Pearl River. They’re using different types of ships, and have cut their costs. The future is hard to predict, but we believe there’s room for both options.”

That said, the ferries have several things in their favour. The two terminals in Hong Kong are in the middle of the city centre, at Sheung Wan and Tsim Sha Tsui. The Taipa terminal is far more accessible, just a short distance from major resort hotels in Cotai and over a bridge to peninsula Macao. There are no traffic jams with ferries, and the 60 minute journey offers passengers the



COTAI WATER JET FERRY

option to sleep, read newspapers, chat to their partners, finalise their betting strategy or watch films and television shows on their iPads.

Going through immigration and customs at the ferry terminal is easier now. To access the bridge, vehicles will have to go through the crowded district of Kowloon, drive to Lantau Island and onto an expressway to Hong Kong airport. On arrival at the large man-made island outside Macao, passengers will have to disembark to go through immigration and customs. If their vehicle has a permit to drive in Macao, then they will be able to continue their journey in it. If not, they will have to use another vehicle with the required permit. The whole process promises to be substantially longer than at the Taipa pier, which is expected to take a matter of minutes.

That leads to the larger issue of vehicles. The governments of the three jurisdictions have yet to agree on which vehicles will be able to use the bridge at both ends. The congested streets of Hong Kong and Macao mean neither of the two governments is willing to give many permits to vehicles from outside. As it stands, most people will have to leave their vehicle at the large parking lots being built at the entrances of the three cities and, after going through immigration and customs, use another transportation method for their onward journey.

All of this is good news for the new Taipa Ferry Terminal which promises a quick, hassle-free experience. With Macao growing and the tourism industry booming, the staff at Taipa can look forward to busier days ahead. ■

Taipa Ferry Terminal figures





Green innovations at the forefront

TEXT **ANDREA LO**

PHOTOS **ANTÓNIO SANMARFUL**

ILLUSTRATION **FERNANDO CHAN**

Among a flurry of development and urbanisation, the Pearl River Delta has been placing a heavier emphasis on its environmental credentials in recent years. And that's where the Macao International Environmental Co-operation Forum & Exhibition (MIECF) comes in.

Innovative ways to support sustainability efforts was the name of the game at the conference, which took place from 30th March to 1st April. Hosted by the Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR), MIECF was a joint effort between the Pan-Pearl River Delta (PPRD) Region's various provincial and regional governments along with support and coordination from the Macao government.

The annual conference, put on at the Venetian Macao Resort Hotel, celebrated its 10th anniversary this year. The 2017 edition was centred around the theme, "Innovative Green Development for a Sustainable Future".

A leading event dubbed the "Green Forum" spanned eight sessions featuring some 50 distinguished speakers in the environmental sphere. They hailed from across the region and Portuguese-speaking countries, as well as from nations worldwide, including the likes of the United States of America and Australia.

Alongside speeches on green development and an expansive session highlighting radical environmental initiatives across the PPRD Region, MIECF featured former executive director of the United Nations Environment Programme Achim Steiner as a keynote speaker. An exhibition showcasing products also took place concurrently at the Green Forum, attracting conference attendees with original ideas and inventions.



OPENING CEREMONY

BRIDGING THE GAP

A bigwig in the environmental world, Steiner is the international vice-chair of the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED). Speaking in an industry insights session, Steiner addressed harnessing environmental innovation as key driver for sustainable development.

He focused on how the environment can be a driver for not just sustainable development, but on innovative aspects of environmentally friendly measures carried out in policy can actually aid business and industry rather than work against them.

In other words, it is possible to bridge the gap between environmental causes and business interests.

“When we talk about the environmental necessity to act on issues of change, very often this discussion in our society takes place as if environment is imposing a burden on society and on our economy, which in the end harms business rather than helps business,” Steiner said. This logic has been “very much part of the 20th century across the world,” he explained.

“In part, this is because in the last 200 years doing ‘business’ – even if it means exploiting the environment and polluting the atmosphere – did not seem to have a cost.”

Steiner said environmental damages is a price that’s no longer “justified or justifiable” in the 21st century. “We must decouple economic development and growth from making an impact.”

FROM WASTE TO ENERGY

Elsewhere at the Green Forum, speakers from Macao and Hong Kong addressed delegates and media in a session dedicated to environmental solutions in the PPRD Region and Greater China. Li Juanqiao, chairman of the Macao Association of Environmental Protection Industry, spoke about the problem of food waste in the SAR.

“The daily waste created per person in Macao far outweighs those of other cities in the region, like Hong Kong and Guangzhou,” he said. “The main reason for this is because large-scale entertainment facilities near the Cotai Strip continue to develop.”

An estimated 40 per cent of Macao’s waste is generated by hotels, Li said. It is anticipated that food waste will continue to increase.

A clear solution would be to turn the waste into something useful. “Most food waste goes to a rubbish incinerator, which uses up more fuel and in turn increases energy consumption. If power can be generated from food waste – a practice that has been adapted by many countries – then the environmental benefits are considerable.” Li added that 200 tons of food waste per day is estimated to generate 12 million kilowatt-hours of energy, which is equivalent to what is needed to power 3,500 households for a year.

In the same vein, Zhou Zhiping, executive vice-chairman of the Hong Kong Environmental Industry Association, provided his insight on models of community waste management in Hong Kong. He discussed the city’s way of combating this with a system that includes smart bins that track waste levels.

“The smart weighing system provides a platform to carry out classification of garbage at the beginning of collection, and [helps people understand] the concept of recycling,” he explained.

“Through the smart weighing system we will be able to reduce the cost of waste collection, as well as transferring [the system] into a digitised model. This way, resources can be well-utilised.”



ACHIM STEINER International vice-chair of the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development

When we talk about the environmental necessity to act on issues of change, very often this discussion in our society takes place as if environment is imposing a burden on society and on our economy, which in the end harms business rather than helps business, said Achim Steiner



GOING COASTAL

While the spotlight was on the PPRD, representatives from other countries also shed some light on sustainability initiatives in their home countries.

Celso Aleixo Pinto, coordinator of the Unit for Coastal Monitoring and Risk at the Portuguese Environment Agency, spoke about sustainable coastal management, climate adaptation and resilience of cities, with an emphasis on managing the erosion of Portugal's coastlines.

In battling this, Portugal is very much taking nature into consideration. "It's clear for us that Portugal faces significant threat, arising from coastal erosion and coastal flooding," Pinto said. "Our main coastal management strategy is adaptation."

Developments in hazardous areas will be restricted, while existing hard defences will be kept in place. "These are under the concept of nature-based solutions."

SAVING FUTURE ENERGY

A session highlighting the blueprint for innovative green development was co-developed by the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office alongside China's Ministry of Environmental Protection.

Li Haiying, a division director and secretariat of the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development, spoke about the importance of a sharing economy in relation to reducing carbon footprint.

"Sharing economy is increasingly important in our daily lives," Li said. "Through it, future energy can be saved. It's becoming very much a part of life in China," she added, with the likes of AirBnB and taxi-calling app Didi Dache gaining major traction. In 2015 the sharing economy industry reached RMB1 billion in China alone.

"We're making China realise its sustainable potentials." Tao Xiaosong, the division director of the general office at the Ministry of Environmental Protection in China, addressed the importance of deepening reform in environmental

CHINA AND WORLDWIDE ENVIRONMENTAL FACTS

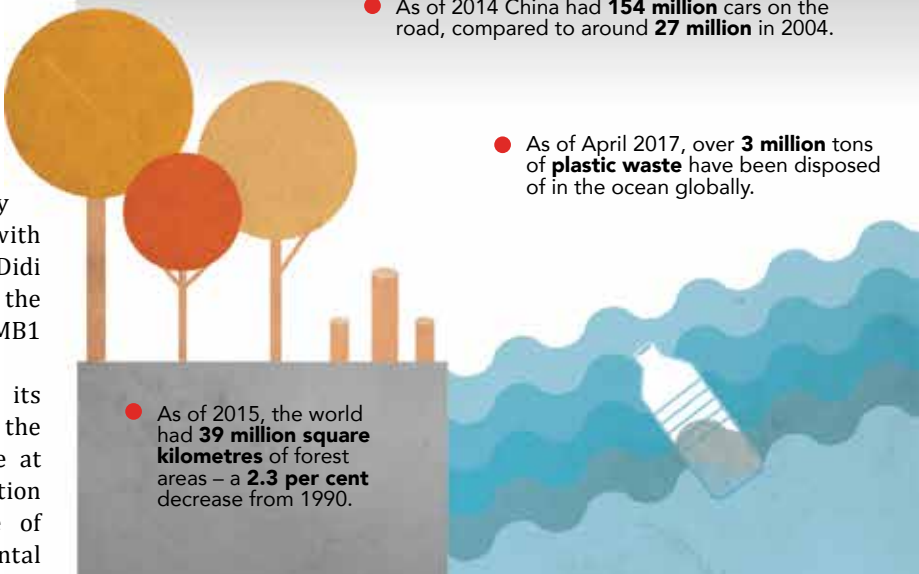
In 2016, China smashed world records for installing the most solar power capacity over one year, as part of the Five-Year Plan for Ecological & Environmental Protection.

- Between 1992 and 2012, greenhouse gas emissions worldwide have increased by 34.4 per cent.
- There were over 100 days out of the year where PM2.5 concentration levels reached up to four times over World Health Organisation guidelines in the Pearl River Delta, Yangtze River Delta and Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region.



In 2012, air pollution in China was responsible for over 1 million deaths.

As of 2014 China had 154 million cars on the road, compared to around 27 million in 2004.



As of April 2017, over 3 million tons of plastic waste have been disposed of in the ocean globally.

As of 2015, the world had 39 million square kilometres of forest areas – a 2.3 per cent decrease from 1990.

protection. In particular, the Five-Year Ecological Environmental Protection Plan released by China’s State Council – which published the 13th edition in 2016 – served as a focal point of her speech.

“The structure is changing in China, which brings environmental challenges,” Tao said. “However, we’ve not only expanded in size, but also become more efficient.”

Despite positives such as attention from the public and widespread use of social media on environmental causes, major developments across the country means pollutant levels remain high. Meanwhile, the economic downturn has unfortunately culminated in great pressure on the environment.

The good news is, the authorities have made active progress in their endeavours, she added.

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

Global and local companies alike put their best inventions forward at the Green Showcase, an exhibition featuring energy-saving measures in aid of sustainable living.

The standout product of the day, however, goes to a booth design by Melco Resorts and Entertainment, which comprises a wall featuring recyclable materials generated from daily operations in the hospitality industry.

“We aim to showcase the variety of products that can be reused and recycled... to minimise waste and encourage recycling,” says Joshua Ho, vice-president of property services, Melco Resorts and Entertainment.

More than 90 per cent of the materials featured on the wall are used products, he explains, which range from wine wood box for the booth flooring, to water bottles and guest room key cards as decoration.

WINNER OF THE GREEN BOOTH AWARD
Melco Crown Entertainment



The wall was the brainchild of Akiko Takahashi, executive vice-president and chief officer responsible for Melco’s human resources and corporate social responsibility. Takahashi provided the team with ideas and directions, while Melco’s local SME partner EgoDesign developed design details.

The design won the Green Booth Award, which in true spirit of the conference encourages exhibitors to use environmentally friendly materials in the construction of the booths themselves, which in turn reduces waste once the event wrapped up.

The wall was unveiled during the 2015 MIECF with “very positive comment from the industry,” Ho adds.

This is far from Melco’s first brush with environmentally friendly initiatives: the company has invested over MOP183 million in green infrastructure. The iconic House of Dancing Water show, for example, uses a filtration system and large water tank during maintenance, enabling infinite recycling.

