

# Macao 澳門

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### Cover Photo

Construction workers build  
the Maputo-Catembe bridge  
by Grant Neuenburg/Reuters

**Correction:** on issue 45 page 91, the sentence reads Macao as a Portuguese colony, in fact Macao was a Chinese territory under Portuguese administration.

## On the move



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# Affection for Lotus

## Exhibition of Painting and Calligraphy for the 100<sup>th</sup>

### Birthday of Jao Tsung-I

Professor Jao Tsung-i is a world-renowned sinologist who has made prominent achievements and outstanding contributions in various fields, including academia, arts of painting and calligraphy, as well as literary arena. In this year when it coincides with the professor's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, the Jao Tsung-I Academy, with the support from the Macao Museum of Art, especially presents the "Affection for Lotus – Exhibition of Painting and Calligraphy for the 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Jao Tsung-I", where 15 sets of lotus-theme calligraphy and painting artworks by the professor are selected to showcase the artistic glamour of the highly praised "Jao's Lotus".



#### Jao Tsung-I Academy

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From the Editor

## Connecting the world

Some say that there are just six degrees of separation between any two individuals, and despite having more than seven billion people worldwide, it is more true today than ever before. With the interconnectivity of our societies, there is no country that China does not play a part in today. In this issue, we head to Mozambique to understand the extent of China's involvement in the local social and economic landscape through conversations with politicians, engineers, and businessmen.

China has been increasingly investing in Mozambique over the past few years, building infrastructure and other economic capacity within its people. This work is part of a larger effort to connect China to the Portuguese-speaking countries where Macao plays a pivotal role. With its Portuguese influence and retention of Portuguese as an official language, Macao serves as the chosen platform to connect China to these eight countries – which brings us to the Forum Macao, created 15 years ago for this exact purpose. Here, we highlight the progress of the Forum, its accomplishments, and what lies ahead for the organisation.

On a different note, this year saw Macao establish a new platform for women artists from around the world to showcase their talents. The Women Artists – 1st International Biennial of Macao features 142 artworks from 132 artists, highlighting a wide range of styles and drawing attention to the issue of gender equality. At the event's inauguration, Victoria Willing, daughter of Dame Paula Rego, said: "One day... [women] will be just artists, like anybody else. That's when you get equality." Bringing people together for something like the Macao biennial – the only event of its kind – is much easier today than in decades past. Now, people around the globe are just an email away.

This ease of communication also contributed to the creation of a second edition of the seminal work on Macanese families, *Famílias Macaenses*. "We're no longer in a time of letters, it's the time of the internet," said Jorge Forjaz, a historian and archivist whose decades-long efforts guarantee that the storied history of Macanese families will be preserved for generations to come.



Gonçalo César de Sá  
Editor-in-Chief



## Politics

# Premier promises Greater Bay Area plan in 2018

Text **Ou Nian-le** Photos **Xinhua News Agency and Macaolink**

**The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Initiative is an advanced version of the Pearl River Delta strategy first brought up in the 13th Five-Year-Plan (2016-2020) of China.**

The Chinese government will unveil and implement a development plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) later this year and promote mutually beneficial co-operation in all areas between the mainland, Hong Kong and Macao, Premier Li Keqiang said in his government work report to the 13th National People's Congress (NPC) in March.

"We will fully support the integration of Hong Kong and Macao Special Administrative Regions into national development and boosting cross-border co-operation. We have every confidence that Hong Kong and Macao will develop and thrive together with the mainland," he told the nearly 3,000 NPC delegates and a nationwide television audience.

It was Li who first presented the grand plan to build the GBA in his government work report in 2017. The development plan for the Greater Bay Area has been submitted for approval and is expected to launch soon.

The plan aims to transform the area into a globally competitive world-class metropolis through integration and improved resource allocation. In addition to the two Special Administrative Regions (SARs), the GBA includes nine cities in Guangdong province: Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Foshan, Huizhou, Dongguan, Zhongshan, Jiangmen and Zhaoqing, a cluster also called the Pearl River Delta and known as the "Factory of the World."

The GBA region encompasses a total area of 56,000 sq km and more than 66 million people. It is the most affluent region in China, generating a GDP of roughly US\$1.4 trillion in 2016, with per capita GDP of US\$20,450, around 2.5 times the national average, according to data from UBS, an investment bank.

The government wants to build a new powerhouse comparable to city clusters such as the Greater Tokyo Area, San Francisco Bay Area and Greater New York, and achieve significant economic growth in the GBA over the next 5-10 years.

During the NPC, the National Development and Reform Commission, the country's top planning body, said it would work faster to put in place mechanisms for coordinating development in the Greater Bay Area. It also promised to promote infrastructure connectivity and develop a network of major cities serving as drivers, and main transportation lines serving as pillars, for overall development. The region aims to build itself into an international centre for science and technology innovation and globally competitive modern industrial systems by leveraging comparative advantages of the 11 cities that make up the GBA.

Macao Chief Executive Chui Sai On and Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam both attended the opening ceremony of the NPC where Premier Li delivered his speech.

*The government wants to build a new powerhouse comparable to city clusters such as the Greater Tokyo Area, San Francisco Bay Area and Greater New York, and achieve significant economic growth in the GBA over the next 5-10 years.*

## Regulating the region

Over the past five years, exchanges and co-operation between the mainland, Hong Kong, and Macao have steadily improved with the completion of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge. Improved relations, and the new physical link between all three, will prove essential in the on-going work to develop the Greater Bay Area.

Other regions of China earmarked for coordinated development include the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei area in the north of the country and the Yangtze River Economic Belt in the east.

During the 13th National People's Congress, members discussed a proposal to set up a unified regulatory agency in the GBA, that was tabled by the Chinese Peasants and Workers Democratic Party (CPWDP), one of China's eight non-Communist political parties. The proposal calls for China's State Council to stipulate regulations and coordinate local governments to form a unified supervisory body in the GBA.

The supervisory body would combine the strengths of different cities – Hong Kong as a global trade and financial centre, Macao as a tourism and entertainment centre,



Premier Li Keqiang



Shenzhen as a technology hub, and the manufacturing capacity of Guangdong. It would handle the important issue of cutting costs for Guangdong’s manufacturing and encouraging innovation, as China’s manufacturing is losing its advantages due to higher tax burdens and labour costs. Moreover, the supervisory body would work toward industrial relocations among different cities.

Unlike other bay areas, the GBA links cities with different administrations, legal and economic systems, as well as different currencies. Such complexity will pose more challenges to the flow of talent, logistics, finance, and information. With infrastructure building up and faster talent flow, each city government should establish a supervisory body that can resolve differences in border controls, currency, legislation, and so on.

In a speech following the signing of a five-year framework last July, Chief Executive Chui outlined four main areas of focus for Macao in the joint development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area.

First, he said, the city should actively work to enhance its communication with the Central People’s Government, providing guidance and allow Macao to be more closely integrated with the national development effort. Second, Macao should spur on the improvement of its infrastructure and the application and coordination of its "One Centre" and "One Platform" policies, and facilitate the moderate diversification of its economy to complement the development of the Greater Bay Area.

To that end, the third area centres on deepening integrated development with Guangdong and

Hong Kong. The city will uphold the principles of complementarity of edges and mutually beneficial co-operation, implement early and pilot measures, and encourage innovative development. Lastly, Macao should optimise the use of its resources, taking into consideration the markets at home and abroad, mobilise various sectors of the community to participate in the initiative and make full use of local and foreign resources, he said.

**Coordinator proposed for GBA**

Many people have proposed that Beijing appoint a coordinator with a high rank to oversee the growth of the GBA and balance the different interests.

“Integrating the Greater Bay Area has been a sensitive plan, because it is also seen as a political mission,” explained Ding Li, an economics professor at the semi-official Guangdong Academy of Social Sciences. The “one country, two systems” principle implemented in the SARs only promises 50 years of unchanged economic and political systems; it expires in 2047 for Hong Kong and two years later, in 2049, for Macao.

“To implement such a complicated plan, getting an official ranked vice-premier or above on board is definitely a meaningful approach,” Ding said.

Professor Lau Siu-kai, vice-chairman at Chinese Association of Hong Kong and Macau Studies, agreed: “Given its significance to the overall national development strategy, it is appropriate to have a vice-premier to oversee [the development at the Greater Bay Area].”

A strong coordinator would ensure that development benefits the GBA as a whole, rather than serving the individual interests of

one city over another or allowing room for protectionist policies that would threaten co-operation within the region.

**Delegates discuss the GBA**

The GBA initiative was widely discussed by the delegates of the NPC and Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), which took place in Beijing at the same time.

A number of Macao CPPCC members also weighed in with their concerns and suggestions for improving the GBA. Chan Meng Kam suggested that China should amend the regulation of the Greater Bay Area development policy, in particular the article which defines Macao residents as outsiders [people living outside China]. Cheong Meng Seng said that he wanted China to grant the SARs’ residents’ Home Return Permits in the form of mainland ID cards.

CPPCC member Ma Iao Lai echoed the concerns raised by Professors Lau and Ding, suggesting that the Central People’s Government should coordinate all types of interests and competition in the GBA to avoid further contradictions and problems which might unwittingly be generated due to the “two systems.” Melinda Chan said she hoped that China could establish facilities for Macao students in Hengqin.

Chui Sai-peng, an NPC delegate from Macao, focused on the city’s strengths in contributing to the project: “Macao will play an active role in development of the GBA. It has developed tourism facilities and advanced tourism education resources. In addition, as a bond linking the Chinese mainland with Portuguese-speaking countries, Macao can contribute to promoting business co-operation and serve the Belt and Road initiative.”

**Cities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay area**



**Guangzhou**

**Area** 7,436 sq km  
**GDP** US\$284.6 billion  
**Population** 14.04 million



**Zhaoqing**

**Area** 15,006 sq km  
**GDP** US\$30.2 billion  
**Population** 4.06 million



**Foshan**

**Area** 3,875 sq km  
**GDP** US\$125.3 billion  
**Population** 7.50 million



**Zhongshan**

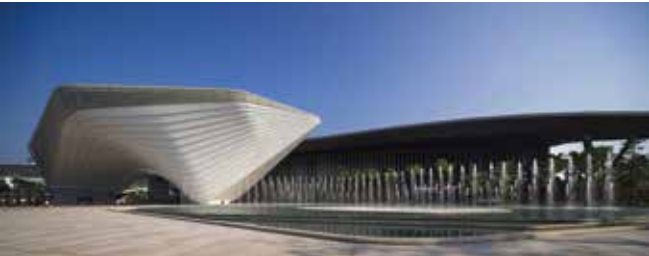
**Area** 1,770 sq km  
**GDP** US\$46.4 billion  
**Population** 3.23 million



**Jiangmen**

**Area** 9,554 sq km  
**GDP** US\$34.8 billion  
**Population** 4.54 million





### Zhuhai

**Area** 1,696 sq km  
**GDP** US\$32.3 billion  
**Population** 1.68 million



### Shenzhen

**Area** 2,007 sq km  
**GDP** US\$283.0 billion  
**Population** 11.90 million



### Dongguan

**Area** 2,512 sq km  
**GDP** US\$99.1 billion  
**Population** 8.25 million



### Huizhou

**Area** 11,159 sq km  
**GDP** US\$49.5 billion  
**Population** 4.78 million



### Hong Kong

**Area** 1,104 sq km  
**GDP** US\$319.3 billion  
**Population** 7.37 million



### Macao

**Area** 30.5 sq km  
**GDP** US\$44.7 billion  
**Population** 644,900

Wong Ting-chung, a businessman and NPC member from Hong Kong, spoke to the opportunities offered by the Initiative: “The GBA is vast, home to a rich supply of expertise and talent, and has an international vision and rich resources. I hope young people from Hong Kong and Macao will come to the area to study and work. The area creates a great opportunity for young people from across the world to start businesses.”

Ken Chu, group chairman and CEO of the Mission Hills Group and a National Committee member of the CPPCC, stressed that with the completion of two major infrastructure projects on the horizon – the Hong Kong–Zhuhai–Macao Bridge and Guangzhou–Shenzhen–Hong Kong express rail link – the focus should turn to fostering human connections within the region. In a South China Morning Post article, Chu argued that young people offer an important opportunity for bridging differences:

“There should be greater co-operation between the relevant bureaus in Guangdong, Macao and Hong Kong in organising youth games in popular sports such as soccer, basketball and table tennis. We can also focus on activities that integrate cultural elements such as Lingnan wushu, dragon and lion dancing, dragon boat racing. Giving sports a cultural spin would not only encourage participation, it would also lay the groundwork for youth to build camaraderie.

“The Greater Bay Area is set to spearhead world-class innovation and boost the economy. It is crucial to attract innovative industries, cultivate talent and generate an exchange of ideas among higher education institutions,” he said, adding that “with the hardware for connectivity in place, it is vital that the software keeps pace.”

### Low-carbon economic model

The GBA offers an important opportunity for China to showcase its progress in environment and energy conservation, and create a model for economic growth predicated on reducing negative environmental impacts.

Xie Zhenhua, China’s top climate change negotiator said that the GBA was poised to become a world-class, low-carbon economic hub and take on a pivotal role in tackling global climate change.

“The plan [for the GBA] is part of the central government’s efforts to fulfil the country’s aim to slash carbon dioxide emission by up to 65 per cent by 2030 over 2005 levels,” he explained. “To meet growing world demand for sustainable development, the region should press ahead with astute moves to cut carbon dioxide emissions and combat climate change.”

He urged cities in the region to “make full use of their edge in innovative technology to forge a high-tech-powered green economy,” adding that “the synergy pulled together in the GBA will be a huge boom to help realise the promise made in the Paris Agreement [on climate change] – restricting the global temperature rise to below 2 degrees C by 2100.”

### Next-generation fintech

The GBA could also serve as a testing ground for new financial products. That was the proposal of Liu Mingkang, chairman of the China Banking Regulatory Commission from its creation in 2003 until his retirement in 2011.

Speaking at an investment conference in Hong Kong last October, he urged the establishment of a dedicated regulatory ‘sandbox’ for the GBA. These “safe, supervised

spaces” allow businesses to pilot innovative products, services, business models, and delivery mechanisms without immediately incurring any regulatory consequences. This can help firms cut the time-to-market and offer better access to finance, spurring growth in other areas.

“The development of the GBA is important because it will be used by the whole nation to gain better experience of the continuous opening-up reforms,” he explained. “We want to see how the GBA applies certain requirements and fundamentals using a market-oriented approach under regulations which will produce success for some companies, and inevitably mean failures for others.”

A regulatory sandbox in the GBA – ideally in Hong Kong, the region’s finance hub – could provide a low-cost testing ground for Chinese fintechs (financial technology firms) to verify their products and services and see if they were suitable for overseas market conditions under the laws, regulatory processes, and accounting practices operating in these countries.

“The sandbox for the GBA project could provide good communication, too, between regulators and market players,” Liu said. “Foreign US and European companies who want to come to China but are unclear on policy regulations and the market, could also make use of the sandbox to test out Chinese opportunities at low cost.”

He proposed that a steering committee comprised of representatives from Macao, Hong Kong, and Guangdong should meet each month, to focus on the most-promising companies, particularly in blockchain, the Internet of Things, and other leading areas of innovation. ●



# 15 years of Forum Macao

## A new breath of life

Text **Marco Carvalho** Photos **António Sanmarful**

**Stronger ties with the private sector, a reinforced attention to new forms of entrepreneurship, and a greater awareness of the expectations projected both by governments and businessmen. These are some of the new roads that the Forum Macao might tread in the future as it seeks to build on its successes.**

A decade and a half after its inception, Forum Macao organised a conference to discuss its accomplishments during the last 15 years and to outline the institution's strategies for the future. A future, Secretary-General Xu Yingzhen believes, that should go hand-in-hand with a stronger connection with the private sector,

mainly with small and medium-sized enterprises willing to take advantage of the opportunities already created by the Forum.

