

Macao 澳門



Kit Yee Tong:
the oldest martial
arts club in Macao

The “Chinese Picasso” in Macao
Cabo Verde: ripe for investments



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N. 41



ON THE COVER Young members of Kit Yee Tong, the oldest martial arts in Macao, practicing for the Feast of Na Tcha – their yearly debut

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advertising@macaulink.com.mo

SUBSCRIPTIONS
macaomagazine.net
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PRINTER Welfare Printing Company, Ltd. Macau

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JULY 2017

TRADITION AND MODERNITY

The preservation of traditions is a distinguishing feature of Macao, even as many of them are going relatively unnoticed, tucked away in hidden corners of the city. In this issue, we report on the annual celebration of the Na Tcha Festival and the territory's oldest martial arts group, Kit Yee Tong.

With the hot season in full-swing, local residents once again flock to the Lai Kei Ice Cream shop, a business whose doors have been open for half a century.

But Macao is also a space marked by modernity. In this issue, we detail proposals to build the fourth bridge and an underwater tunnel to link the Macao Peninsula and Taipa Island. They are demonstrations of the government's determination to encourage development that benefits both residents and visitors.

With the aim of modernising and diversifying Macao's economy, funds set up by the government and earmarked for creative industries have helped local projects take off. This issue of Macao Magazine explores the impact of the local administration's annual budget of MOP200 million (US\$25 million) for creative projects, and profiles some of its beneficiaries.

We highlight the development of Macao's role as a critical link between the Chinese- and Portuguese-speaking worlds in Cabo Verde, where hundreds of entrepreneurs and officials gathered in June to discuss future business ventures. We also speak with Cabo Verdean Prime Minister Ulisses Correia e Silva about relations with China (including Macao), and opportunities for investors interested in establishing themselves in the West African island nation.

As usual, history and culture fill the pages of this issue, this month with a special focus on Zhang Daqian, one of the greatest figures in 20th century painting. Works by the man once called the "Picasso of China" are on display at the Macao Museum of Art.

GONÇALO CÉSAR DE SÁ
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF





Building towards the future

Over the next decade, Macao will undertake a series of new infrastructure projects that promise to improve the lives of its citizens by reclaiming land, adding new public housing, and improving transportation. Among the slated projects are a new bridge and a tunnel linking the Macao Peninsula to the Taipa Island

TEXT **CHRISTIAN RITTER**

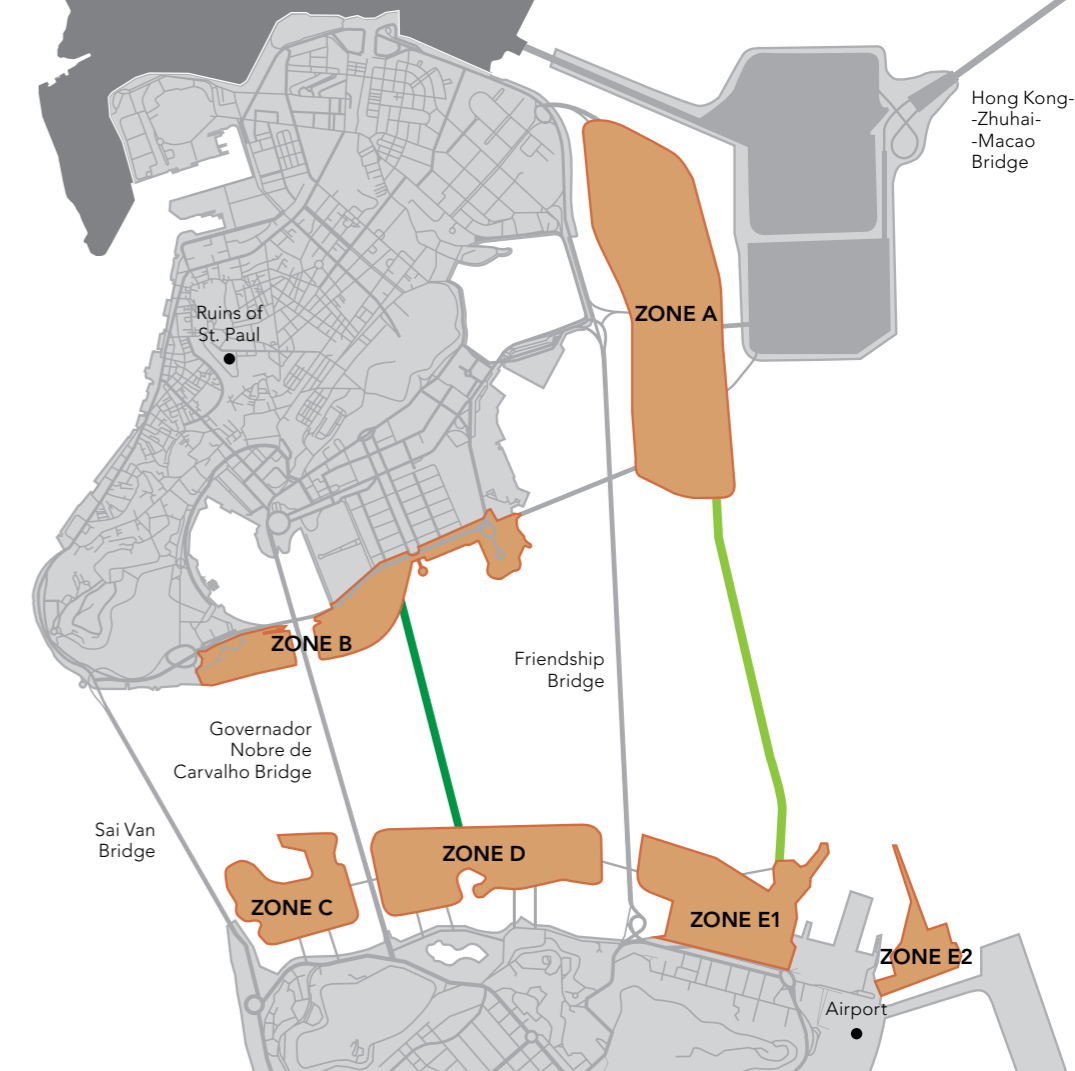
PHOTOS **GOVERNMENT INFORMATION BUREAU**

ILLUSTRATION **FERNANDO CHAN**

Six new land reclamation zones

Tunnel project*

Bridge project*



* The exact location is yet to be determined

The Macao government will release its plan for a tunnel project on the east side of the Governor Nobre de Carvalho Bridge – earmarked as the fifth Macao-Taipa link – at the end of 2017, according to Ho Ion Sang, head of the Legislative Follow-up Committee for Land and Public Concession Affairs.

The tunnel will connect Zone B, off NAPE in the Macao Peninsula, and the future Zone D, off the northern coast of Taipa. Construction of Zone D will begin later this year in the area between the Nobre de Carvalho Bridge and the Friendship Bridge. Zone B's reclamation, covering an area from the Macao Tower to the Kun Iam statue, has already been completed.

According to the government, the reclaimed land near the statue will be used to build facilities for local courts and legal departments.

Ho's announcement came after a closed-door

committee meeting in June 2017 with government representatives, including the Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raimundo do Rosário, and Lands, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT) Director Li Canfeng, to brief them on the progress of the government's half-dozen land reclamation projects.

The six new land reclamation zones, officially known as A, B, C, D, E1 and E2, will reclaim a total area of five square kilometres from the Pearl River.

NEW BRIDGE, NEW HOMES

The government announced new details of the construction of the proposed fourth Macao-Taipa link, connecting Zone A off the north-eastern coast of the peninsula and Zone E1 in Pac On, in Taipa, near the international airport and the recently-opened Macao Maritime Ferry Terminal.



Zone A and Zone E1 are still under construction. The Zone A reclamation, scheduled for completion by the end of 2017, will add 1.38 square kilometres and be used primarily for public housing.

The government has chosen a Hong Kong contractor to oversee and manage the project and the budget of the construction of the fourth bridge between Macao and Taipa. The MOP188.37 million (US\$23.54 million) contract was granted to Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Ltd., a design and engineering solutions company. The company will provide the service from 2017 to 2021.

Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Ltd. have extensive experience with international projects, including the Sydney Opera House, the Centre Pompidou in Paris, and Beijing's Water Cube.

In 2014, the company was hired by the Macao government to develop the road infrastructure project on the Macao side for the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB) at a cost of MOP13.7 million. They also conducted a study that year regarding the extension of the Light Rail Transit (LRT) line to Hengqin Island, in a consortium with China Railway Siyuan Survey and Design Group Co. Ltd.

In September 2016, the government announced that the initial design of the fourth Macao-Taipa connection project was granted to CCCC Highway Consultants Co. Ltd., a mainland China-based infrastructure design company.

The project involves a 3.5 kilometre-long bridge linking the eastern side of the new artificial island for the HZMB – reclaimed on the outer shore of the Macao Peninsula – to the land reclaimed near

the maritime terminal and the Macao International Airport in Taipa, with a total cross-sea span of 2.87 kilometres.

No announcement has been made yet regarding who will build the fourth bridge between Macao and Taipa, but according to the Macao Five-Year Development Plan (2016-2020), the works will start this year and will be concluded by 2019.

The new bridge will open in 2020.

CONNECTING MACAO

The Macao Peninsula is currently linked to Taipa by three bridges: Nobre de Carvalho (1974), Friendship (1994), and Sai Van (2004).

The Lotus Bridge was inaugurated in 1999, linking Taipa Island to Hengqin Island in Zhuhai, in the Guangdong province. The project sought to reinforce the links between Macao and mainland China under Belt and Road initiative and to create a megalopolis under the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area initiative that includes the three cities.

By the end of 2016, the total area of Macao was 30.5 square kilometres.

In 2015 the Macao Special Administrative Region gained jurisdiction over a sea area of 85 square kilometres. The State Council of China authorised that certain area's within this new sea zone could be used for the construction of landfills.

The State Council also decided that Macao would have jurisdiction over Canal dos Patos, where there will be a new border, and the land on which the Portas do Cerco border post is now located. ■

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The campaign for Chinese investment

Macao's business trip to Cabo Verde brought new perspective investments from China to an African country using Macao as a platform to develop the economic and commercial relations for all three parties involved

TEXT PAULO FIGUEIREDO

PHOTOS ENEIAS RODRIGUES AND MACAO TRADE AND INVESTMENT PROMOTION INSTITUTE

PRAIA Cabo Verde





MEETING OF ENTREPRENEURS FOR ECONOMIC AND TRADE COOPERATION BETWEEN CHINA AND PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING COUNTRIES

Outside Confecções Alves Monteiro, the lunchtime heat of a sunny Sunday in Praia was the perfect setting for relaxing at the sound of nostalgic morabeza music. But inside, the head of Cabo Verde TradeInvest, Ana Barber Lima, was eager to get down to business with a delegation of more than 60 businessmen and officials from Macao and nearby provinces in China. Next to her stood João Pedro Alves Monteiro, the founder of Confecções, Cabo Verde’s biggest textile unit, which supplies uniforms for police, firemen, hotels, and schools.

As his business was introduced to the group, questions started to flow: What is the annual income? Who are the main clients? Where are the fabrics imported from? Will they be open to selling a stake in the company?

One of the most experienced members of the delegation jumped in. “You can expand this factory, bring in more modern machinery from China, and export to the whole region!”

Located a stone’s throw from the European Union and well-placed in the Belt and Road (B&R) initiative launched by the Chinese Central Government in 2013, Cabo Verde has a lot to offer to the various interests represented by the delegation.

For Lima “duty free, quota free” is another major selling point. Under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), products manufactured in Cabo Verde are exempt from import tariffs when entering the world’s biggest consumer market, the United States. Cabo Verde is also a part of the large trading bloc created through the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS),

and enjoys privileged relations with the European Union, all of which make Cabo Verde an ideal partner for China.

China wants to cooperate with African countries in developing production capacity, and the Cabo Verde government is eager to attract investment for its fledgling industrial sector, allowing for diversification away from tourism.

The delegation and its meeting with Confecções were organised by Jackson Chang, president of Macao’s Investment and Trade Promotion Institute (IPIM). The Meeting of Entrepreneurs for Economic and Trade Cooperation Between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries Praia 2017, was held simultaneously from the 16th - 18th of June.

DIVERSIFYING TOWARD SUSTAINABILITY

The Praia business forum drew around 400 people, including government and business leaders from all Portuguese-speaking countries, to a former airplane hangar just outside the capital city. Standing on the sidelines of the event, Chang told Macao Magazine that the Cabo Verde authorities had just expressed their wish to bring in Chinese investment to make greater use of its potential in maritime technologies and resources. IPIM will publicise these opportunities in Macao and all over China.

“We are looking for companies in the interior of China that are interested in visiting Cabo Verde, and perhaps making investments. The archipelago is best-suited to small and medium-sized enterprises,” Chang says.

In the area of tourism, one of Macao’s strong points, Chang pointed out that there are already important ties with Cabo Verde – chiefly via investment by David Chow’s Macao Legend Development Ltd. in a hotel, congress centre, and casino in Praia. The delegation visited Chow’s construction yard during their stay in the city.

VISIT TO CONFECÇÕES ALVES MONTEIRO



MACAO DELEGATION



PRAIA Cabo Verde

Cabo Verde already draws around half a million tourists from Portugal, Spain, the United Kingdom, and other countries, to its many beautiful beaches. The potential to expand on that success led Wan Qingdong, executive president of Guotsing Holding Group Co. Ltd., a Beijing-based investment holding company active in over 30 countries worldwide, to make his first trip to Cabo Verde.

“We are looking at Cabo Verde because of its proximity to Angola, and its potential within the B&R initiative,” he explains. “Right now, we’re considering contacting the government about potential projects that we can carry out. We can set up a team in Angola to do prospection here, start with some works, and then start to explore the tourism sector step-by-step.”

Guotsing Holding is currently active in 16 African countries, with significant experience in building water and sanitation infrastructure in Angola. The Portuguese speakers on Wan’s Angolan team are another asset in approaching the Cabo Verde market.

The IPIM delegation also included

a representative from China’s consumer electronics and home appliances giant Haier, Macao Magazine learned. The group will consider setting up a local unit to take advantage of favourable tax incentives provided by Cabo Verdean authorities, although market prospection is at its early stages.

Also in attendance at the Praia business forum was Eugénio Inocêncio, an economist and vice-president of Cabo Verde’s Chamber of Tourism.

“Chinese entrepreneurs now have the opportunity to explore new ways of approaching the country, in two vital investment sectors,” Inocêncio says. “Tourism has already drawn Chinese entrepreneurs to invest in the islands of Boavista and Santiago, but the potential of the financial services sector remains largely untapped. There’s the internal market, but also the foreign market, namely Africa.”

“As a member of ECOWAS with experienced staff in the financial area, Cabo Verde is well-positioned to serve this fast-growing market,” he explains. “Chinese investment is very present

in Praia, and captivating Chinese manufacturers offers a critical opportunity to develop a more productive and diverse economy.”

The renewable energy sector is another hot point for the Cabo Verdean authorities. During their visit, Ana Barber Lima led the IPIM delegation on a tour of one of the country’s prides, the Centre for Renewable Energy and Industrial Maintenance (CERMI). Located just outside Praia, the newly-built centre, equipped with its own next-generation solar panels, trains technicians and experts from Guinea-Bissau and other countries in the West Africa region.

The centre is already cooperating with a Chinese electrical equipment provider, but its president, Luís Teixeira, has a bigger vision: investments in solar or wind parks. The existing parks are not enough to meet the country’s energy needs, and expanding renewable capacity would help drive down the high cost of electricity, currently considered a significant obstacle to industrial investment in the country.

Not far from CERMI is the future campus of the University of Cabo Verde. The joint government project is fully-funded by the Chinese, and will be built by the state-owned Longxin Group. In April 2017, Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei signed an agreement with the government IT unit, Operational Nucleus of the Information Society (NOSI) aimed at developing and launching end-to-end e-government solutions in areas such as Education, Health and Social Security, and Land Management.