“We understand that the daily hotel and resort operations consume a lot of resources. Hence, we believe that it is our obligation to take the lead in the sustainable development of Macao, and reduce environmental footprints,” Ho says. ■



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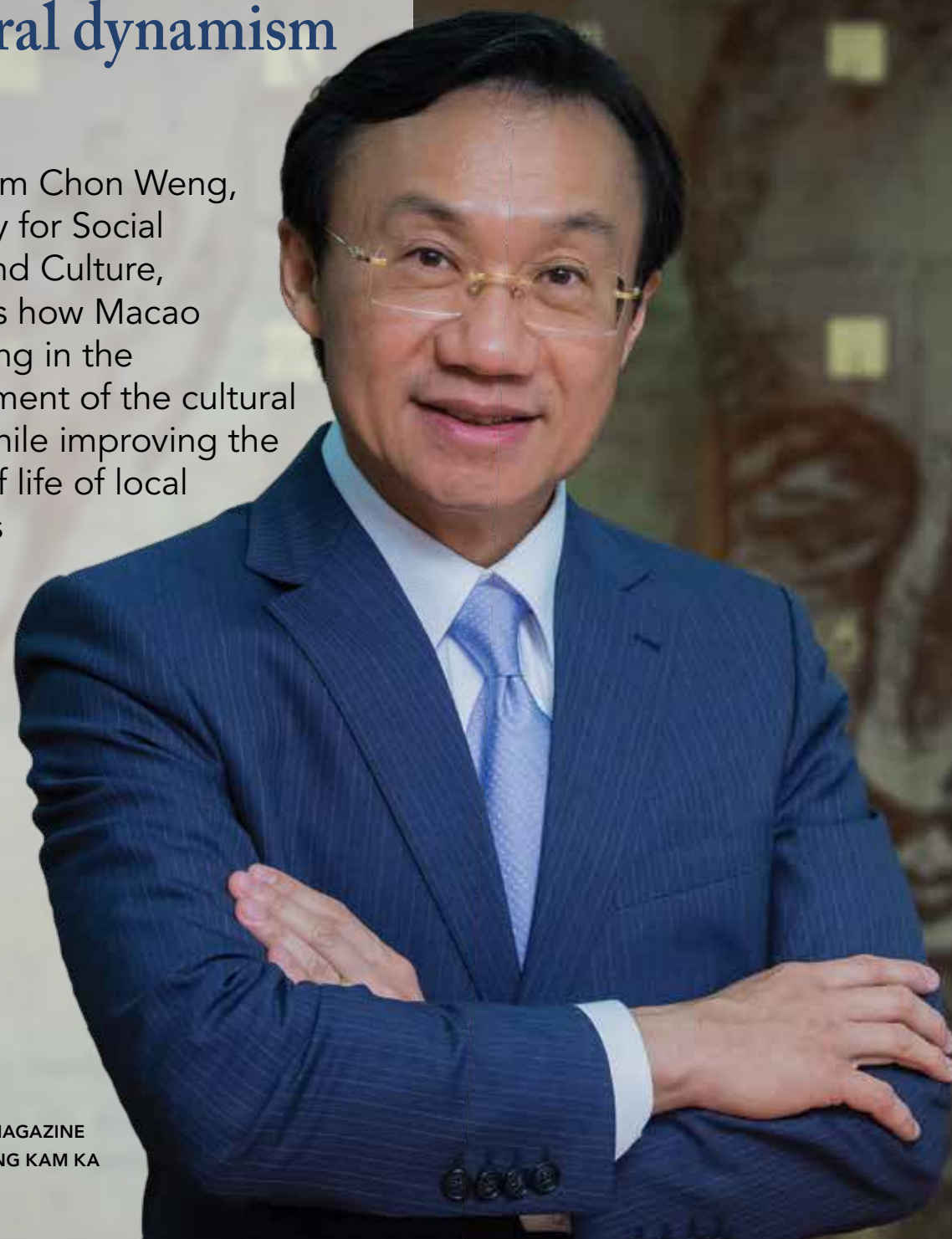
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A hub of great cultural dynamism

Alexis Tam Chon Weng, Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, discusses how Macao is investing in the development of the cultural sector while improving the quality of life of local residents

TEXT MACAO MAGAZINE
PHOTOS CHEONG KAM KA



As Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam Chon Weng has been responsible for the health, education, sports, social welfare, tourism and culture sectors of Macao since 2014. He has been working as a civil servant since 1989.

From 1999 to 2009, Tam headed the office of Chui Sai On, then Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture. In 2009, when Chui Sai On was appointed Chief Executive of Macao, Tam headed Chui's office once again.

Macao Magazine: You oversee a wide range of areas, each requiring its own set of specialised professionals. Are there sufficient skilled labour and professionals in Macao to meet the city's growing needs?

Alexis Tam: Where there are needs, they are met. Of course, how those needs are met varies depending on the specific project or area concerned. For example, we may hire foreign experts when required, as in the case two years ago when we contracted two non-Chinese-language therapists or when we hire medical specialists not found locally. However, we always look for solutions locally first. Regardless, one thing is certain, our priority is the wellbeing of our residents, as President Xi Jinping stated during his visit in 2014.

MM: Do you believe Macao's limited geography affects the local quality of life and the development of new ideas?

AT: Macao is small in geographic terms. That is a fact. But its size does not hinder the development of new ideas. Indeed, the city has been a source of inspiration for many writers – as recently evidenced at The Script Road Macau Literary Festival – as well as in cinema and cuisine. The city's growth undeniably has presented challenges to local quality of life: for one, the streets are more crowded with vehicles and pedestrians.

Macao is not the tranquil city of old. It's a cosmopolitan city with a vibrant pace whose dynamics continue to draw many people to

settle here. We have to balance development with maintaining quality of life. Statistically, life expectancy in Macao has increased, which is only possible with increased standard of living.

MM: Your connection to and friendship with the Portuguese community is well known. Do you think that a stronger relationship with Portugal and Portuguese-speaking countries is an added value for Macao?

AT: The Central Government has enhanced the role of Macao, entrusting it with the mission of acting as a trade platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries. During Premier Li Keqiang's recent visit, Macao was also entrusted with a new role—that of acting as a cultural bridge between these nations.

Macao's history is indelibly bound to that of the West and particularly to the Portuguese. It is part of our very essence. This unique connection is the foundation of the important role we play, and we are proud of the responsibility entrusted to us. And from another angle, Macao is singular in its instruction of the Chinese language and in sharing its cultural values.

In addition to these added values, Macao's inclusion in the "Belt and Road" initiative highlights the importance of its historical role.

MM: You have advocated the importance of training bilingual professionals in Chinese and Portuguese. What are the government and government-backed institutions doing to promote this?

AT: This is both a necessity and an opportunity. In recent years, we have increased training opportunities for those who want to further their language knowledge, increasing enrolment for beginner's courses as well as fluency. The Office for Higher Education has increased grants for those who wish to continue their studies in Portugal which are no longer limited to the study of Portuguese language or law. The number of schools offering language courses has been growing as has the number of students attending. The Education and Youth Affairs Bureau has been providing more human and material resources to support schools that offer Portuguese language. We plan on offering two bilingual courses in 2017. I am acutely aware, as we all should be, that this is a complicated project and will take time over many generations, but I would like to ensure that

learning Portuguese language is an opportunity within everyone's grasp.

MM: Macao offers a very dynamic culture, history and heritage. What can be done to further attract tourists and disassociate Macao from its reputation as being merely a casino destination?

AT: The promotions we have undertaken in various marketing campaigns have focused precisely on our heritage, both tangible and intangible. We hope that the candidacy we submitted to UNESCO for recognition as a gastronomic destination is successful, which could then count as one more attractive element. Our cultural dynamism throughout numerous diverse areas of creativity will also continue to attract more people to our city. However, we must bear in mind that the gaming industry accounts for a significant portion of our GDP, a connection that is ever present. Efforts have been made and actions implemented by various players to increase the availability of non-gaming activities, which contributes to the government's diversification strategy.

MM: How do you feel about micro-museums? Can Macao adopt this strategy as other countries have?

AT: Macao already has the highest percentage of museums per square kilometre of any city in the world, but I see no reason to exclude any new forms of cultural exhibition. There are aspects of our history that could indeed be creatively publicised via micro-museums. It would be interesting and strategic to position them along local commuting routes.

MM: Macao has become increasingly well known in the past few years for its cultural activities. Do you consider Macao a hub for creativity?

AT: The creativity of our local artists is gradually earning recognition. As Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, this is particularly satisfying, as we have striven to develop the creative and cultural industries. While there is no guarantee that a start-up will succeed, the assistance granted by the Cultural Affairs Bureau and the Creative and Cultural Industries Fund is substantial, enabling many projects to reach maturity. We are confident that the help



Macao's history is indelibly bound to that of the West and particularly to the Portuguese. It is part of our very essence. This unique connection is the foundation of the important role we play, said Alexis Tam

and when appropriate. The National Tourism Administration has also helped by reporting the number of visitors from mainland China. Studies have indicated that Macao's tourism capacity has yet to reach its limit and that opening new enterprises helps redistribute tourism pressure in certain areas of the city. We are striving to become a world tourism and leisure hub and that means ensuring that visitors enjoy their time here.

MM: A good health system is fundamental for quality of life. How would you evaluate Macao's?

AT: The latest studies have shown that satisfaction with the public health system has been growing significantly and consistently. An independent evaluation conducted by an Australian entity rated Conde São Januário Hospital as excellent for the first time in four categories. The investments we have made in training and hiring new professionals along with purchasing new equipment have yielded results. Additionally, adjustments in clinical consultation schedules within specialty areas and the creation of diagnostic centres have also improved management efficacy. Finally, our partnerships, including those with the private sector, have helped improve efficiency by reducing waiting lists, for example. So I believe the strategy we are taking is both right and necessary.

MM: Macao's aging population is growing, and increasingly support is needed for the elderly. What is the strategy for 2017?

AT: The government's strategy is clear: it advocates and supports that the elderly remain close to their loved ones and maintain social

we provide is vital, but this process is still in the early stages and is dependent on geography. For example, merchandising material for the Grand Prix has now become a key component of the local cultural and creative industry. I am very pleased that major local companies increasingly value the acquisition of local products, which is also a means of promoting and recognising the value of local creativity.

MM: Tourism continues to grow annually. What is the government's plan for handling this situation?

AT: A look at the last seven years shows a trend of significant growth from 2010 to 2012, followed by a decline through 2015, and then a resurgence. The current projections for 2017 are encouraging. The government's strategy is to continue dealing with this pragmatically. We are dedicated to maintaining the standard of living. To that end, we have successfully implemented a number of measures to control tourism where

interaction and physical activity. Family plays an indispensable role. The 2016–2025 action plan for elderly support services lays out several measures and initiatives comprising medical, legal and social components, among others. Major goals include enhancing the role of senior citizens and their contribution to society alongside guaranteeing their physical and psychological wellbeing. This incorporates partnerships with various civic organisations, without whom it would be much harder to achieve these aims.

MM: You have been in public administration for many years. How would you evaluate your work, and is there anything you still hope to accomplish?

AT: I feel privileged. My civil service career began in 1989, and I have had the honour to serve Macao in various positions. Naturally, I feel satisfied and proud when our work gains social recognition, but I also pay close attention to social opinion with the humility expected of one who serves in public office. As long as I am here, I want to do my best and help the Chief Executive accomplish policies. I strive to do what I do well

in order to work on behalf of the people, which is very uplifting and stimulating.

MM: Where do you see Macao in the next decade with respect to cultural development?

AT: Macao will be a hub of great cultural dynamism, and not just in our role as a privileged platform for cultural interchange with Portuguese-speaking countries: Macao will also be enlivened thanks to its ability to foster public-private initiatives around the common goal of jointly promoting its culture, tourism and leisure. I'm certain that the experience that began in Nam Van can be successfully repeated in other parts of the city, thereby improving residential living while simultaneously diversifying tourism. Several initiatives are currently in the works, such as the Macao Grand Prix as well as numerous exciting festivals including The Script Road - Macau Literary Festival, cinema festivals and even one featuring fireworks. Macao is also becoming known for its cuisine, its support of the arts, and the cultural vitality of its many diverse residential communities, making this an ever more interesting place. ■