For that to happen, a few changes are yet needed. The high-ranking representatives of the eight Portuguese-speaking countries and the former officials of the institution – among them

several former secretary-generals and deputy secretary-generals – that took part on the seminar, held on 21 March in Macao, reached a common conclusion: Forum Macao made possible a series of important achievements, but it must necessarily improve and take on a more dynamic, active role to fulfil the expectations of its members.

Opening ceremony of the 15th anniversary of the Forum for Economic and Trade Co-operation between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries (Macao)







Arcanjo da Silva



Agostinho André de Carvalho Fernandes



Ana Lima Barber



Ambassador Malam Sambu

“At 15, a person cannot yet be considered a grown-up. With an institution like this Forum, the same thing happens,” Xu explained, responding to suggestions and remarks made by those who took part in the seminar. “It’s quite natural that we can find both qualities and faults in a mechanism, that it’s not yet fully developed. We have to think, to analyse these remarks, in order to improve our work.”

One of the most common observations expressed at the March conference centred on what countries like Angola, Timor-Leste, Cabo Verde, and Guinea-Bissau see as the weak connection between the Forum, the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM), and the China-Portuguese-speaking Countries Co-operation and Development Fund.

### Expectations and reality

Created in June 2013 to support development projects and investment in mainland China and the eight Portuguese-speaking

countries that now participate in the Forum, the Fund has so far invested in only four projects: two in Brazil, one in Angola, and another in Mozambique.

Arcanjo da Silva, former minister of Development for Timor-Leste, now leads the country’s investment agency and it was as executive director of TradeInvest Timor-Leste that he took part on the conference. He emphasised the broad need for developing human resources in his country:

“To be able to conduct its work and face some challenges, the Timorese business community needs vocational and professional training. This happens within the private sector, but also in the public one. They are both important because they both give a fundamental contribution to the future of Timor-Leste,” he pointed out. “[We] would like Forum Macao to facilitate this process of professional capacity building in order to help our agents, whether they represent the public or the private sector, to improve their skill sets.”

Da Silva didn’t hide the fact that Dili places a great deal of expectations on Forum Macao, namely with the aim of toning down the country’s current dependence on oil industry revenues.

The very same remark was made by Agostinho André de Carvalho Fernandes, the representative of the Angolan Foreign Affairs Ministry in the Asia-Pacific Region. He said that the Forum’s efficiency cannot be accurately assessed without acknowledging the fundamental aspect of gaining access to funding. Angola is one of three countries – the other two being Brazil and Mozambique – that managed to obtain some financing from the Co-operation and Development Fund.

With their previous success and close ties – Angola is China’s second largest trade partner among the Forum member countries – he said that Angola might submit several other projects to the Fund’s appreciation in areas like the health sector, agribusiness, and the planning and construction of critical infrastructure.

### The need for new funding procedures

“The fact that each of the eight members of the Forum has experienced and still has different paces of development should be taken into account by China,” said Ana Lima Barber.

As president of Cabo Verde TradeInvest, the trade and investment promotion agency of Cabo Verde, Barber believes that Forum Macao should focus on a different approach, one more attuned to the realities of small countries like Cabo Verde, Timor-Leste, Guinea-Bissau, and São Tomé and Príncipe:

“We expect a better approach to our private sector, one that can take into account our entrepreneurs. Our companies lack substantial size. We are talking about small and medium-sized enterprises, sometimes even micro-enterprises,” she explained.

Barber listed several areas – the agriculture and fishing industries among them – where the establishment of partnerships

with foreign investors would be welcomed, although she recognised that the small Atlantic archipelago is at a disadvantage against similar proposals with wider margins of profitability.

“The amount of money that our companies need in terms of investment is probably too small for the way that China works and the criteria it establishes,” Barber alerted, adding that there are potential technical fixes to address this discrepancy: “We need to start looking to other kind of funding procedures, that may take into account the dimension of our enterprises. Funding procedures with a smaller ceiling, that may be more suitable for our own markets.”

Manuel Amante da Rosa, a Cabo Verdean diplomat who is a former deputy secretary-general of Forum Macao between 2008 and 2011, went a step further in the intervention he made in the seminar. Amante da Rosa, currently the Cabo Verdean ambassador to Italy, claimed that the Co-operation and Development Fund should “go back to its origins” and become more than a venture capital

mechanism. “When the then prime-minister of China announced the creation of the Fund in 2010, the idea was precisely to revitalise the Forum.”

Bruno Jauad offered a slightly different perspective on the issue of the applications submitted to the Fund. The head of the Directorate General for Promotion of Private Investment (DGPIP) of Guinea-Bissau believes that an application not receiving the green light from the mechanism doesn’t necessarily mean that the project isn’t good enough.

Jauad, who has witnessed Forum Macao blossoming up, would like to see the Fund play a more active role, providing assistance to the countries and enterprises that believe they have something worthy to offer:

“The eligibility of the proposals needs to be a fundamental factor. We know that every project, every proposal, has its own specificity, but we have to be able to have the capacity to formulate projects as accurately as possible and this kind of task is something that we can’t do by ourselves,” Jauad told Macao Magazine. “China Development Bank, through the Forum or some



other institutions, should make technical assistance available. That's the only way our companies, our entrepreneurs, will be able to set up proposals that might convince the people responsible for the Fund's management."

The Guinean authorities, he revealed, will submit once again to the Fund's appreciation, two major infrastructure projects: the construction of a deep water port in Buba, southwest of Bissau, and the Saltinho hydroelectric project on the Corubal River.

The latest project to obtain financing from the China-Portuguese-speaking Countries Co-operation and Development Fund marks the second successful application by Brazilian authorities. "It's a project related to the production of energy, but this time in the hydroelectric sector," revealed Ambassador Marcos Caramuru de Paiva, on the sidelines of the 13th Ordinary Meeting of the Permanent Secretariat of Forum Macao, held on 22 March.

The Brazilian ambassador to China said that, if his country

managed to have two different projects financed by the Fund, it is because they offer guarantees of profitability as well as a good rate of return in terms of investment. Caramuru endorsed the idea that the Fund should remain a business-intended mechanism and not merely a platform for official development assistance: "I don't think that it is fair to claim that the challenges and the problems start with the attribution of resources. It's a two-way street. We need financial resources, it's true, but the projects submitted for evaluation also need to have some quality," he argued. "We are not talking about development aid. We are talking about investment, and when we are talking about investment, we have to be ready for some challenges."

The apparent success of the Brazilian business approach within the Fund may be one of the reasons why Brasília decided to step up its involvement in the works of Forum Macao. These efforts include a new official responsible for following up the Forum activities, revealed Caramuru:

"We are stepping up a little the way we follow the Forum's activities. From now on, we may have a representative. He won't be in Macao. He will be someone from our Hong Kong consulate who will be in charge of working more closely with the Forum."

The move is a clear response to the Forum's request to have Brazil more involved in the activities of the organisation, taking into consideration that China is the country's main trade partner.

#### A business-oriented platform

Jorge Costa Oliveira, former secretary of state for Internationalisation of Portugal, shares the same perspective as Ambassador Caramuru in what concerns the nature of the Fund:

"That money is not there to be spent on something that doesn't make any sense. Nor is it there only to be used as a reference in risk management assessment operations. Fifteen years have passed and that's time enough," he asserted. "We should be able to give

an account on how we can improve the way the Fund operates."

At the request of Forum Macao, the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences has been commissioned to study the work the institution has been carrying out and present new targets and roads for the future. The most substantial one, believes Costa Oliveira, should be a change of focus:

"Many of the initiatives that have been promoted in the last few years have an institutional connotation. The partners of Forum Macao in many of the Portuguese-speaking countries are public entities and investment agencies," he claimed. "What I proposed in this seminar is that the Forum should promote other kinds of events, focused on the private sector, in enterprises and business chambers and associations."

Jorge Neto Valente, a lawyer and businessman who also serves as president of the Young Macanese Association, welcomes an eventual change of focus by Forum Macao if it will mean new opportunities for Macao's small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

"Lately, we have been seeing the Forum granting a greater importance to small and medium-sized enterprises. That should be the focus," Valente said. "If we only look at the numbers, a deal between a Chinese state company and a country

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***What I proposed... is that the Forum should promote other kinds of events, focused on the private sector, in enterprises and business chambers and associations.***

Jorge Costa Oliveira

like Angola or Brazil will probably involve an amount a thousand times larger than the values associated with projects led by SMEs, but if the Forum doesn't start looking at

these kinds of companies as suitable partners, the business economic system everybody wants to see will never flourish."

While a stronger connection with the private sector would be welcomed by many, there remain several other domains in which Forum Macao must be able to position itself, given their economic and political relevance.

The Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road – commonly known as the Belt and Road Initiative – offer a whole new range of opportunities for the members of institutions like Forum Macao, but these opportunities bring with them responsibilities to fulfil. One of the most compelling is to guarantee that local and national initiatives are properly articulated, stated Macao's Secretary for Economy and Finance Leong Vai Tac in his intervention at the seminar:

"The Special Administrative Region government will – in accordance with the specific needs of the People's Republic of China and having in mind its own advantages – strictly articulate the construction of the World Centre of Tourism and Leisure and the service platform for co-operation with the national Belt and Road strategy, contributing therefore to the fulfilment of the government's actions," he affirmed.

In his speech, Leong characterised the results obtained by Forum Macao during the last 15 years as "remarkable" and gave the guarantee that the Macao government will continue to actively support the Forum's mission of building the service platform between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries.

"Satisfaction" was the word used by Sun Tong to describe his feelings regarding the work made



Bruno Jaud



Ambassador Marcos Caramuru de Paiva



Jorge Costa Oliveira





Leong Vai Tac, Secretary for Economy and Finance

by Forum Macao since its inception in 2003. The director-general of the Department of Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Macao Affairs of the Ministry of Commerce expects the Forum to show more “energy and vitality,” but also praised the results already achieved by the institution, especially in recent years:

“The extent of the co-operation among the different countries that take part in the Forum reached new levels, especially after 2013, when, under the orientation of the Belt and Road Initiative, the co-operation between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries gained new soundness,” Sun Tong stated. “Forum Macao became

a very relevant platform for co-operation between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries under the Belt and Road Initiative.”

He said that, as far as the vitality of the relationship between China and the Lusophone world is concerned, the numbers speak for themselves: direct investment from China in the Portuguese-speaking countries increased 90 fold during the last 15 years. The Portuguese-speaking countries, noted Sun, have invested as much as US\$1 billion in the People’s Republic of China in the same period.

The numbers are impressive and so is the terrain already covered, said Guinean Ambassador Malam Sambú, the longest serving Portuguese-speaking diplomat in Beijing. But, he noted, the Portuguese-speaking countries will have to step up their commitment with the Macao platform if they want to take full advantage of some of the initiatives with which China proposes to change the world.

“The Portuguese-speaking countries need to show total commitment in order to face the challenges that are inherent to huge projects like the Belt and Road initiative, the improvement of our wealth generating capacity or the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area development project,” Sambú said. “With this in mind, the Portuguese-speaking countries wish to invest a greater importance in the expansion of Forum Macao. We will try to contribute to a higher level of organisation, as well as to make our representatives in the Permanent Secretariat more active and intervening. We will try to create the optimal conditions to improve the internal coordination mechanism in the future, always keeping in mind the Forum’s goals and purposes.”

The opinions and suggestions conveyed by members of the Forum won’t fall on deaf ears, assured Secretary-General Xu. She promised that the organisation will focus its attention on the needs and expectations of the private sector, despite making it quite clear that the Forum “never intervenes” on the approval procedures of the Co-operation and Development Fund:

“Most of those who took part in the seminar sustained that the Forum needs to have a stronger connection to the private sector. That is something that I fully agree with. In order to promote economic and commercial co-operation we need to mobilise private companies. We promise, therefore, new activities directed towards the business sector and we will transmit our support to the future Business Chamber between China and the Portuguese speaking-countries, which has not yet been created, but that should be constituted soon,” Xu announced.

The initiative to create Forum Macao originated with the Beijing government in 2003, with full support of the Portuguese-speaking countries. In the last few years, as the Forum has matured, China has shown clear signs that it would like to find new ways to make the institution more active.

In 2017, the Chinese Ministry of Commerce appointed Ding Tian as the new deputy secretary-general of Forum Macao, and the year before the Ministry of Commerce appointed Xu Yingzhen as secretary-general of the institution. By strengthening its structure with higher-level personnel, the Chinese government has made clear to the eight Portuguese-speaking countries represented at Forum Macao that they should also rethink their respective approaches. ●

## New prospects for Forum Macao

**An external evaluation of the work of the Forum for Economic and Trade Co-operation between China and Portuguese-speaking countries (Macao) conducted by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), a prominent Chinese government think tank, should lead to a significant qualitative change in the Forum’s performance.**

Text **Catarina Domingues** Photos **Forum Macao and António Sanmarful**



**XU YINGZHEN,**  
Secretary-General

“*We focus our effort on provinces that really want to know the Portuguese-speaking countries.*”

Xu Yingzhen arrived Macao in June 2016, ready to face “major challenges.” Among them, the upcoming 5th Ministerial Conference of the Forum Macao, just four months away. The Forum’s new secretary-general would be responsible for organising the event, which gathered leaders from China and

seven Portuguese language countries in Macao on 11–12 October of that year.

“After the ministerial conference many tasks [were assigned] to carry out the aims set by the ministers,” she said, recalling the action plan signed on that occasion.

A second challenge concerned a slight language barrier. Xu Yingzhen had studied Spanish language at Beijing’s University of International Business and Economics and served as a Latin America trade advisor for the Chinese Ministry of Commerce, eventually working at the Chinese Chamber of Commerce in Chile. Today, she speaks Portuguese at conferences and meetings.

### Changes and admission of São Tomé and Príncipe

Forum Macao was founded in October 2003 with the aim of boosting economic and trade interchanges between China and the Portuguese language countries, utilising Macao as a bridge.

One of the tasks undertaken by Xu has been to promote the Portuguese language world in the interior of China. To that end, she has visited various Chinese regions since taking office, among them the provinces of Zhejiang, Jiangsu, Hunan, Guangdong, and Shandong.

“I would say that Jiangsu is almost at the forefront of co-operation with the Portuguese language countries,” she said, noting that, since 2011, the eastern Chinese province has held an annual Summit for Commercial and Industrial Development of Jiangsu Province, Macao and Portuguese-speaking Countries. “We focus our effort on provinces that really want to get to know those countries,” she explained.

Xu added that the intention to regularly visit Portuguese language countries marks a new approach in the Permanent Secretariat’s work. “We want to have more contact with the countries, so they can get to know us well and we can learn their needs and interests.”

Among the changes seen at Forum Macao under her leadership is the admission of São Tomé and Príncipe in 2017, the year after it re-established diplomatic ties with China. “São Tomé and Príncipe still does not have an embassy in Beijing and this delegate [who represents the country in Forum Macao] is the first person the country has sent to work with our side,” she noted.

### Different worlds

The secretary-general of Forum Macao explained that a lack of information and knowledge poses the biggest obstacle to successful relationships between entrepreneurs from China and countries where Portuguese is spoken. “It is the lack of channels to find partners and opportunities, besides policies and laws that are different,” she added.