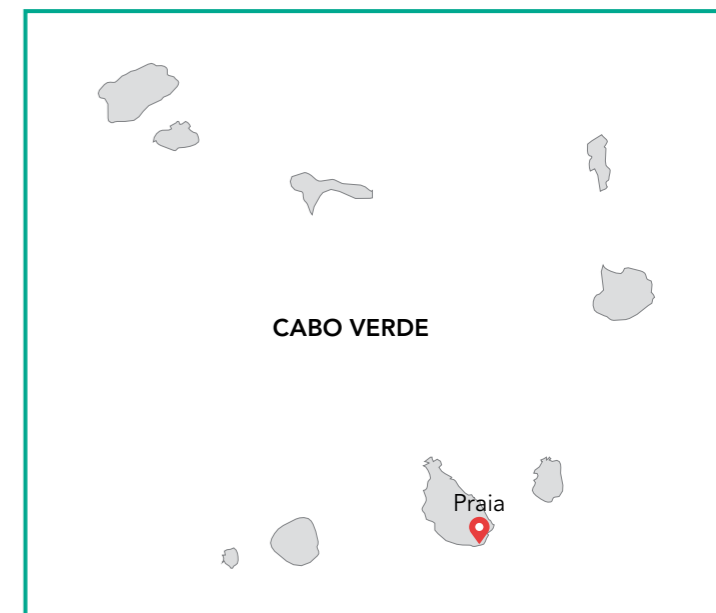
But China’s flagship investment in Cabo Verde is on the northern island of São Vicente, with a project that promises to give the Portuguese-speaking archipelago a greater foothold in the global “blue economy.”

The special economic zone, created in partnership with China, will focus on services for the shipping and fishing industries, as well as other marine-based economic activities. Slated for construction in three and a half years, the details are still being outlined, but both governments have been adamant on its potential impact.

Visiting Praia a few weeks prior to the business forum, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi underscored the importance of Cabo Verde’s geography, while his Cabo Verdean counterpart, Luís Filipe Tavares, declared his government’s intention to be part of the B&R initiative.



CENTRE FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY AND INDUSTRIAL MAINTENANCE

CABO VERDE
Location in Africa

CULTIVATING THE PLATFORM

Among the IPIM delegation to the Praia business forum were members from China's Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM), Forum Macao, the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT), represented by vice-chairman Zhang Wei, and Jin Guangze, the director-general of the management company of the Fund for Development Cooperation between China and the Portuguese-speaking Countries. The group also included delegations from the provinces of Fujian, Hunan, and Jiangsu, as well as representatives from Liaoning Province and Dalian Municipality.

Conference participants were eager to know more about the Belt and Road initiative drawn up by the central government of China, as well as the recent establishment of the Cooperation Fund in Macao. Representing the fund, Jin stressed that the financial institution will benefit from its location in the Macao platform.

With a number of business people interested

in making applications to the fund for their projects, Jin outlined the three selection criteria: strategic nature, rational investment, and financial viability, which would provide a "reasonable" return for shareholders in 4-5 years.

Of the 10 agreements signed at the end of the meeting, one is already preparing to apply to the fund.

The Chinlumac Corporation, owned by Macau businessman Eduardo Ambrósio, and healthcare consultancy Figueiredo & Tavares Consultoria em Saúde, are seeking funds for a EUR27 million (MOP247.9 million) project to build the country's first large-scale private health unit, according to the Cabo Verde partner, Emanuel Figueiredo. The Djéu-Gamboa Private Hospital, set to open in 2020-2021, is a benchmark of the trilateral cooperation that has been advocated by the various governments, with Ambrósio hailing from Macao, and his partners from Cabo Verde and Portugal.

Speaking at the forum, deputy director-general of the Department for Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau Affairs, MOFCOM, Kang Wen emphasised the role that both the Macao Special Administrative Region and Forum Macao can play as a services platform helping to boost trade and investment in Portuguese-speaking countries.

According to Kang, the decision to base the Cooperation Fund in Macao should benefit all countries involved. New inroads of cooperation are being created with the Belt and Road, namely in productive capacity.

"The Belt and Road initiative is open and inclusive," says Kang. "All countries can participate, and we expect to count on the Lusophone countries." ■

ZHANG WEI Vice-chairman of CCPIT



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Cabo Verde and China: a closer partnership

TEXT PAULO FIGUEIREDO
PHOTOS ENEIAS RODRIGUES



Ulisses Correia e Silva, Cabo Verdean Prime Minister, discusses how he hopes to work more closely with Asian investors to diversify the West African archipelago's economy

Ulisses Correia e Silva's government came to power with a reformist and business-friendly agenda that prioritises attracting investment to Cabo Verde. His key goal is to expand his nation's economy, which currently relies strongly on tourism, by attracting more investors from important regions such as China.

Relationships are already being built; for example China is helping Cabo Verde to establish a Special Economic Zone for maritime services. This is expected to have a role in China's Belt and Road initiative.

Chinese IT giant Huawei has recently signed a service providing agreement with the government and Macao businessman David Chow's resort, convention centre and casino complex is starting to take form, all while many other investment projects are being outlined.

Correia e Silva spoke to Macao Magazine after the yearly Meeting of Business Leaders for the Economic and Trade Cooperation Between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries hosted in Cabo Verde's capital city, Praia.

Macao Magazine: What do you believe came out of the Meeting of Business Leaders?

Ulisses Correia e Silva: These meetings are very important as you're given the opportunity to meet potential investors face-to-face. We hope that cooperation and business ties were strengthened, making things easier for all our businesspeople. We also hope that the meeting will help Praia gain a reputation as a great venue for international events, especially business conferences.

MM: There have been signs of a closer relationship between Cabo Verde, China and Macao. How is this developing?

UCS: We have a good political, diplomatic and cooperative relationship with China. We have some important projects ongoing, namely the SEZ for São Vicente island's maritime economy, which I expect will have a major positive effect on Cabo Verde.

We're hoping to attract more direct investment from the region by highlighting the advantage of Cabo Verde being a member of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

Regarding Macao, our common language of Portuguese definitely plays a factor. Macao can help us by being a platform between Cabo Verde and China as well as all Portuguese-speaking countries; which is another huge market that needs to be explored. Therefore, we have a huge interest in developing even stronger relations with Macao.

MM: So do you believe that the Macao Forum – the meeting point for businessmen from China and Portuguese-speaking countries – has an important role to play as matchmaker between Chinese investors and Cabo Verde?

UCS: We recently had a meeting in our capital, Praia, of businessmen from China and the Portuguese-speaking countries. These meetings are very important as you can meet potential investors in person, face-to-face. The common language of Portuguese definitely gives us the possibility to profit from Macao as a bridge between Cabo Verde and the rest of China. This relationship is very important and fostering a closer relationship with Macao could help the government attract investment.

Macao can help us by being a platform between Cabo Verde and China as well as all Portuguese-speaking countries, said Ulisses Correia e Silva

MM: How do you think the SEZ will bolster your relationship with China and support the growth of your economy?

UCS: We are betting heavily on this project because it boosts the economy of Sao Vicente Island and will have a major effect on the country as a whole.

It includes everything from transport to support systems for our fishing operations, which provide services to the large number of Chinese ships operating in our region. As a privileged partner, China is not only helping deliver this project; we hope it will become a major user.

MM: Might this project have a positive effect beyond your borders, also supporting the regional economy?

UCS: Every project in Cabo Verde has to reflect the fact that the internal market is small, both in terms of population size and income, as we have a per capita GDP of roughly US\$4,000. However, at the same time, we are part of an economic community with free circulation of goods and people, as well as trade facilities, namely in customs. We also offer stability, plus low political and social risk. This gives companies confidence to establish branches in Cabo Verde that can cover the West Africa region.

MM: Would you say that you are betting heavily on the relationship with ECOWAS?

UCS: We are a member of ECOWAS, although trade and investment flows are presently very small, representing only around two per cent of our global trade. Nevertheless, we highlight to potential investors that by investing in us they are, in fact, investing in a market of 300 million consumers, 80 million of which are middle class.



However, when I mention ECOWAS, I do it in terms of a global approach to the countries. Sometimes, we think too much about the community and forget it is made up of individual countries. Rather than develop good investment and commercial relationships with all ECOWAS countries at the same time, I think it's important to focus on relationships with those countries that best support Cabo Verde's goals. We can also be a platform to join the interests of both sides.

MM: Your government made a strong commitment to supporting business. What have you achieved so far and what still needs to happen?

UCS: We have adopted a set of measures aimed at removing constraints on businesses, such as introducing a tax relief in the latest budget and providing guarantees to help small and medium businesses obtain capital for their projects.

The central bank has also lowered the interest rate and we have set up a commission to address bureaucracy.

We know that companies still face several constraints, especially around transport and power. To help them we're working to provide better and safer maritime connections between the islands and we also plan to privatise our national airline Transportes Aéreos de Cabo Verde.

MM: Regarding overseas investment, what measures is the government adopting to support this?

UCS: The most important measures are tax related. We have decided to keep the taxation of foreign direct investment at a low level and are considering a 2.5-5 per cent corporate profit tax, with tax exemption for raw materials. With these measures we aim to bolster the investment from export businesses.

In institutional terms we created Cabo Verde Trade Invest to be a one-stop shop for investors and businessmen, allowing those that want to invest in our country to get everything they need from one place.

MM: What about your aim of growing investment in sectors other than tourism?

UCS: Sure, there are tourism projects that will still interest Chinese investors, but we also believe there are great opportunities here for business in areas such as renewable energy, agriculture, and export.

For example, we want to further leverage our Regional Center for Renewable Energies (CERMI), because one of its goals is to promote renewable energy in West Africa. Remember, although we're a small country, as a member of ECOWAS we provide access to millions of potential consumers.

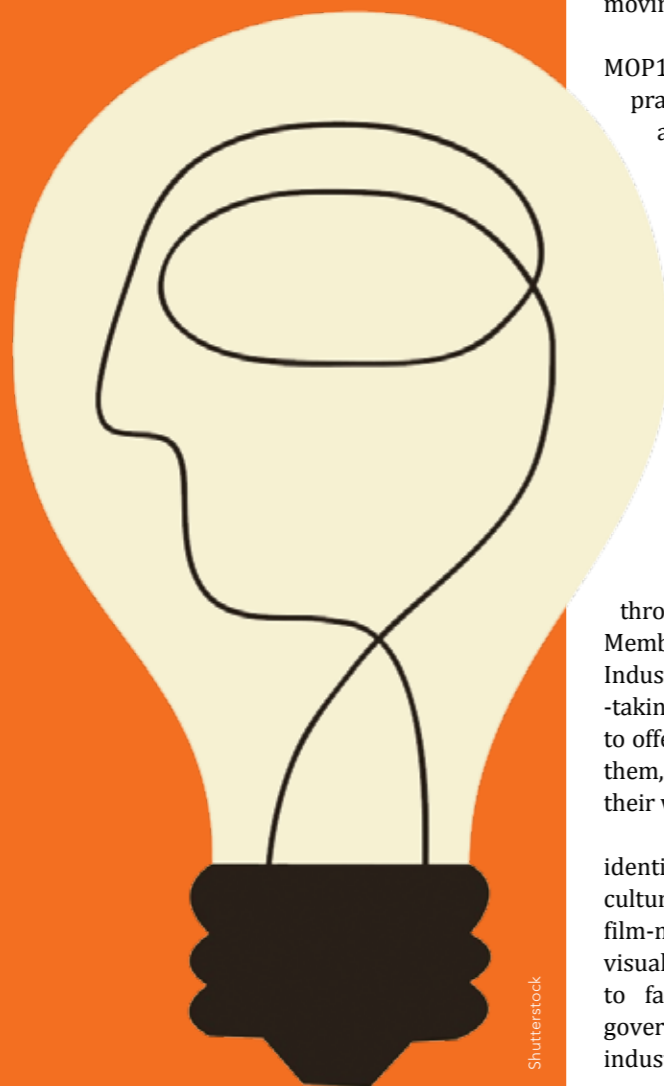
IT is another sector Cabo Verde can develop, because it does not rely on transport and logistics, but on human capital and technology. Cabo Verde can be a base for industries and services that can export for the whole world, not only Africa, and take advantage of human resources here; highly skilled and cheaper than in Europe or the US. ■

Creativity in action

Creative and cultural industries are key to Macao's economic diversification

TEXT CATHY LAI

PHOTOS ANTÓNIO SANMARFUL AND LEONG SIO PO



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The creative and cultural industries have become a significant economic force in Macao in recent years. A report released by the Statistics and Census Service recorded more than 1,700 organisations operating in the sector in 2015, generating total service revenue of MOP6.24 billion.

In the 2011 Policy Address of Macao Special Administrative Region, the government confirmed its commitment to promoting the development of the cultural and creative industries in an effort to achieve appropriate economic diversification. Six years later, vice president of the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) Chan Peng Fai believes that the sector is moving from the pioneer stage to the growth stage.

"The government allocates an average of MOP100 million each year to subsidise industry practitioners. The return on investment is about 1 to 62.4, indicating that a number of companies are no longer completely reliant on government support," Chan explains. "They may even be operating in quite a mature way."

Macao has served as a major hub for global trade and cultural exchange for over 400 years, earning the city the inscription as a UNESCO World Heritage city in 2005. With this rich cultural heritage, buoyed by an astounding 30 million tourists visiting each year, Macao enjoys a solid foundation for the development of cultural and creative industries.

"The first step is to promote the industries through cultural tourism," says Chu Miu Lai, Member of the Administrative Council of the Cultural Industries Fund. "Travelling is not just about photo-taking, it's about experiencing a culture. We hope to offer visitors something more to take home with them, for instance, a souvenir that reminds them of their wonderful experience in Macao."

The government drew up a blueprint in 2010 identifying eight directions for developing the cultural and creative industries: design, publication, film-making, fashion, music, comics, animation, and visual art. Schemes and measures were formulated to facilitate collaborative efforts between the government and the public for promoting the industry.



CHAN PENG FAI Vice president of the Cultural Affairs Bureau

NURTURING INDUSTRY

In March 2010, the government established the Department for Promoting Cultural and Creative Industries in the IC to foster industry development. Two months later, they set up the Cultural Industry Committee for the purpose of collecting public opinions on the development of Macao's cultural industry, and formulating policies and measures that meet the needs of local communities.

Chan believes that nurturing an artistic and cultural atmosphere within local communities is crucial for promoting public engagement with the industries. To support them through this incubation stage of development, the IC offers a range of subsidy programmes to local groups and individuals dedicated to cultural and artistic activities.

Each year in September, the Subsidy Programme Series for Macao's Cultural and Creative Industries launches a new series of subsidies and supporting initiatives, aimed at fostering creative talent, and cultivating local brands of cultural and creative products. Another initiative, the Community Arts Projects Support Programme, focuses on enhancing communities' connection with art and culture by encouraging groups to integrate into local communities and

COLLABORATIVE EFFORT

In 2013, the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) launched the Support Programme for the Production of Feature Films to provide financial aid to local filmmakers. Tracy Choi received the maximum grant of MOP1.5 million to produce *Sisterhood*, an award-winning movie about a love story between two masseuses working in Macao.

Sisterhood originates from Choi's master thesis project in film production. After obtaining her degree, Choi applied for the subsidy from the IC in an effort to expand her master project into a feature film.

"During the year-long application process, I was required to submit my CV, the movie script, a list of the main cast and characters, some of my previous works and so on – and of course, I had to pass the interview with the adjudicating panel."

As the program stipulates a maximum grant of 70 per cent of the total budget, Choi wasted no time in securing investments to cover the remaining cost.

"With the subsidies from the IC, I was in a better position to convince potential investors. Their support made me seem like a safe bet."

Choi eventually partnered with One Cool Group Limited, a Hong Kong-based movie investment and production company. The film crew of *Sisterhood* became a mixed team of Macao and Hong Kong movie professionals.

"We learned a lot working with the experienced professionals from Hong Kong," Choi says. "But our passion for filmmaking really took them by surprise. Macao's film industry is just at the beginning stage. They never thought that the young people of Macao would put so much heart into it."

Choi also reveals that, in addition to the financial aid, the IC rendered support throughout the filming process.

"We sought help from them several times when we realised we hadn't applied for certain shooting locations," Choi recalls. "The bureau personnel were so helpful; they made immediate arrangements and took care of the coordination work with other government departments for us. We are incredibly grateful for their support."