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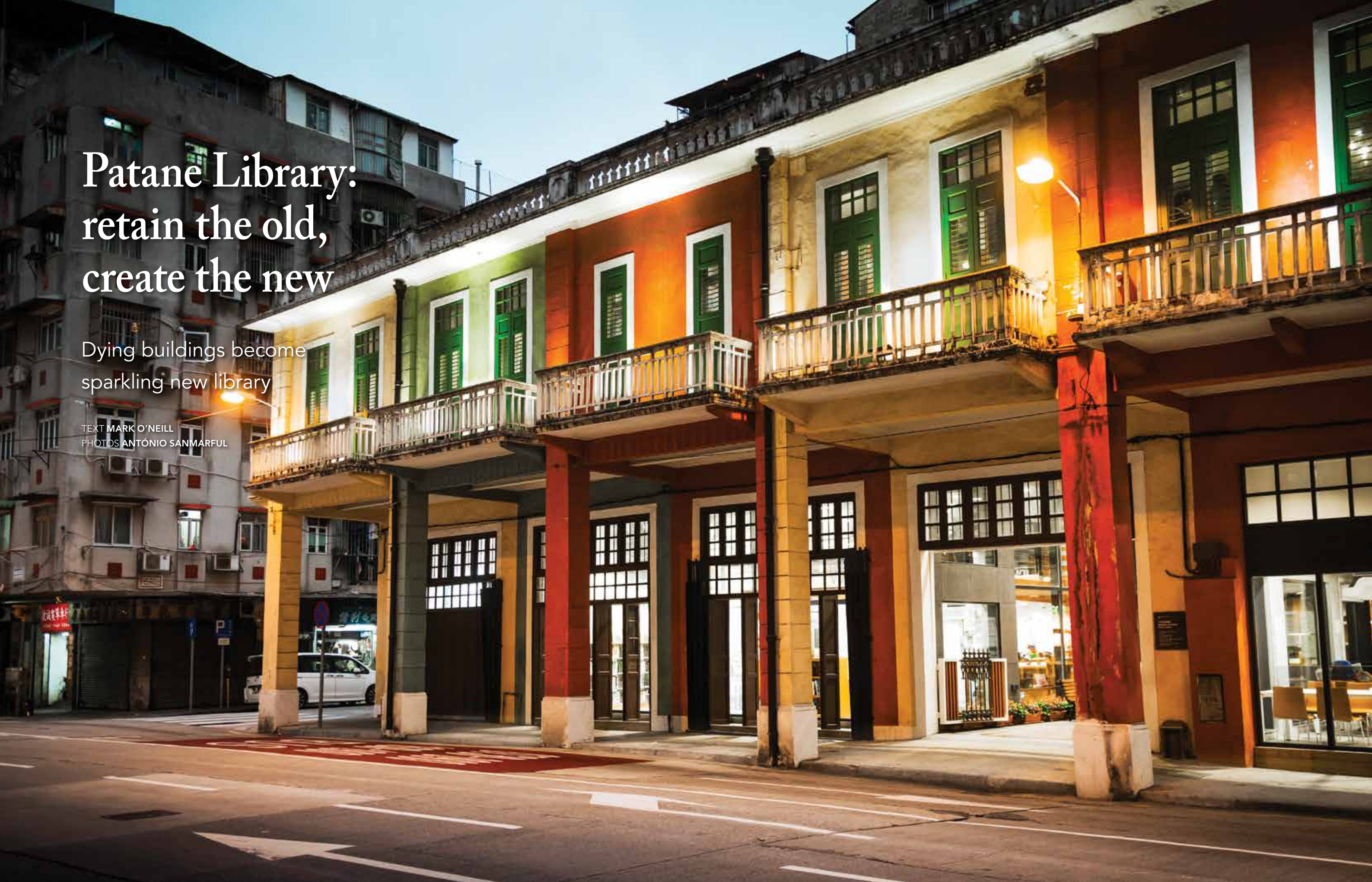
Macao **商匯館** IDEAS



Patane Library: retain the old, create the new

Dying buildings become
sparkling new library

TEXT MARK O'NEILL
PHOTOS ANTÓNIO SANMARFUL





On a crowded street in the Inner Harbour district, residents have discovered a pleasant surprise – a row of seven dilapidated buildings has been transformed into a sparkling new library. The Patane Library opened last 9th December at a ceremony presided over by Alexis Tam, Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, and Ung Vai Meng, then President of the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC). Since then, it has attracted around 700 visitors a day to enjoy its wide range of free newspapers, magazines, books, films, and music.

Built in the 1930s, the buildings were used as shops, selling timber to shipyards and piers that were then the heart of the city. But as the economy changed, the shops closed and the buildings were converted into overcrowded apartments for the poor. The property fell into such disrepair that in 2010, the owner, a real estate company, wanted to demolish them. The IC stepped in, proposing

that the buildings be restored and converted into a library. It took six years and an investment of MOP26 million to revitalize the property, with an additional monthly rent of MOP165,000, eleven months a year paid to the real estate company over the next five years.

“Building on empty land is the easiest and costs less”, says Lam Kai Wun, an architect from the Division for Research and Planning of the IC’s Department of Cultural Heritage. “But there is nothing special about it. It has no story. This site is more valuable than a new building”, he adds.

“We kept the elements from the original buildings. The old residents say that they remember the old wood windows and doors. They have a feeling for this place and say that they used to live here. For each person, each room has a story and they remember it. The story goes on and, we hope, will be told from one generation to the next,” explains Lam.



Built in the 1930s, the buildings were used as shops, selling timber to shipyards and piers that were then the heart of the city... it fell into such disrepair that in 2010, the owner wanted to demolish them

TIMBER TO TENEMENT

Built in the 1930s, the seven buildings on Rua da Ribeira do Patane combined European and Southeast Asian architectural styles. They housed timber merchants who sold their goods to the city’s booming shipyards located a short distance away in the Inner Harbour. It was the business centre of the city, where passenger and cargo ships arrived from Hong Kong and the mainland, and where fishing vessels set out to sea. The street bustled with people and clients for the timber.

The exterior of the buildings reflected a style common across southern China with a covering over the pavement that provided protection for pedestrians from both rain and the scorching summer sun. Inside, each building was comprised of a shop on the ground floor, stocks on the top floor, and living quarters for the merchant and their family on the first floor.

Over time, the economy of Macao changed. As the mainland developed its own shipyards, Macao could no longer compete in terms of price of land and labour. Production moved to port cities in Guangdong. As their sales dwindled, the timber merchants were forced to shut down. Consumer traffic diminished as well with the emergence of Avenida de Almeida Ribeiro as the city’s commercial centre, full of new shops, banks, hotels, and restaurants.

LAM KAI WUN Architect from the Division for Research and Planning of the IC’s Department of Cultural Heritage

RETAIN THE OLD, CREATE THE NEW

The poor condition of the buildings complicated the restoration process. “Our principle was to preserve the whole façade,” says Lam. The first job was to clear out all the waste and additional structures put in by the new residents. “We needed 25–30 rubbish trucks to remove everything. Only then could we see the original state of the buildings.”

Since the buildings stand on reclaimed land, there had been slippage in some places during the long period of neglect. So Lam and his team repaired the severely damaged areas, and reinforced the foundations. They built a new roof using glass and steel frames, and demolished the walls that separated the seven buildings to create a single unit. Old wood windows and doors from each wall were retained, and a portion preserved for visitors to see.

To accommodate the collection of books and audiovisual materials, the team built a new structure in three of the shops capable of supporting such a massive weight. They also

OLD FOUNDATIONS



BOOKS AND AUDIOVISUAL MATERIALS ARE AVAILABLE



added a lift, to move books and people, and modern drainage and fire prevention systems.

The new glass front allows passersby to see what is inside, and encourages them to come in. To make it even more inviting, Lam placed two benches at the entrance where people can sit, and sip a coffee or eat a snack. Inside they reproduced the original paint scheme, and hung some of the original shutters on one wall, a feature popular with elderly residents.

A NEW CENTRE FOR THE COMMUNITY

Why build a library and not a museum or another kind of public facility? To meet demand. According to Lo Chi Keong, Chief of Division of Reader Services and Promotion of the IC’s

Department of Public Library Management, the city’s 17 public libraries drew 2.5 million visitors last year.

“Our aim is to have one within 5–10 minutes walking distance of every resident. In July 2012, we opened a small one nearby, the Red Market Library,” he says. A former branch of the Post Office, the 260 square metre facility has seating for 73, as well as eight computers and a collection of 7,100 books, mainly on home economics. Although it is open 24 hours a day, the Red Market Library does not have library officials on duty after 8 pm.

“But the Red Market Library is too small. The area needed a larger one and the residents were asking for one. Each district needs a cultural centre, and this one is a historic building that

The Patane Library consists of three floors, covering an area of 1,130 square metres, with 170 seats for readers, as well as space to read the 79 newspapers and 643 magazines

deserves to be preserved. Each library needs its own special features. The Patane Library specialises in drama and music,” Lo explains.

The Patane Library consists of three floors, covering an area of 1,130 square metres, with 170 seats for readers, as well as space to read the 79 newspapers and 643 magazines. The periodicals come from all over the world, including the mainland, Taiwan, Singapore, Europe, and the United States. The collection also boasts 14,000 books and 4,100 audiovisual materials. It has a multi-media zone to show films and concerts, as well as a room for meetings and school projects.

“Since it opened, we have attracted a widerange of people,” says Lo. “In the morning, elderly people queue up for the opening at 9:30 to read newspapers and magazines. During the lunch break, we have white-collar people coming from their offices. After the end of class, students come from the schools. Parents come in with their children. We have activities for children, as well as for adults. Presentations from publishers and authors have been especially popular. Readers can access both traditional and electronic books, and order books from other libraries.”

Ten years ago, the derelict buildings that now comprise the Patane Library were something to avoid. Now the IC has transformed them into a social and cultural centre in the Patane district, and a prime example of how to combine the past and the present. ■



LO CHI KEONG Chief of Division of Reader Services and Promotion of the IC's Department of Public Library Management

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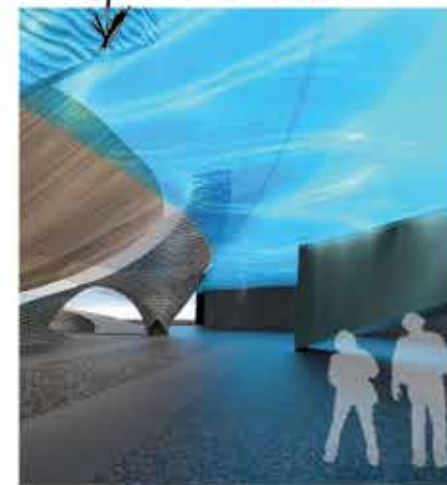
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The songs of migrants

Modern dance troupe tells story of migration

TEXT OU NIAN LE

PHOTOS ANTÓNIO SANMARFUL



Audiences at the Macao Arts Festival in May had the opportunity to see one of the city's best known modern art troupes present a production about migration.

Comuna de Pedra Arts and Cultural Association debuted *Songs of Migrants*, a reflection on the migration of millions of people around the world, at an old shipyard next to the A-Ma temple.

"I have been fascinated by the contradiction between people's deep desire to put down roots in a place, in a community, and their desire to travel and migrate," says Jenny Mok, the association's director who helmed the production.

"Macao is a city of immigrants. My own parents came here from Guangdong in the 1980s to work in the textile factories," she says.

COLLECTIVE CREATION

Seven members of the diverse troupe – one Filipino, one Brazilian, one Taiwanese, and four from Macao and Hong Kong, including Mok as director – played a role in crafting *Songs of Migrants*.

"We have no script," she explains. "The six created it together through their rehearsals. A session of five hours could yield one result. The piece came together slowly.

"We started on it at a workshop in October 2016, with production research and organisation. Then it gradually developed from January of this year, with 1–2 creative workshops a week from January to March, and intensive work in April. Our member from Taiwan had to fly in for the rehearsals," she says.



JENNY MOK Comuna de Pedra Arts and Cultural Association's director



The result is 75 minutes of dance, with songs and language, performed primarily in Cantonese with parts in Mandarin, Portuguese, and Teochew dialect.

“The piece incorporated text creation, choreography, local sounds, and folk music with an analysis of the complex relationship between migration, people, society, metropolises, and history, forming a poetic ode to the migrants,” members of the troupe explain.

“People leave their homes behind in the hope of safety and prosperity elsewhere. The memories they carry, of the lives they left behind and those they built in their new home, serve as an important contribution to the local history. As time passes, we cannot help but ask: how is the individual identity of a migrant defined?”

Each of the four performances, from 12th – 14th May, drew an audience of 70 to Navy Yard

No.1. The space, located behind the A-Ma Temple, met the troupe’s desire for an unfinished site. “The Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) proposed the location. We performed both inside and outside, where you can see the mainland across the water,” Mok says. “*Songs of Migrants* does not define migration as good or bad. It is normal, and much of it is forced, through wars, economic or social factors or the need to find work.”

CHILD OF MIGRANTS

Mok herself is a child of migrants. In the 1970s and 1980s, Macao had a booming textile industry, thanks in part to quotas for export to Europe and the United States. The high demand for workers attracted people from outside the territory in search of a better life. Among them were Mok’s parents, who came from the city of



Jiangmen in Guangdong.

“My father was born in Macao and grew up in the mainland. His parents had separated and his mother had remained in Macao. The mainland government granted him a visa to come to Macao, which was extremely hard to get at that time. When he came, he had no property and owned very little. My parents wanted to build a better life here.”

Having grown up in Macao, Mok says that she has no strong connection to her parent’s native Jiangmen. After graduating from secondary school, she obtained a bachelor’s degree at the University of Macau. She worked as a director, performer, and theatre teacher for a few years before leaving to study at École Lassaad, the International School of Theatre in Belgium.

She joined Comuna in 2002, only returning to Belgium in 2012 for a further two years of study.

PIONEERING MODERN DANCE IN MACAO

Founded in 1996 as one of the city’s first modern dance troupes, Comuna de Pedra performed on stage and on site. It also focused on promoting art education, and developing art and culture in the city.

“Frank and Jane Lei founded the troupe, one a choreographer and one a photographer,” says Mok. “They studied in Paris in the 1990s before returning to Macao. They wanted to set up an avant-garde cultural and artistic group here. At that time, dance and visual arts in the territory were very traditional and narrowly defined. There was little innovation, and no venue for modern dance.”