Xu stressed that it is up to the Forum to counter that trend: “We organise seminars and meetings to offer a platform so that entrepreneurs from both sides can get to know each other. But specific deals have to be worked out by the businesspeople involved, not by the Forum; it only facilitates the opportunity for them to dialogue and find ways of working together.”

She admitted that in this mediation work the Forum “has already achieved some successes,” though much remains to be done. “Paths are made by walking and there’s still quite a way to go,” she affirmed.





**DING TIAN,**  
Deputy Secretary-General  
appointed by China



***The future development of Forum Macao should actively integrate with the Belt and Road Initiative.***

"I worked in three Portuguese-speaking countries for more than eight years and was for a long time involved in supporting African countries," said Ding Tian, deputy secretary-general of Forum Macao. A fluent Portuguese speaker, he has lived in Cabo Verde, Brazil and Timor-Leste, and was linked to the central government's Foreign Aid Department. He joined the Forum Macao team in January of last year, although he was involved in the creation of the co-operation mechanism 15 years ago.

Regarding the nature of his current work, he believes that trying to reconcile the interests of all the Portuguese language countries "is

much more complex than [working] in bilateral relations," a reference to his history of primarily bilateral economic and trade negotiations, "Comparing that experience to my current position [in a multilateral framework], one could say that the nature of the work is different," he admitted.

#### **Timor-Leste and other cases**

Among the Portuguese language countries, he particularly likes to talk about Timor-Leste, where he lived for five years, working as the economic counsellor at the Chinese embassy in Díli. He believes that Timor-Leste has a lot of potential, and that part of the work he did at that legation served to promote the local investment environment for Chinese investors who visited the country.

The Timor-Leste Petroleum Fund is a major asset, said Ding. "Virtually every year its revenue tops US\$2 billion. I left Timor-Leste in 2014 and at the time the fund was calculated at about US\$16 billion," he recalled, emphasising that the country "has money and projects."

Asked about problems Chinese entrepreneurs face when trying to access the market in Timor-Leste, Ding noted the country's "weak infrastructure," which ends up imposing higher business costs and risks. His experience in the Portuguese language world has also revealed a number of issues that make it hard for Chinese entrepreneurs to do business in those countries. General problems like visas and duties or labour taxes, he said, along with other hurdles such as profit transfer back to the country of origin.

#### **Belt and Road**

"Forum Macao's future development should actively integrate with the Belt and Road Initiative," said Ding, referring to the project China launched in 2013, meant to reactivate through infrastructure construction the trade corridor that once linked East and West.

He believes that, "from a macro perspective," the project can be seen as "a concept to guide future work," stressing that it is also a "contribution from China to the world... It is an initiative for the rebirth of the Chinese, regional, Asian, and entire world's economy."



**RODRIGO BRUM,**  
Deputy-Secretary General appointed by  
the Portuguese-speaking countries



***By this strengthening of their joint action, the Portuguese language countries can benefit more.***

Rodrigo Brum replaced Vicente Manuel as deputy secretary-general (appointed by the Portuguese-speaking countries) in September 2017. Born in Mozambique, Brum was already familiar with Macao, where he worked in the economics sector in the 1990s.

"Obviously, it's not a simple job," he said of his new position. "Relations are very good at the level of the Permanent Secretariat, but we are in an organisation that has a support office distinct from that secretariat."

Brum earned a degree in company management and organisation from the Institute of Economics at the Technical University of Lisbon, and has held prominent positions

in various companies. Regarding his work at Forum Macao, this Portuguese economist said "it is no easy task" to reconcile the "different ambitions and problems" of the member countries. "The Forum is concerned with multilateral relations, complementing the bilateral relationships with China," Brum explained, "and that's a major challenge."

Brum noted that Forum Macao is the most important economic and trade co-operation entity for the Portuguese-speaking countries. He nevertheless called attention to the different levels of development and size of the countries represented.

"The Portuguese language countries together represent a huge potential, as future markets with a population of speakers of the fourth-ranked world language" explained Brum, who holds that "by this strengthening of their joint action the Portuguese language countries can benefit more."

#### **External evaluation is "unquestionably important"**

During the month when Brum took office at Forum Macao, a proposal was made and approved to conduct an external evaluation of the organisation in 2018. That initiative is "unquestionably important," said Brum, and should lead to a "significant qualitative change" in Forum Macao's performance.

"Such evaluations are meant to identify features from the past, eventual problems, and help determine future evolution. We hope it indicates important paths for us, that's also true, because we are all aware that there's still a long way to go. I think much has already been done and that maybe what's been done could have been publicised better," he said, highlighting that the evaluation should help enhance trade and investment ties.

All the Portuguese-speaking countries will be consulted during the evaluation. "The Permanent Secretariat will have two experts from each Forum Macao participant, on a committee of 20 experts being composed to follow the work," he noted.



**ECHO CHAN,**  
Deputy Secretary-General  
appointed by the Macao SAR



***Skilled personnel are indispensable elements for building the platform.***

Echo Chan was the coordinator of the Support Office for the Permanent Secretariat of Forum Macao from March to November 2015. She returned to the organisation in early 2017 as deputy secretary-general appointed by the Macao government. She speaks Cantonese, Mandarin, Portuguese and English, and has served as executive director of the Management Board of the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) and deputy coordinator of the Office for Preparation of the Chinese Traditional Medicine Science and Industrial Park.

#### **More involvement of skilled personnel and young people**

Chan believes that for Macao to assert itself as a platform for co-operation between China and Portuguese-speaking countries, the younger generations have to get involved. "Skilled personnel are indispensable for building the platform," said Chan, reiterating to Macao Magazine the importance of training more high-quality bilingual professionals.

Forum Macao wants to continue involving Portuguese language students from Macao and abroad in the organisation's voluntary work or activities, specifically in the ministerial conference, the cultural week focusing on China and the Portuguese language countries or the Macao International Trade and Investment Fair, where they can work as translators, she explained.

#### **Financial sector with local characteristics**

The concept of financial sector development with local characteristics appeared for the first time in the presentation of the Macao government's action lines for governance in 2016.

Chan holds that promotion of this sector, which Forum Macao is also responsible for, should support diversification of the local economy and "seek a development path different from the financial centres of adjacent regions," referring to Hong Kong and Shenzhen.

The area of financial leasing, fortune management, and the established renminbi (RMB) clearing centre for Portuguese-speaking countries are currently considered the "main sectors" to develop, Chan explained.

And how can the development of that sector in Macao benefit enhanced relations between China and Portuguese language countries? "Macao, with its advantages associated with the 'one country, two systems' principle, the free port and low taxes, can supply an open system environment to Chinese companies expanding their business abroad and to companies from Portuguese language countries seeking foreign investment."

Note: Echo Chan will be replaced by Gloria Ung, Executive Director of the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute, as of 2 May 2018.



Portuguese-speaking countries

# Mozambican sustainability with a Chinese signature

Text **Paulo Figueiredo**

Photos **Alexandre Marques, Cheong Kam Ka, Saint Louis-Studio** and courtesy of CRBC

On the outside it's an unassuming modernist residence in Maputo's Sommerschield district, near the head offices of United Nations agencies and other major companies. But on the inside an important part of Mozambique's future is being planned – its infrastructure. For this building houses the offices of the China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC), one of China's biggest construction enterprises. It is responsible for planning the new Maputo-Catembe Bridge linking the city of Maputo to Matola, scheduled to open this coming 25 June, Mozambique Independence Day.

Chinese engineer Bai Pengyu is coordinating the ambitious project to build Africa's longest suspension bridge, an investment of US\$725 million, with 85 per cent financed by China. He received Macao Magazine in his office full of maps of Mozambique, with multicolour lines marking roads or railways either planned or under construction.

More than just a connection between the north and south sides

of Maputo Bay, currently linked only by ferry or the road around the bay, the Maputo-Catembe Bridge will allow the government, particularly the public agency contracting the work (Maputo-Sul) to develop a new city on the shore across from Maputo, thereby alleviating the lack of building space in the country's capital city. "It's a very good opportunity for the government and the people to develop that area," Bai explained.

The latest Mozambique census figures, released in January, show that the population of Maputo province has more than doubled since 1980. Although the population of the city of Maputo has fallen, numbers have risen sharply in other cities of the province like Matola, which will be served by the new infrastructure. The bridge will initially handle between 4,000 and 6,000 vehicles per day, a number that should increase over time. The project also involves a total of 170 km of adjacent roadways, including a 115-km-long road running southward to the South African border.



Maputo-Catembe Bridge



But it's not just the size or the possibility of real estate development that makes the new bridge project stand out. According to its chief engineer, it is also an example of Chinese companies' bigger role in transferring skills to countries receiving investment. When CRBC began work on the bridge, it was hard to find engineers in Mozambique, even for the surveying work. They had to use Chinese and even Russians; the first mechanical teams had to come from neighbouring countries. The company thus decided to involve local personnel in the work, providing an opportunity to local talent.

"Some students from the engineering school came to this project and we showed them the technology, how the project was managed, so they could learn," Bai explained, adding that after that experience they can find work on other projects, with good salaries. "Many local engineers have benefited from this project," he affirmed. Besides Chinese, the Mozambican engineers have worked with professionals from Germany, in charge of quality control, and other countries. About 6,000 people have been involved in the work. Of those, less than a tenth were Chinese nationals.

After his experience in Angola and Ethiopia, Bai has no doubts about the quality of the local labour force. "Sometimes we work more than ten hours, which in other countries can cause problems, but not here... The Mozambicans are good workers and smart. They want to work hard to develop their country."

Besides the Maputo-Catembe Bridge, CRBC is currently responsible for building a road in Maputo and another one in Niassa

***“Sometimes we work more than ten hours, which in other countries can cause problems, but not here... The Mozambicans are good workers and smart. They want to work hard to develop their country.”***

Bai Pengyu

province funded by the African Development Bank, connecting to Malawi's border. It is also seeking financing to build a new bridge over the Save River to replace the current one, which is in an advanced state of disrepair.

The Mozambican market is a priority for CRBC, which is racking up projects of all kinds: bridges, roads, railways, and even dams. The notebooks Bai showed to Macao Magazine were full of drawings of what may be the Mozambique of the future, with infrastructure crisscrossing the country from north to south and east to west. His confidence in the Mozambican market is based on the major lack of infrastructure combined with rising economic potential, especially the start of natural gas extraction in the Rovuma Basin. "Mozambique is Africa's future, it's got potential," said the Chinese engineer, who has lived in various African countries since 2001, spending only three months a year in China, for company meetings.

Mozambique's current budget constraints have not dampened Bai's enthusiasm. He stated that



Bai Pengyu, CRBC engineer

CRBC has its own investment capacity, whereby a "financing mix" can be arranged. In addition, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) envisages "much support from the Chinese government" for infrastructure projects on the continent, he stressed.

There are numerous projects: extending the Maputo-Marracuene motorway connection north of the capital to the popular tourist destination of Bilene, which may get under way next year; the 700-km railway linking Mutarara by the Malawian border to the port of Nacala, an important export route contracted with the government two years ago; the



Maputo-Catembe Bridge

new deepwater port of Macuse, located between Nacala and Beira, planned and in the financing negotiation phase; and dams and basic infrastructure in various parts of the country, to enable development of the industrial parks the country needs. What's most important, asserted Bai, is to assure a north-south connection that can interconnect projects linked to the BRI being developed in neighbouring countries, namely the Nairobi-Mombasa railroad in Kenya, which will extend to the continent's interior.

CRBC is in constant contact with the Mozambican government and considers itself to be working for the country's development. "Sometimes we give the government the idea of how to develop a road or railway. When they have a problem, with schools or housing, they call us so we can help them by taking a look,

and we send a team cost-free." One result of such occasional work is the new bridge linking Marracuene to Macaneta Island, a popular beach destination for Maputo residents that often becomes inaccessible due to interruptions in ferry services. The government asked for help to construct a temporary bridge, but CRBC "built a cement bridge that will last a hundred years," the Chinese engineer pointed out.

For Bai Pengyu, Mozambique is more than just a country for work. As the years go by, he has developed "a connection" to the country. His daughter grew up in Mozambique and prefers to be in Maputo, where she has "friends of all colours" and can play more, while in China she has "too much work." He reiterated that he also likes to be there: "I'm promoting sustainable development, with good projects for the population."



## Co-operation portal welcomed in Mozambique

Mozambican entrepreneurs and exporters support increased use of the Economic & Trade Co-operation and Human Resources Portal between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries.

Use of the Portal by small and medium-sized Mozambican enterprises opens a new window for contacts. They can publicise their businesses and search for potential partners willing to invest in improving services and modernising methods in order to reach new markets.

It also contains information about support for hiring skilled professionals qualified in Portuguese and Chinese, likewise creating new opportunities for business, contacts, and exploitation of new markets.

The opportunity to publicise Mozambican food products on the Portal, along with the availability of information about fairs and conventions, enables Mozambican producers to enter a huge market, opening doors to partnerships and business deals previously hard to access.

The upcoming Macao International Trade and Investment Fair and the Portuguese-speaking Countries Products and Services Exhibition (PLPEX) may lead to more use of the Portal by Mozambican entrepreneurs, who have confirmed their presence at both events.

In an increasingly globalised and digital world, some of the entrepreneurs contacted by Macao Magazine suggested that the Portal should include short promotional videos in Portuguese and Chinese

about what Mozambique produces and exports, along with a list of potential sectors in China that are looking for partners, especially when it is increasingly evident that the Guangdong–HongKong–Macao Greater Bay Area will become a major pole for development of southern China, able to generate partnerships, new businesses, and new professional careers.

The Portal can be a complementary instrument for publicity, products, companies, and those interested in partnerships and business, not just with Mozambique but with other Portuguese-speaking countries (PSC) as well.

The Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) continually updates the Portal's content, adding economic and business information on relations between China and those countries. Interested parties can thus learn more about them and the sectors where business deals and partnerships are being developed.

Launched in 2015 by the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China and the Secretariat for Economy and Finance of the Macao government, the Portal is coordinated by IPIM, with Forum Macao as special co-operation organisation for the project.

The many services supplied by the Portal actively complement the actions undertaken by the government, and institutions linked to promotion, bolstering Macao's role as the de facto economic and financial platform between China and PSC.



中國—葡語國家經貿合作及人才信息網  
Portal para a Cooperação nas Áreas Económica, Comercial e Recursos Humanos entre a China e os Países de Língua Portuguesa

Economic Trade Co-operation and Human Resources Portal



## The turn to Asia

Until 2016, Mozambique was almost unanimously considered a 'good student' by multiple bilateral and multilateral partners. But the situation has changed drastically since then, following accusations that nearly US\$2 billion in debt had been contracted without the partners' knowledge. Budget support from the International Monetary Fund and other Western partners is still suspended, and the situation is unlikely to change in the near future. Local analysts say it will be hard for the current government to meet the donors' demands. The situation has forced the government to make budget cuts and renegotiate the debt, already over 110 per cent of GDP, with creditors.

Right after the crisis with Western donors, President Filipe Nyusi travelled to China. Prime Minister Carlos Agostinho do Rosário has important links to Asia, having been ambassador in Indonesia, with concurrent accreditations including Thailand and Timor-Leste, among other countries. The new foreign minister, José Pacheco, has extensive knowledge about Chinese business interests in the country, while the Minister of Trade and Commerce Ragendra de Sousa, who spoke to Macao Magazine, is of Asian descent.