Released in February 2017, *Sisterhood* received two nominations from the Hong Kong Film Awards. It also represented Macao at the 1st International Film Festival & Awards held in December 2016, where it won the Audience Choice Award.

TRACY CHOI





CHU MIUI LAI Member of the Administrative Council of the Cultural Industries Fund

invite citizens to participate in artistic creations. Of the 32 applications submitted for the 2016 subsidies, six have been approved with projects ranging from theatre performances to story-telling workshops that aim to promote community art to people of all ages.

Through the combined efforts of the government and industry practitioners, communities with historic charm have been revitalised as art and cultural districts in Macao.

“Take São Lázaro Parish as an example. It has very well-preserved historic buildings and a strong cultural ambience,” Chan says. “A lot of creative businesses have settled in that area. You can find vintage stores, designer boutiques, and exhibition halls that display and promote artistic and creative products. Roads are blocked on weekends, creating space for street performances and flea markets. The entire area brims with cultural vitality.”

There are many unique communities in Macao still waiting to be developed. The government is currently working with local education institutes to conduct research on local creative and cultural industries. One purpose of the research is to identify communities with the potential to become cultural and creative zones.

“Every community has its own distinct cultural resources. The researchers analyse their special features, and propose plans for developing their cultural and artistic value,” explains Chan. “For instance, the stone-paved street in Travessa do Armazém Velho, an older district near Largo do Senado, famous for its flea-market that sells a variety of antiques, or some of the enclosed communities to the west of the Ruins of St. Paul. They have a strong historic ambience; there’s potential for some development in these areas in the future.”

BUILDING BUSINESS

As a further step to support the development of local cultural and creative industries, the government established the Cultural Industries Fund in October 2013, with an annual budget of MOP200 million. The fund provides financial aid to companies that fit within the four major domains of the industries – cultural exposition and performance, creative design, art collection, and digital media – in the form of subsidies or interest-free loans.

As of May 2017, financial aid granted by the fund has exceeded MOP200 million, benefiting more than 100 projects. Chu says that many of these projects are related to digital media and creative design, which are also the two largest domains in the sector, making up 48 per cent and 29 per cent of its total service receipts in 2015, respectively.

“In recent years, the IC has provided a lot of support programmes for movie production, which is part of the digital media category. That’s why we’re seeing more and more creative talent working in this field,” Chu says. “Applicants from the creative design category are mostly young fashion or graphic designers, graduates from local education institutes who are eager to put their skills into practice.”

According to Chu, most of the companies that receive grants are formed by young people between the ages of 20 and 40. They work as small teams of 5–10 people, and have great potential for training and development.

“The applicants learn a lot throughout the application process. Preparing a detailed proposal and filling out forms requires them to contemplate the structure of their team, their target market, competitors, predicted income and expense, even risk management. Even if the first application is not successful, they’re able to come back as a more mature team with a better plan.”

Successful applicants enter into agreements with the fund, and receive grants on the basis of those agreements. To ensure that the grants are used effectively, applicants are required to submit regular progress reports. In return, the fund provides feedback and suggestions to help the companies through their early stage of development. Beneficiaries also receive opportunities to participate in expositions and promotional activities held in Macao or overseas regions, allowing them to reach more potential customers.

According to Chu, many applicants failed the applications in the beginning because they had no idea that they had to run a long-term business instead of a one-time event. “We are hoping to cultivate businesses that last 1–2 years or more, even better if a local brand is formed.”

A FASHION BRAND WITH A MACAO IDENTITY

I.N.K is a men’s clothing brand established by Macao-born stylist Inky Leong and fashion designer Kris Chan. The brand debuted at Shenzhen Fashion Week in March 2017, and took a pioneering step into the market in June, opening its first retail store in Macao.

Leong describes I.N.K as a reflection of Macao, incorporating cultural elements of the city into the design. “You will find a lot of graphics reminiscent of the city on our clothes. Even the logo of I.N.K. is inspired by the traditional window frames still found on some historic buildings in Macao,” he explains. “We hope to let people know that Macao has its own fashion brand.”

Leong and Chan applied for financial aid from the Cultural Industries Fund in October 2016, not long after they began laying the groundwork to launch I.N.K. The meticulous selection process employed by the fund demanded strong preparation, the duo recalls.

“We did a lot of market research, and studied the operations of other fashion brands, in order to formulate a development plan that we believed would work in Macao’s market,” Leong says. “Many artists and designers may find that running a business isn’t really their thing, but I believe it’s important for them to develop business skills and knowledge. Preparing our application for the fund helped with that, and allowed us to consolidate the foundation of our business.”

After a months-long application process involving document submissions, presenta-

tions, and interviews, the business partners finally received the good news in March 2017: the I.N.K. project was granted a subsidy of MOP748,041 and an interest-free loan of MOP1,564,500.

Leong believes that access to financial aid has helped emerging designers and artists avoid many of the struggles of starting a business. “Having the initial capital allowed us to explore various cooperation plans with other companies.”

The business partners are aware that fashion has yet to become an integral part of Macao’s culture. So their next step will be expanding cooperation with different business sectors in an effort to further promote their fashion brand in the market.

“We are currently working with a local entertainment company to create tailor-made costumes for its artists to attend the upcoming Macao Award Music Ceremony in August,” Leong says. “We also open our first pop-up store in Galaxy Macau in July, which will allow us to introduce our brand not only to local people, but also to tourists from around the world.”

INKY LEONG (LEFT) AND KRIS CHAN (RIGHT)



A PLATFORM FOR CULTURAL EXCHANGE

The Belt and Road initiative has become a major diplomatic programme for the Chinese Central Government since 2013, and among its objectives is the promotion of cultural exchange between the participating countries and cities. Macao, with its unique cultural background and economic position, can play an important role as a regional platform.

“Cooperation schemes have been formed among Guangdong, Hong Kong, and Macao to facilitate regional exchange and integration, in support of the Belt and Road initiative,” Chan says. “The cultural and creative industries of the three regions can participate through co-organising cultural and artistic events, such as book fairs, film festivals, and cultural expos, which in turn offer a great deal of business opportunities,” says Chan.

Macao’s open economy, prime position in the Belt and Road initiative, and role as the service platform for trade cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking countries, make it uniquely positioned to take advantage of local industry practitioners and overseas investors.

“The favourable policies implemented in Macao may draw interest of overseas investors,” says Chu. “That’s why we keep encouraging local companies to pay attention to these policies and seize the opportunities to go further.”

Chu reports that a number of local creative brands, fashion designers in particular, are already stepping out of Macao. They’re participating in exhibition events in overseas regions such as Hong Kong, Guangdong and even Europe, enabling their brands to reach foreign markets. ■

BUSINESS WITHOUT BORDERS

Established in 2016 by local creative brand, Macao Creations, eSpark is the first and only crowdsourced creative platform in Macao. It works with designers from around the world, transforming their artwork into products such as T-shirts, eco bags, and posters. The products are sold via eSpark’s online platform and in retail stores, and designers receive commissions based on a percentage of total sales.

According to Wilson Lam, CEO of Macao Creations, eSpark was among the first batch of projects that applied for financial aid from the Creative Industries Fund in 2014. The project received an interest-free loan of MOP5 million in total, with a funding period spanning three years.

Lam says that his company enjoys additional benefits as fund recipients. “To receive a subsidy, companies have to undergo evaluation and prove that the business is up to standard. So fund recipients are always the first invited to participate in government-organised promotional activities, and are mentioned more frequently on the government’s promotional website.”

In its first year of operations, eSpark recruited designers from Macao as well as places like mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and the United States. Each contributes 5–10 pieces, totalling around 1,000 pieces of artwork on the website.

Lam reveals that eSpark will soon undergo the second phase of development, which includes website reconstruction and promotion plans.

“The fund encouraged me to execute the project, and now, it’s time to line up more investment to advance the business,” he says. “It will take a lot of time and money, but I think it’s worth it. I can see a lot of potential in this business.”

Aiming to bring eSpark to global markets, he also plans to add a Portuguese version to the online platform, in addition to existing Chinese and English versions.

“With the language barrier and Chinese policies, it’s not easy for on-line platforms from Western countries to break into the Chinese market, or vice versa,” says Lam. “With Macao’s open economy and its special positioning in China’s economic initiatives, though, I believe eSpark can become a trade platform for buyers and designers all over the world.”

WILSON LAM



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18 years after its inception, Macau University of Science and Technology has more than 10,000 students and is a leader in product development, research and innovation within the Greater China area

TEXT MARK O'NEILL
PHOTOS ANTÓNIO SANMARFUL



The Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) was the first new university in Macao after its return to China. In the 18 years since, it has grown rapidly to include 11 faculties, leading institutes, and research centres.

Established in 2000, the university sits on a 210,000 square metre site in Taipa, near the Cotai Strip. The government approved it as part of a broader plan to diversify the economy and attract high-quality academic talent from around the world. It offers degrees at the bachelor, master, and doctoral levels. Instruction is primarily in English, with classes also in Mandarin, Portuguese, and Spanish.

Today, it has more than 10,000 students – 7,700 undergraduates and 2,800 post-graduates – from around the world including Macao, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and mainland China. The teaching and research staff numbered 700 in the 2016–2017 school year. Like their students, they come from various countries and regions, including the United States, Japan, and Europe. Among them are

scholars from the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the Chinese Academy of Engineering, Academia Sinica in Taiwan, and the American Medical Academy.

MUST is a private institution managed by the MUST Foundation. Local undergraduate students pay annual fees of MOP32,800 – 43,600, depending on the programme. The university boasts 11 schools and faculties: Business, Pharmacy, Graduate Studies, International College, Continuing Studies, Hospitality and Tourism Management, Humanities and Arts, Information Technology, Chinese Medicine, Health Sciences, and Law.

The MUST campus includes a university hospital, an international school, an Olympic standard track and field stadium, gymnasium, indoor stadium, tennis courts and other sports facilities, as well as convenience stores. It is also home to several leading institutes and research centres, including the State Key Laboratory of Quality Research in Chinese Medicine; the Space

MUST LIBRARY



TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE LABORATORY



LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

The university aims to be a source of research breakthroughs, product development and innovation, according to the president of MUST, Liu Liang.

“We would like to add an industrial park. It would have to be constructed in the mainland under a cooperative agreement, since space is limited in Macao. Something like Tsinghua Tongfang, established by the staff of Tsinghua University to focus their institutional strengths toward commercial exploration and innovation.”

“Moving forward, Macao must focus on developing science and knowledge-based industries. These sectors don’t need large spaces, they need high-quality people. We must have Macao research and development, Macao brands, and the Macao model,” explains Liu. “We need science to produce results.”

Teaching staff have received a total of 214 international patents, with a record 60 such patents in 2016. Between May 2016 to April 2017, MUST professors published 502 research papers,

Science Institute; Macau Institute of Systems Engineering; the Institute for Sustainable Development; and Macau Environmental Research Institute.

In addition to being the largest multi-disciplinary university in Macao, MUST ranked 32nd in the 2016 list of top universities in Greater China, released by Jiao Tong University of Shanghai and Shanghai Ranking. It is one of the youngest universities on the list, outperforming both well-established institutions and fellow up-and-comers.



SPACE SCIENCE INSTITUTE

with 80 per cent in English. A total of 55 per cent were published in Q1 SCI/SSCI journals, the top of four categories of academic journal. “We were happy to see this,” says Liu. “Quality is more important than quantity.”

One of the university’s strengths is in Chinese medicine, Liu’s specialty. “Of the Chinese medicine doctors in Macao, 60 per cent graduated from MUST,” he says. The campus is home to the Laboratory of Quality Research in Chinese Medicine, a state-level institution and the only one of its kind in China. The market for these medical products is enormous, not only in the Chinese-speaking world, but in other countries where they are only now gaining recognition and acceptance.

The Space Science Institute at MUST is also a pioneer in China. It leads the Cross-Strait Four-Regions in lunar and planetary science research, and participated in China’s first deep space exploration project, the Chang’e Lunar Exploration Program.

Looking ten years ahead, Liu says that teaching and research are of equal importance to MUST. “We want to be a research university. We hope to broaden our sectors of research, be more international, and have more co-operations with foreign universities.”

DEVELOPING EXCELLENCE

The university offers a diverse range of educational programmes, drawing on the experience of world-class institutions of higher education. It aims to produce graduates well-versed in theory and highly competitive in practice. They should be innovative, ethical, multi-lingual, and able to meet the needs of science, technology, and the economy in a globalised world. Many graduates have won scholarships to pursue further studies in universities abroad, while others have gone to work in the government and large companies in Macao, Hong Kong, and mainland China.

The Centre for Entrepreneurship and Career Planning helps students identify their strengths and increase their competitive edge, while also developing a strong core value system. The university promotes student participation in professional competitions at home and abroad. Students are encouraged to engage in activities outside the classroom to further their development. The Art Troupe, as well as the university’s many piano and rehearsal rooms, offer students space to pursue their artistic interests. The Student Affairs Office also organises visits, trips, and activities in addition to overseeing a wide variety of groups, from

academic and athletic teams to the Social Service Team, which offers training and volunteer opportunities to enhance student interest in serving the community.

Faculty receives university support in pursuing multi-disciplinary and cutting-edge research, as part of the broader goal to make MUST one of the most renowned universities in the Asia-Pacific Region.

HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

Liu grew up in a farming family in a village in Hunan province during the Cultural Revolution. “In the 1970s, we had very few books. Those we had were very precious,” Liu explains. “After what we lived through, nothing today seems hard. Exhausting, yes, but nothing like the hardship we experienced.”

During the Cultural Revolution (1966-76), the universities of China closed and millions of intellectuals were sent to the countryside to work. Among them were a husband and wife, both teachers at Hunan Medical University, sent to a people’s commune in the province.

Liu was sent to the same commune, where he worked with the couple at a Chinese medical clinic. There, he studied with them and observed

as they treated patients. “They were very good teachers. I cherish those six months.” The experience inspired Liu to pursue a career in medicine, becoming a doctor and researcher of traditional medicine.

For Liu, and millions of others in the mainland, 1978 was a pivotal year. After a 12-year absence, the national university entrance exam was restored; tens of thousands of people who had waited helplessly during the Cultural Revolution at last had the opportunity to apply for tertiary education.

Competition was fierce. In his home province of Hunan, just 0.3 per cent of those who sat the exam obtained a university place; Liu was one of them. He was assigned to study traditional medicine at Guangzhou Chinese Medical University despite having already spent two years studying western medicine at a college in Hunan. “At that time in China, you had to obey the assignment, according to the marks you had obtained.”

In 1990, he earned his Ph.D from a university in Guangzhou. Two years later, he travelled to Germany to continue his research at the Institute of Molecular Pharmacology of Medical School Hannover and Max-Planck (MPG) Institute of Immunology and Rheumatism (German Academy of Science) at Erlangen-Nuremberg University. His

We want to be a research university. We hope to broaden our sectors of research, be more international, and have more co-operations with foreign universities, said Liu Liang, president of MUST

study focused on the fields of rheumatism and clinical immunology.

Liu returned to China and, in 1997, became vice-president and professor at his alma mater in Guangzhou. In August 2000, under a Hong Kong scheme to import talent, he moved to Hong Kong Baptist University where he served as Executive Associate Dean of its Chinese Medicine College. He was soon promoted to Dean in January 2001, and held the post until June 2011.

In July 2011, he moved to MUST, serving as vice-president in charge of research and innovation before being promoted to president in January 2013.

NO WEEKENDS

"My responsibility is to be president of this university. Research is my interest, and being a doctor is my profession. All three are important," Liu explains. "I enjoy research. So many medical problems are unresolved, and treatment alone is not enough. Medical knowledge is progressing rapidly; diligent study is required for a doctor to keep up with the latest advancements."

Balancing the demands of his academic and professional life rarely allows for time off. "In the office, I do administrative work. I do my own research in the evenings, at the weekends or on holidays, often finishing at midnight. My wife complains that I sacrifice too much family time."

He also sets aside one afternoon each week to treat patients, seeing around 20



LIU LIANG President of MUST

people per session. About half come from Hong Kong to see him. "Arthritis and rheumatism are complicated diseases, and Western medicine is not so effective. It works best when combined with Chinese medicine, which is the foundation for most of my work."