In the 1990s, both Macao and Hong Kong faced a future of returning to China. There was intense debate and discussion among people in the two cities about the issue and what it would mean. “The Leis wanted to use their art to reflect events in society,” says Mok.

The early years were not easy. The troupe had no fixed venue for its office or for rehearsals. In 2001, its members used the former Old Ladies’ House for events, including exhibitions, performances, lectures, and an artist-in-residence programme. It received funding from the IC, the Macao Foundation, and other donors.

“In the beginning, we received funding project by project. The members had no wages; they had to support themselves entirely through other work,” says Mok.

But the troupe’s persistence and determination paid off. Since 1996, it has conducted nearly 50 performances, with dance, music, words, and puppets. It has performed in a wide variety of locations across Macao, including markets, shopping malls, parks, fountains, bars, commercial centres, empty factories, and the first bridge to Taipa. It even performed at the Ruins of St. Paul, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Comuna has explored different forms of performances, including contact improvisation, video art, and installations. It also incorporates elements of literature, recorded and live music, as well as masks and large puppets, into performances.

This creativity and innovation has earned the troupe invites to perform in festivals around the world. It performed in Hong Kong, Beijing, Nanjing, Taiwan, and Thailand, as well as

Since 1996, Comuna de Pedra Arts and Cultural Association has conducted nearly 50 performances, with dance, music, words, and puppets. It has performed in a wide variety of locations across Macao

Germany, Ireland, Great Britain, Brazil, and the United States. This long list notably includes the Galway Fringe Festival in Ireland, where Mok won the Best International Performance Award in 2014, and the world's largest arts festival, the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in Scotland.

It often works with local and international artists, such as Japanese choreographer Makoto Matsushima, Sichuan Opera singer Tian Mansha, and Raúl de Jesus Saldaña of Mexico. It also collaborates with other groups, including the Shim Theatre of South Korea, the Guiling Street Avant-garde Theatre of Taipei, and the Fratellanza Theatre Company of the U.S. In 2009, it organized the S/Low Macao/Xiaozhou Art in Life Festival in Xiaozhou village, Guangzhou city.

Since 1996, the troupe has brought in experts from Macao and overseas to teach contemporary arts appreciation, physical training, movement therapy, mask-making, dance, voice, and percussion. In 2016, it collaborated with White Space, a performing arts training studio, in an on-going effort to improve the quality of local training.

"We are the second generation," Mok says. "We have 14 members in the company. Financially, things are a little better now. We're able to do community and educational projects." It works with the Macau Cultural Centre, Macao Cultural Institute, the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau, and public libraries on projects for children and teenagers. It also champions special education through work with local schools, community centres, and institutes.

"But we still cannot afford to pay a salary of MOP20,000 a month for a full-time performer. Those who join our troupe must be passionate about the work," she explains.

After 21 years, Comuna de Pedra remains faithful to its roots. Breaking boundaries brought the troupe international acclaim, and opportunities to partner with organisations and artists around the world. Yet they remain dedicated to serving the community, through art and education, and reflecting the issues that animate Macao society. ■

INES KUAN IEOK FEI A member of the troupe



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藝博館 MAM

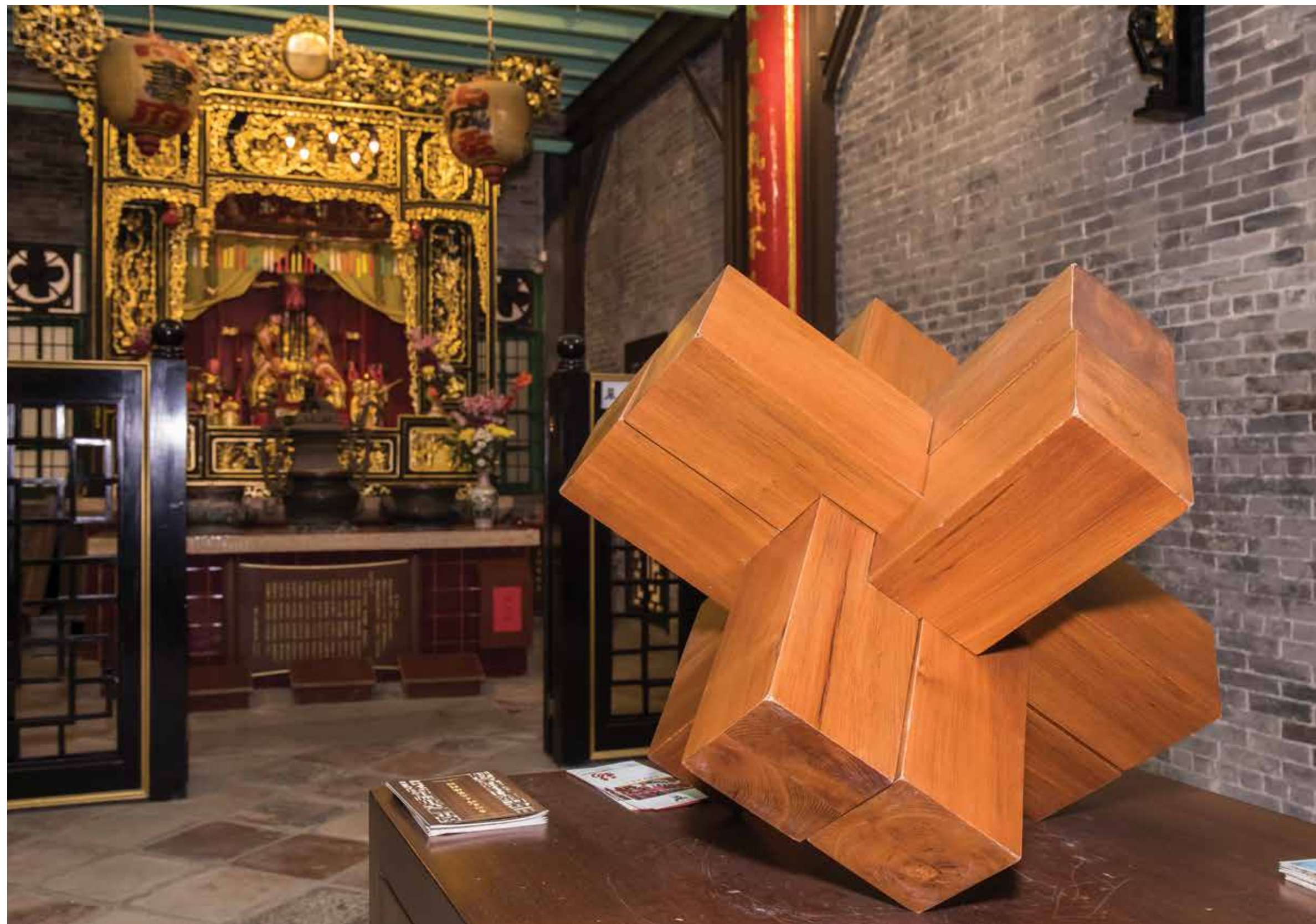
Macao Museum of Art Avenida Xian Xing Hai, Macau. 10:00 am – 7:00 pm (no admittance after 6:30 pm). Closed on Mondays. Free admission. Bus: No.3A, 8, 10A, 12, 17

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Masters of wood

Macao museum remembers China's master carpenter

TEXT MARK O'NEILL
PHOTOS ERIC TAM



Down a narrow street in central Macao, close to Avenida de Almeida Ribeiro is the Lu Ban Carpentry Exhibition, dedicated to Lu Ban, a master carpenter, engineer and inventor who lived 2,500 years ago and is generally known as China's patron of builders and contractors.

The museum, which opened in 2015, sits on the original site of a temple dedicated to Lu. Built in 1840, local carpenters would visit the temple before embarking on new projects to seek his blessing, bowing before his statue and burning incense. Twice a year, a Daoist priest conducted a ceremony at which food was distributed to the community in Lu's name.

On the museum's second floor, above the temple, is the office of the Macao Carpentry Trade Union (MCTU). In 2012, the union approached the government's Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) and proposed transforming the site into a museum. "We agreed with the carpenters that the history of the trade is a valuable part of the city's culture and should be preserved and on display to the public. Currently, there are only a handful of carpenters left in Macao, and fewer young people want to enter the profession. We fear that one day there will be none left in the city," says Daisy Chao Hong Peng, senior technician at the IC's Department of Cultural Heritage. "We want to show people the traditional wisdom and skills of Macao's carpenters. The exhibition is also a very informative source for research," she adds.

The IC invested MOP5.2 million to restore the temple and pull together an exhibition displaying Lu's inventions. The exhibition also contains donated tools from retired local carpenters. "We have been using and applying these carpentry tools and skills for thousands of years," says Vong Heng Cheong, director of the MCTU. "We would like to conserve and introduce them to the next generation before the skills become extinct."

A HISTORICAL TRADE THREATENED

Carpentry is one of Macao's oldest professions. "Historically, wood was the main material for buildings and furniture," says Chao. Raw material imported from the mainland and neighbouring regions was then transformed into a myriad of structural and household goods, including pillars, beams and floorboards for houses as well as chairs, beds, tables and other pieces of furniture.

At the peak of the profession, during the Qing dynasty (1644–1911), there were roughly 2,000 carpenters in the city. But, like with many professions, competition from the mainland following the open-door and reform policy of the early 1980s forced wages lower. Easier and cheaper access to timber also drove profits down, and it became progressively more difficult for local carpenters to compete.

Districts like Dachong in Zhongshan, on the western side of the Pearl River Delta, have become international hubs of mahogany furniture production, supplying both the domestic market and exporting overseas. These industry centres possess economies of scale and new technologies with which Macao simply cannot compete. These days, the majority of Macao residents and developers purchase their furniture from suppliers across the border in Zhuhai.

Another factor in the decline of local carpentry is the variety of materials now used in the production of furniture, such as aluminium, steel, plastic and rubber, which has reduced the demand for wood furniture.

Currently, there are roughly 100 working carpenters in the city, all between the ages of 40 and 60 years old. Few young people want to enter a profession whose prospects seem bleak. To encourage a resurgence of the trade, the MCTU has been offering training classes. This training programme is actually one of the major inspirations behind the museum.

As the city's carpenters have retired, many have gifted their tools to the union. Rather than storing them away in a forgotten cupboard to rust and gather dust, displaying them is a testament to their trade and might inspire future generations to carry on the craft. More than 80 items are



DAISY CHAO HONG PENG Senior technician at Cultural Affairs Bureau's department of Cultural Heritage

currently included in the exhibit, together with audio-visual and interactive components. These tools are not merely instruments for making a piece of furniture; they are imbued with the personality of their users, and many even bear the names of those who once wielded them.

The exhibit also includes reproductions of ancient tools, such as a pump drill once used to bore small holes and a chalk line used to mark straight edges.



REPRODUCTIONS OF ANCIENT TOOLS

1. Drawing compass
2. Wide chisel
3. Gouge chisel (big)
4. Gouge chisel (small)

THE KING OF CARPENTRY

If preserving the history and contribution of Macao’s carpenters is one theme throughout the museum, the life and inventions of Lu Ban constitute another.

Born around 507 B.C., during the Spring or Autumn period of the Zhou dynasty, Lu entered into a family of craftsmen. In his hometown of Jinan, today the capital of Shandong province, he was an average student until Bao Laodong taught him how to work with wood. Suddenly, Lu had found his calling in life. Applying himself to his studies with newly-gained focus, he became an outstanding civil engineer and craftsman.

Throughout his 60 years, Lu dabbled in a wide variety of work. He was even employed by Emperor of the Zhu dynasty to work on military campaigns (records do not say which one). He is also credited with numerous inventions that have been used by carpenters across China and internationally throughout history, including the drilling hook, saw, chisel and drill, mortise and tenon, chalk line, stone grinder and mill, rulers and dividers. The current exhibit provides illustrations and explanations of these and other inventions.



LU BAN

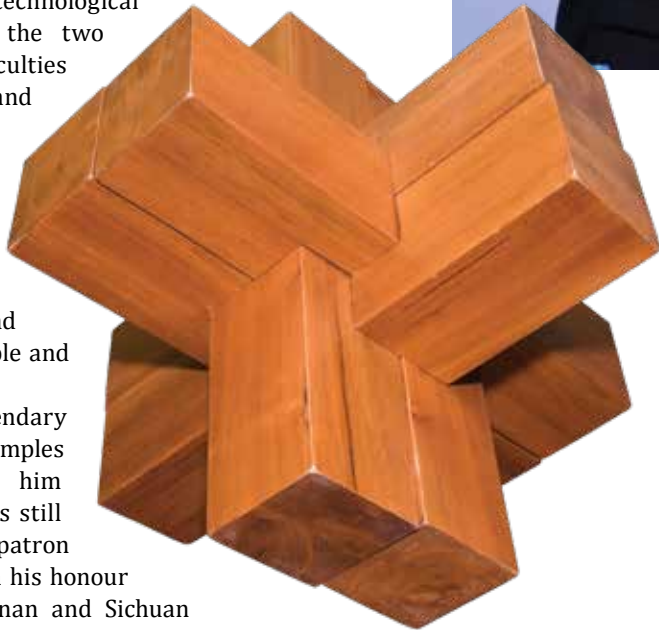
THE LU BAN LOCK

The largest piece in the museum, and arguably one of the most interesting, is the Lu Ban lock, which consists solely of several blocks of wood joined together. Quite easy to disassemble, it requires patience and understanding to put it back together. “There were no nails in Lu’s time, so he had to work without,” explains Chao. “Nails rust. So, if you do not have any, the pieces last longer.” Using a mortise and tenon technique attributed to Lu by some, a carpenter does not need nails; this particular technique is used throughout traditional, historic architecture. Toy versions of the lock are given to visiting children who are invited to reassemble it.