For Lourenço do Rosário, founder of what is now the Polytechnic University, "Mozambique's readiness" to enhance relations with China, namely economic and financial ties, dates to before the crisis with the Western countries, but has been boosted by "China's willingness to enter Africa," making numerous financial

instruments available.

"It's a lot of money. If used right, Africa can profit from it," Rosário told Macao Magazine in Maputo, regarding the funds the Chinese government has placed at the country's disposal. "I can't say whether it's good or bad for Mozambique, I can only observe that the European Union and the United States are making an effort to show that they are present, when the fact that they have withdrawn financial support has actually led to a grey area enabling China to come to the fore," he explained. Under the current conditions, he said, the "tendency" is for China to become Mozambique's main partner, due to the direct co-operation instruments as well as the role of Macao.

"Macao has become a platform specifically for the African countries and their co-operation with China. Those two paths enable the Portuguese-speaking countries, particularly Mozambique, to gain access to Chinese investment, above all in the area of infrastructure," he added.

One of Mozambique's most renowned academics, Rosário has followed Sino-African relations for many years. He attended the African Union Jubilee celebrations in 2013, when the organisation's current headquarters, gifted by China, officially opened. He recalled that, at the time, Chinese investment was emerging as a promise for the continent's long-postponed development. The prospect of "billions and billions of dollars of Chinese co-operation has enthused many African leaders," he stated, and Mozambique is no exception.

Gloria Ung, IPIM Executive Director

## 'Shop window' in Macao

At the 2018 Macao International Trade and Investment Fair (MIF 2018) Mozambique will be the partner country for the first time, succeeding Portugal (2016) and Angola (2017). As usual, the event will also spotlight a Chinese province, this year being Fujian. The Mozambican authorities were the first to show interest in taking up the challenge to showcase the country's potential and capabilities.

To prepare Mozambique's presence at MIF 2018, a delegation from Macao's Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM), headed by Executive Director Gloria Ung, visited Maputo in the last week of March. Besides meeting with Prime Minister Rosário, Ung gained first-hand knowledge about current efforts to organise the Mozambican mission during meetings with the head of the Mozambique Investment and Export Promotion Agency (APIEX), Lourenço Sambo, and with the Mozambique Chamber of Commerce, which will also be involved in organising the business

delegation for both MIF and the Portuguese-speaking Countries Products and Services Exhibition (PLPEX), where companies can display their products.

The proactive attitude of the APIEX president was encouraging for the IPIM official, as she told Macao Magazine. Besides showing "much willingness to collaborate," the head of the Mozambican agency informed IPIM that it had already created a task force within APIEX to prepare the initiative, which will be coordinated with the counterpart government agency in Macao.

Even before MIF and PLPEX 2018 in October, Mozambique will have another opportunity to showcase its economy and companies this year, at the business opportunities meeting annually promoted by IPIM, to be held in Lisbon on 21-22 June. Ung explained that the event's first day will include panels with specific themes for each country, which each representative will be responsible for developing. In Mozambique's case, they may involve mining projects. Also in Lisbon, IPIM





will hold a dinner to promote MIF and PLPEX, while Forum Macao will celebrate its 15th anniversary with a cocktail reception.

Ung's meetings in Maputo also served to present to local authorities the new business federation, which should be fully established before the Lisbon business meeting, and also the new IPIM department meant to serve Portuguese-speaking countries, the Lusophone Markets Economic and Trade Promotion Department, which will be a "focus point for all Portuguese language countries when they need something from Macao." The new service has been shown to the Forum Macao delegates, who will now submit a list of projects to IPIM, said Ung, adding that the list will be translated into Chinese and placed on the portal, with the aim of "finding partners from China or Macao for these projects." Some delegates have already submitted projects; it will now be necessary to plan how to attract investors.

"The Forum delegates very much agree with this: before, IPIM went after them; now, they seek IPIM," said Ung. Instead of major events, IPIM can now "organise a delegation more focused on a project," bearing in mind the specific needs of the investment promoters and the interest of Chinese investors. This year will also benefit from new services providing information about each country, with a database of IPIM representations, so there should be "more solid results from investment projects."

*The decision was based on cultural affinities, the quality of the Mozambican workforce, as well as strategic factors such as less market competition compared to other countries like Angola.*

In Maputo, Gloria Ung was also in contact with Chinese diplomatic representatives and investors such as Charlestrong Engineering, Technology and Consulting Ltd of Macao, involved in major housing construction projects in Mozambique. For the IPIM official, that company has been able to transform the specific advantages pertaining to Macao, such as language or culture, into means of gaining entry into the Mozambican market. It's an example, among others, that "Macao really is acting as a platform," said the IPIM official.

### Macao's 'embassy'

While the Maputo-Catembe Bridge will change the postcard view of Maputo, other Chinese projects are also reworking the city. Among them is the Maputo AFECC Gloria Hotel, which opened just over a year ago, a 14-storey tower with Chinese-influenced architecture. Located in Costa do Sol, a sought-after leisure area where major shopping centres have emerged to serve the capital city, this five-star hotel endowed the city with a new conference centre, gaming rooms, and a supermarket with Chinese products. Its restaurant serving Chinese cuisine is also much appreciated by Mozambicans.

The city will soon also count its first restaurant specialising in Macanese cuisine, besides serving typical Chinese and Mozambican dishes. Situated on an 800-square-metre property in downtown Maputo next to the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, it will be built in

the Macao colonial style, similar to buildings found in the Inner Harbour area of the Chinese city. Behind this project contracted by the Mozambique Ministry of Culture and Tourism, is Macao's Charlestrong.

Charlestrong has been in Mozambique for five years, a country where the group chose to begin its internationalisation process. The decision was based on cultural affinities, the quality of the Mozambican workforce, as well as strategic factors such as less market competition compared to other countries like Angola. In 2014, it signed a contract for its first project



Praça Samora Machel, Maputo

in the country, in partnership with the Housing Development Fund of Mozambique: the second phase of the Olympic Village, comprising 240 apartments, an investment of US\$30 million financed entirely by its own capital. The houses were built with innovative materials, especially the new light steel technology, and went on the market in 2016. Charlestrong's vice-president Afonso Chan explained to Macao Magazine that the start of the marketing process coincided with the donors crisis, which impacted the economy and devalued the local metical currency, affecting sales until the present.

Despite the persisting difficulties, Afonso Chan is confident about ongoing contacts with the Mozambican government to dispose of the dwellings. "There is a big need for social housing and we're studying solutions so that we can sell [the houses] to a commercial bank, companies and ministries... The economy is recovering and many groups are knocking on our door to negotiate the purchase of the houses."

Charlestrong has an extensive portfolio of projects in Mozambique, and it continues to grow. Among them is an agreement with the government signed in 2015 to build 35,000 social houses throughout the country, which awaits financing. "Some Macao commercial banks, such as BNU, which is one of our partners and has always shown goodwill, have taken the initiative of learning about, contacting and communicating with our company. BNU is a sister bank of BCI de Moçambique and it's very likely that we will eventually cooperate with those two banks so we can go ahead with the project," Chan said.

The cost of the initially-planned US\$1.3-million investment



Maputo aerial view of AFECC Gloria Hotel





Afonso Chan, Charlestrong's vice-president

***A study is now being conducted for a project to build a thermal coal plant in Tete province. The rationale behind the project... is Mozambique's ongoing shortages in the sector.***

should drop due to lower housing construction targets, whose total may fall to around 800, using a more basic construction model. The project, which may get under way this year, extends throughout the country. Charlestrong has indicated that it may bring to Mozambique a construction materials production line, which would also help cut the project's costs. Some state construction companies have also shown interest in participating, even with financing. Among the Macao company's strategic partners in Mozambique is CMEC (China Machinery Engineering Co-operation).

Confident about the prospects of Mozambique's economic development, and using the experience gained in recent years, Charlestrong is also moving forward in the energy area. A viability study is now being conducted for a project to build a thermal coal plant in Tete province. The rationale behind the project, which involves the state-owned EDM (Electricidade de Moçambique) power company and the National Energy Directorate, is Mozambique's ongoing shortages in the sector. It envisages investment of nearly US\$300 million; construction

should begin in 2019 and end in 2021 or 2022, providing the region with 300 megawatts of energy.

Charlestrong has used its relationships with various Mozambican government departments to also act as a catalyst for investment by other Chinese groups. Such is the case of Mozambique's first factory for outfits and uniforms, contracted in late March with the Interior Ministry, an investment estimated at US\$20 million. Chan explained that the project is part of the official policy of boosting Mozambique's production capacity, while also fitting in the B&R strategy.

Afonso Chan, a former 9-year Forum Macao employee, believes that Charlestrong's project is also a visiting card, showing Mozambique what Macao can do, a role similar to David Chow's project in Cabo Verde.

"We're striving hard to show the market that Macao is indeed a good platform between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries. We're using our advantage to cooperate with our Chinese partners, to jointly invest in those countries," he said. "Macao has good investors who are doing good work in those countries, and we are just one of those companies."

Chan is a fluent Portuguese speaker and very familiar with Lusophone culture. He rejected the idea that Macao's companies do not have capacity to invest because they are mostly small and medium-sized enterprises, countering that synergies can be found with Chinese companies. "Macao has the advantage of being the only Chinese city where Portuguese is an official language; we have the advantage of culture and friendship," said this Charlestrong official. "Our company's good results should serve to influence more citizens from Macao." ●

## Interview with Mozambican Industry and Commerce Minister

### Ragendra de Sousa

In an interview with Macao Magazine, Mozambican Industry and Commerce Minister Ragendra de Sousa explained what his country can offer to foreign investors, especially China, as well as measures the government plans to implement to boost the country's growth.

The minister also spoke about Macao's role as a platform in relations between Mozambique and China and referenced his country's participation as a privileged partner in the upcoming 2018 Macao International Trade and Investment Fair, a prime opportunity to expand the country's international presence, showcase its potential, and seek partnerships and business deals.

**China's public and private companies are present in many African countries. What are Mozambique's specific advantages compared to other countries on the continent?**

Mozambique is part of various blocs such as the Southern African Development Community, the Community of Portuguese Language Countries, and the Commonwealth. We have a young population, mostly under 25 years old, and the country is well-situated geographically. It is a bridge between Asia and the rest of Africa and the world. From Asia to Europe – Portugal, for example – whoever doesn't use the Suez Canal has to pass by Mozambique, so our location is a valuable asset.

We have natural, and specifically mineral, resources which can eventually drive fast growth. Exploitation of our world-scale coal and gas reserves could raise our per capita GDP from around US\$400 to US\$3,000. And here I'm just talking about the known reserves... I'm convinced that much more can still be found.

**Is there any specific project for in-country industrial processing of locally-extracted resources, such as the one associated to the introduction of added value in pre-export graphite?**

We've been contacting some companies that want to begin making components in Mozambique. In the case of graphite, the mining companies are German and Australian, and they've already got their industrial units installed. So we've contacted potential interested parties, because we don't want to resolve the problem through legislation, forcing companies to locally process such resources.



#### Who is Ragendra de Sousa?

Ragendra de Sousa has a master's degree in social demography and agricultural economics from Cornell University in the US and a doctorate in development sociology from the same university, as well as more than 15 years of experience in the public sector, in the ministries of Education and Agriculture. In the private sector, he has served as manager of Mecanagro, a company for the provision of mechanised agricultural products, and worked in the Zambezi Development Planning Office (GPZ). From 2014 to 2016, he was part of the team of consultants drawing up the development strategy for the Cahora Bassa hydroelectric complex. Since 2006, he has taught university courses on econometrics, economic development and international finance, and in 2015, he published an analysis of Mozambique's public debt, the most recent in a long series of studies on the micro- and macroeconomics of Mozambique. Four years ago, he also became an economic advisor to the Frelimo Party. He became minister of Industry and Commerce in 2017, having served as deputy minister since 2016.



For example, Mozal produces aluminium which it exports in the form of ingots. We met with the company's directors and proposed the following challenge: given that the company's shareholders are automakers, why not locally produce half-finished chassis instead of just exporting ingots?

I believe that, although automobile production in the northern region of South Africa is already very automated, there is still room to make our own contribution.

**Even if it doesn't create so many jobs, it does bring technology...**

It brings technology and more added value. That's all within our strategy and policy for internationalisation, to focus on sectors with potential to substitute imports and diversify exports, and finally to focus on what we call the 'sunk costs' in industry, the cost of basic infrastructure already in place.

We have energy from Cahora Bassa and gas from Inhambane, but we still have to negotiate so we channel some of those resources toward increasing local power production. With that additional power, we'll eventually have more aluminium and more ore extracted from the heavy sands.

As you can see, there's still a lot of room for new investors in Mozambique, but we have to find more solid investors. All of this has to be done without forgetting agriculture, which is an essential sector.

All the areas I've mentioned are export-oriented, though at the same time, they function as generators of income that can be channelled toward food production and investment in education and health.

The peaceful transition in Zimbabwe will result in more use of our ports, such as Beira, while demand for services will also increase. We're investing in the port of Maputo, specifically in deepening the access channel so it can receive larger vessels. The Macuse railroad linking Tete to Zambézia will open yet another corridor.

On the other hand, together with several potential financial backers, we are developing the industrial park concept, basically focusing on light industry – refrigerators, irons, radios... local production. We already have confirmations from some Indian and Chinese investors and even the Germans have expressed interest in joining this light industry process. We have iron ore

in commercial quantities for the next 150 years, according to the latest estimate, so we're going to enter heavy industry. We have iron and steel. Coal, energy, and gas abound. The basic ingredients for development are here.

**How do you view the role the Chinese public and private sectors have been playing in the Mozambican economy?**

Chinese investment has been through various phases. Initially, as soon as a project was identified, China would support it with 25 per cent. But that's over. China is much more demanding in its investments: it now requires a business plan, it asks the country if it sticks to its priorities. But China plays an important role which unfortunately is not always appreciated by small retailers.

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***We have iron and steel. Coal, energy, and gas abound. The basic ingredients for development are here.***

Ragendra de Sousa

But from my position, I understand that we have to view the economy in terms of consumption and production. I'm not the minister of merchants, I'm the minister of Commerce, and the function of commerce is to satisfy consumers. I'm not the minister of industrialists, I'm the minister of Industry, which has to produce goods that satisfy consumption and employment. That's the way we look at both industrialisation and the production process. We don't want to directly interfere – we want to interfere indirectly, with incentives, upholding the notion that businesspeople have to grow but not at the expense of consumers.

**The Belt and Road strategy may change global trade flows. Mozambique is very close to what is the centre of that strategy on the African continent. How can the country position itself and prepare for that initiative?**

You have to understand that China has more than a billion inhabitants and will soon hold its first exposition as an importer. The period of China being the world's production machine is over. They exported, earned money and real salaries rose, but China is changing, industries are being displaced. Like America or France, it's going to have to change its economic framework – and that's where Africa fits, just like Asia, as a potential beneficiary.

We're ready, with the industrial park concept. Our population is small – 30 million people. Industries that come here have to produce for the global market while satisfying the internal market of Mozambique, not the contrary.

**Mozambique will be spotlighted at the 2018 Macao International Trade and Investment Fair. What do you expect from that event regarding your country's international projection?**

Macao has a very important global role, in the present as in the past. Our presence in Macao aims to boost the internationalisation of our economy. We're going to Macao with the goal of showcasing our potential and what we have here now. And we're going to make a major effort to prepare our entrepreneurs. The government isn't going to go looking for them. We create the conditions and our entrepreneurs have to get moving, seek partners...