"This schedule leaves me very tired but very satisfied," Lie says. Delegating work to his vice-presidents helps meet the many demands on his time. "You cannot do everything yourself; one person has limited ability and wisdom. There is strength in working together, as a team."

President Liu has come a long way from the hardship he endured in the 1970s, when he was struggling to find books or decent facilities for research. Today, he presides over a growing multi-disciplinary university where students enjoy a wealth of resources and opportunities for advancement. Under Liu's capable leadership, with a world-class staff and broad array of institutions constantly innovating, MUST aims to make a name for itself on the world stage. ■

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Lai Kei: flavours from the past

Ice cream shop keeps old Macao favourite alive

TEXT MARK O'NEILL

PHOTOS ANTÓNIO SANMARFUL



BRAND IMAGE A young girl

Where in Macao can you buy fresh, hand-made coconut, mango, sesame, honey melon and peppermint ice cream for just MOP13 (US\$1.6)?

There is only one place – the Lai Kei shop on Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida, a short walk from Tap Seac Square.

Ambert Kong Wong-tsan is the third generation of his family to run the shop, which was founded by his grandfather, Kong Lai-ging, in the 1950s. It is one of the shrinking number of family-owned stores in the city, and the only one that still sells their own ice cream.

“People came here offering to buy the site, which is in a good location,” Kong said in an interview. “But we did not consider it. We are the only one of its kind left. It would be so sad. Our customers always urge us to continue our business and keep this old shop in Macao.”

“We are close to our customers, who include many civil servants, film stars and famous people. But we don’t put their photos on the windows because we don’t want to attract attention to them.”

FROM STALL TO SHOP

Grandfather Kong, the founder of the dynasty, was born into a modest family in the 1910s. After he graduated from primary school, he went to work as a machinery apprentice, painter and at a skating rink. It was at the skating rink that he came up with the idea to make ice cream.

He started selling it from a stall downtown, near the Lisboa Hotel, where he also sold biscuits.

“He wanted to do something different than other people,” said Kong.

Grandfather Kong later rented a shop nearby the current one, to sell the ice cream that he produced himself at a small factory.

After having four sons, he wanted a daughter and so created the image of a young girl on the package of his products, hoping that this would bring him good luck. It worked and he had two daughters. The family has kept the lucky image ever since.

After 20 years at a site on the opposite side of the street, the family bought the site it has used for the last 50 years.



“When I knew him, he was in his 60s, and he had diabetes,” said Kong. “The shop was open seven days a week, from 10 am to 11 pm. There were no holidays.”

FATHER TO SON

Grandfather’s eldest son, Kong Gwoon-hong, took over from his father. He was a secondary school graduate and a keen student.

“It was decided very early that he would take over,” says Kong. His grandfather passed away in the 1980s. Kong remembers a different era during his childhood.

“In those days, people did not drive cars. They lived and worked in their own neighbourhood. They were very close to each other,” said Kong. “Of our clientele then, nearly 90 per cent were Macao people. In the past, it was a slower-paced city. People were more simple and unsophisticated.”

Restaurants and food shops played an essential role in the lives of people. After work, they would go to these places to socialise, eat meals and watch sports, dramas and traditional opera on television. Many people had no air

conditioning at home, so they went to restaurants to eat watermelon to cool off.

Macao’s society has changed significantly since the shop first opened its doors some 70 years ago. This transformation has altered the neighbourhood around the shop. Many of the old family restaurants have closed, replaced by fast food chains and franchises. The majority of family-owned shops have also disappeared, hit hard by rising rents and other costs, and unable to compete with the financial strength and purchasing power of large companies. Some people feared the 1999 handover, and thus sold their businesses and emigrated abroad.

Residents now have a wealth of choice with entertainment – discos, karaoke, bars, hotels and chic restaurants – and private cars have become commonplace.

“So our clientele has changed,” said Kong. “Now it is 50 per cent from Macao and 50 per cent from outside. People come here from all over the world. The first visitors were from Hong Kong. Now they come from South Korea, Taiwan, the mainland, France and Britain. We have Americans and Tibetans.” Lai Kei is now included in many



international guidebooks.

“Tourists want what is old and traditional,” said Kong. “They do not want the chains; they can find them at home. It is the same with me when I go to Japan. I look for the old, family-run restaurants.”

The rapid expansion of the casinos since 2000s has been a mixed blessing. They have brought a large number of new clients eager to sample Macao’s traditional food and customs. But the casinos have also driven up wages and provided more comfortable working conditions, which has made young people unwilling to do other kinds of work.

When hiring staff, Kong is unable to pay the wages offered by the casinos.

TREASURING THE OLD

Born in 1976, Ambert Kong, the oldest son, took over management of the store from his father, who passed away in 2011.

He himself was better educated than his father and grandfather. After graduating from high school in Macao, he went to study design at the University of California in Los Angeles, where he worked for a year following graduation.

“My father’s health was not so good, so I decided to come back to be with the family,” he said. Kong worked for Sands China Ltd. for one year as a designer before rejoining the family business.

“I have no regrets over my decision. It is not only about yourself. You must help your family,”

he said. “That is good fortune. If I were not with the family, I would regret it. I feel very happy here, there is no pressure.”

Kong made the business decision to keep the shop as it was – in choice of product, furniture, decoration and even price. At MOP13 for an ice cream, Lai Kei has the cheapest ice cream in Macao – this in spite of the rising cost of many raw materials. The shop also offers coffee, tea, sandwiches, milk shakes, Ovaltine, orange juice and other items.

“We consider our customers like children and old people, so we keep our prices low,” he said. “Our customers are not only tourists.”

The decoration reminds people of the 1980s. When they do repairs, the family retains the vintage style. Tourists like to take photographs with the old-style tables and floor tiles. Television producers come here to make films with the shop as a backdrop, and young brides and grooms come here for wedding photographs.

At MOP13 (US\$1.6) for an ice cream, Lai Kei has the cheapest ice cream in Macao, in spite of the rising cost of many raw materials

Kong does not consider chains like Häagen-Dazs and Baskin Robbins as competitors, because their product is different – sweeter, more creamy and with more flavouring.

"We use real fruit which we buy from local markets," said Kong. "We make the product at a nearby small factory that we own and which is operated by one person."

Lai Kei uses no colouring or flavouring. And the shop has just a handful of staff.

The most difficult period were the years immediately before the handover, when public order deteriorated and many people were afraid to go out.

"After the Sands Macao opened, things improved," said Kong. "Things are stable now, with business good in the summer and quieter in the winter."

The high rents, however, mean that the family cannot consider opening a second branch.

Will a fourth generation of Kongs take over?

Kong has a daughter aged six and a son aged three. "You will have to ask them," he said. "They are too young to think about it now. I'll leave it to them to decide."

The residents of Macao are hoping that one of the two children takes up the challenge and keeps this beloved old Macao favourite alive. ■

AMBERT KONG Grandson of
Kong Lai-ging, founder of Lai Kei



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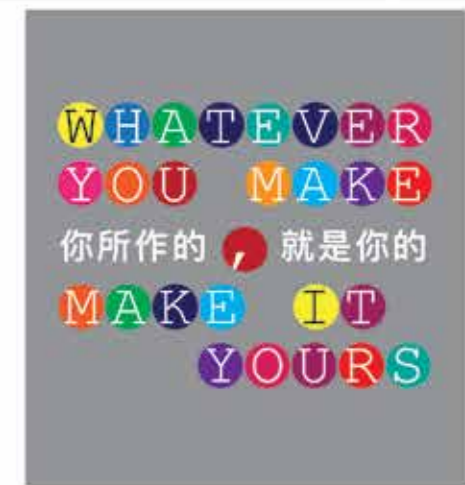
A GLIMPSE OF MACAU

EXHIBITION PERIOD
22.06 - 22.07.2017
PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION
by **JASON LEI**



POINT OF TIME

EXHIBITION PERIOD
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Zhang Daqian: the Chinese Picasso

Macao Museum of Art shines a
spotlight on the Chinese master

TEXT OU NIAN LE

PHOTOS XINHUA NEWS AGENCY AND COURTESY OF MACAO MUSEUM OF ART



Zhang Daqian stands as one of the greatest painters of the 20th century, a prodigious artist who produced an average of 500 pieces a year in a variety of styles. Zhang combined a wealth of influences with his mastery of traditional Chinese art to forge a unique style that continues to grow in popularity with pieces fetching high prices at auctions around the world.

On 23rd May, the Macao Museum of Art (MAM) opened an exhibition of 100 of his masterpieces. It will run until 6th August.

"Zhang was a great master in art, playing an indispensable role in the development and progress of Chinese fine art through the 20th century," says Chan Kai Chon, director of MAM. "His artistic achievements have had a significant influence over subsequent generations of artists, especially his attitude and approach towards art study, his remarkable creativity, and the multiplicity of art forms he practiced," he explains.

The exhibition features works from Zhang's prime, as well as his early years, on loan from the collection of the Sichuan Museum. They include his landscapes, portraits, line drawings, letters, seals, and the murals replicas produced during his time in Dunhuang.

Although the 100 pieces represent only a fraction of his vast output, they invite the public to experience the development of Zhang's artistic vision through his early emulations of ancient works, the remarkable replicas of the Dunhuang murals in his middle period, and the representations of female beauty found in his later works, as well as the many seals he used. The exhibition is one of the 25 exhibitions and shows that comprise the 28th Macao Arts Festival.

HUANGSHAN LANDSCAPE



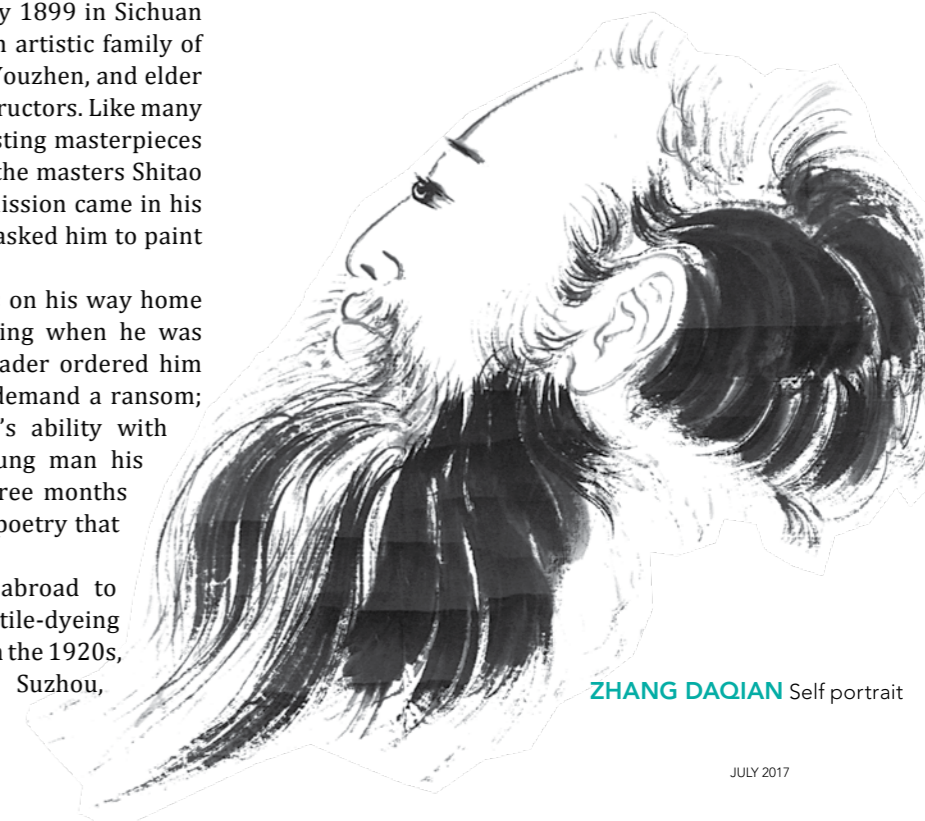
"THE ART OF ZHANG DAQIAN" Held until 6th August

JOURNEY TO GREATNESS

Zhang was born on 10th May 1899 in Sichuan province in southwest China to an artistic family of modest means. His mother, Zeng Youzhen, and elder siblings served as his early art instructors. Like many artists, he learned by copying existing masterpieces and was especially influenced by the masters Shitao and Bada Shanren. His first commission came in his early teens when a fortune-teller asked him to paint a new set of divining cards.

When he was 17, Zhang was on his way home from boarding school in Chongqing when he was captured by bandits. The gang leader ordered him to write a letter to his family to demand a ransom; he was so impressed by Zhang's ability with the brush that he made the young man his personal secretary. During his three months of captivity, Zhang read books of poetry that the gang had stolen.

Zhang made his first trip abroad to Kyoto, Japan, where he studied textile-dyeing techniques. He returned to China in the 1920s, working in studios in Beijing, Suzhou,



ZHANG DAQIAN Self portrait



ZHANG DAQIANG AND PABLO PICASSO

Nice, France in 1956

and Shanghai, where he practiced calligraphy under Li Ruiqing. In 1926, Zhang began visiting famous rivers and mountains throughout China, expanding his knowledge and appreciation of nature.

Zhang spent these early years focused on ink wash paintings, emulating his favourite masters before expanding to other great artists from the Song, Yuan, Ming, and Qing dynasties. In 1941, he left for Dunhuang in western China to study Buddhist mural paintings. His two years of study there proved pivotal; pieces from this period reveal an important shift toward a style heavy with colours.

Zhang mastered many styles throughout his long career, from meticulous and detailed portraits to bold, expressive splashed-ink landscapes. Skill, combined with his enormous passion and energy, led him to turn out an average of 500 paintings each year. While he developed his own unique style through a multitude of



influences, he insisted that his art remained firmly rooted in Chinese tradition.

Zhang moved to Macao in 1949, where he lived and worked for a period; he left China the same year. He went on to live in Argentina, Brazil, and Carmel, California, before settling in Taipei in 1978. He built impressive homes for himself with Chinese classical gardens, a small reminder of home.

While in France in 1956, Zhang met with Pablo Picasso, an event broadly viewed as a summit between the masters of Eastern and Western art. The two men exchanged paintings. When Picasso showed Zhang drawings he had done in the “Chinese style”, Zhang commented that he had not used the right tools.

A gregarious person, Zhang spent much of his time in the company of a large entourage of family, students, friends, and admirers. He also mastered *guanxi* – the cultivation of a network of mutually beneficial relationships – often gifting his

pieces to influential people, and to teachers, doctors, and chefs who provided him with help and services. He received gifts, as well. Many of his personal seals, for example, were produced for Zhang by friends. His affable nature, along with extensive travel, enabled Zhang to develop a wide circle of acquaintances and maintain deep friendships throughout his long life.

Zhang transposed the image of a traditional Chinese artist and literary figure, sporting a flowing beard and the long robes of a scholar. An appropriate choice for a man considered one of the most learned Chinese artists of the 20th century. His virtuosity and knowledge of different styles also made him one of the century’s most gifted master forgers. Zhang took pleasure in revealing that an “ancient treasure” in a famous collection was actually a copy he had made. Several major American art museums have purchased his copies as originals, leading curators to assess the authenticity of Chinese paintings – particularly those from the bird and flower genre – with Zhang in mind. His own works have become precious, and so popular, that they are often forged.

The real thing can be expensive. In April 2016, Sotheby’s in Hong Kong auctioned *Peach Blossom Spring*, a large hanging scroll painted the year before Zhang’s death in 1983. The important late-career work sparked a fierce bidding war, drawing more than 100 bids from the floor and via telephone. It sold for US\$34.7 million (MOP279.2 million), including buyer’s premium. The record-setting sale helped make Zhang the highest-grossing artist at auction in 2016, surpassing his old friend, Picasso.

ASCENDING TO NEW HEIGHTS

The MAM exhibition offers the public an opportunity to experience the incredible range and evolution of Zhang’s work. Leung Hio Ming, president of the Cultural Affairs Bureau, explains that the aim of the exhibitions of the MAM is to introduce and



GODDESS SCATTERING FLOWERS

His painting skills and sensitivity transcended the frame of traditional art. Even in his twilight years, he showed no signs of diminished ambition but scaled new heights of virtuosity, said Leung Hio Ming



SNOW UPON SPRING MOUNTAINS 1970

promote the works of great Chinese and foreign artists, highlighting their historical importance.