In 2014, Premier Li Keqiang presented German Chancellor Angela Merkel with a Lu Ban lock at an economic and technological forum in Berlin. “I hope the two countries can solve difficulties with intelligence and expand their future,” he added, acknowledging that while conflicts would inevitably arise over the course of the relationship, he looked forward to resolving them with the same patience and ingenuity required to assemble and reassemble the lock.

In China, Lu attained legendary status: woodworkers built temples in his honour, worshiping him like a saint. To this day, he is still considered the protector and patron of the profession. Festivals in his honour are held every year in Yunnan and Sichuan provinces, and many places (Luban waterway in Zhongsha island in Hainan, Luban strait in Sandui township in Sichuan, Luban township in Renhuai city in Guizhou, Luban lane in Chongwen district of Beijing) and buildings bear his name. The Chinese Architects Association bestows a Lu Ban Award annually for outstanding design (of buildings).

The Macao temple holds a ceremony, performed by Daoist priests, in his honour on the 13th day of the 6th month and the 20th day of the 12th month of the lunar calendar. Participants burn incense in front of his statue and prepare rice which is given to local carpenters and residents in Lu’s name.



Xinhua News Agency

LU BAN LOCK A gift from Premier Li Keqiang to German Chancellor Angela Merkel

A HISTORIC TEMPLE RESTORED

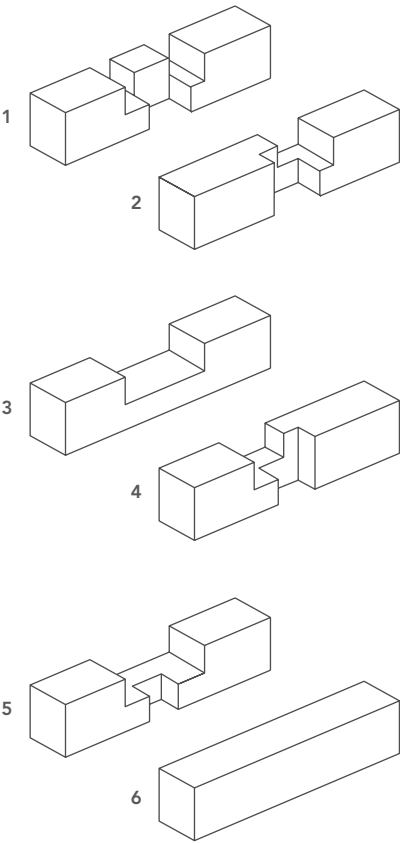
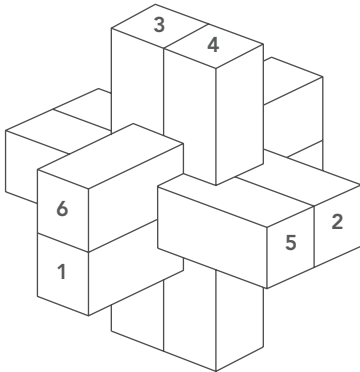
The original temple, a single-storey building, was constructed in 1840. In 1946, a second storey was added to house the MCTU.

The restoration work to return the building to its original state, carried out in 2013 by the IC, was no simple matter. The main challenges were damage due to dampness and deterioration of the brickwork. “We found the building to be very wet, with water coming up from the ground as well as dampness from the climate,” says Chao. “Water had come up the walls and some of the brick had decayed.” To draw the water out, the IC used an effective waterproofing method to remove excess water and salt buildup. Decaying bricks were also replaced and then waterproofed. Thanks to their efforts, residents and visitors alike can learn about the life of China’s master carpenter and the long line of craftsmen he inspired throughout history.

The museum attracts about 50 visitors a day, including organised tour groups. It is located on the Rua de Camilo Pessanha, off the Avenida de Almeida Ribeiro, the main street that runs through downtown Macao. Only a short walk from Leal Senado Square, the museum is easily accessible to tourists and is open every day, including public holidays, except Wednesdays. Admission is free of charge. ■

Lu Ban Lock

The device consists of six tightly entwined wooden sticks, reflecting Lu Ban's wisdom and creative thinking in the craft.





Kintsugi: objects and their scars

Portuguese artist Kristina Mar based in Kyoto (Japan), recently visited Macao to share her knowledge of the technique of *kintsugi*. Giving broken objects a new lease on life is the purpose behind this ancient Japanese restoration practice

TEXT CATARINA MESQUITA

PHOTOS ANTÓNIO SANMARFUL AND COURTESY OF CREATIVE MACAU

“In Japan, broken objects are often repaired with lacquer and gold. The flaw is seen as a unique piece of the object’s history, which adds to its beauty. Consider this when you feel broken.”

This phrase, by an unknown author, has circulated the Internet among thousands of other inspirational phrases. There are those who go beyond seeing it as mere philosophy and apply it to real life. Kristina Mar is one such person.

The Portuguese artist, who has resided in Japan for the last 25 years and now speaks Japanese fluently, sat down with us on one of her many trips to Macao to teach ceramics techniques and restoration. She briefly visited the territory in April to run two workshops on the Japanese technique of breathing new life into broken objects: *kintsugi*.

Organised by the centre for creative industries, Creative Macau, the classes drew attendees from a variety of local groups with members of all ages and sexes. For Creative Macau founder, Lúcia Lemos, “bringing Kristina Mar back to Macao promises new opportunities for curious students to discover their passions.” Previous sessions run by Mar have been popular with locals and, Lemos adds, it is “always good to receive the artist.”

FASCINATED BY THE EAST

Hailing from Coimbra, Kristina Mar, while studying sculpture earned a degree in moulds for the ceramic industry in Portugal, an area she worked in for a number of years before the East began calling to her in the 80s.

Mar began her discovery of Asia in Macao where she lived from 1989 to 1991. She eventually settled in Japan, saying the country “fitted me well.” Mar became an independent ceramist in 1996, just three years after arriving in Kyoto, in the Kansai region. There she learned from the Japanese masters, perfecting techniques – including *kintsugi* – and creating works in different materials from pottery to wood to and glass.

“This is where I started to get my hands dirty. My experience working in Portugal was very industrial and technical. There wasn’t much time for touching raw materials,” Mar says.

Although she did not speak Japanese at the time, the artist did not see it as an impediment. “The language spoken with the hands in the making of Arts is something superior to any verbal language,” she explains.



KRISTINA MAR



KINTSUGI WORKSHOP

Her creative work found international flavor, featuring in various exhibitions in Japan and Europe, as well as Macao. A 2015 show in the special administrative region, entitled “Ceramic for life,” presented a collection of objects used in everyday life, such as flowerpots and teacups.

Mar does not consider her art the result of either Portuguese or Japanese influences. “Art has a universal and independent status away from gender ideologies, culture, etc. therefore I can’t say I’m influenced by one culture or another. My way of thinking is largely Western, but I express myself in the East, therefore I think my expression in art is transversal,” she reflects.

THE CRACKS THAT TELL STORIES

The ancient technique of *kintsugi* brings new life to broken objects. Instead of hiding the cracks caused by accidents, they’re coated or glued with lacquer to later be painted in gold, silver or platinum that serves to highlight them even more.

“From its beginnings, *kintsugi* was not applied to porcelain but to wood, paper or clay, the more absorbent materials,” Mar says. “This technique was born from what the Japanese call *mottainai* – regret when something is wasted – and to appreciate these cracks is to value the history of the object.

“Everyone has things that break and which



The ancient technique of *kintsugi* brings new life to broken objects. Instead of hiding the cracks caused by accidents, they are coated or glued with lacquer to later be painted in gold, silver or platinum

they don’t want to throw out, and generally speaking it’s the things we care for most that break most frequently (laughing). This way these objects end up having a history, they have scars which instead of being hidden, are glorified,” Mar explains. “We are giving greater value to what happened, much like we do to the events in people’s lives.”

The lacquer, *urushi* in Japanese, comes from the resin of the species *Toxicodendron vernicifluum*, commonly known as the Chinese lacquer tree. It takes 15 years for a tree to mature enough to produce quality resin, and it can only be harvested between June and November. Before applying resin to objects, it is usually mixed in iron powder that renders it black or red and which stiffens when in contact with oxygen, creating a strong bond between the cracks in objects.

Urushi dates back thousands of years. Initially used for its adhesive properties, it was applied to hunting and war artefacts. Eventually its artistic qualities became clear, first in the art of lacquering surfaces, then in decorative arts such as *Makie*, and later *kintsugi*.

JUST A SAMPLE

The complexity of the technique requires patience above all, according to Mar. “Sometimes it takes years to finish a piece and these workshops are just for students to have access to basic knowledge. “Knowing that it’s an exercise in patience, it’s important to me that people do not give up on this process. By knowing the basics they can gradually apply them at home,” Mar explains.

Although she does not yet have a date scheduled for workshops in the territory, the artist promises a return to Macao, saying “it’s always within easy reach, and it’s good to visit friends.” ■

PREPARING THE LACQUER

Caldas da Rainha porcelain: the Macao connection

TEXT JOÃO GUEDES

PHOTOS ANTÓNIO SANMARFUL



ZÉ POVINHO

Few people know of the close connection between Macao and the Bordalo Pinheiro family of late 19th century Portugal. Nor do they know how local techniques influenced the popular Caldas da Rainha porcelain from Western central Portugal, including figurines of the iconic everyman *Zé Povinho*, that remains a hallmark of Portuguese national tourism to this day.

The Bordalo family's connection to Macao began when the patriarch, Manuel Maria Bordalo Pinheiro, was chosen to sculpt two highly symbolic

monuments for Macao: the bust of the poet Luís de Camões and the monument to commemorate the Portuguese victory against the Dutch invaders on the 24th June 1622.

The Camões bust was a personal initiative of the businessman Lourenço Marques, owner of the Garden House and of the garden where the poet's grotto is found. The job of overseeing the commission went to Carlos José Caldeira, former director of the National Printing Office of Macao, who had meanwhile returned to Lisbon. Manuel

Maria fashioned its gesso model after the Camões portrait bust depicted in the "Discourses" of Manuel Severim de Faria, printed in Évora in 1624. The bust replaced one that had stood in the Camões Grotto since 1840, a piece crudely crafted "in bronze limestone or clay by Chinese artists."

The Victory Monument was meant to replace the wooden cross that then marked the site (now the Victory Garden) where a cannonball shot from the Monte Fortress had found its mark, exploding the Dutch troops' gunpowder wagons and deciding the battle in favour of the Portuguese.

While the replacement of the Camões bust was uncontroversial, replacing the Victory Monument proved quite the opposite. Foreign citizens were said to have raised objections to the initiative, claiming that it offended them. Given the nature of the monument, such complaints likely came from citizens of the Netherlands or representatives of that country in Macao. The monument thus remained in a Loyal Senate warehouse for eight years before it was finally unveiled by Governor António Sérgio de Sousa on the 26th March 1871.

Manuel Maria remains a peerless figure in the art history of Portugal, standing out as one of the most expressive representatives of Romantic art. In addition to the monuments, he left behind a large number of historical and anecdotal paintings, many of them earning prizes in exhibitions abroad. He simultaneously directed illustrated periodicals as well as the first fine arts journal, and worked with the great historian Alexandre Herculano on founding the magazine *Panorama*.