**Is the business sector prepared to attract those partners?**

It is, but it has to improve, as always. To merely attend, do a deal or make millions depends on the way of thinking, and as a government, we're trying to change the way our entrepreneurs look at business.

**Forum Macao is celebrating its 15th anniversary. Do you think Mozambique has worked sufficiently with that body or should it do more?**

We should do more. But note that we have the problem of quantity and quality of people. There are still too few of us for the country's potential. For that industrialisation I mentioned, we would need a battalion of electro-technical engineers and we have twenty or thirty; we simply don't have the personnel. The challenges are huge, and we have to look to Macao, to China, India, Europe, Brazil, the AGOA [African Growth and Opportunity Act]... We do what we can, but more can always be done. ●



Interview with the president of APIEX

## Lourenço Sambo

The president of the Investment and Export Promotion Agency (APIEX), Lourenço Sambo, described China's interest in investing in Mozambique, potential future opportunities in the bilateral relationship, and his country's presence at the 2018 Macao International Trade and Investment Fair, to show what the Mozambican economy can give to China.

**How is Mozambique positioning itself for the expected increase in the exploitation and export of natural gas?**

Mozambique has a very clear plan about how to use its energy resources until 2030. We know what we're going to do with the gas, how we're going to use it, where to place our share, in either the regional or the pan-African market. That's why we signed the African Continental Free Trade Agreement in March 2018 along with the countries at the African Union Summit in Rwanda. We want to place our products and the first market we have is Africa, sub-Saharan Africa.

We're supplying energy to the whole region; we have a gas pipeline that goes to South Africa and can have another for Zambia and Zimbabwe... Those countries won't be using electric cars in 20, 30 or 50 years; they're going to need gas, natural gas. We have to harness our resources and show them to the world.

**Which sector or sectors appear more interesting to the potential investors you have contacted?**

The sector investors are most interested in, from the financial standpoint, is undeniably natural resources, specifically hydrocarbons. In 2014, we launched 15 areas, 6 of which are now in the prospecting phase. Recently, in a packed Cape Town

auditorium, everyone wanted to go to Mozambique because of everything that has to do with mineral resources: graphite, which we're already mining; coal, likewise; and the gas we're going to exploit.

This new reality poses a new challenge, that of changing the country's economic structure. The traditional resources are obviously there, like agriculture and fisheries. But I remind you that only in Africa do people still think in terms of organic products, something that no longer happens in Europe and much less in the United States.

We have to pay close attention to the issue of industrialisation, which is a major challenge. Africa has a huge deficit in industrial terms and we have to switch from an economy based on natural resources to an economy of manufacturing and innovation.

**When APIEX examines an investment project, what are the points it most values?**

First, we have the creation of jobs, which is extremely important. The second point has to do with the impact on wealth creation, something that makes the product grow. The third concerns the value of the natural resources. In overall terms, we want to achieve an increase in GDP, which is

still very low. An investment project also has to have an export component, to improve our trade balance, which has been negative for decades. This situation cannot continue; we have to export more than we import.

In sector terms, our strategy is based on four large areas: agriculture, agro-processing, infrastructure (telecommunications, energy, etc) and tourism. That last sector is very important for us, because it is able to create a large number of jobs.

**Have you sensed a great deal of interest in Mozambique, specifically from Chinese investors?**

China's action is not just centred on lending. The focus is currently on the establishment of industrial parks to boost our productive capacity. In Africa, China's internationalisation is based on small and medium-sized companies, while in Europe the emphasis is on acquiring large groups with international presence.

Note that in the last 10 years, China has always been one of the top investors in Mozambique, and everything indicates that it will continue to be in the near future.

**What does Mozambique lack for a special partnership with China in production for export?**



We have a strategy in terms of industrialisation. But what's missing is a plan, a clear vision. We need a focus, an action plan for each strategy plan we approve. How can we apply that? Then we have the disadvantage of having an economic model which is not very good – each sector has its strategy, leading to inter-sector competition within the country. There has to be a 'general staff' for the economy, an integrated development plan.

**In which sectors can Chinese investment be more useful for Mozambique?**

In all of them. Just look at the key sectors. Priority number one is agriculture and the Chinese are doing a lot in that area. Second is infrastructure. Who's building bridges and roads? The Chinese. Third is energy. Although slight, we do have China Energy Investment, which has signed several agreements to invest in both distribution and production infrastructure. China has money that will be used to acquire more stakes in transnational groups operating in the Rovuma Basin. Then there's tourism. Who has the best hotels in the country? China. So in those four strategic sectors, China has conditions to invest, and it's investing.

**Are there sectors where Chinese investors have shown more interest recently? In the last year, for example?**

Above all, China has shown interest in the area of natural gas. Another area it's trying to enter is finance, financial services. China wants to first gain a foothold in the market so it can later move in.

**Is the opening of a bank with Chinese capital foreseen?**

China is a shareholder of Barclays Africa [soon to be ABSA Group], and it keeps on buying shares. China will buy the Portuguese banks that are in Mozambique and enter the banking sector via that route. China is using a platform that already exists.

**The financing question is important in the current situation. Due to last year's events in Mozambique, it has become harder for a company to go to a bank and get credit for a project. So how, and where, can financing be sought?**

Sometimes I'm a bit controversial... Some people aren't satisfied, because

we have the problem of hidden debts, so they don't support our state budget... But I say, "That's good!" Because we really must begin to value the resources we have and realise that they need to be monetised. To do that, we have to think of project financing. We have a development bank: Banco Nacional de Investimento [BNI]. It's 100 per cent state-owned and it has to be empowered, given instruments so it can work.

**“Priority number one is agriculture and the Chinese are doing a lot in that area. Second is infrastructure. Who's building bridges and roads? The Chinese.”**

Lourenço Sambo

The capital market has to be reinforced and guarantee funds are needed. There are often ideas, bankable projects, but there are no guarantees that they can work. The market is huge, and not just in this phase, because in the next two, three or four years we're going to have a large capital inflow due to hydrocarbons. We need to have a strategy for financing our own economy. The biggest incentive for doing business is the presence of infrastructure. Where there are roads, there's commerce. If I have telecommunications, I can get things done.

**The Chinese government's Belt and Road Initiative is arriving and is already evident in nearby Kenya, for example. Mozambique is very close to what's happening. How is it preparing to attract projects?**

Kenya, Ethiopia, Zambia, and Mozambique are part of PIGA [Partnership for Investment and Growth in Africa], a platform for sustainable economic growth in Africa which China aims to develop via the China-Africa Development Fund. The platform is a joint effort with the United Kingdom.

This year, APIEX will take to China 18 companies with quality projects under that platform.

We also have to know how to use the platform that Macao represents. At the upcoming Macao International Fair, we'll be the partner country and we already have a Chinese province to work with. We have to take advantage of the fact that, for us, China is a strategic partner. But we have to define what we want. Mozambique has to draw up an action plan to make bilateral co-operation possible.

APIEX has a very well-designed strategy, approved in October 2010, with five pillars: change the business environment, which has to do with the country and institutions; ensure institutional training in the public and private sectors; modify procedures; determine target markets very clearly and know what we want from Asia, what we want when we go to America or Europe; and lastly, the creation of a national business community, because we cannot believe that we're going to develop the economy with foreign direct investment alone. The emphasis has to be on projects with local content.

**In foreign trade and investment terms, do you think that Mozambique nowadays looks more to Asia than it did five or ten years ago?**

It does, without a doubt, and for a very simple reason: a large part of the raw materials go to Asia. The coal goes to Japan and India, the gas to China. And then there's the limited and very demanding market of the European Union, where we can barely sell anything. What we do sell is via the Netherlands, placing aluminium.

Unfortunately, as a country we do not have a foreign trade strategy, we don't have an outward vision. We don't take advantage of the African Growth and Opportunity Act [AGOA], we don't benefit from the European Union's instruments, and when China opened its market to a hundred of our products, we entered but didn't earn much.

**What specific results do you expect from Mozambique's prominent place at the 2018 Macao International Trade and Investment Fair?**

Our participation as guest country in the Macao International Fair will allow everyone who visits the fair to gain a detailed understanding of what Mozambique has to offer. ●



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# China intends to reinforce the strategic partnership with Mozambique

Text **Paulo Figueiredo** Photos **Alexandre Marques**

**Tradition, mutual political trust, and complementary economics serve as a foundation of Chinese and Mozambican co-operation.**

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*China will continue to support economic and financial sustainability [in Mozambique].*

Su Jian

China will continue to support the economic development of Mozambique and considers the energy sector to be one of the potential areas for future investment, the ambassador of the People's Republic of China in Mozambique, Su Jian, indicated during an interview with Macao Magazine in Maputo.

The ambassador noted the importance of Macao as a

platform in relations between the Portuguese-speaking countries and China, citing its potential role in personnel training and education.

He is no stranger to the region: Ambassador Su spent two years as a member of the Sino-Portuguese Joint Liaison Group, preparing for Macao's transfer to China in 1999, and for several years, he served in the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the Chinese Foreign Ministry.

The 60-year-old diplomat began his long career in Portugal in 1983. A fluent Portuguese speaker, he went on to serve in Guinea-Bissau, Angola, Timor-Leste, Cabo Verde and, since 2015, Mozambique.

Ambassador Su reiterated that Mozambique is one of China's main partners in Africa and described some of the efforts underway to support the country's growth.

**What characterises relations between China and Mozambique today?**

The friendly and cooperative relationship between China and Mozambique can serve as a reference for other African countries. Indeed, President Xi Jinping has said that Mozambique is a strategic partner of China forever. Our relations are solidly grounded and based on tradition, mutual political trust, and complementary economies. In 2016, the President of the Republic of Mozambique visited China, enabling the two sides to establish a comprehensive strategic partnership. Soon afterwards, we designated Mozambique a priority country for China to implement co-operation with a view to augmenting production capacity.

The special relationship between Mozambique and China can be seen

in the selection of Mozambique as the site for its first agricultural technology centre in Africa and the continent's biggest bilateral cultural centre. China is now Mozambique's top trading partner, one of its main financiers and the builder of many major infrastructure projects in the country. And it has become the leading foreign investor.

Mozambique, in turn, is an African country that has closely accompanied the Belt and Road Initiative. It is also a part of that Initiative and may benefit with major infrastructure projects. Last year, it was one of the few African

countries invited to take part in the international conference on co-operation in the scope of Belt and Road, and has accordingly established a research centre focusing on the Initiative, which will have an academic role while also promoting projects and interchanges between the two countries.

When Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi visited Mozambique in 2016, he said that the country is a natural extension of the Maritime Silk Road of the 21st century because it has nearly 2,500 km of coastline and many ports, offering

numerous advantages. It is also a terminal, a springboard linking the African coast to landlocked countries in the interior, and can serve as a strategic transport corridor between the sea and the hinterland.

The Mozambican government has begun its five-year development plan and is promoting the respective industrialisation programme, with a particular focus on infrastructure projects. China has much to offer in this area, because it is also undergoing far-reaching transformation and many sectors would like to transfer



Ambassador Su Jian



some of their capacity outside the country. If we are able to join China's technological capability, talent, experience, and financing capacity to the large Mozambican market then we can mutually benefit each country's interconnected development. We are facing new and historic opportunities.

**Mozambique is now experiencing an economic slowdown after a period marked by major growth. During this phase, how can China be useful for its economy, for financing its production activity?**

We are aware that, after 2015, the international economic situation and many natural disasters affected Mozambique's international development, though we understand that those problems are transient. The Mozambican government has implemented certain measures, and from the second quarter of last year on, we've been able to see some positive signs of economic recovery. Mozambique now faces more opportunities than challenges.

Regarding the problems, debt immediately comes to mind. We understand that in the initial industrialisation period, several African countries used some foreign loans to promote certain production or infrastructure projects. From our standpoint, that's understandable, given China's experience during our initial period of reform and opening to the world.

In recent years, China has granted a number of concessional or interest-free loans to back projects in Mozambique. Most have been for production or infrastructure projects that have improved investment conditions in Mozambique along with the population's standard of living, both very important for launching the Mozambican economy. Bearing

in mind the debt pressure on the Mozambican government, in the last three years, the Chinese government has increased its free help to finance projects in the country and also forgiven several interest-free loan payments, all contracted by Mozambique until the end of last year.

We have also urged Chinese companies to change their mindset and way of cooperating in Mozambique, telling entrepreneurs to make more direct investments instead of seeking loans. We encourage Chinese entrepreneurs and bankers to try different forms

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***The Chinese government has increased its free help to finance projects in the country and also forgiven several interest-free loan payments.***

Su Jian

of financing, so that co-operation between the two countries can be sustainable. We do not want to exacerbate the Mozambican government's financial burden. At the same time, we are working with it to find sustainable development solutions.

We are also promoting industrialisation, trying to transform Mozambique's assets in the area of human and natural resources, enhancing sustainable development capacity that can benefit its population. When the two heads of state met in Beijing, they reached consensus that the two countries' priorities should focus

on the exploitation of natural and energy resources, while at the same time promoting the manufacturing industry. Our priority has thus been to move forward with the initiative on production capacity co-operation.

That initiative is based on several essential pillars: preparing infrastructure, developing human resources – specifically within industry – and securing financing. That co-operation augments Mozambique's national production while boosting the country's ability to face difficult situations and financial and economic risks like those it now experiences. Mozambique is passing through a relatively difficult period and we're providing some strong support.

**What are the current priority bilateral co-operation areas?**

One of our priority areas is transport and communication. China has financed and built a repair centre to resolve the problem of maintaining the many buses China delivered in the last several decades. We offered 80 buses for public transportation last year, and should add another 100 this year.

Other projects include installing satellite TV systems in 500 African villages and hamlets, and enlarging National Road 6, a strategic route between Zimbabwe and the port of Beira, which will be finished in a few months. We are also building new railways, roads, and bridges here.

In the area of public health, China has just delivered a paediatrics unit to Beira Central Hospital and the residential building for Mozambican and Chinese doctors working at the hospital in Maputo is nearly finished. Last year, a large Chinese Navy ship visited Mozambique and during its weeklong stay Chinese

doctors saw 10,000 patients, breaking the record for the last five years. Since last year, we have been sending teams of military doctors to work in the Maputo Military Hospital.

In the area of human resources, we have finished a professional and technical training project in Nampula and will soon start work on a similar school in Sofala. We also have Mozambican scholarship students studying in Chinese universities. Our government annually offers more than 300 professional training places for Mozambican civil servants and technical personnel.

Regarding food security, we donated more than 10,000 tons of rice in 2016, and have continued to donate tens of thousands of tons each year to help the country cope with floods and drought. At the same time we are doing something else: Mozambique's leaders have said they don't just want to ask China for things; they want to produce more. So we're sending Chinese experts to help, and transferring technologies to farmers so they can boost local agriculture production. A technical training and co-operation centre for agriculture has been established in Boane, which can also be used for technical capacity-building. We are conducting the first African trial of trilateral China-America-Mozambique co-operation in agriculture, to help farmers escape poverty by means of cereal production, processing, and agribusiness.

In the area of media and culture, we have offered direct TV transmission vehicles to TVM [Televisão de Moçambique], besides providing equipment for digital TV in the provinces and respective capitals. Indeed, China is helping Mozambique implement a project



for the switch to digital TV and radio. TVM's new production centre is under construction next to the original building. We believe these projects will help Mozambique put in place the conditions for international cultural interchanges, endowing its population with more cultural space and access to news and trends affecting the international situation.