“The Art of Zhang Daqian, co-organised with the Sichuan Museum, beautifully serves this very purpose. Assiduously devoted to the study of traditional art forms throughout his life, Zhang mastered the strengths of many different great painters. He was equally accomplished in meticulous brushwork, freehand brushwork, depiction of flowers, birds, and landscapes, as well as figure painting” says Leung Hio Ming.

Leung points to the two years Zhang spent in Dunhuang as pivotal in his work. “After Dunhuang, his painting skills and sensitivity transcended the frame of traditional art. Even in his twilight years, he showed no signs of diminished ambition but scaled new heights of virtuosity. He perfected the splashed-ink style, and created the splashed-colour style by infusing traditional painting style and colour applications with elements of Western abstract art.”

The exhibition illustrates this transformation, including work produced before and after his time in Dunhuang, as well as the mural replicas themselves. “The precise, detailed copies of murals are evidence that Zhang held traditional culture in high esteem. They express his passionate love of nature and life through the vastness and multiplicity of creation depicted in his landscape paintings,” says Leung. He expresses his gratitude to the Sichuan Museum for loaning the collection.

SON OF SICHUAN

According to Xie Zhicheng, deputy director of the Sichuan Museum, Zhang remained intensely nostalgic for his native Sichuan throughout his life. “The Sichuan Museum houses an extensive, elaborate collection of Zhang’s works, all of which were donated by his family members,” says Xie.

During his time in Dunhuang, Zhang carefully studied the murals in the caves, producing 309 copies. “These copies have fascinated the art

world with their grandeur and beauty,” says Xie. “He successfully departed from a painting style marked by a continuum of traditional techniques and sensibilities, to one with a confluence of the influences he gathered.”

“Zhang’s innovative technique is a great contribution to the progressive development of Chinese painting and art,” Leung Hio Ming adds. “The landscape paintings Zhang did during his later years, largely in subtle grades of splashed ink, blue and green tones, are spectacular vistas of rolling mountains and soaring pines enveloped in a hazy, mist-shrouded surrounding, in which the silhouette of human figures is faintly visible. Their intrinsic composition, blurring the lines between fantasy and reality, convey infinite thoughts and feelings for those who see them.”

Through 100 pieces “of exquisitely refined quality that epitomise his masterly command of techniques and materials,” Xie says, *“The Art of Daqian”* offers visitors an intimate perspective of the extraordinary world of the master painter.” ■

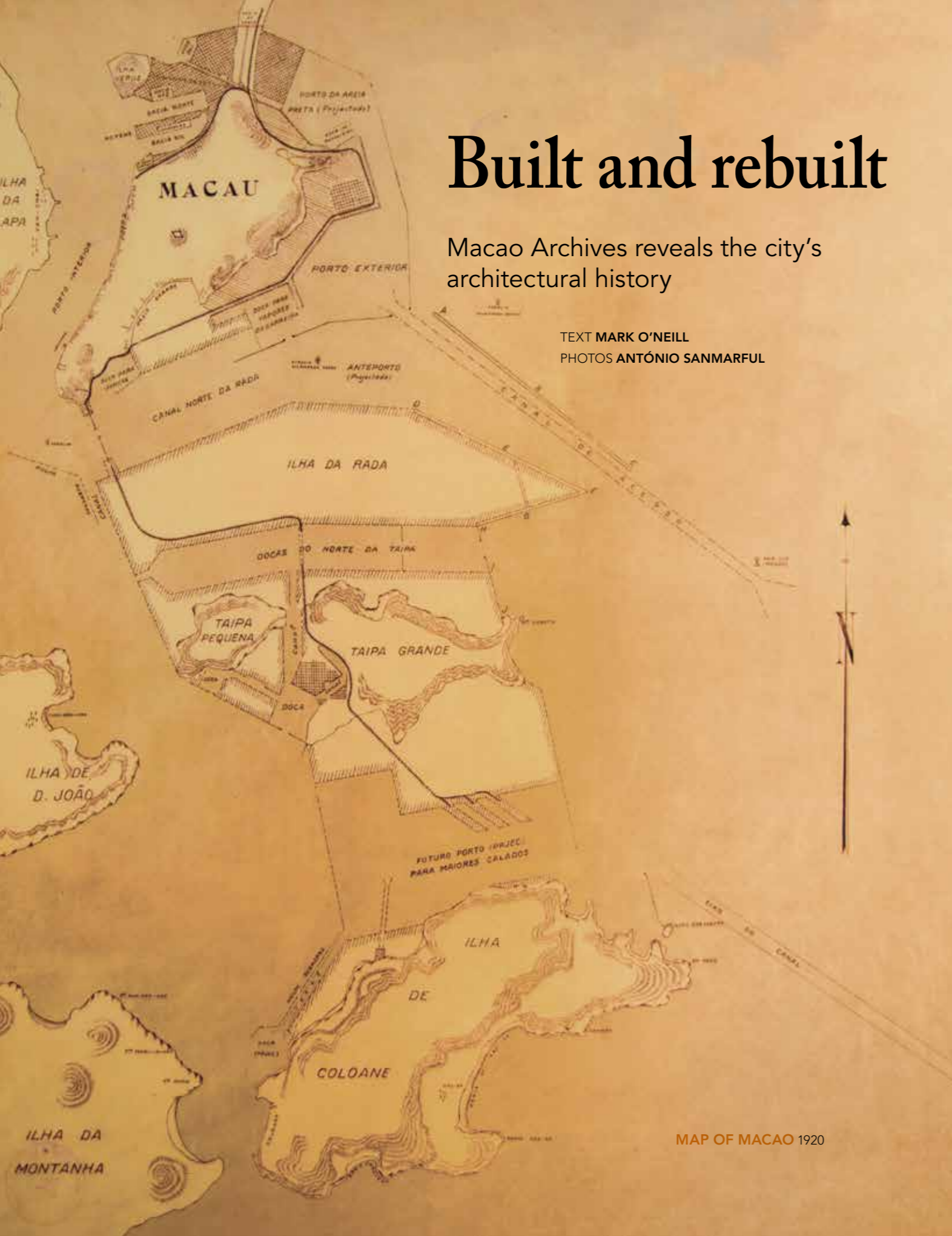
FLYING ASPARA

Built and rebuilt

Macao Archives reveals the city's architectural history

TEXT MARK O'NEILL

PHOTOS ANTÓNIO SANMARFUL



MAP OF MACAO 1920

An exhibition at the Macao Archives offers a rare look at the city's development from the end of the 19th century to present day, and the work of its architects and engineers.

Macao Illustrated – Exhibition of City Plans and Architectural Drawings from the Macao Archives Collection presents a selection of documents illustrating the growth and evolution of Macao, celebrating more than a century of its architectural accomplishments. The exhibition opened on 9th June and runs until 3rd December.

The exhibition is the brainchild of Lui Chak Keong, an architect who specialises in cultural heritage work. He began the project in mid-2016, working with Macao Archives staff to identify and

organise the various city plans and architectural drawings.

"It was a pleasure because this is my interest. It allowed me to learn more about the history of the city," he says. "All the documents are part of the archives. But they were organised under different departments, with only a brief title of the contents." Lui spent six months at the computer, in the archives or at home, combing through digital copies of the documents to select those that best illustrate the exhibition's theme.

They include a wide variety of subjects, from drawings of factories and markets to private homes and public buildings, like the façade and library of Leal Senado.

During the 19th century and much of the 20th century, some of the architects working in Macao were Portuguese. The various documents from their works were likewise in Portuguese.



LUI CHAK KEONG

Architect specialised in cultural heritage work

LOCATION The archives are located at 91-93 Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida, overlooking Tap Seac Square





LEAL SENADO Façade

This posed no problem for Lui, a Macao native and graduate of the Faculty of Architecture, Universidade Técnica de Lisboa. While in Lisbon, he worked for the famous Portuguese architect, Manuel Vicente, who also had an office in Macao.

Lui also worked for Architecture-Studio, a top design and architecture company in Paris. He completed a specialist study on cultural heritage, on the conservation and reuse of ancient buildings, at the Centre des Hautes Études des Chaillot in Paris, where he obtained the professional qualification of Architecte du Patrimoine in 2005. His command of French served him well in developing the exhibition as the language was also used in some documents in the archives.

The idea was to modernise and develop the city, with better systems of hygiene, traffic, and other concepts of urbanism. Hong Kong was developing as an important competitor, so Macao had to improve its port, said Lui Chak Keong

EXPANSION AND MODERNISATION

The story of the exhibition begins in the latter half of the 19th century. The governors wanted to expand the city beyond the city walls, following the example of João Maria Ferreira do Amaral, who arrived in April 1846 with orders to strengthen Portuguese authority over the city and enlarge its territory.

The governors acquired land from farmers in several villages to the north. The documents in the exhibition contain a registry of the names of the owners, the amount of land they owned, and how much they received in compensation.

"The documents tell us how it was done," Lui explains. "The idea was to modernise and develop the city, with better systems of hygiene, traffic, and other concepts of urbanism. Hong Kong was developing as an important competitor, so Macao had to improve its port."

The villages became the São Lázaro district, with wide roads laid out in a rectangular fashion and large plots for homes, offices, churches, and public buildings. One document, dated 1902-04, shows the layout of the district.

The push for modernisation extended to the city's markets, which had been until that time a collection of tightly-packed stalls selling a wide variety of goods. One design, by Tancredo Cabo Casal Ribeiro in 1884, shows the plan for the construction of the Sei Mang Market.

Another design, created by J.M. Carruso

in 1904, shows a new municipal market set out in a rectangular shape, with a central atrium and stalls inside and out. Both plans aim to create spaces that are more hygienic, with better flow of air and water, and to give more space to both vendors and consumers.

A third, from 1928, shows the master plan for a market near Rua da Praia do Manduco that combines concrete and steel with a traditional Chinese roof. "This was the work of a local architect who had studied in Europe or the United States," says Lui. "It is a mixture of western and Chinese techniques, like the mausoleum of Dr. Sun Yat-sen in Nanjing." Sun died in 1925.

"The Octagonal Pavilion Library of Macao, located opposite the Catholic Centre and close to the Military Club, is another example of this mixture," he adds.

There is the design for the expansion and renovation of the Cheng Peng Theatre, a venue for traditional Chinese opera, drawn up in 1949 by engineer Aurelio Gutierrez Jorge. It shows the replacement of the roof by a metal structure and the addition of a filming room, allowing the space to be used as a cinema as well as for opera. "The front and back have façades in the Art Deco style while the design maintains the Chinese design at the entrance."

Cheng Peng opened in 1875, the first dedicated theatre in Hong Kong, Macao, and Guangdong. It continued to operate until its closure in 1992, a victim of declining interest in Cantonese opera and a shift away from viewing movies at the cinema.

RECOVERING FROM DISASTER

In 1874, a great typhoon hit Macao, devastating the city and leaving thousands dead. Several documents in the exhibition detail the work of reconstruction after the typhoon. One shows two proposed plans to repair damage to the Guia Lighthouse, built in 1865. Despite the government selecting one of the plans, the lighthouse did not reopen until June 1910.

The Leal Senado also sustained significant damage in the storm. "The typhoon destroyed a lot of the heritage site. The document shows the plan for a new façade, replacing the original Baroque façade with one in the Neoclassical style. That is the same façade you see today. They had to rebuild the interior, as well. There are documents explaining the project in detail, with a budget, and the reasoning behind it," says Lui.

There are plans from 1881 for a new Palace of Law and Finance on the Rua da Praia Grande; the building now serves as an office for the chief executive.

Ensemble de la tour avec l'app.

1^{er} projet



fig: 3

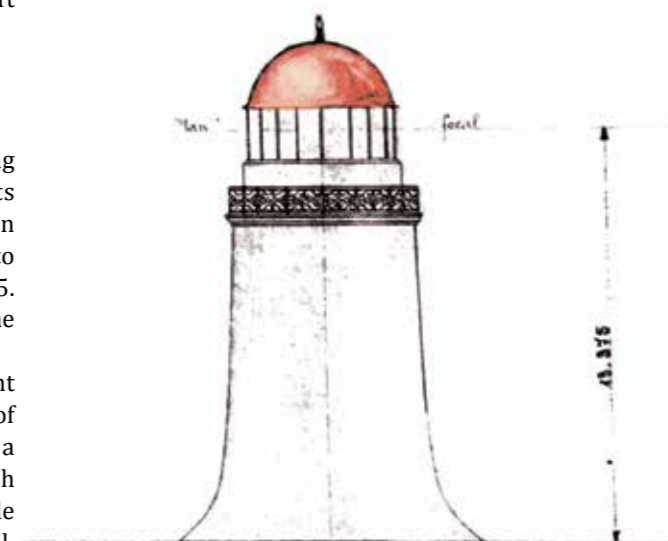
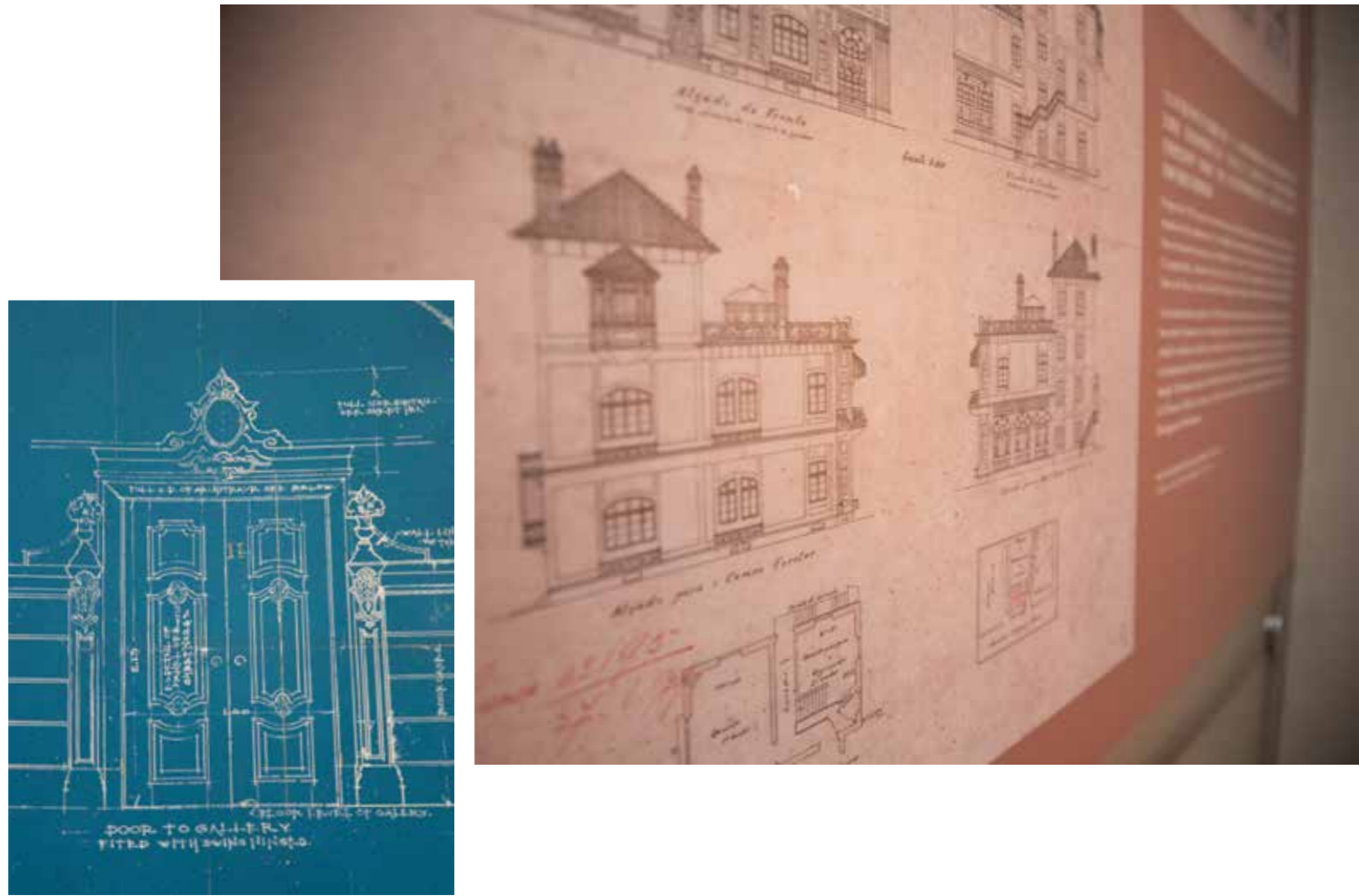


fig: 4

GUIA LIGHTHOUSE Plans of reparation, 19th century



Another set of plans show a military barracks built in 1910, with Roman arched-windows and doors. There are drawings of industrial buildings, as well. One shows a glass works designed by Danby & Leigh, a civil engineering firm based in Hong Kong, that includes a metal truss and two large chimneys. Another, a silk factory, owned by wealthy industrialist Chou Iao. It stood near the Portuguese consulate, which was a hospital at the time.