THE FAMILY LEGACY

The Bordalo Pinheiro children, eight sons and daughters, were also directly or indirectly linked to the arts. The fourth son, Columbano, continued his father's work in the area of painting, producing notable portraits of some of Portugal's leading contemporary figures. But the most well known of the siblings today is his brother Rafael. He was a pioneer designer of the artistic poster as well as a draughtsman, watercolourist, illustrator and decorator. Above

LUÍS DE CAMÕES Sculpted by Manuel Maria Bordalo Pinheiro



VICTORY MONUMENT
Sculpted by Manuel Maria
Bordalo Pinheiro





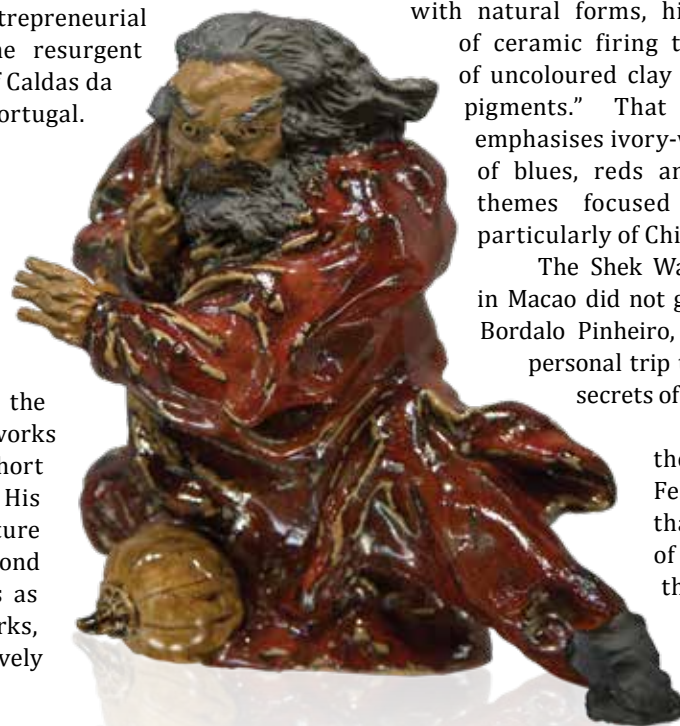
FELICIANO BORDALO

all, Rafael was known as a caricaturist and ceramicist, as well as a teacher. He created the character known as *Zé Povinho*, who became a symbol of the Portuguese common people. The sisters are also said to have been closely linked to the arts. Although they never reached the heights of fame.

Only two of the eight brothers did not follow their father's footsteps. Manuel was educated in medicine, following a military career, while Feliciano chose engineering but likewise joined the army. He would end up grounding the family's entrepreneurial involvement in the resurgent pottery industry of Caldas da Rainha in central Portugal.

THE MACAO CONNECTION

Feliciano, an artillery captain, was mobilised to Macao, where he occupied the post of public works director for a few short months in 1875. His contribution to culture in Macao went beyond his responsibilities as head of public works, though. He actively



took part in a diverse array of initiatives, mainly in the cultural and artistic domain. He thus benefited not only from the specific environment in which he lived, but also from a relative affluence which allowed the government to move forward with various projects, among them construction of the Conde de São Januário Hospital, a major project designed by António Alexandrino de Melo, one of the two architects (the other previous one was José Tomás de Aquino) who most impressively marked the 19th century.

During his service in Macao, the city enjoyed an exceptionally rich cultural environment. Cultural activity revolved around two poles, the Military Club and the Dom Pedro V Theatre, where the concerts and operatic works featured some of the leading performers of the age. Music and the arts in general were held particularly dear, with growing interest in collecting, especially classical Chinese porcelain and painting from diverse schools.

Among the most well known Chinese porcelain schools then highly valued in Macao was that of Shek Wan.

SHEK WAN'S INFLUENCE

The important ceramic production centre of Shek Wan is situated in the Foshan region between Macao and Guangdong. Ceramics produced there "are popularly themed and combine ornamental with natural forms, highlighting the mastery of ceramic firing technique, leaving areas of uncoloured clay enlivened by the glazed pigments." That decorative technique emphasises ivory-whites and various tones of blues, reds and greens. The school's themes focused on popular imagery, particularly of Chinese legends and heroes.

The Shek Wan work then circulating in Macao did not go unnoticed by Feliciano Bordalo Pinheiro, who apparently made a personal trip to the region to learn the secrets of its manufacture.

Upon recognising the craft's singularity, Feliciano likely realised that the porcelain industry of Caldas da Rainha, then much deteriorated, might gain some future viability through use

of the Shek Wan technique. Although he was basically a businessman, Feliciano did have a certain artistic facet. The two sides of his character enabled him to accurately assess just how far the technical innovations of Shek Wan could be translated into economic success.

JOINING TALENTS

Feliciano was sure of his entrepreneurial talent and he trusted the creative capacity of his brother Rafael. In 1884, Rafael had made yet another addition to his talents, becoming a ceramicist. "He began in April of that year at the Gomes Avelar factory in Caldas and soon opened his own facility, the Ceramics Factory of Caldas da Rainha financially backed by Feliciano, where he would give free rein to his creative power," stated the great heritage researcher Irisalva Moita, a pioneer of industrial archaeology, who studied in depth the history of the Bordalos's ceramic industry.

Feliciano invested 800 *contos*, an extraordinarily high sum at the time, to restore the ruined factory. He also provided his brother with technical details about the manufacture of Shek Wan porcelain, a role corroborated by Monsignor Manuel Teixeira, who stated: "it is clear that Feliciano took his chinoiseries to Portugal, which eventually inspired his brother Rafael!"

The story of the revived ceramic ware tradition in Caldas da Rainha owes a great deal to Feliciano Bordalo Pinheiro. Inspired by his time in Macao, his investment in Ceramics Factory of Caldas da Rainha gave rise to an industry that remains successful to this day. It also led Rafael to create the distinctive type of ceramic ware that is perennially linked to his name. ■

Upon recognising the craft's singularity, Feliciano likely realised that the porcelain industry of Caldas da Rainha, then much deteriorated, might gain some future viability through use of the Shek Wan technique

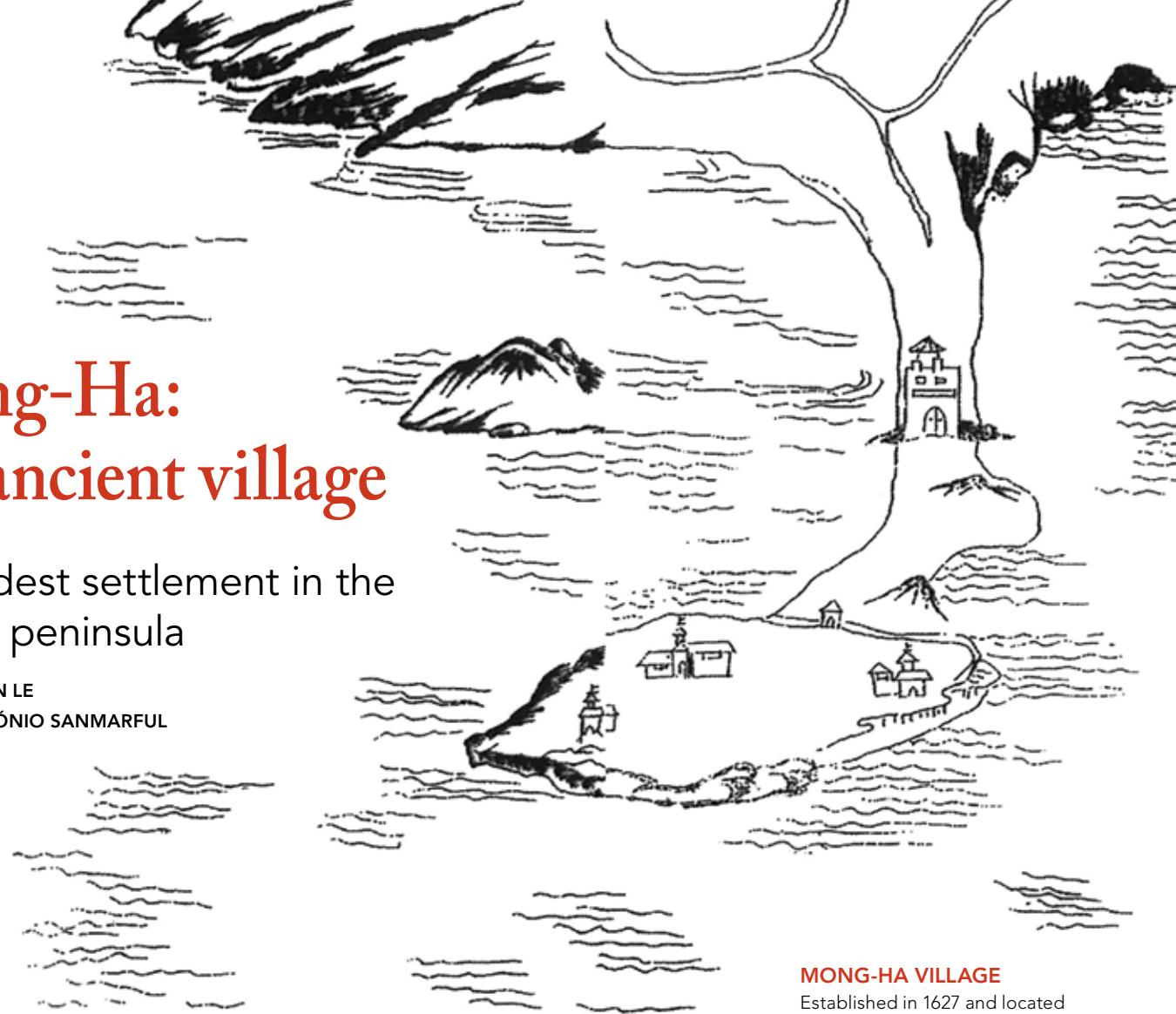


Mong-Ha: the ancient village

The oldest settlement in the Macao peninsula

TEXT OU NIAN LE

PHOTOS ANTÓNIO SANMARFUL



MONG-HA VILLAGE

Established in 1627 and located to the south of the Border Gate

Many visitors to Macao seek out the Kun Iam temple to marvel at its shrines, gilded statues, and terraced gardens. But few realise that they are standing in what little remains of the oldest settlement in the peninsula – Mong-Ha village.

Historians believe that more than 500 households arrived here in 1386, in the 19th year of Emperor Hong Wu of the Ming dynasty, from Fujian province on the southeast coast. They built a village with stone gates and stone walls, and named their new home Mong-Ha (Wangxia, in Mandarin), which translates as “facing Xiamen.”

For nearly 600 years this rural Chinese village remained untouched by the Portuguese,

who arrived in Macao in 1557 and established a settlement nearby. It was only in 1846, with the arrival of Governor João Maria Ferreira do Amaral, that conflict arose. Eager to impose Portuguese rule, he expelled the Chinese customs officials from Mong-Ha, seized land, and forced local farmers to pay taxes to him, rather than the government in Beijing.

Urbanisation of the area began in the early 1900s as fields were filled in and peasant houses demolished to make way for new roads, schools, factories, housing, and a military barracks.

Most of Mong-Ha has been lost to history. Only two temples, the Kun Iam and Lin Fung (Lotus Temple), still stand as reminders of this ancient village.

THE EARLY EVOLUTION OF MONG-HA

The people who built the first Mong-Ha village were farmers. They chose the rich soil between Guia Hill and Monte to the south, and the low-lying hills of Montanha Russa to the north, to cultivate rice. The households had five family names, of which Ho was the most common. For centuries, it was an unpretentious row of peasant homes, criss-crossed by 130 lanes and alleys.

The fishermen came later in the Ming dynasty, migrating to Macao from different parts of Guangdong and Fujian. They built the A-Ma temple, dedicated to the goddess of the sea, whose protection they asked for before setting out. The temple remains one of the most famous in the city.

The Portuguese arrived in Macao in 1557. They built their settlement near the sea, constructing a fortress on nearby Guia Hill. Despite the close proximity, the farmers in Mong-Ha village were left alone to continue their traditional life.

In 1744, the mandarin of Xiangshan, the county which includes Macao, appointed an official to take up residence in Mong-Ha. His presence in the village served as a symbol of imperial rule over the area. But this relative peace was not to last.

PORTUGAL SUBVERTS CHINESE AUTHORITY

Everything changed in Mong-Ha with the arrival of the new governor, João Maria Ferreira do Amaral, in 1846. He had served previously as deputy governor for Angola, after a distinguished career in the Portuguese navy; he lost his right arm in Brazil’s brief war of independence in 1821, his first year of service.

“Queen Maria II sent him to Macao to establish Portuguese authority and make it a free port, to compete with the port of Hong Kong established a few years earlier,” says José Luís de Sales Marques, President of the Institute of European Studies of Macau and a researcher of local history.

“To achieve this, he seized both the existing Chinese and Portuguese customs houses, and expelled the Chinese customs officials which created a problem. Before that, the Chinese government had been accommodating toward the Portuguese,” he says. The officials were forced

to return to mainland China, along with their families, while Amaral destroyed the imperial symbols and banners of the customs houses. He then annexed all of the land between the city walls and the Border Gate, bringing it under Portuguese rule.

Amaral instituted eight measures in his effort to assert Portuguese sovereignty over the whole peninsula. One, the construction of a road from the Portuguese walled city to the Border Gate, forced residents to move their ancestral graves, an outrage to the people of Mong-Ha village. He also imposed land leases on the farmers, claiming that they were using Portuguese land and owed taxes to the Portuguese authorities, not the Chinese mandarins. Each of the measures brought the Portuguese closer to making Macao a free port, but that ambition came at a price.