**Regarding the energy sector, which Mozambique considers very important for its next several years of growth, how will China get involved?**

China can be a pilot country or pioneer in energy co-operation with Mozambique. The Chinese government supports bilateral co-operation in the energy sector. For example, in May 2016, CNPC [China National Petroleum Corporation] and Mozambique's state-owned ENH [Empresa Nacional de Hidrocarbonetos] signed a co-operation agreement in Beijing.

A few years ago, CNPC paid more than US\$4 billion to acquire

20 per cent of area 4 in the Rovuma Basin from Italy's ENI. Up to now, CNPC has invested more than US\$5 billion in that area. According to company forecasts, it will continue to invest in moving that huge project forward, and will also participate in its operation. And not only that: several Chinese banks are also financing the project, with their contribution reaching 37 per cent in the first phase.

Last year, the Mozambican minister of Mineral Resources and Energy visited China, signing various agreements and protocols. Beyond that investment, some Chinese companies are now showing interest in buying natural gas products in Mozambique. We believe that is a reason to encourage and speed up the process. Our participation in that area is very strong, because China is now the world's top financing market for the energy sector. China's natural gas requirements have also been rising and we believe the supply markets must be diversified.



**In infrastructure, Chinese companies have also been playing an important role. In the future, and in the context of Belt and Road, what other infrastructure may eventually be born here?**

China is now the biggest financier and builder of infrastructure in Mozambique, among them the bridge between Catembe and Maputo, the Maputo Ring Road, and the Beira fishing port. The memorandum of understanding signed last year lists 13 priority areas, primarily infrastructure, industrial parks, agriculture, and natural and energy resource exploitation. The two sides are now promoting various special economic zones and industrial parks. Some involve the manufacturing industry, others public works or the processing of agro products. Many Chinese companies are involved.

Mozambique's aim is to improve its industrialisation step by step. We know that by 2022 Mozambique will have natural gas revenues, and understand that we have to help the country strengthen its parallel industrial system to ensure that the economy doesn't depend solely on natural resources. That's what we're doing now.

Projects we're involved in include construction of the airport in Xai-Xai, Gaza, the only provincial capital without one. China's biggest rice plantation project in Africa is there, and several Chinese companies are now promoting agribusiness industrial parks in the province. The major Chibuto heavy sands project is also nearby. The manner of financing will be diverse. We prefer different public-private partnerships instead of requesting sovereign guarantees from the Mozambican government. We don't want its financial burden to increase; the aim is to achieve sustainability.

**Regarding the specific role Macao can play and is playing in this process, what do you expect?**

Macao can be considered a bridge, a platform linking the Chinese continent and Portuguese language countries. The headquarters of the Forum for Economic and Trade Co-operation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries [Forum Macao] is notably located there and the city offers many advantages, because the legal system is similar to the systems in those countries. Macao has many financial resources to back opportunities and is in constant contact with the Lusophone world, maintaining very close ties with figures and individuals in those countries. Macao's culture likewise has certain similarities, and many of its people are bilingual.

There's a lot to do. Regarding Africa, specifically the Portuguese-speaking African countries, Macao can help in the area of training. Our central government places great emphasis on the educational mission. Numerous bilateral and multilateral courses are offered every year; every week, one or another is under way. If Macao wants to take part, to put its advantage to use, then I believe it can play a vital role through bilingualism and the promotion of university interchanges.

Mozambican rectors come to the embassy every month seeking partnerships with Chinese universities and I believe Macao can do something there. China offers young Mozambicans a hundred scholarships for undergraduate, master's, and doctoral degrees annually. But the demand is very strong, there's a lot of competition, and we have limited resources. Macao also offers two or three Macao Foundation scholarships. If that number were increased a bit it would be a great help. Mozambique

needs many trained personnel in the near future, to help achieve an autonomous economy and meet the challenges of natural gas exploitation.

Macao also has experience in library interchanges with Portuguese-speaking countries and in organising cultural festivals and TV programme exchanges. When I was ambassador in Cabo Verde, I always watched the Portuguese-subtitled programmes that came from Macao. It also has considerable experience hosting international events and conferences. The Maputo AFECC Hotel Gloria, a joint China-Mozambique project, has an international conference centre for 2,000 people. More and more events are taking place in Maputo, but to attract investors, they also need to organise and coordinate international conferences, fairs, and exhibitions.

The Mozambican government has set five priorities – one is tourism. Not many Chinese tourists have come, so far, but co-operation with Macao could help attract them. Also, if Chinese investors are interested, more hotels can be built here. Many Chinese companies are already working here, but they don't know the laws, culture or language, or how to contact the banks. Macao offers an advantage there: it can supply legal advice and also facilitate financial consultation and translation services. Some entrepreneurs from Macao, some banks, could be represented here.

According to CNPC's estimates, in the next few decades, the exploitation of just areas 1 and 4 will earn the Mozambican government at least US\$200 billion in taxes at the current price. If the price goes up, even more. That means the Mozambican economy will soon awaken and go through a period of rapid development, with lots of opportunities. Macao cannot miss those opportunities. ●



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Wastewater inspection

## Economy

# Environmental exchange in Europe

Text **Natasha Lubaszewski** in Lisbon

Photos **Valeria Galizzi** and courtesy of Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute

**Learning new environmental techniques and regulations to meet the goal of uniting development and sustainability.**

In mid-March this year, the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) organised a Chinese commercial mission to Europe to learn more about the green industry there. Speaking to Macao Magazine shortly before the delegation's closing dinner held in Lisbon, Jackson Chang, president of IPIM emphasised the value of fostering connections: "It is necessary to develop and maximise the advantages of the role of Macao as a bridge between the Chinese provinces and the Community of Portuguese Language Countries [CPLP]."

In his closing speech, Chang advocated the need to foster knowledge about the green industry, taking the opportunity to recall the deep historical roots that bind Portugal and Macao. Macao organised the latest edition of the Macao International Environmental Co-operation Forum & Exhibition (2018MIECF) in



Jackson Chang, president of Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute

people, including government and business leaders from the nine Chinese provinces and two Special Administrative Regions of the Pan-Pearl River Delta (PPRD), IPIM President Chang said, "Portuguese companies have rich experiences and very advanced techniques that can serve as a reference, a good tool for Chinese companies." Portugal, he said, could be a "co-operation partner, thus developing a partnership between Portuguese and Chinese companies." He also noted that partnerships with some of the "more outwardly oriented" Portuguese companies could prove "very useful" to the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Launched in 2013, the BRI seeks to expand on the ancient Silk Road, transforming it into a modern infrastructure and trade network connecting East and West. To draw in Portuguese-speaking countries (PSC), China has leveraged Macao's existing role as a platform for economic and trade co-operation with the PSC. Portugal signed the first memorandum of co-operation with China in June 2017, taking an active role in the initiative, in part to facilitate the type of economic and trade co-operation and exchanges that characterised the IPIM-organised mission.



IPIM delegation visits Chinese ambassador in Portugal

April around the theme "Shaping of Eco-Cities for Inclusive Green Economy."

Chang also stressed the need for "coordination between socio-economic progress and preservation of the environment," noting that building an entirely sustainable city is part of the goals laid out in China's most recent Five-Year Plan, in effect through 2020.

In her speech, Maria João Veiga Gomes, advisor of the Portuguese Investment and Foreign Trade Agency (AICEP Portugal Global), described this initiative as "an

opportunity for Portuguese companies to expand their internationalisation." The IPIM mission to Portugal, which ran 14-16 March, is the latest in a series of initiatives which began last year with the departure of a delegation to Brazil for a knowledge exchange on watershed management in the Amazon. Gomes also noted China's plans include a target of 15 per cent of energy consumption from renewable sources by 2020, doubling to 30 per cent by 2050.

On the sidelines of the dinner, which brought together over 200

***China's plans include a target of 15 per cent of energy consumption from renewable sources by 2020, doubling to 30 per cent by 2050.***





According to Chang, the main purpose of the said mission had been fulfilled: to follow the latest technologies and techniques in the area of environmental protection. He pointed to the visit made to the Portuguese Environment Agency, stating that their presentation on the regimes of volatile organic compounds gave delegation members insight on the “very comprehensive and integrated policy regime” already implemented by the European Union.

Chang noted that “in addition to the national Belt and Road Initiative and the service platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries, we still have a large project called the Greater Bay Area, which aims to develop the metropolitan area of the Pearl River Delta region. As such, after 2018MIECF, we would like to organise a visit with a delegation that includes Chinese, Portuguese, and European companies to Liuzhou, in the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in China, to promote ties.”

Among the IPIM delegation were representatives from every part of the PPRD: Fujian, Jiangxi, Hunan, Guangzhou, Guangxi, Hainan, Sichuan, Guizhou and Yunnan provinces, along with Hong Kong and Macao.

Before Lisbon, the delegation stopped in Germany, where they visited three other companies and city councils as part of their mission to exchange experiences and possibilities for partnerships and investments in the area of environmental protection.

### Clean water model

Ambassador Cai Run received the delegates during their visit to the Chinese Embassy in Portugal. He described Sino-Portuguese relations as currently being one of the best periods in history and noted that Chinese-owned enterprises are well-positioned to explore investment opportunities in Portugal, namely in the areas of infrastructure, electric vehicles, and cultivation of Chinese herbs for medicinal use.

The focus of this visit, however, centred on wastewater treatment, with the mission touring a number of Portuguese companies and public institutions. The delegation visited Águas de Portugal, a water and wastewater treatment company. During the visit, representatives from Guangxi province were keen to understand how to adapt the types of treatment used by the company in rural areas, further away from urban centres. They praised the company’s inclusion of mud in its approach, defending the importance of returning mud to nature as the closure of the cycle and signalling a desire to put these techniques into practice at home.

Exchange activities continued with BEWG - Be Water and Ecoserviços, two companies using cutting-edge technology in the environmental area. Both are active in Africa – projects that drew great interest from some delegates and highlighted the value of expanding into new markets, with new partners. Many Portuguese

leader in terms of environmental regulation.

According to Lacasta, nearly the entire population of Portugal – 97 per cent – had access to quality water in just 15 years, a feat considered by many to be the “Portuguese miracle.” Today, Portugal ranks among the top countries in Europe for water quality. While Lacasta touted the successes in Europe, he does believe that they need to rethink waste treatment internally and described China’s decision to restrict the import of untreated waste into the Chinese market as a game changer.

### Adapting control measures

The visit proved fruitful, with delegates from the various regions and provinces engaging with Portuguese experts, demonstrating interest and understanding of this complex matter. They learned firsthand that Portugal strictly monitors and limits the use of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in order to reduce the emission of

hazardous substances and reduce air pollution, a valuable model for an area eager to improve its environmental standards.

Control measures include obliging industrial units that contain VOCs to complete a form and report their use of solvents; compelling fuel stations to install equipment to recycle VOCs on their own; and requiring the packaging and labelling of paint for buildings or vehicles containing VOCs to clearly identify their components. In order to ensure that the legislation accompanies the development of society, the practical application of legislation is assessed every five years and a transitional period is granted whenever new legislation emerges, avoiding unnecessary confusion in the industry.

Portugal attaches great importance to the treatment of hazardous waste, and their experience benefits members of the PPRD, providing insight on advanced technology in the environmental protection sector and exchanging views on the legislative measures inherent in the use and control of VOCs. According to IPIM President Chang, this exchange proved particularly educational since “China is still starting in this field and doesn’t have yet this kind of improved laws and regulations.”

Visits like this one help expose new techniques and methods that can be adapted to the different contexts of the provinces and regions of the Pan-Pearl River Delta, bolstering their efforts to meet the goal of uniting development and sustainability laid out in the 13th Five-Year Plan. ●



Visit to Águas de Portugal





# Exploring Macao’s history from the garden path

Text Cathy Lai   Photos António Sanmarful

For such a compact city, Macao is home to an impressive collection of 44 parks and gardens, covering almost ten per cent of the land area. These lush, green outdoor spaces humanise the hard-edge result of urbanisation, and provide a near-natural environment for people of all ages to enjoy a moment of tranquillity. But to landscape architect António Saraiva, the parks and gardens in Macao are more than just an escape from the bustle of city life.

Saraiva was head of Garden Department and Green Zones Department since 1985, until he became an advisor to Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) in 1998, a position he would hold for the next six years. Saraiva has spent decades studying, observing, and caring for the green areas of Macao. He turned his findings and experience into an academic journal article, *Os Jardins e a história de Macau* (2000) on the history of gardens in the city, and books including *Jardins e Parques de Macau* (Gardens and Parks of Macau), published in 1993, *Principles of Landscape Architecture and Territorial Planning* (2005) and *Trees and Large Shrubs of Macau* (2017).

With his expert guidance, we explore these precious leisure spaces, from those now revered as part of the city’s heritage to the more recent additions that mark its modernisation process.

## The green movement

Some of the oldest gardens in Macao were kept private for years, serving a different purpose before the then Portuguese administration opened them to public.

“It was also an idea to improve the living standard, as more and more people moved to the city and worsened the environment,” Saraiva explained.

According to him, it was an evolution that happened not only in Macao but also in Europe during the mid-19th century. “At that time, doctors and social reformers started to propose a number of measures to improve the living condition of the citizens, such as providing more green area for the people.”

Already well designed with rich vegetation, the historic Sao Francisco Garden, Camões Garden, and the Flora Garden became ready solutions for increasing recreational space.



António Saraiva, former IACM head of Garden Department and Green Zones Department



### São Francisco Garden

Imagine a time when the thoroughfare below the São Francisco Garden was just open water and people would gather at the garden's lower platform overlooking the sea or hang around the bandstand to enjoy a musical performance.

"The São Francisco Garden was the first public garden in Macao; it has a history of more than 400 years," said Saraiva. Constructed by the Catholic Franciscan order in the 16th century, it served as a religious base that provided temporary residence for Spanish Franciscan missionaries in China. Following the expulsion of the Franciscan order by a religious edict from the King of Portugal in 1834, the religious complex was transformed into the São Francisco Garden upon order of the then Portuguese administration.

Throughout the years, the garden has been impacted by the wave of modernisation. In the 1920s, Rua de Sta Clara was built right through the garden and its iconic bandstand was demolished, a significant change that Saraiva described as "a pity." Yet the garden still managed to retain much of its character with the historic pink arches and the giant shade trees.

São Francisco Garden



Round tower built to honour the combatants of the First World War, now converted into Headquarters of the Association for the Handicapped



Camões Garden

Surrounded by neighbourhood, the verdant Camões Garden provides a perfect place for recreational activities. Elderly people practice tai chi and Cantonese opera at its spacious square while children run up and down the spiral stairways under the watchful eyes of their parents.

The joyous ambiance is a far cry from what the famous Portuguese poet Luís de Camões endured some 400 years ago: exiled to Macao, he took refuge in a grotto within the garden, then a desolate forested area. The grotto is believed to be where he finished the national epic *Os Lusíadas*.