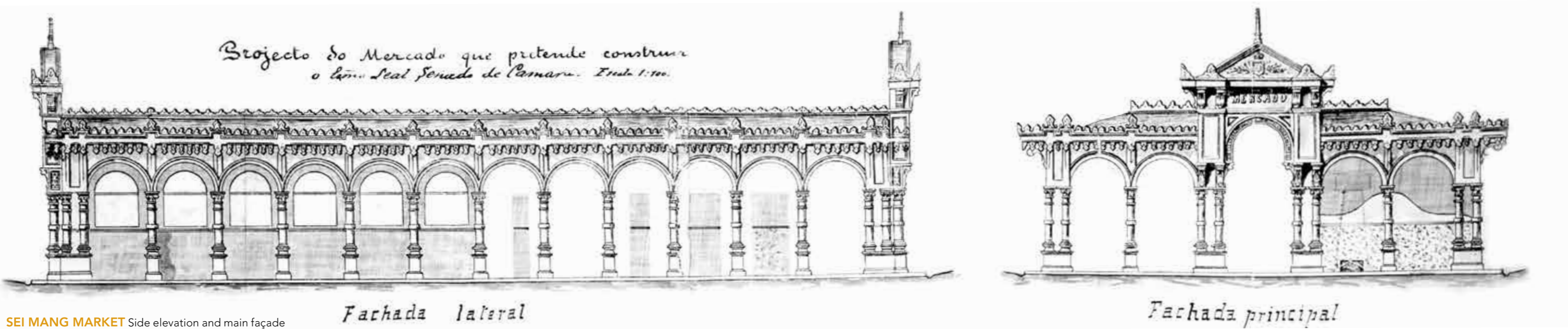
EUROPEAN INFLUENCE

The designs for a number of private homes also appear in the exhibition. One notable example is the house of António Maria da Silva on Avenida de Sidónio Pais. Dating from 1929, the three-storey structure was designed by, and for, one of the most important people in the city. Da Silva served as the Macao government’s chief technical officer for Chinese affairs, the Portuguese consul general in Shanghai, and a member of the Portuguese Parliament. He was also an engineer by training, designing a Portuguese-style garden house for his residence in Macao. The construction plan for Edifício Rainha D. Leonor on the Avenida D. Joao IV employs a very different architectural style. The design shows the influence of Swiss-French architect Le Corbusier and his modernist concrete Unite d’Habitation in Marseille. Built in 1959, the 12-storey Edifício Rainha D. Leonor was the tallest building in Macao at the time.

Macao wanted to be a tourism destination in Asia. This required land reclamation and the expansion of the port, as well as better transport between Macao and cities in Guangdong province, said Lui Chak Keong

INTERNATIONAL AMBITIONS

Much like today, the Macao of a century ago was seeking its place in the world. “It wanted to be a tourism destination in Asia,” Lui explains. “This required land reclamation and the expansion of the port, as well as better transport between Macao and cities in Guangdong province.” One map shows a planned railway between Macao and Guangzhou. In November 1904, the Portuguese authorities in Macao signed an agreement with the Qing government to build the railway. The project was derailed when the dynasty fell. A hundred years passed before Guangzhou was connected by rail with Zhuhai, Macao’s neighbour. “We are still asking the same questions today on the role of Macao,” says Lui. “Now it is ‘a World Centre of Tourism and Leisure’ in the Pearl River Delta Greater Bay area.” ■



SEI MANG MARKET Side elevation and main façade



The legend lives on

Kit Yee Tong, the oldest martial arts club in Macao

TEXT CATHY LAI
PHOTOS ANTÓNIO SANMARFUL



HUNG HIN HO Permanent president of Kit Yee Tong

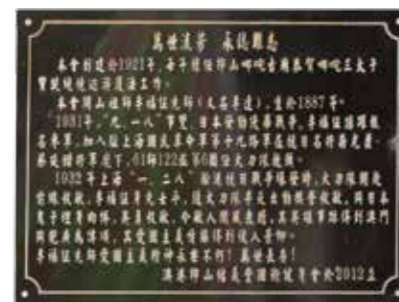
years ago, when I was just born, Master Li was invited by the neighbours to perform Wu Hsing Hong Quan near the Ruins of St. Paul's. His skills and power left the audience in awe, and caused quite a stir in Macao at that time," says 83-year-old Hung Hin Ho, one of the oldest members and the permanent president of Kit Yee Tong.

The passion for kung fu dissemination was soon overshadowed by an urge to defend the country. When the Japanese invasion of Manchuria began in 1931, Master Li volunteered to join the legendary 19th Route Army of the National Revolutionary Army, fighting in the First Battle of Shanghai. Appointed as the coach of a machete squad, he led his fellow fighters in midnight attacks on Japanese military camps.

"The trick was to sneak into the camps without trousers," Hung explains. "As the squad had to fight in complete darkness, they thought of this method to identify the enemies. Whenever they ran into someone wearing trousers, they dispatched them with machetes."

While Master Li and other warriors were risking their life on the battlefield, people in Macao were filled with a sense of patriotism. Members of Kit Yee Tong, along with other devoted individuals and associations, organised dragon dance and kung fu performances to raise funds to support China against the Japanese invasion.

Unfortunately, Master Li became very sick during his military service and was commanded



MEMORIAL TABLET Commemoration of wartime contributors

to return to Macao for better medical treatment. His health continued to deteriorate; he passed away at the age of 45.

Today, Master Li is remembered as the pioneer of Kit Yee Tong. A memorial tablet affixed to the entrance of the compound commemorates his wartime contributions. His training weapon, a rusted trident more than a metre long, is regarded as a spiritual mascot by the members of Kit Yee Tong.

PASSING OF THE TORCH

Master Li's legacy lives on through the club, his elaborate kung fu techniques passed on from one



Standing opposite to the historic Na Tcha Temple of Mount Hill is a humble two-storey compound home to a kung fu legend more than a century old.

It began in 1914, when a group of local kung fu practitioners formed a lion dance troupe to participate in the firecracker-grabbing races during major festivals. The team soon attracted more like-minded people and, in 1921, it officially transformed into a martial arts club called Kit Yee Tong, or the congregation of

righteous men.

Li Fok Nga, an established kung fu expert from Hainan, was invited to be the master coach of Kit Yee Tong. Master Li specialised in Wu Hsing Hong Quan (Five Forms Fist), a kung fu style that simulates five animals – Dragon, Tiger, Leopard, Snake, and Crane. Taking the simple compound on Mount Hill as a teaching base, he quickly became a highly respected figure within the neighbourhood.

"My father used to tell me that some 80



generation to the next. Masters and disciples continue their pursuit of excellence in martial arts on the rooftop of Kit Yee Tong, an area of 100 square metres surrounded by fencing and victory flags earned over the years.

Their trainings include Wu Hsing Hong Quan and lion dance, which has close relationships with Chinese Kung Fu. Their signature move is Qi San Bo, a technique that requires three lion dancers to pile up, one on top of another's shoulders, to reach for a target 6-7 metres above the ground.

"It's important to pass down the skills and passions from generation to generation; this is how Kit Yee Tong came through the century," Hung Hin Ho exclaims. "The first members of Kit Yee Tong were from my father's generation. They were mostly the young men from the neighbourhood. When they grew up and had families, they brought their sons into the club."

His son-in-law, Mak Weng, is also a member of Kit Yee Tong. While he was not Mak's direct coach, Hung watched him grow up.

"The training at our time was tough. We did horse stance all the time and our masters were strict with us. Sometimes they just kicked our legs really hard to test our strength," Mak recalls. "Still, we respect them a lot. We call them *Sifu*, which bears the dual meaning of 'master' and 'father'. This is the best description for our relationship."

Now a master and the deputy chairman of Kit Yee Tong, Mak admits that the club has adopted a gentler training approach as society has changed. To promote physical activities among young people, the club is now working with local schools to provide the students with a variety of interesting classes, such as volleyball and tchoukball, two sports played with hands. "Last year, our tchoukball team won the Grand Trophy of Macao Tchoukball Tournament," says Mak.

While Kit Yee Tong has become a more diverse training provider, Mak is delighted by the renewed interest in traditional practice in recent years. The club has approximately 60 active members, including 12 children around the age of ten. "It is like a cycle," Mak says. "From time to time, people want to look back at the traditions that have been passed down to them. They see the lions and the drums we are playing, and think it's fun. They want to be a part of it."

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MAK WENG Member of Kit Yee Tong

The Na Tcha Festival is the biggest annual event for Kit Yee Tong. Since its establishment in 1921, the club has sent a lion dance troupe to take part in the celebration each year

HONOURING TRADITION

Na Tcha is often portrayed as a well-established child god that rides on Wind Fire Wheels to drive demons and disasters from the face of the earth. The Na Tcha customs and beliefs in Macao stretch back more than 300 years.

The Feast of Na Tcha falls on the eighteenth day of the fifth lunar month (June). Two parades are organised on that day: one starts at the Na Tcha Temple near the Ruins of St Paul's; the other, the Prince Na Tcha Parade, starts at the Na Tcha

Temple of Mount Hill, the oldest temple in Macao dedicated to the deity.

For more than a century, Taoist priests, worshippers, and performers have been gathering on the slope of Mount Hill to honour the folk religion god on his birthday. Among the assemblers are the lion dancers from Kit Yee Tong, dressed in matching sportive green vests. Once the worship ritual in the temple is completed, the team escorts the Na Tcha statue along the parade route, ending in Largo do Senado.

Accompanied by the drummers and the cymbalists, the dancers jump up and down, simultaneously adjusting the lion's expressions according to its various movements. The dancing lion also performs *cai qing*, or plucking the greens, along the route, a custom believed to bring blessings and good fortune.

The Na Tcha Festival is the biggest annual event for Kit Yee Tong. Since its establishment in 1921, the club has sent lion dance troupe to take part in the celebration each year.

Hung says he has never missed a parade since he joined Kit Yee Tong more than 70 years ago. Escorted by the younger members of the club, the well-respected master walks alongside the dancing lion, fondly recalling the time he participated in the parade as a child, "I was the kid who dressed as Na Tcha in the parade until I was 12 years old. Today, it's the son of one of our disciples in the role."

Hung Heng Lon has his cheek painted red and his eyebrows enhanced to imitate the image of Na Tcha. At the age of ten, he reveals that this year is the last time he will play the child god in the parade. "This is already the fourth time I've played this role and next year I will be too old," he explains. "But, I can continue to participate in the parade as a lion dancer. I am learning the movement of the lion's tail right now and I look forward to playing at the head one day." ■



NA TCHA
The Child God



**MACAU
NEWS**

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Old Protestant Cemetery: treasure house of Macao history

TEXT OU NIAN LE
PHOTOS ANTÓNIO SANMARFUL

On a hillside in the centre of Macao lies a plot of ground that is an important piece of the city's history – the Old Protestant Cemetery in which 162 people of different nationalities are buried, including some of the most famous foreigners who ever lived here.

They include Robert Morrison, the first Protestant evangelist to China, and his friend, George Chinnery, the best-known Western painter in the city, and Captain Lord Henry John Spencer Churchill of the Royal Navy, the brother of the great-grandfather of Sir Winston Churchill. These three memorials are the most frequently visited.

Others buried here include American naval and merchant personnel, British and American missionaries, Joseph Adams, grandson of the

second president of the United States and nephew of the sixth president of the United States, soldiers, merchants, sailors, doctors, diplomats and civil servants. There is Captain Christian Jpland, a Danish sea captain, Sandwith Drinker, an American sea captain, businessman and consul, and many children of the expatriate community.

While British and Americans account for the majority of the people interred here, the site also includes French, German, Danish, Dutch, Swedish and Armenian people. Few died of old age. Most fell from the diseases of the tropics, such as malaria, cholera, typhus and dysentery. Other deaths were caused by drowning, being killed in battle, committing suicide and also victims of murder.

Sir Lindsay Ride, one of the most distinguished

ROBERT MORRISON
Famous missionary to China

historians of Hong Kong and Macao, wrote this about the cemetery:

“The interest is not by any means confined to biographies of those buried there. There are the histories of the ships that brought them there, clippers, men of war, whalers and countrymen (vessels serving India, Southeast Asia and Guangzhou): there are the interesting professions they followed as merchants, missionaries, military men, beachcombers, diplomats or opium traders, there are the mysteries behind the nameless memorial or the undecipherable or partly decipherable inscription, or the absentees.”

The cemetery is next to Morrison Chapel, named after the famous missionary of the same name. The chapel was probably built soon after the opening of the cemetery, with the first recorded marriage there in 1833. In 1921, the chapel was completely rebuilt, with two conditions – it be hidden from the street by a high wall and a bell was not allowed to be installed in the rebuild. The building work was completed in 1922 and the chapel remains in use today.

JOSEPH H. ADAMS Grandson of the
second president of the United States





MORRISON CHAPEL

STAY OUT OF THE CITY

In the early years of Macao, the Portuguese authorities refused to sell land to non-Catholics for use as a cemetery. This meant that those who had lost their loved ones had to bury them on hillsides outside the city walls.

Further up the Pearl River, burial of loved ones was easy and convenient. The Chinese had no such thing as enclosed cemeteries; there were no legal or civil procedures required to conduct a burial. All that a person needed to do was to negotiate with a Chinese landowner and hire a few labourers.

In the second half of the 19th century, the number of non-Catholic foreigners in Macao continued to grow, including those who worked for the British East India Company (EIC), which represented the most powerful maritime trading power of that time. Due to the poor hygiene conditions and limited medical care, a portion of these foreigners died in Macao. As a result, the pressure on the Portuguese authorities increased.



Finally, in 1821, with the death of Mary Morrison, the wife of Dr Robert Morrison, the government finally relented and agreed to let the EIC have land for burial purposes.

During her final illness, Mrs Morrison expressed her wish to be buried with her first born son James, who had died 10 years before, and who had been buried on a Chinese hillside. But the Chinese were reluctant to open an old grave.

Pressure from the EIC and the popularity of the Morrises persuaded the government to sell a plot of land near one of the EIC's official residences for use as a cemetery. Later the EIC allowed all

foreigners to use it.

Some people sought permission for the remains of those buried on hillsides to be moved into the new cemetery. As a result, some of the gravestones show dates of death earlier than 1821. It contains people belonging to different denominations of the Protestant religion, including Baptists, Methodists, Quakers and Presbyterians.

For their relatives, it was important that their loved ones be buried in a holy ground, close to a church and next to others of the same faith – and not on an anonymous hillside where no one knew them and no one would come to remember them.

In 1858, the Portuguese authorities decided that no more burials were to take place within the city and the cemetery was closed. The Protestant community purchased another plot near Carneiro's Garden, which came to be known as the "new cemetery, and a board of trustees was put in charge of it."

When the EIC ceased operating in China in 1834, its property in Macao came under the ownership of the British government. In 1870, the trustees of the new cemetery were given charge of the old cemetery as well.