On 22 August 1849, a group of seven villagers intercepted Amaral as he was taking his horse for his morning ride. They pulled him from his horse and cut off his head. Today, the assassins are seen as patriotic heroes in China.



JOSÉ LUÍS DE SALES MARQUES President of the Institute of European Studies of Macau and a researcher of local history



LIN FUNG TEMPLE



LIN ZEXU MUSEUM

The murder happened just outside the Lin Fung temple. Nearly a year earlier, on 3rd September 1839, mandarin Lin Zexu had stayed there. The Imperial Commissioner in Guangzhou, he was charged by the Emperor with eliminating opium trading. During his visit, he met Portuguese officials and urged them to ban the trade in the city, and be neutral in the conflict between China and Britain over the issue. That conflict escalated into war, and the resulting Treaty of Nanjing led to the opening of Chinese ports to international commerce and the cession of Hong Kong. Today, a small museum at the temple commemorates his visit with a three-metre tall statue of Lin.

In 1866, the Portuguese completed construction of a fort on Mong-Ha Hill; the original fort complex was erected by Amaral the year of his death. His fear of Chinese invasion had lingered and for the first time, cannons in the city pointed toward the mainland, not at the sea. The fort became a strictly military area, off limits to the public.

DIPLOMACY COMES TO MONG-HA

The Kun Iam temple is famous as the location where China and the United States signed their first bilateral treaty. Taking its name from the Mandarin pronunciation of Mong-Ha, the Treaty of Wangxia was signed on 3rd July 1844.

U.S. President John Tyler dispatched Caleb Cushing, a Massachusetts lawyer, to China to serve as his representative in the negotiations. The U.S. sought treatment for American companies and individuals equal to that granted to the British by Beijing in the treaty which ended the First Opium War.

The meeting took place in Macao after the Emperor refused to allow Cushing into Beijing. The Qing Empire chose Qi Ying, governor of Guangdong and Guangxi provinces, as their representative. The resulting treaty granted the U.S. the same rights as the Treaty of Nanjing, also negotiated by Qi Ying.

The Americans were given the right to learn Mandarin; to buy land in the five treaty ports, and to build churches and hospitals there; fixed tariffs at treaty ports; most-favoured-nation status; and extraterritoriality, which guaranteed that American citizens could only be tried by U.S. consular officers, not Chinese courts. Kun Iam temple still holds the tablet on which the two men signed the treaty.

President Tyler ratified the treaty in January 1845, following passage by the U.S. Congress. Today, China considers it 'an unequal treaty,' one of many it was forced to sign during the Qing dynasty, under duress from foreign powers.

AN ANCIENT VILLAGE UNMADE

During his visit to the Kun Iam Temple in 1844, Commissioner Qiying noted that there were 819 families living in the Mong-Ha area, between the gate of St. Anthony and the Border Gate. "The terrain is full of cultivated land, houses, and graves," he wrote. An 1887 census recorded a population of 3,000 in Mong-Ha, many of whom lived off the land.

Redevelopment of the area began in the early 1900s as the government sought to increase the urban area of the city, and to improve the sanitary conditions, especially in relation to controlling malaria. The expropriation of land and homes began in 1901 with the seizure of 3,500 square metres of Mong-Ha village.

A glance at the map of Macao shows how the roads built in this new area were long and broad, neatly arranged in a grid pattern. It became a mixed-use area, with the first fireworks factory in 1911; the last one in Mong-Ha, Po Seng, did not close until the 1970s. There were other factories and educational establishments, like Dom Bosco College and the Sacred Heart Canossian College, which was originally leased a piece of land in 1919 to build an orphanage. Additional structures included public buildings like the Post and Communications Company, as well as two-storey residential

Redevelopment of the area began in the early 1900s as the government sought to increase the urban area of the city, and to improve the sanitary conditions, especially in relation to controlling malaria

buildings, cemeteries, military facilities, a police station, and a municipal market.

Since the redevelopment period, some of the buildings are no longer used for industry and have been converted to services. The village they replaced is all but lost.

"Little remains of Mong-Ha today," said Sales Marques. "One important part is the Kun Iam temple, the earliest in Macao. In addition to a small number of Buddhist monks and ancestral shrines, it holds images of members of the old families. A reminder of the ancient village, and the people who once called it home." ■



KUN IAM TEMPLE



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19:00 開幕禮 Cerimónia de Abertura
Opening Ceremony

20:00 中國 VS 意大利
CHINA / CHINA ITÁLIA / ITALY

15/07

14:30 美國 VS 意大利
EUA / USA ITÁLIA / ITALY

17:00 中國 VS 土耳其
CHINA / CHINA TURQUIA / TURKEY

16/07

13:00 意大利 VS 土耳其
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Turning the focus to Brazil

China picks Brazil as springboard for investment in Latin America

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hen looking at Latin America, China has historically focused its foreign direct investment in Venezuela. In recent years, however, Venezuela has fallen into major economic depression as a result of poorly crafted public policies and heavy dependency on crude oil exports in a depleted global oil market. In this adverse environment, China began diversifying its investments in Latin America and chose Brazil as one of the main destinations for foreign direct investment in the region.

The search for a trading partner with a more diversified economy comes as a result of China's economic shift from the largest importer of raw materials to a major investor in more complex industries. Manufacturing, logistics, and technology have attracted more attention in China in recent years than the base infrastructure segment did. Even in the absence of a severe economic depression, Venezuela does not constitute a versatile partner; the nation's economy has revolved around crude oil production for decades.

Brazil has also faced its share of crises in recent years. The end of the commodities super cycle that brought down the prices of iron ore and oil has degraded much of Brazil's economy since 2014. The political turmoil that led to ex-president Dilma Rousseff's impeachment last August still persists, and investigations into state-owned oil company Petrobras continue to expose politicians found to have been part of the ongoing corruption scandal.

Figure 1 – Brazil and Venezuela annual GDP growth rate (per cent), World Bank



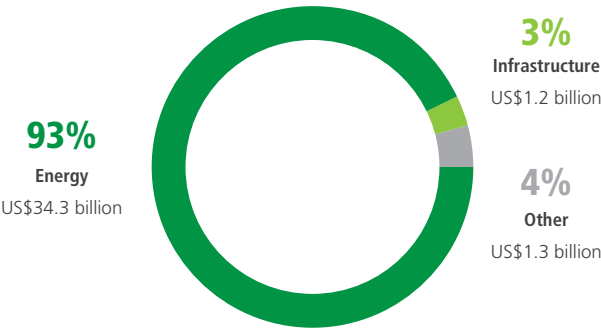
Brazil has seen better times. The period from 2000 to 2008 marked the golden years of the Brazilian dream. The country grew at an average rate of 3.75 per cent per year (see Figure 1). Industry and commerce diversified and poverty levels decreased. The solid base built during those years sustained Brazil as an attractive investment destination.

BRAZIL AND CHINA RELATIONS TODAY

The growth in mergers and acquisitions in Brazil from China shows the voracious appetite of the Asian investor. Dealogic, a financial markets platform company, reported that Chinese acquisition of Brazilian firms surpassed US\$11.9 billion (MOP95.4 billion) in 2016, reaching a 6-year historical high. The investments were mostly concentrated in the utilities sector but also ranged from food and beverage to transportation sectors.

Between 2013 and 2016, the World Bank lent a total of US\$6.5 billion (MOP52.1 billion) to Brazil. In the same period, Chinese lending to the tropical country totalled US\$25.7 billion (MOP206 billion). The last remittance of this amount occurred in October 2016 when China and Brazil signed a joint investment fund called the Brazil-China Cooperation Fund for Increasing Production Capacity with a budget of US\$20 billion (MOP160.3 billion) to begin financing of infrastructure projects in 2017. China invested US\$15 billion (MOP120.2 billion) and Brazil contributed the remaining US\$5 billion (MOP40 billion).

Figure 2 – Chinese loans to Brazil, by industry



Source: China-Latin America Finance Database (Inter-American Dialogue and Boston University's Global Economic Governance Initiative, 2016)

Estimates produced annually by the Inter-American Dialogue and Boston University's Global Economic Governance Initiative show that more than 87 per cent of the Chinese loans to Brazil were provided by the Chinese Development Bank (CDB), with the remaining coming from the Chinese Export-Import Bank. Most of the projects financed by this lending lie in the Energy sector (see Figure 2).

RENEWABLE POWER AND ENERGY DISTRIBUTION

Renewable power drew a portion of the energy-related investments from China. The growth of wind and solar power is still centred in small-scale distributed generation but has so far

attracted new Chinese players such as Huawei, BYD, Yingli, and Goldwind.

In August 2016, Huawei signed its first contract to supply special equipment for 3 photovoltaic projects totalling 90 megawatts (MW) of energy output in solar projects in the state of Minas Gerais, southeast Brazil.

In April this year, BYD opened its solar panels factory in the state of São Paulo, also in southeast Brazil, where it already has an assembly line for its electric vehicles. With an initial investment of US\$47.2 million (MOP378.4 million), the plant will have a production capacity of 200 MW. BYD chose Brazil for its solar-manufacturing plant because of the country's growing solar capacity. Brazil's solar sector is expected to leapfrog from 30 MW of solar power and 39 power plants, in 2016, to 2.7 gigawatts (GW) of solar power and 134 power plants, by 2019.

In early 2016, JA Solar, a Chinese solar development company, signed a contract for construction of a 300 MW manufacturing plant in Brazil. Based in Shanghai, JA manufactures solar cell and solar panel products. Jinko Solar is another Chinese player tapping the Brazilian solar market. With manufacturing plants in Jiangxi and Zhejiang, Jinko Solar imported 11 MW of panels for solar farm in Pernambuco state, in northeast Brazil. The company also won an order to supply a 30 MW plant to the Brazilian government.

Brazil, in fact, has attracted many new foreign players in the solar industry. The agreements Brazil signed at the 2015 Sustainable Innovation

The growth in mergers and acquisitions in Brazil from China shows the voracious appetite of the Asian investor. Dealogic, a financial markets platform company, reported that Chinese acquisition of Brazilian firms surpassed US\$11.9 billion in 2016, reaching a 6-year historical high

Forum (COP21) total US\$40 billion (320.6 billion) in solar projects until 2030. This year, 3.3 GW in solar projects were awarded in public auctions. Brazil also conditions development bank funding to the requirement that the foreign company must employ a minimum number of local employees when setting up a business in the country, which helps create employment and builds local expertise. According to the Brazilian Association for Solar Photovoltaic Energy (ABSOLAR), solar energy-related projects awarded via public auctions in Brazil are expect to total US\$4.25 billion until 2018. The country has plans to change its electricity generation matrix to include 10 per

EOLIC ENERGY IN BRAZIL



cent solar by 2030, a considerable increase from the current 0.01 per cent.

The New Development Bank (NDB) is also involved in the financing side of many solar projects. Created in July 2014, the NDB was set up by the BRICS nations (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) as a multilateral development bank with a focus on infrastructure and sustained development projects. In April, the bank signed its first loan to finance projects in Brazil. Another US\$300 million from the Brazilian National Development Bank (BNDES) will match the US\$300 million (MOP2.4 billion) loan and the amount will be used entirely in renewable energy ventures, potentially adding 600 MW to Brazil's energy grid.

On the utilities side, giant State Grid Corp. of China (SGCC) concluded in January the purchase of a majority stake in Brazil's CPFL Energia S.A., the largest power distribution company in the Latin American country, for US\$4.49 billion (MOP35.9 billion). SGCC is the world's largest electricity utility company, employing over 1.9 million staff and generating annual sales of US\$330 billion (MOP2,645 billion). The company has a long-term vision of creating a global network of interconnected transmission lines, which could allow electricity transmission from regions of high renewable resources to those of high demand.

In 2014, SGCC had already set foot in Brazil, through a 51/49 per cent joint venture with Brazilian state-owned electricity company Eletrobras. The agreement was part of a plan to connect the new 11 GW hydroelectric dam at Belo Monte, in the Amazon, to the grids in São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, both more than 2,000 km away. The US\$4.7 billion (MOP37.7 billion) project is due for commissioning in 2018.

Another Chinese giant that has reached far into Brazil is the world's largest dam operator, China Three Gorges Corp. (CTGC). In January 2017, the company finalized a US\$3.7 billion (MOP29.7 billion) deal for the 30-year right to run two projects in Brazil: the 3.4 GW Ilha Solteira plant and the 1.5 GW Jupia plant. This came one month after CTG acquisition of Duke Energy's assets in Brazil for US\$1.2 billion (MOP9.6 billion). The transaction added 2.27 GW of power generation to its portfolio in the Latin American country. Currently, CTG has 8.27 GW of installed capacity in Brazil, more than state-run energy company Eletrobras at 6.8 GW.