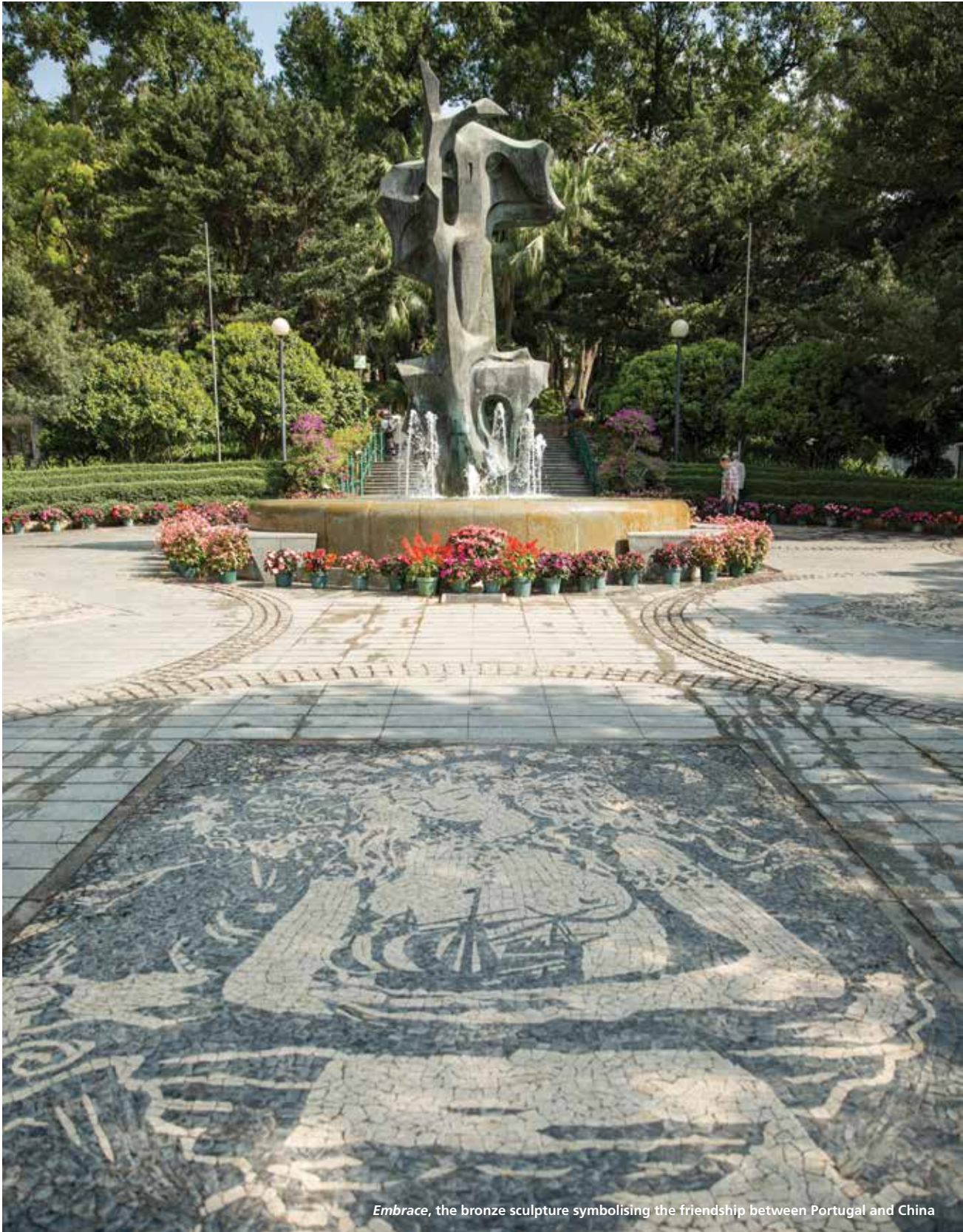
The area was later transformed into private property by a Portuguese merchant, and was leased to the British East India Company during the 18th century. The company improved the garden and turned part of its area into a nursery for Southeast Asian plants to be transported to Kew Gardens in England. In 1885, the property was sold to the Portuguese administration at 30,000 patacas, according to Saraiva, and became the second public garden in Macao.

Today, Camões Garden is home to the memorabilia of various historical figures, including a bronze bust of Luís de Camões installed in the grotto in 1886. Another bronze piece, a statue of Korean Catholic saint Andrew Kim Taegon gifted by the Korean Church to Macao’s Catholic community, was installed in a corner of the garden in remembrance of his preparation for priesthood in Macao in 19th century.



Bronze bust of Luís de Camões

Camões Garden



Embrace, the bronze sculpture symbolising the friendship between Portugal and China





Entrance of Flora Garden



Children's playground on Guia Hill

### Guia Hill and Flora Garden

“Take a look at the old photos and you will find that the hilltop where the lighthouse stood was almost barren without trees,” António Saraiva noted. It was the original outlook of the now greener Guia Hill, a formal military base built with fortress in 1638 and centuries later, a system of tunnels in 1925. In the 19th century, the Portuguese administration of Macao decided to afforest the Guia Hill in order to provide more green space for the citizens. According to Saraiva, the plan was made possible by fertilising the soil in the area with organic waste from the city and manure from oxen.

The first afforestation took place between 1883 and 1886, with the Chinese pine (*Pinus massoniana*) as the major plant, but with the passage of time, the pines were replaced by other species, said Saraiva.

Situated at the base of Guia Hill, the European-style Flora Garden occupies the former grounds of the Flora Palace, the aristocratic mansion residence of the Portuguese Governor Tomás de Sousa e Rosa. Famous for having a variety of tall palms and flowering shrubs, the garden was opened to the public after the governor moved out of the mansion in the 1930s, following an explosion of a nearby arsenal that blew up the mansion.

Flora Garden is now known for its cable car built in 1997, which travels a short distance of 186 metres up Guia Hill, and the zoo, home to the beloved Asiatic black bear Bobo.



Moon gate

### A rare touch of China

To Saraiva, the garden in China is a form of art, embodying Chinese cultural symbolism which may easily be overlooked by Westerners. In the past, Chinese gardens, often encompassed by high walls, were private spaces surrounding aristocratic mansions. Rocks and water, moon doors and winding paths are the most distinguishing features of a Chinese garden.

The Lou Lim Ieoc Garden, situated in the centre of the Macao Peninsula, has best exemplified the special characteristic of a Chinese garden.

### Lou Lim Ieoc Garden

“It is the only Chinese garden in Macao, and it is also my favourite garden,” Saraiva smiled. “Here, you can find the quaint moon gate, shady walkways, man-made hills, ponds, trees, and shrubs. They form a variety of picturesque landscapes, but still present a strong atmosphere of togetherness.”

Inspired by the famous Chinese novel *Dream of the Red Chamber*, Lou Lim Ieoc Garden was once a mansion belonging to the wealthiest man in town, Lou Kau. The construction of the garden was a large-scale project that began in around 1904 and completed decades later in 1925.

Though widely regarded as a garden in traditional Suzhou style, according to Saraiva, the garden exhibits unique elements such as the aptly-named Bridge of Nine Curves, with its wavy structure instead of the typical straight segments, or the porch columns of the Spring Grass Pavilion, curiously similar to the Ionic order.

Following the decline of the Lou's family, the private house within the garden was reconstructed into Pui Ching Middle School in 1938, and the western part was sold for real estate. The remaining area, where the Spring Grass Pavilion situated, was purchased by the Portuguese administration in 1973, and opened to the public the next year. Lou Lim Ieoc Garden is now a UNESCO heritage site, offering curious visitors a scenic journey into the past.





Porch columns of Spring Grass Pavilion

### From garbage field to wonderland

Little is known about the connection between the rise of modern gardens in Macao and the major developments that took place in the last century. The expansion and redevelopment of Macao was made necessary due to the large influx of newcomers since the late 70s. As a result, said Saraiva, new parks in the city are required to adopt a modern style, which is less formal, and to provide more space for recreational activities to cater to

the surging population.

The first modern parks were Hac Sa Park and Seac Pai Van Park, both completed in 1985 with recreational facilities such as swimming pools, tennis courts, plazas, and playgrounds.

However, to Saraiva, Dr Sun Yat Sen Municipal Park, which covers an area of around 52,000 square metres, is the defining project attesting to the modernisation of Macao's gardens. After assuming office in the garden department in 1985, Saraiva oversaw the construction of the park, until it opened to the public in 1990.

### Dr Sun Yat Sen Municipal Park

“We had never stopped worrying throughout the construction of the park,” smiled the 73-year-old, stressing that the park, situated at the northern end of the city, was originally a landfill site for garbage disposal. “The leachate and methane coming from the degraded waste might damage the newly planted trees.”

But the trees managed to thrive under the less-than-perfect conditions. On 24 June 1990, the urban park welcomed its first batch of visitors with a



Bridge and pavilion





*Permanent Handshake*, the bronze sculpture inaugurated in 1997 to represent the friendship between Portugal and China

Victorian-style greenhouse, winding walkways, flower gardens and a big lake with a waterfall. It was also the first park in Macao to install an automatic irrigation system, and the first area to be paved with Portuguese cobblestones.

It is a day that António Saraiva will always revisit. “It was a very hot summer day, and some children jumped into the lake to cool off,” he recalled. “That’s how I came up with an idea to build a swimming pool inside the park.” The pool was added to the park seven years later, its irregular shape designed to fit into the surrounding area.

Saraiva also told the story behind the naming of the park: “Originally, it was called Parque do Canal dos Patos (Duck’s Channel Park), since the park was built along a river channel inhabited by a lot of wild ducks.” But just a few months after the opening of the park, a statue of Sun Yat-sen was gifted to Macao by an institute in China.

“The plan was to install it in Lou Lim Ieoc Garden, which would not have gone well in terms of style. So I suggested placing the statue at Parque do Canal dos Patos, and since then, it was renamed as Dr Sun Yat Sen Municipal Park.”

### An on-going evolution

As urbanisation continues to transform Macao’s cityscape, to fully utilise the scarce urban spaces, new parks are often built with multiple functions. Taipa Central Park, opened in 2015, is a perfect example as a recreational complex with a swimming pool, library, fitness equipment, football and basketball field, as well as a children’s playground. A parking lot was built below the park to address the growing demand for car parks in the neighbourhood.

The waterfront of Macao also provides valuable space for redevelopment. In 2013, the IACM, which oversees the Department of Gardens and Green Areas, kicked off a six-phase construction project on the leisure area of Taipa Waterfront, with an aim to green up the city and encourage a more active lifestyle

within the community.

The first three phases run along the waterfront of Avenida dos Jogos da Ásia Oriental, Rotunda dos Jogos da Ásia Oriental and Avenida do Oceano in Taipa. With a total length of 3,250 metres, the waterfront promenade provides a variety of recreational facilities, including a jogging track, cycle track, children’s playground, and other fitness facilities. Bicycle rental service with two rental locations is also available in the leisure area.

The fourth and fifth phases will soon kick off with plans to connect the first phase (near the Avenida dos Jogos da Ásia Oriental) with the 1,100-metre Lotus Cycling Track, opened in 2010 and situated along the waterfront near Broadway Macau. The sixth phase, meanwhile, aims to expand the Lotus Cycling Track further south towards Coloane by 600 metres.

Upon completion, they will offer a seamless 6,000-metre coastal promenade for locals and tourists to enjoy sea views and the shade of green trees.

“It’s important to reserve some open space within the community, where our future generations can continue to enjoy the freedom to explore and run around in close proximity with nature,” Saraiva emphasised. “Let us not forget that we are not machines; we are a part of nature – to be separated from nature is not good for our mind or our body.”

Saraiva concluded the garden tour by leading us to a mini farm built by a local school, where students can learn how to grow vegetables. “Gardens can be in any form, as long as they help us reconnect with nature. People can live without cars or cinemas, but not without trees.” ●



Taipa Central Park



Culture

# ArtFem: Striving for equality in the art world

Text **Marco Carvalho** Photos **António Sanmarful**

**ArtFem features 142 artworks by a diverse array of women artists from around the world. The Women Artists – 1st International Biennial of Macao seeks to fill a void in spotlighting women artists and become the biggest of its kind in the world.**

*“She needs to know how to love,  
She needs to suffer for her love  
And to be no more than forgiveness”*

Carlos Marreiros likes to quote the Brazilian poet Vinicius de Moraes to explain why there is an impending sense of justice in the endorsement of ArtFem. The massive exhibition brings together the works of more than a hundred women artists, and marked the opening of its inaugural edition in early March at the Macao Museum of Art.

He invoked the poetry of Moraes in the press conference announcing the event, known formally as the Women Artists – 1st International Biennial of Macao. He did it again in the short speech he proclaimed before opening the biennial, and he does it in our interview, a rebellious cigarette dangling from the corner of his mouth.

“Our society is still chauvinistic, male oriented,” he asserted, before taking a prolonged puff on his teetering smoke. “Adam was the first to be created. Only then Eve came to be and she was made out of a rib, Adam’s rib. You know how it goes, don’t you?”

We do, all too well. A renowned architect and an artist himself, Marreiros acknowledged the existence of what he termed an “ignominious imbalance” between the contributions made by women and the degree of public recognition they receive.





“Their contribution is remarkable. I am not even talking specifically about arts. Women have been responsible for major breakthroughs in science, in medicine and even in architecture,” he remarked. “In literature, for instance ... How can one measure the extent to which women have influenced the way we all see the world?”

Marreiros, who is also the director general of Albergue SCM, a non-profit organisation which aims to enhance local art and cultural and creative development, sees the exhibition as the most

visible and immediate way to pay tribute to the women of his life – “My mother, my grandmother, my daughters, women of enormous strength and sensitivity” – but also to the intelligence and the generosity of spirit that women, in a broad sense, have demonstrated throughout time.

“Our intention is to show women the respect they deserve. The time is ripe to honour the value of women and what they contribute, but we should do it at all levels, in domains like science, medicine or even architecture,” Marreiros asserted. “We took in

our hands the task of valuing women in fields like the arts world or education. Macao can play a very important role in this process, I am utterly convinced.”

Marreiros had been nurturing the idea of organising a big international event to showcase the works and talent of women artists for more than 20 years, but only recently did he witness a long desired alignment of the right conditions. The first edition of the Women Artists – International Biennial of Macao was made possible through the support of the Cultural Affairs Bureau, by Macao Foundation – who financially supported the event with an MOP1.5 million (US\$185,670) donation – and, most importantly, by the Macao Museum of Art (MAM).

The biggest and most relevant art institution in the city, MAM partnered with Albergue SCM to set up the exhibition. The inaugural edition of the biennial, planned and assembled in little more than six months, features 142 artworks by 132 female artists from 22 countries and regions, most of which had to be collected and brought to Macao in time to be displayed at the exhibition.

Carlos Marreiros might be the mastermind behind ArtFem, but it was José Isaac Duarte and Lina Barradas, on behalf of Albergue SCM, and Margarida Saraiva of MAM, that pulled off the miracle of assembling the biennial on such a short notice.

“The last six months were very, very stressful. It’s sort of a miracle that we have more than one hundred works on the wall today,” Duarte told Macao Magazine, conveying relief for



Deland Leong Wai Man, deputy director of the Cultural Bureau (left) and Carlos Marreiros (right)



José Isaac Duarte and Lina Barradas



being able to bring to Macao the works of artists as relevant as Graça Morais, Madalena Pequito, Duda Correia or Lin Hairong.

“I think we managed to build a coherent and consistent exhibition, given the limitations we faced. With some more time, with other kinds of resources, this first edition of ArtFem would have been very different,” Duarte explained as he nodded approvingly to his co-curator, Lina Barradas.

For Barradas, the six months that led up to the opening of the biennial were nothing short of a marathon. To bring together the artists and works that best suited the exhibition’s concept, the two curators visited dozens of art fairs and galleries and dispatched hundreds of emails, some of which were never answered.

“We tried to reach way over one hundred artists. One of the problems was that we were forced to set a deadline: the 20 December. With the exhibition scheduled to open shortly after Chinese New Year, we had to make sure that we would have a catalogue ready to deliver at the opening day,” Barradas explained. “That meant

the catalogue had to be ready around 8 January.”