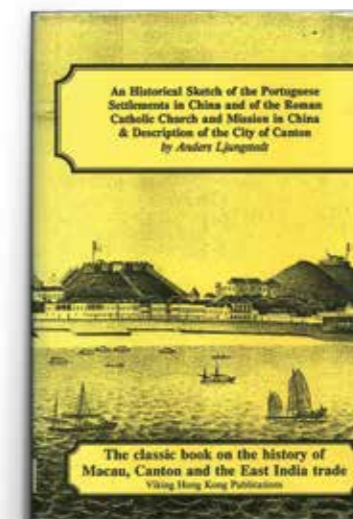
In 2005, the cemetery was included as part of the Historic Centre of Macao, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

FAMOUS AND ANONYMOUS

The cemetery, which contains both the famous and the anonymous, is a reminder of the fragility of human life. A famous name and a great fortune cannot save a person from an early and unexpected death. "Sic transit gloria mundi" – "so passes the glory of the world." This was a phrase used during the coronation of the Pope for five and a half centuries, to remind the incumbent that all his baubles would not save him from the tolling of his final bell.

Some people just passed through Macao while others made it their home. Among them was Anders Ljungstedt, a Swede who moved to Guangzhou in 1798 and worked as a trader for the Swedish East India Company.

In 1815, he settled in Macao, and made it his home, setting up his own business. He was decorated by the Swedish King and in 1820 became the first consul general of Sweden in China. He never returned to his native country, but donated



ANDERS LJUNGSTEDT

An Historical Sketch of the Portuguese Settlements in China and of the Roman Catholic Church and Mission in China & Description of the City of Canton



GEORGE CHINNERY Painter

most of his wealth to his home town of Linköping, to build schools for the poor. He is also buried in the cemetery.

Ljungstedt took a great interest in the history of Macao and wrote "An Historical Sketch of the Portuguese Settlements in China and of the Roman Catholic Church and Mission in China & Description of the City of Canton." It was published in Chinese in 1997. A high school in Linköping bears his name and an avenue was named after him in Macao in 1997.

In the early years of Macao, the Portuguese authorities refused to sell land to non-Catholics for use as a cemetery. This meant that those who had lost their loved ones had to bury them on hillsides outside the city walls

More than 50 Americans are buried in the cemetery, including the two daughters and uncle of James Bridges Endicott, a direct descendant of John Endicott, who sailed on the ship Abigail from Weymouth, southern England, to the New World and became the founder and first governor of the state of Massachusetts.

James Endicott was born in Danvers, Massachusetts in 1814 and lived for 35 years in Hong Kong, Macao and Guangzhou, before dying of typhoid in 1870. He was a company director of Hong Kong and Whampoa Dock Co. Endicott is buried in a cemetery in Happy Valley, Hong Kong, but has a memorial in Morrison Chapel.

On arrival in the Far East, Endicott worked for the American trading firm Russell & Co. and was stationed near Macao. In 1854, he went into the business of ship-chandlery, ships and dockyards with a partner. An enterprising and adventurous merchant, he earned and lost a great fortune. Endicott had several children with a Chinese concubine before he married a woman from England in 1852.

Another American is Joseph Harrod Adams, a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy, and the grandson of the second president of the United States, John Adams. He died on 4th October, 1853 in China at the age of 35 on board the American ship Powhatan, which was part of an expedition to Japan. He was buried in Macao.

PREACHING THE GOSPEL

The most famous missionary there after Robert Morrison was Samuel Dyer. He was born on 20th February, 1804 and sent to the East



by the London Missionary Society in 1827. He died in Macao on 24th October, 1843. This is the inscription on his tombstone:

“The Rev Samuel Dyer Protestant Missionary to the Chinese who for 16 years devoted all his energies to the advancement of the Gospel among the emigrants from China settled in Pinang Malacca & Singapore. As a Man, he was amiable & affectionate, As a Christian, upright, sincere, & humble-minded; As a Missionary devoted, zealous & indefatigable. He spared neither time, nor labour, nor property, in his efforts to do good for his fellowmen. He died in the confident belief of that truth which for so many years he affectionately & faithfully preached to the Heathen.”

Dyer, who spent his missionary years in Penang and Malacca, died in Macao while on his way to a new assignment in Fuzhou, capital of



Fujian Province in China.

One of Dyer’s many achievements was to produce movable metallic type for the printing of Chinese characters of high quality. He used these to print Bibles, tracts and books.

Another important historical figure was William John Napier, 9th Lord Napier, an officer in the British Royal Navy who served as a midshipman at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805. In December 1833, the foreign secretary sent him as Britain’s first chief superintendent of trade at Guangzhou. He later settled in Macao, where he lived in a large and spacious house.

In August 1834, Napier was the first British representative to propose the seizure of Hong Kong. He also sent warships to attack Chinese positions in Guangzhou. But his lack of diplomatic finesse, misunderstanding of Chinese protocol and

missteps resulted in the failure of his mission to expand British trade.

Napier caught typhus and died on 11th October, 1834 in Macao and was buried in the Old Protestant Cemetery. His coffin was later exhumed and he was reburied at Ettrick, in the Scottish Borders region of Scotland.

A fellow British naval officer was Captain Lord Henry John Spencer Churchill, the brother of the grandfather of Sir Winston Churchill. He was promoted to naval captain in 1826 and in 1839 he commanded The Druid on service in the East Indies. In January 1840, the Druid arrived in Macao to join the British fleet assembling for the first Opium War.

However, Churchill fell sick of dysentery and died in the city on 3rd June, 1840. He was buried in the Old Cemetery two days later. ■

The China of wonder and marvels of Fernão Mendes Pinto

Portuguese traveller writes his memoirs on China in his literary sensation *Peregrinação* published in 1614

TEXT JOAQUIM MAGALHÃES DE CASTRO

MISFORTUNE LANDS PINTO IN CHINA

During his travels between 1540 and 1550, along the coast and upriver, Mendes Pinto generally expresses admiration and sympathy for the Chinese people and their culture.

Fernão Mendes Pinto entered Chinese territory as the result of a tragic shipwreck. He lived, though he could hardly have imagined the difficulties he and the other survivors would face.

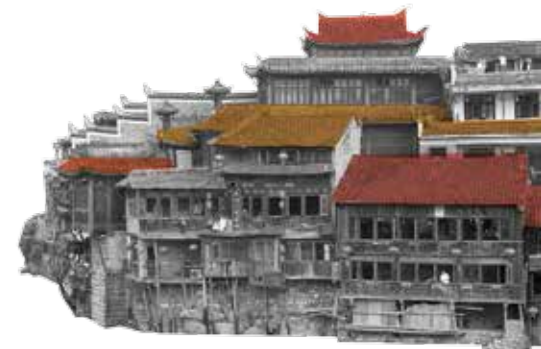
The territory they landed in, likely somewhere on the coast of Jiangsu province, was unknown to the survivors. They set out walking over hills and dales before eventually finding shelter at a local inn, where they presented themselves as poor shipwrecked subjects of the King of Siam. They were immediately provided with all the assistance they required, as that kingdom was a vassal of the Celestial Empire and habitually employed foreigners in its service. In such shelters the stay was limited to three days, so they once again took to the road, though not before they were provided with ample supplies by the local inhabitants. They soon reached another shelter for travellers, where they were provided with food, lodging, laundry service and even medical assistance, for some of them were quite ill.

Foreigners at that time were only allowed to trade in the ports, and were forbidden from entering Chinese territory. Fearing contact with imperial authorities, they decided to travel on secondary roads, with limited success. They would go on to be arrested, mistreated, and considered as thieves on various occasions. Such hard times alternated with good luck when they received alms or found shelter with local Chinese families, a unique opportunity to closely observe habits and customs different from their own. Mendes Pinto and his companions were among the first Europeans to have that privilege.

The Portuguese traveller also had the opportunity to witness China's vastness, vividly recounting the bustling waterfront of the long canal and the ports where they

docked when travelling by boat. The variety of products on sale in markets and fairs and the skill shown by the Chinese in breeding animals and cultivating land were two aspects that stood out for Mendes Pinto, who assures us that "in that Empire of China there were as many people living along the rivers as in the cities and towns."

At one moment during his trip, he calls attention to a city with noble and rich buildings and "bridges sustained on very thick columns of stone and roads all paved with very fine flagstones, and all very large and well-finished and very long," a description that fits the profile of the former capital, Hangzhou. His sense of astonishment before the many marvels he witnessed is evident throughout the text.



The latest studies by historian Jin Guo Ping, the translator of *Peregrinação* into Chinese and one of the top experts in historical relations between China and Portugal, have corroborated much of what the 16th century Portuguese adventurer Fernão Mendes Pinto wrote about the Middle Kingdom (China), a subject occupying nearly two-thirds of his famous memoirs.

Mendes Pinto (c.1509 – 1583) is the author of *Peregrinação (Pilgrimage)*, a literary sensation published posthumously in 1614. Beyond recounting his many adventures, the book offers an European's view of Asian, and especially Chinese, civilization at the time.

Mendes Pinto travelled to India in 1537 and spent the next two decades in Asia, much of it in the Far East, often in the service of the Portuguese crown. In 1543, he claimed to have landed at Tanegashima Island in Japan, supplying the local ruler with an arquebus and thereby

introducing guns to that country. Then in China, he was convicted at one point of plundering royal tombs and sentenced to a year of hard labour on construction of the Great Wall. In 1558, after his return to Portugal, Pinto wrote *Peregrinação*.

The traveller settled in Almada near Lisbon, married, received a royal pension, and died 25 years later in 1583. His memoirs, a demy quarto volume containing more than 400 pages divided into 226 chapters, became widely popular with several new editions published in the 17th century.

"... I undertake this crude and rough writing, which I leave to my children... so that they can see in it the travails and perils of life I experienced in twenty-one years during which I was thirteen times a captive and seventeen times sold, in the parts of India, Ethiopia, Arabia Felix, China, Tartary, Macassar, Sumatra and many other provinces of that oriental archipelago at the ends of Asia..."

Mendes Pinto states that of all the cities he knew, none could be compared to “the great Peking,” lauding its grandeur and sumptuousness

EXPLORING THE GRAND CANAL

There is no definitive proof that he visited Suzhou, as the names of places he passed through are generally hard to identify. Even today the names for places and regions of China can seem confusing due to the different spellings used. This is especially true in the south of the country, where Cantonese and various other dialects are present. So when Fernão Mendes Pinto speaks of a “good city surrounded by a very fine and strong stone wall, with towers and bastions almost like our own and a quay bordering the river,” he could be referring to Suzhou just as easily as any other city along the Grand Canal.

In one of the chapters of his book, he mentions a small city with a large number of bridges “made

on very strong stone arches, and at the ends columns with their chains crossing through and stone benches so people could rest,” a description which perfectly recalls Zhouzhuang. It could also refer to Tongli, though, a neighbouring canal city that has resisted the passage of centuries in the Grand Canal region encompassing the provinces of Jiangsu and Zhejiang.

Peregrinação is a veritable treatise on sinology. In it, Mendes Pinto highlights on several occasions the richness of the streets, even the most ordinary ones, all of them very long and broad “with fine smooth paving”. He speaks of a land “fertile in food, so rich and well-supplied in all things” that he can find no words to describe them. He also describes numerous warehouses stocked with an endless variety of food and places where “all kinds of game and meat as are created on this earth are slaughtered, salted, cured, and smoked.”

His account details the dynamics of trade practiced in ordinary shops of rich merchants, “which on their private streets were very well-arranged, with such a quantity of silks, embroidery, fabrics and clothing of cotton and linen, and furs of martens and ermines, and of musk, fine porcelains, items of gold and silver, seed-pearls, pearls and gold in powder and bars, so that we nine companions were continually amazed.” And where there was trade there were also “technical officials for as many vocations as there are in the guilds.”

Mendes Pinto highlights the ability and

ingenuity of the Chinese “in all mechanical dealings and agriculture, and the very skilled architects and inventors of very subtle and artful things,” and records the presence of men and women who played various instruments “to provide music to whoever wanted to listen, and for that reason alone become very rich.”

TO THE FORBIDDEN CITY

It is not certain that Fernão Mendes Pinto ever visited the Chinese capital, and some scholars staunchly reject that possibility. Whether or not he did, it is certain that what he recounts is very close to reality. If he did not actually visit the empire’s capital, he was certainly very well informed about it.

He describes a city with “noble streets with arches at the entrances and gates which closed at night,” noting that “most of them have fountains of very good water and are by themselves very rich and finely worked,” and mentioning the “hundred and twenty noble squares,” each of which hosted a market fair every month.

Mendes Pinto states that of all the cities he knew, none could be compared to “the great Peking,” lauding its grandeur and sumptuousness, due to its “superb buildings” and “infinite wealth, superlative abundance, well-supplied in all things necessary, countless people, trade and vessels, justice, government and peaceful court.”

Even so, the centre of all attention remains the Forbidden City, which at the time, “as the Chins

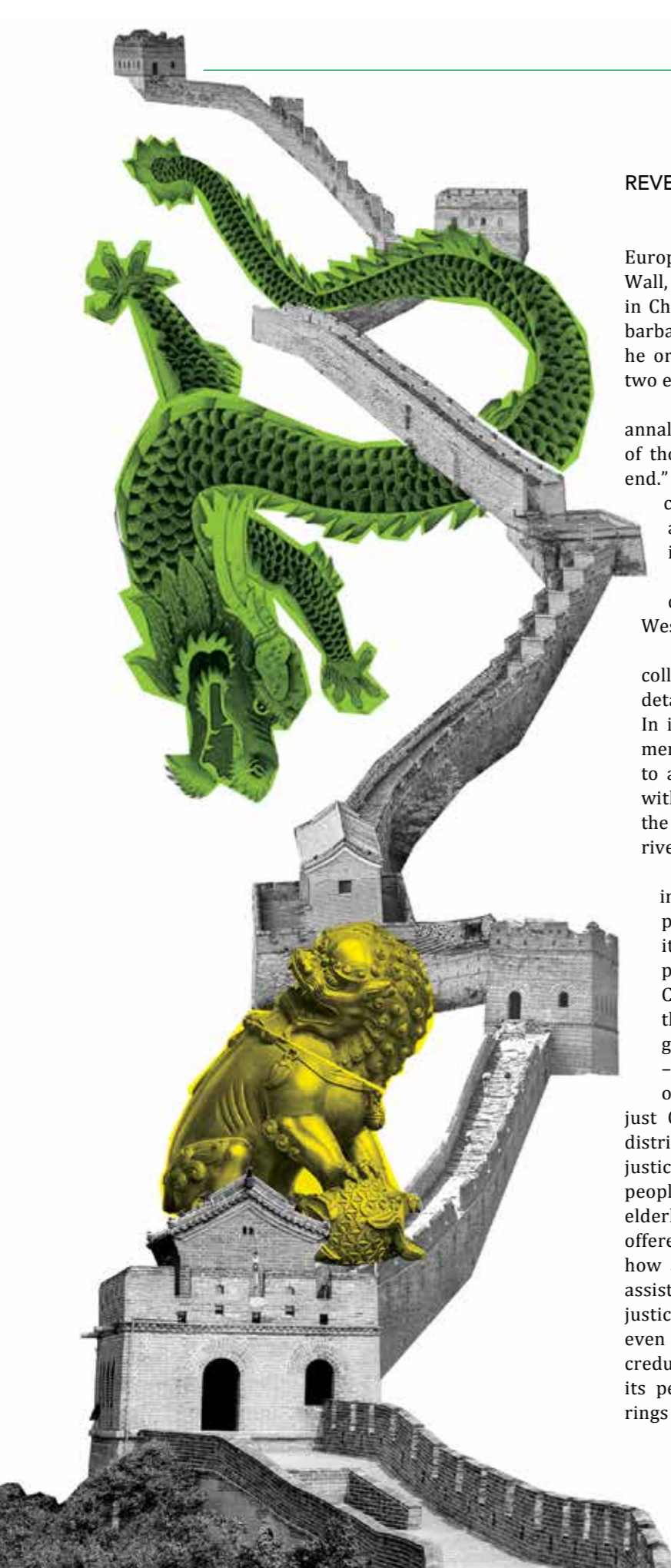
told us” it had 360 entrances, all permanently guarded by four men armed with halberds, “to control everything that passed through.”