RAILWAYS

Two gigantic railway projects taking place in Brazil will likely to have Chinese companies as main partners. The first venture is a railway connecting Brazil's Atlantic coast and Peru's Pacific coast. The 3,755-km long railway will connect the Brazilian port of Santos to the Peruvian port of Ilo, crossing Brazil, Bolivia, and Peru, as well as a region of the Andean mountains, on the way (see Figure 3). The US\$60 billion (MOP480 billion) railway will drastically shorten shipping routes from Brazil's coast to Asian markets for commodities, reducing the cost of shipping minerals, grains, and soybeans to Asia.

Brazil is expected to export 61 million tonnes of soybeans in the 2016-17 crop year, according to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). It is the world's largest soybean exporter. The trans-Andes rail link will allow Brazilian soybeans to be shipped from Pacific ports in Peru to Asia, bypassing the Panama Canal. The project was put on hold late last year, though, due to cost and environmental concerns.

Figure 3 – Trans-Andes Railway



Source: Twin Ocean Railway (The Dialogue, June 2016)

The second large endeavour in railway infrastructure in Brazil is a high-speed train connecting Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo, the two largest cities in Brazil. The project, planned by Chinese firms, was first proposed in 2010, when the economy was booming. At that time, the plan was to have the train up and running by 2016, when the Olympics happened in Rio. However, the project was repeatedly delayed due to doubts over its viability and concession models. Reuters reported that Chinese companies believe the project is economically viable, but want the Brazilian government to propose a new concession model before making a final decision. The bullet-train railway will be 400-km long and have a price tag of US\$11 billion (MOP88 billion).

Railway construction spending abroad has been adopted as a viable solution for China's excess capacity in steel, rail, construction and engineering services as the economy slows. A rail programme fits China's preference for government-to-government infrastructure deals that can be allocated to state-owned companies, which remain wary of complex Latin American tax and labour laws.

COMMODITIES

Historically, commodities trading has been the essence of most of the business between China and Brazil. Between 2000 and 2010, Brazil's economy grew 3.4 times and the GDP per capita jumped from US\$3,700 (MOP29,660) to over US\$11,100 (MOP88,980). China's appetite for soybeans, iron ore, and oil played a large role in propelling this growth. In 2000, Brazil was exporting US\$1.2 billion (MOP9.6 billion) to China, from which soybeans, crude oil, and iron ore accounted for 56 per cent of the total. By 2015, exports from Brazil to China increased 31 times, totalling US\$35.9 billion (MOP287.8 billion), and became much more focused: soybeans, crude oil and iron ore accounted for 75 per cent of what Brazil sold to China (see Figure 4).

Iron ore exports are highly concentrated in one company, Vale S.A. (the former CVRD Companhia Vale do Rio Doce), which has benefitted greatly from exports to China over the

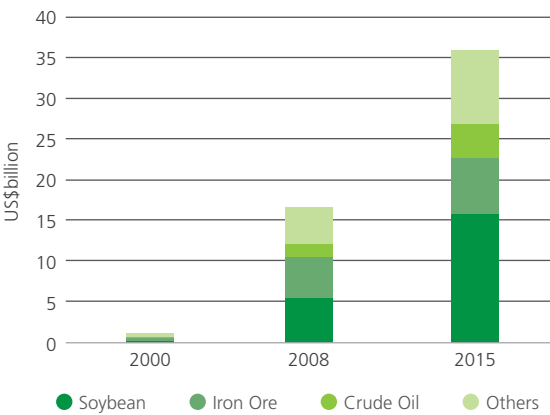


SOY BEANS

past decades. Vale was the first company in the world to export iron ore to China, back in 1973. The company is central to the history of trade between China and Brazil. Former Chinese ambassador to Brazil Chen Duqing (2006–2009) once described the company as “the anchor of Brazil's relations with China.”

From the 1980s until the end of the century, China experienced a large shift from a rural economy to one focused on manufacturing and construction. The ceaseless migration from rural China to urban centres drove demand for housing and infrastructure, which have sustained the construction industry and accelerated demand for minerals.

Figure 4 – Main exports from Brazil to China



Source: The Observatory of Economic Complexity OEC

Chinese steel production grew at an average annual rate of 7 per cent in the 1980s, 10 per cent in the 1990s and nearly 20 per cent in the first decade of the 21st century. As a result of this performance, China became the largest steel producer in the world. In 1997, when the country was still feeling the effects of the Asian financial crisis, its steel mills produced 108.91 million metric tons of crude steel – 13 per cent of the global supply. By 2010, output had climbed to 626.65 million metric tons, amounting to 45 per cent of the global supply. In 2015, China produced 803.8 million metric tons of crude steel, or 49 per cent of the global production.

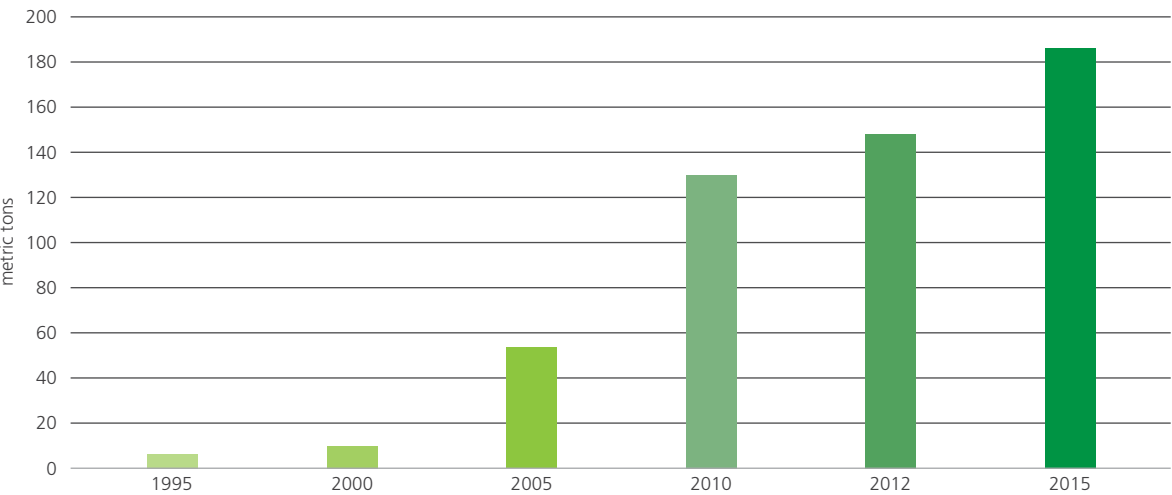
The growing Chinese steel industry resulted in an increase in consumption of iron ore, a raw material for steelmaking. China started to import high iron content Brazilian ore from Vale and, in the process, became a major commercial partner of Brazil. Despite the large distance between the two countries, Vale’s sales to China grew from 10 million metric tons in 2000 to 186.9 million metric tons in 2015 (see Figure 5).

Today, Vale participates in several coal, nickel, and iron ore pelletizing operations in the Chinese cities of Zhuhai, Anyang, Yanzhou, Yongcheng, and Dalian. The company is also a partner in two pellet companies – Anyang Yu Vale Yongtong Pellet Co. and Zhuhai YPM Pellet Co. – each capable of producing 1.2 million metric tons of iron ore pellets. Vale has a 98.3 per cent stake in Dalian Nickel Refinery (Vale Nickel Dalian Co.), with a nominal capacity of 32,000 metric tons per year.



TRANSPORTING IRON

Figure 5 – Vale’s Iron Ore Exports to China



Vale, together with Chinese Yankuang Group and Japanese Itochu partners, began joint development of a coking plant in Yanzhou, located in the province of Shandong, with an estimated annual production capacity of 1.7 million metric tons. Vale has also developed close relations with Baosteel, the country’s largest steel producer. The companies now work together at Água Limpa mine, in Minas Gerais, Brazil.

In 2012, the state-owned petroleum company, Petrobras, eclipsed Vale S.A. as the country’s largest commodity exporter to China. In the recent years, Petrobras has been mired in Brazil’s worst-ever corruption scandal just as the Latin American nation goes through a recession. The company ran into difficulty accessing capital from western banks and was impeded from operating

in the bonds market. To balance this situation, Petrobras is implementing a plan to restructure its assets globally, including divestments and partnership programs. The restricted access to loans from western banks, however, opened a range of opportunities to China.

In February 2016, Petrobras secured a US\$10 billion (MOP80.2 billion) loan from China Development Bank from agreements signed the year before. By May 2016, the company was seeking a US\$1 billion (MOP8.8 billion) loan from the Export-Import Bank of China. The financing is tied to equipment and service contracts from Chinese suppliers, and was originally planned for 2017. In December 2016, Petrobras signed definitive terms for a US\$5 billion (MOP40 billion), 10-year financing agreement with China Development Bank and an oil supply accord with Chinese companies.

Crude oil sales from Petrobras to China in January and February totalled 40.8 million barrels, up 125 per cent from the same period in 2016 and more than 10 times Brazil’s shipments to the country five years ago, according to Reuters.

FOOD INDUSTRY

Another Brazilian firm that has China as a growing market is BRF Global, a food sector multinational and one of the world’s largest poultry suppliers. BRF sells more than 4 million tonnes of food and is present in more than 150 countries. In 2016, China accounted for nearly one-third of the Brazilian meat industry’s US\$13.9 billion (MOP111.4 billion) in exports, making the country strategic for BRF.

The company has built a sizeable market in Hong Kong, where it has small processing units for pork and chicken meat exported from Brazil. BRF’s popular brand Sadia sold 47 per cent of Hong Kong’s frozen chicken market share in 2012. As part of the strategy to expand into mainland China, in 2015, BRF introduced a line of packed Pao Jiao Feng Zhua (chicken feet with pickled peppers), a famous delicacy in China and in other Southeast Asian countries.

In November 2016, the company acquired US\$20 million (MOP160.3 million) in stocks of COFCO Meat, a fast-growing pork company in China. COFCO Meat has 47 hog farms, two slaughtering facilities, and two processed meat plants in China.



CATTLE FARM

More recently, BRF's growth in China has been negatively affected after a corruption investigation into Brazilian meat industry revealed that health regulations were not being properly followed in 21 of the 4,800 meat processing units in Brazil. Regardless of the apparent small proportion of the problem, the scandal affected BRF and other Brazilian meat exporters, who had their exports banned from entering China in March 2017. The ban lasted only five days, though; Brazilian authorities clarified that Brazil meat exports to China were safe since they were not processed by any of the implicated plants.

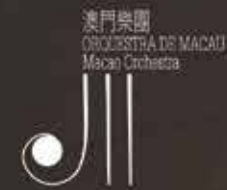
LASTING PARTNERSHIP

During Dilma Rousseff's presidency the ties between Brazil and China remained strong, even amid the downfall of commodities prices and slowdown of China's economic growth. In May 2015, during a tour in Brazil, Colombia, Peru, and Chile, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and President Rousseff announced more than US\$53 billion (MOP 424.9 billion) worth of trade and investment between the two countries. China's Bank of Communications Co. announced it had bought 80 per cent of midsize Brazilian bank Banco BBM S.A. for US\$173 million (MOP1.4 billion), in the first

overseas acquisition by the mainland bank.

Just over one year later, Rousseff was impeached over accusations of manipulating the government budget. Michel Temer, her vice-president, was quick to reassure China of its importance as a major trading partner. In September 2016, in his first international trip as president, Temer attended the G20 event in Shanghai. The event gathered over 100 Brazilian and 250 Chinese businessmen, and sealed some highly relevant contracts between Brazil and China.

There are continuous efforts from both Brazil and China to nurture this trading relationship. Brazil's current political situation shows some instability as investigation into the Petrobras corruption scandal continues to expose politicians involved in the scheme. Added to that, the country is still caught up in an economic crisis that started when global crude oil prices plummeted in 2014. Recession brought a slowdown to Brazil's economy and decreased government spending in education and infrastructure, key sectors to attract foreign investment. China, with its growing middle class and shifting focus to services and consumer goods industries, offers an opportunity for Brazil to further diversify its industry and get the economy back on track. ■



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Tchoi Long, The Feast of the Drunken Dragon

PHOTOS XINHUA NEWS AGENCY
AND CHEONG KAM KA

Organised by fishmongers, the Feast of the Drunken Dragon takes place on the 8th day of the 4th lunar month. This year, the festival fell on the 3rd May.

The tradition celebrates the legend of a Buddhist monk who saved his village from a plague when he destroyed a dragon, slashing it into three pieces. Only the head and tail of the dragon were recovered, and all who drank its blood were healed.

Every year, fishmongers roam the city streets from Kuan Tai Temple towards the Inner Harbour searching for the dragon's body, dancing and carrying only the dragon's head and tail, while drinking rice wine and beer.











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