He notes a certain class of odd and influential people, telling us that “within the walls of the royal palace are a hundred thousand eunuchs” along with 12,000 guards, “whom the king provides with large salaries and pensions,” and describes the concubines, which he numbers at 30,000. They were surely attractive women, for beauty was no rarity in the kingdom of China. On several occasions Mendes Pinto highlights that fact, stating that Chinese women were “very pale and chaste, and inclined to all work more than the men.”

He stresses the importance of the temples, which were usually surrounded by beautiful gardens, noting the admirable carpentry work of the buildings and the walls of the enclosures “lined inside by very fine porcelain tiles and above by roof ridges and in the corners by very tall spires, diversely painted.” He also mentions triumphal arches in gold with a large number of silver bells hanging by chains of the same metal, which “ringing continuously due to movement of the air made such a noise that it was impossible to hear anything else.”

Of course, Mendes Pinto cannot fail to notice the golden lions on round balls or spheres, which he correctly calls “the emblem or arms of the king of China.” Another imperial symbol is the dragon, appearing to his eyes as nothing more than a monster, with the “figure of a dissembling serpent,” recalling to him the figure of Lucifer.





REVEALING THE GREAT WALL

Fernão Mendes Pinto was one of the first Europeans to reference the existence of the Great Wall, telling us that “the king who then reined in China,” fearful that the traditionally nomadic barbarians in the north would once again unite, he ordered that the entire border between the two empires be protected by a wall.

Pinto specifies that, according to historical annals, “in twenty-seven years the entire border of those two empires were closed from end to end.” After making the respective calculations, he concludes that the wall was 315 leagues long and more than 750,000 men were involved in the project.

His has perhaps the most complete description of the Great Wall done by a Westerner of that time and date.

In *Peregrinação*, Fernão Mendes Pinto collected descriptions and rare geographical details about the many countries he had known. In it, some kingdoms disappear, while others merge or change names, making it difficult to accurately trace his truly audacious route, with its numerous maritime diversions along the coast of the Asian continent, travelling up rivers and visiting islands.

While mindful of the illusory style, likely intended to better combine the author’s personal history with the accounts of others, it is still fascinating to revisit some of the places mentioned in the book. Especially China, the country to which he devotes the most pages, full of praise for its “very great order and marvellous government” – a powerful kingdom, exotic and perfectly organised. The rigorous and profoundly just Chinese social organisation ran from the distribution of work for all to the free right to justice, including subsidies for the “lame and people without support” and homes for the elderly no longer able to work. Even the shelter offered to him and his companions demonstrated how advanced China was in the area of social assistance, administration and application of justice, compared to Europe at the time. For even as his many fanciful adventures challenge credulity, the immense admiration for China and its people expressed by Fernão Mendes Pinto rings remarkably true. ■

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From scientist in Macao to founder of Singapore

The story of Macao's José d'Almeida Carvalho e Silva: Doctor, Scientist, Revolutionary

TEXT JOÃO GUEDES



f all the major political changes that occurred in Portugal, none impacted Macao more intensely than the Liberal Revolution of 1820. Its brutal repercussions affected the Portuguese colony nearly two years later, when the news finally reached its shores via sailors.

Shortly after the first oaths to the first Portuguese constitution, Macao entered a state of real political and social upheaval. The Governor and *Ouvidor* (the magistrate responsible for just about everything in the colony) were both arrested; the members of the Loyal Senate were removed and others, with a liberal bent, elected in their place. The same happened across other official civilian and military institutions. Also, ties binding Macao to Goa were cut and for nearly a year Macao thrived as an independent, democratic republic that only 'formally' declared fealty to Lisbon.

This situation lasted until the arrival of a military force sent by the Viceroy of Portuguese India, Dom Manuel da Câmara. A supporter of the absolutist King Miguel, he dislodged and arrested the main revolutionary leaders. This stroke from the resurgent *ancien régime* decapitated the leadership in almost all of Macao's civil and military departments, with the enclave's intellectual elite choosing to flee or face capture.

Among the imprisoned leaders was Dr José d'Almeida Carvalho e Silva, the Director of St Rapahel's Hospital, at the time Macao's only health establishment, located in the building which now houses the Consulate-General of Portugal.

Other jailed revolutionaries included the Rector of St. Joseph's Seminary; Father Pinto e Maia, the President of the Loyal Senate; Colonel Paulino Barbosa, his comrade in arms António de Holanda Cavalcanti (who would later serve as Minister in various governments of Brazil), and Priest António de São Gonçalo de Amarante; Editor of the first Portuguese newspaper in the Far East. Together they were put in irons and sent

to Goa for trial.

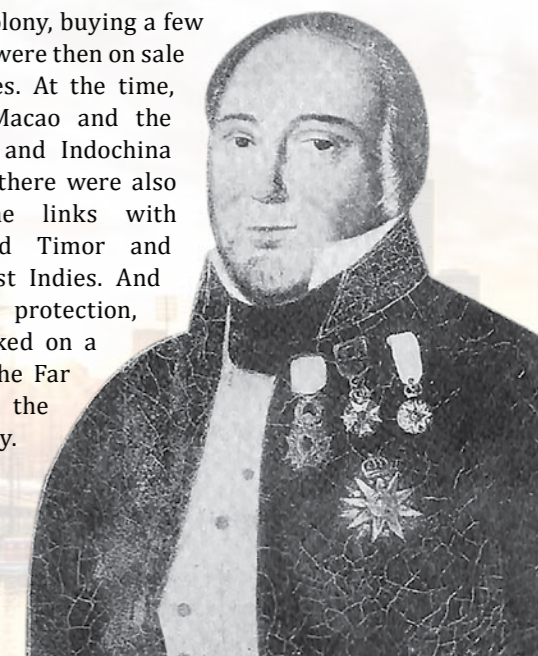
However, upon their arrival, the shifting political situation enabled the majority to escape to the British city of Calcutta, where they were, at least provisionally, beyond the reach of the Viceroy's justice.

Exiled and living in fear of imprisonment, d'Almeida was presented with an opportunity by British adventurer Stanford Raffles that he could not refuse.

Then in Calcutta, Raffles had just recruited Major William Farquhar to be the military chief of his project to found a colony at the mouth of the Singapore River in Malaya. However, he also needed someone to take care of organising health services. Singapore was situated in an area of low water and swamps that exposed it to various diseases, especially dengue and malaria; therefore public health would be a top priority.

D'Almeida quickly accepted the offer, as Singapore was not unknown to him. During his various voyages in Southeast Asia as a naval physician, he had landed several times in the incipient colony, buying a few plots of land that were then on sale at tempting prices. At the time, trade between Macao and the ports of Malaya and Indochina was intense and there were also regular maritime links with Portuguese-owned Timor and Flores in the East Indies. And so, under British protection, d'Almeida embarked on a new journey to the Far East, to settle in the new English colony.

JOSÉ D'ALMEIDA
CARVALHO E SILVA





MAJOR WILLIAM FARQUHAR



ILLUSTRATION OF A SOIRÉE

Upon arriving, d'Almeida set up his clinic near the shore on Beach Road; now known as Raffles Place, building his home a short distance away. This large mansion would become known as a meeting place for Singapore's best artists and musicians and d'Almeida became renowned for his fabulous soirées, even directing plays in his home that would often star many of his 20 sons and daughters. These events would regularly be recorded for prosperity in the form of paintings and illustrations, which were often featured in the newspapers of English India.

Alongside hosting famous parties and developing Singapore's early healthcare infrastructure, d'Almeida also devoted time to general trade, creating the firm of Almeida and Sons.

The company had its own private quay, eventually opening branches throughout the region, including Macao, and extending as far as distant Germany, where one of his sons went on to settle. However, d'Almeida found that running the business took time away from his true passions for

science and medicine, and he eventually handed over commercial management of the business to his eldest sons Joaquim and José.

This freed up his time for scientific study, with botany becoming his field of choice. D'Almeida began research of the Gutta-percha tree with another reputed scientist, William Montgomerie, who had arrived in Singapore in 1819 as a military surgeon. But, like his Portuguese colleague, his activities extended far beyond medicine; at one point, he held the roles of Magistrate and even Sheriff of Singapore.

Together the scientists initiated what would later become Singapore's botanical garden, located in a swampy area of the city. Gradually drained and propagated with new species, in 2015 it was recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage site.

The two scientists' work focused on the capacity for industrial use of gutta-percha latex, due to its elastic properties. Their experiments led to the early discovery that it could be applied in surgery, specifically for dental moulding and

filling. This work led Montgomerie to India, where the latex was registered with Calcutta Medical Board.

Even though it was developed for surgical medicine, its first application was actually in the telecommunications industry, used to insulate underwater telegraph cables laid by England for the first time in 1845. Later it was used in the manufacture of golf balls.

The Gutta-percha latex's industrial use declined with the further development of plastics and synthetic resins, however, it is still used today in dentistry, helping to seal dental canals and prevent infection.

As was the fashion of that time, D'Almeida's experiments also included crossing species in order to test their possibly industrial use. Among others, he experimented with vanilla, cloves and the cochineal, in addition to devoting time to the import of birds, namely quail. All these species can be still seen today in the city-state's botanical garden, including a banana-tree species that resulted from his cross-breeding. The *pisang d'Almeida*, (d'Almeida banana) is now cultivated across Southeast Asia.

Sadly, the public figure of D'Almeida was long left in historical oblivion. His progressive political outlook put him at odds with the Catholic Church, even though he had actively worked with Father Pinto Maia to further its establishment and consolidation in Singapore. Therefore, subsequent ecclesiastical biographers did what they could to downplay his figure.

However, during his time he did obtain due recognition. He was decorated with the Order of Christ by Portugal, raised to the title of Counsellor



GUTTA-PERCHA 19th century engraving

of Queen Maria II and named Consul-General of the Straits; the region extending from Malacca to Singapore.

The services he rendered to Spain likewise earned him the title of Knight of the Order of Carlos III, while Great Britain granted him the honorific of Sir, the only foreign title recognised in Singapore.

Therefore, it is not surprising that on his death on 27 October 1850, there was an outpouring of grief unprecedented in Singapore's history, with the city-state's most prominent figures from all ethnic groups, along with all other citizens able to make the journey, attending his burial ceremony at the Catholic cemetery of Fort Canning. ■



D'ALMEIDA & FILHO'S PRIVATE HARBOUR

Italian surprise in Macao

The FIVB Volleyball World Grand Prix returned to Macao this July, with the Italian team winning the round with three victories, beating the favourites, China and the United States.

TEXT SANDRA LOBO PIMENTEL
PHOTOS 2017 FIVB

The Italian women's team was the big winner of the Macao round of the FIVB Volleyball World Grand Prix, played at the Sports Pavilion, on Tap Seac, 14th-16th July. This year the Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR) hosted teams from the United States, Italy, China, and Turkey. The first three teams faced off in the first round, held 7th-9th July in the Chinese city of Kunshan.

Italy lost to both the United States and China in the first round. In the MSAR, the Italians played their first match against the Chinese team, winning by a clear 3-0. The next day, in a match that went to the fifth set, they defeated the Americans 3-2.

Opposite Spiker Paola Ogechi Egonu was pivotal for the Italians, scoring 31 points for her team in one of the most hard-fought and evenly-balanced matches in the weekend's competition. The victory against the Americans proved decisive for Italy's overall success in the second round, giving them a direct advantage over the other two candidates for first place, China and the United States.

Team captain Cristina Chirichella recalled that the U.S. team is one of the strongest in the tournament and that the victory was a source of pride for the Italian team, coached by Davide Mazzanti.



ITALIAN TEAM Winner of the Macao round of the Volleyball World Grand Prix 2017

On the final day of play, Italy faced Turkey; the nation has participated intermittently in the tournament, earning a bronze medal in the final phase in 2012. The match proved easier for the Italians, with victory achieved in three sets by 25-13, 25-20, and 25-14.

The focus then shifted to the second place match between former champions, China and the United States. After a solid three victories in the first round, the loss to Italy in Macao put the U.S. team on the back foot. China, playing to a sold-out crowd at Macao Forum, was determined to show that it could compete against one of the tournament's strongest teams.

The closing match of the Macao round seemed even, with fans roaring approval for the home team as they went into the fifth set. The Chinese team, led by captain Zhu



PAOLA OGECHI EGONU Scored 31 points



PAST CHAMPIONS

The Chinese women’s team has participated every year since the FIVB was established in 1993. It earned the title once, at the 2003 tournament in Andria, Italy, defeating three-time gold medal winner, Russia. China has won silver five times and bronze three times.

Brazil holds the most championship titles with ten victories in the competition, followed by six-times champion, the United States.

Teams from China, Brazil, Russia, Japan, the Netherlands, the United States, and now Italy, have finished first in the Macao round, inscribing their names on the list of champions in the territory.

Ting, ultimately turned in the better performance. Coach An Jiajie highlighted the blocking skills in the match, which ended with the scores 25-27, 25-23, 25-21, 23-25, and 15-11.

In the final ranking, Italy was first with eight points, followed by China in second, the U.S. in third with five points, and Turkey in last place with no points won during this round.

The Macao round is part of the 25th FIVB Volleyball World Grand Prix preliminary phase, held on three consecutive three-day weekends. The groupings of 12 teams (Belgium, Brazil, China, Dominican Republic, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Russia, Serbia, Thailand, Turkey, and the United States) are divided into three distinct groups and compete in a round-robin system. The five teams garnering the most points in the preliminary phase, including the team from the host country, play the final phase of the competition, which this year will be held 2th–6th August in the Chinese city of Nanjing.

HOSTING TRADITION

The FIVB Volleyball World Grand Prix began in 1993, with matches played in Macao the following year, beginning a decades-long tradition of hosting what has become one of the most important events on the MSAR sports calendar. This territory also hosted the final phase in 2001 and 2011.

The Sports Bureau and the Macao-China Volleyball Association are in charge of organising the Macao phase, and for the 12th consecutive year, Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG) was the primary sponsor for the event.

Visiting teams have long praised Macao’s organisation, and this year was no exception. The U.S. team coach, Karch Kiraly, spoke highly of the lodging, food, and training sites, stating that he hoped the United States would continue to have the good fortune of playing a World Grand Prix round in the territory.

The GEG vice-president, Francis Lui, noted



that the Galaxy Hotel was the tournament’s official hotel for the sixth time, reaffirming their commitment to offering the usual Asian hospitality.

Another attraction this year was the higher monetary prizes paid out in both the preliminary and final phases, as well as the individual prizes for players. In all, the FIVB will distribute more than US\$3 million in prizes in the 2017 World Grand Prix.

During the Macao round, several players received individual distinctions with prizes worth US\$3,000: Ofelia Malinov of Italy (Most Valuable Player); Carli Lloyd of the U.S. (Best Setter); Yuan Xinyue of China (Best Middle Blocker); Paola Ogechi Egonu of Italy (Best Opposite); Madison Kingdon of the U.S. (Best Outsider Spiker); and Zhu Ting of China, who was voted My Favourite Galaxy Star Player by fans. ■

MACAO ROUND RESULTS

	3 x 1	
UNITED STATES		TURKEY
	0 x 3	
CHINA		ITALY
	2 x 3	
UNITED STATES		ITALY
	3 x 1	
CHINA		TURKEY
	3 x 0	
ITALY		TURKEY
	3 x 2	
CHINA		UNITED STATES

Na Tcha, the Feast to the Child God

TEXT CATARINA MESQUITA
PHOTOS ANTÓNIO SANMARFUL

The Feast of Na Tcha is celebrated on the 18th day of the 5th lunar month, falling in the middle of Macao's June calendar of festivities.

Birthday feasts for Na Tcha are held in two temples dedicated to the child god – one near the Ruins of St. Paul's, the other on Calçada das Verdades – before the celebratory processions through Macao.

It is said that, when human, Na Tcha was such a troublesome child that his parents tried to chain his wrists to stop Na Tcha from causing so much trouble. He always managed to escape, though, and ran so fast that it was as if he had wheels attached to his feet. This is why he is represented with rings around his wrists and wheels on his feet, dressed in a traditional red and gold apron.

In Chinese tradition, Na Tcha is the protector of children, safeguarding them against evil spirits, disease, and illnesses.













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