Of the 142 works of art that were selected for the first edition of the biennial, only a few dozen were already in Macao. Of these, the majority – 36 – belonged to the collection of MAM. The museum, directed by Chan Kai Chon, took the invitation made by Carlos Marreiros and Albergue SCM as a challenge – and a valuable opportunity to promote the debate around women’s role and place in the contemporary art scene.

“We would like this exhibition to have the power to make people think, to make people question themselves,” Chan explained. “We are aware that this exhibition is only a small step in the pursuit of greater equality, but it will be a worthy effort if it manages to arouse debate on whether art is any different from the other fields concerning the opportunities it gives women.”

Despite the fact that the museum’s share in the exhibition constitutes less than one-third of all the pieces on display, the works selected by Saraiva offer a solid introduction to Macao’s recent history. With the exception of some works by Peng

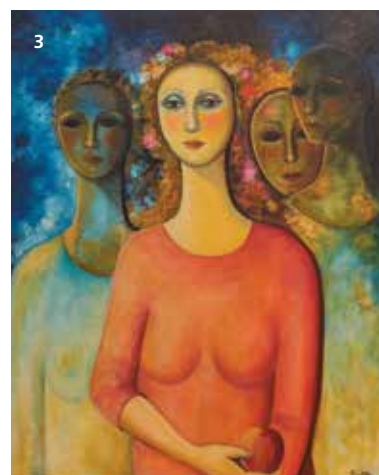
“

*It [Artfem] will be a worthy effort if it manages to arouse debate on whether art is any different from the other fields concerning the opportunities it gives women.*

Lina Barradas



1. *Floating*, DUMA 2. *Our Lady of Sorrows*, Paula Rego  
3. *Woman with apple*, Joana Frontera 4. *Blue bird*,  
Raquel Gralheiro 5. *Cigarette & coffee*, Xiong Lijun



Xiaoying, an artist born in the 1920s, most of the older works chosen by Saraiva belong to Portuguese artists like Maria Helena Vieira da Silva, Lourdes de Castro or Mozambique-born Bertina Lopes. The Macao Museum of Art, she recalled, inherited these and other works from the collection of its predecessor, the Luís de Camões Museum.

The local contemporary art scene is represented by the creations of artists such as Peng Yun, Bianca Lei, Alice Kok and Wong Weng Io. In addition to allowing the museum to reorganise their own collection in a more accurate way, the first edition of ArtFem gave the institution a well-received impulse to reassert itself with the shape, pace, and protagonists – both old and new – of the local art scene.

“Some of the artists we have included in our share of the exhibition were not yet part of the museum’s collection,” Saraiva explained. “In a certain sense, it was a blessing because, by acquiring their works, we were able to invest the exhibit with

a new dimension and to show contemporary variations of artistic expression, like projects of video art and installation art.”

Alice Kok may well be the only one of the 132 creators represented in the biennial that produced an artwork specifically for the event. The president of one of the biggest art collectives in Macao, the Art For All Society, Kok has sold some of her works to MAM in the last few years, but none that quite conveyed the kind of message she wanted to express through such an important event.

“We cannot deny that our world is still ruled by men, right? We still live in a patronising, paternalistic society, in which men enjoy a certain kind of fatherly authority culture,” Kok said. “We grow up thinking that authority is a male thing, that women are supposed to be submissive. This kind of culture remains embedded, or rooted, in the way we see the world for the time being.” The 40-year-old artist acknowledged that some changes have happened in the last few years, and others are ongoing. “I hope these circumstances can be changed little by little. We need balance.”

Strategically placed by the entrance of the exhibition, her installation – a silicon nipple that vanishes as soon as someone tries to touch it – attracted attention on the opening day of the Women Artists – 1st International Biennial of Macao on 8 March, International Women’s Day.

A simple illusion, Kok’s work is a powerful reminder of how elusive the idea of gender equality still is in a world where women’s contributions remain largely overlooked. “When the Macao Museum of Art contacted me, they had the intention to exhibit a video installation that I did a few years ago,” she explained. “We talked

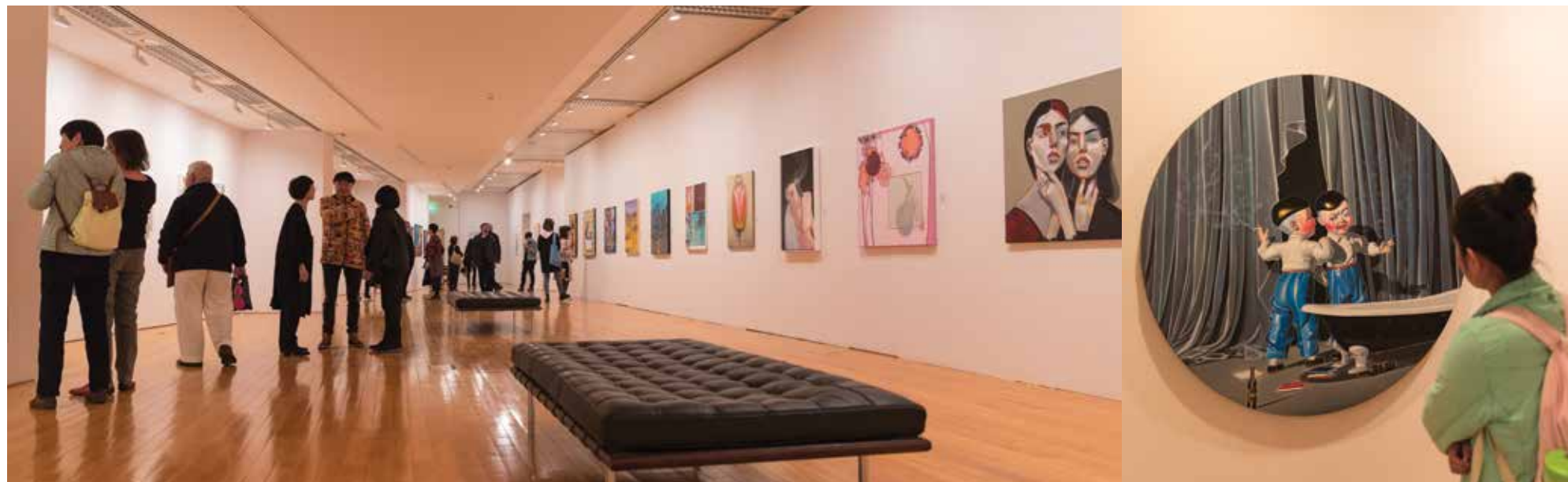


*Emptiness*, Alice Kok

more in depth about the concept of this exhibition, and I suggested that maybe another work would be more relevant for this occasion.”

The elusiveness of gender equality is a trend that still bothers Victoria Willing. The 57-year-old actress, voice artist, and writer was in Macao to represent her mother, Dame Paula Rego, at the opening of the biennial. Born in Portugal but a British citizen by marriage, Rego is one of the most accomplished figures in contemporary art and by far the most skilled and successful Portuguese artist of the last half century. Most importantly, Rego’s women – and she mostly depicts women in her works – are sad and angry, worried, aghast or vengeful, and all of them disturbingly human. It was, therefore, no surprise that the artist accepted Carlos Marreiros’ invitation to become the godmother of the inaugural edition.

“I think it is a marvellous idea to have a biennial for women and I am very honoured to be the godmother,” Rego, now 83, wrote in a message read by her daughter at the opening ceremony. “It’s about time that women got recognition for their work; they have their own stories to tell and a different perspective on







Victoria Willing

“

*Men are still the bosses. Men are still in charge. Nobody is saying to get rid of all the men and put women in their place. It's just balancing it out, making it equal.*

Victoria Willing

the world. I hope the climate for women artists keeps improving.”

A part of the road to improvement Rego addressed in her short statement is already covered, but the remaining one, predicts Willing, won't be any easier. “Men are still the bosses. Men are still in charge. Nobody is saying to get rid of all the men and put women in their place. It's just balancing it out, making it equal,” Willing contended. “As you were saying, there are no well-known women artists or well-known women engineers or well-known women politicians – or only a few compared to men.

“My mother, she struggled for so many years. She couldn't sell anything and partly, that happened, because she was a woman; she wasn't a part of the boys' club,” Willing explained. “She's a good symbol of perseverance and strength.”

ArtFem might change things a little, the artist and writer recognised – “The exposure will help to some extent” – but the road ahead will be difficult if the goal is equality and not merely inclusion. Willing dreams of a day when women artists won't need specialised events to access a platform or garner well-deserved accolades. “One day... [women] will be just artists, like anybody else. That's when you get equality.”

Although the main purpose of ArtFem is to show women “the recognition they deserve,” Carlos Marreiros doesn't hide his own ambition. He envisions the event becoming the most important of its kind: “We want this event to become a world-level event in only three editions. With the end of Incheon's biennial, the only international event of the kind is the Whitney Houston Biennial and its purpose is quite different,” he explained.

Women-only art exhibitions are rare events. Asia can claim the role of trendsetter in this particular domain with Incheon, South Korea, assuming a pioneering role. Inaugurated as an event for local artists in 2004, the Incheon Women Artists' Biennale quickly became an international event; the fifth and final edition was held in 2011.

This year, the Women Artists – 1st International Biennial of Macao took up the mantle. It revels in its international status, featuring artists from mainland China, Macao, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan, South Korea, Russia, Iran, India, Timor-Leste, Angola, Guinea-Bissau, São Tomé and Príncipe, Cabo Verde, Portugal, Spain, Georgia, Brazil, Australia, the UK and the US.

As Marreiros was keen to point out, the exhibition – which runs until 13 May – is but one of a series of events happening concurrently. ArtFem also encompasses talks, conferences, and even other exhibitions: Portuguese artist Raquel Gralheiro will display her latest works at the Albergue SCM art gallery, in an event that will span roughly the same time period as the biennial. ●

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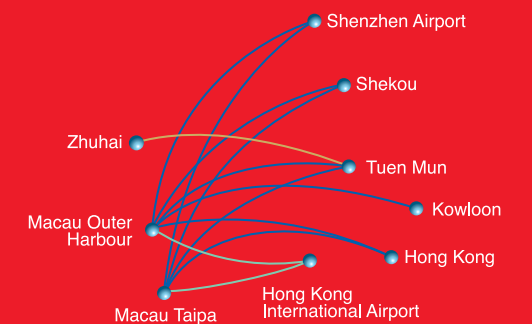
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# Shanghai troupe brings *Das Kapital* to the stage

Text Mark O'Neill Photos Courtesy of Shanghai Dramatic Arts Centre



This year, in honour of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Karl Marx, the Macao Arts Festival presented a song-and-dance version of his greatest work, *Das Kapital*, performed by the Shanghai Dramatic Arts Centre (SDAC).

They opened the festival with a show in the Grand Auditorium of the Macau Cultural Centre on 27 April, with an encore performance the following night. The two-and-a-half-hour show was in Mandarin, with subtitles in Chinese, Portuguese, and English.

"It has been one of the most popular works in our repertoire," said producer Gu Huijun. "We have performed it in Shanghai, Beijing, and Hong Kong to large audiences, mainly young and middle-aged. It was written just after the global financial crisis, so the subject was on everyone's mind. We have not performed in the Western capitalist countries. We would like to.

"We were delighted to come to Macao. It was the first time we have been invited to perform at the Arts Festival there. We made adjustments and improvements in the music and dance to make it up to date. But the basic text is the same," she said.

Karl Marx published *Das Kapital* in 1867. Broadly considered his most important work, it has been seminal in the formation of Socialist and Communist parties around the world ever since. It offered the first systematic critique of the capitalist system that prevailed in the richer countries of Western Europe.

In it, Marx argues that capitalism depends on the exploitation of labour. The owner of the factory makes his profit from the 'surplus labour' produced by

workers and is protected in his ownership rights by the ruling regime. He warns that the system is unjust and immoral and will inevitably lead to regular financial crises.

One such global financial crisis occurred in 2008, following the collapse of Lehman Brothers. It was this that inspired a Japanese manga comic book adaptation of *Das Kapital* that was published in December that year. East Press, the Tokyo-based publisher of the manga, has also produced manga versions of Dante's *Divine Comedy*, Shakespeare's *King Lear*, and Adolf Hitler's *Mein Kampf*.

In the manga, the main character, Robin, runs a cheese factory. He rebels against his socialist father and, because of a

bad capitalist influence, exploits his workers. He faces an internal struggle, torn between the riches offered by capitalism and his responsibility to his workers.

In the mainland, Karl Marx remains a revered figure. His works form the theoretical basis of the Communist Party, and students take Marxism-Leninism as a compulsory subject. Even those who haven't read *Das Kapital* would be familiar with the book and its basic theory.

But political correctness has evolved. The party is following a mixture of state capitalism and market economics developed through decades of practice.

Gu described the work as a piece of entertainment, not political commentary, and credited this as one reason for its popularity.



Das Kapital performance





### Dark humour

SDAC first performed *Das Kapital* in 2010. Since then, it has done many performances in Shanghai, Beijing and Hong Kong, and received critical acclaim from media and professional art critics.

Yang Shaolin, general manager of SDAC, helmed the project, putting together a team of experts and creatives to ensure the play entertained while still honouring the Marxist spirit. He chose He Nian, best known for his martial arts parody, *My Own Swordsman*, to direct and playwright Nick Rongjun Yu was brought in to write the script. Together, they turned the class work of Marx into a theatrical exploration of abstruse theories dealing with hotly debated social topics, like financial crisis and high property prices, through song and dance.

It exposes the two sides of capital with dark humour, turning the subject from a traditional play into a theatre of the absurd. It mixes politics, economics, and superstructure with celebrity and family gossip in a realistic yet detached approach, putting the absurdity of capital on display.

The workers in the business learn that they are being exploited by their boss. From this, they come to learn the truth of Marx's theory of 'surplus labour.' They react in different ways: some are happy to be exploited, others strike and rebel – which destroys the company and leaves them jobless – while a third group decide to bring their ideas together and negotiate with the boss.

The creators draw on the spectacle of Broadway musicals and Las Vegas shows to illustrate the complexities of a financial crisis in a way both entertaining and educational. Yet the subject itself remains remarkably down-to-earth, connected to the lives and feelings of ordinary people.

### Leading arts centre in China

Shanghai Dramatic Arts Centre (SDAC) is the only national theatre company in Shanghai, and the home of theatre and performing arts in the city. Established in 1995, it merged two existing entities: the Shanghai People's Arts Theatre and Shanghai Youth Drama Troupe – both founded in the 1950s and key players in the development of drama in China.

Today, SDAC's team of professional playwrights, directors, actors, and stage designers stage over 50 productions and engage more than 300,000 audience members every year, most of them under 45 years old.

SDAC tours extensively within

China and internationally. Its productions have been invited to perform in various countries and art festivals in the US, UK, Russia, Germany, Japan, Singapore, and Australia. It actively works with international artists and theatre companies in collaboration and co-production.

In addition to three performance spaces in the Centre's main building on Anfu Road – the Arts Theatre, Drama Salon, and Studio D6 – SDAC manages several other stages of various size and focuses across Shanghai, including Shanghai International Dance Centre, New Shanghai Theatre, 1933 Micro Theatre, and Sky Theatre. Dedicated to artistic development

and global outlook, SDAC is one of the most active performing arts institutions in the flourishing cultural landscape of China.

SDAC also hosts the annual ACT Shanghai International Theatre Festival, bringing wide range of international performing arts productions to local audience. Since 2005, more than 150 productions from over 20 countries have participated in the festival. It also supports local artists to present new works. With a series of outreach activities, such as workshops, lectures and post-show talks, the festival is an active platform for both local and international artists to meet and to engage with audiences. ●





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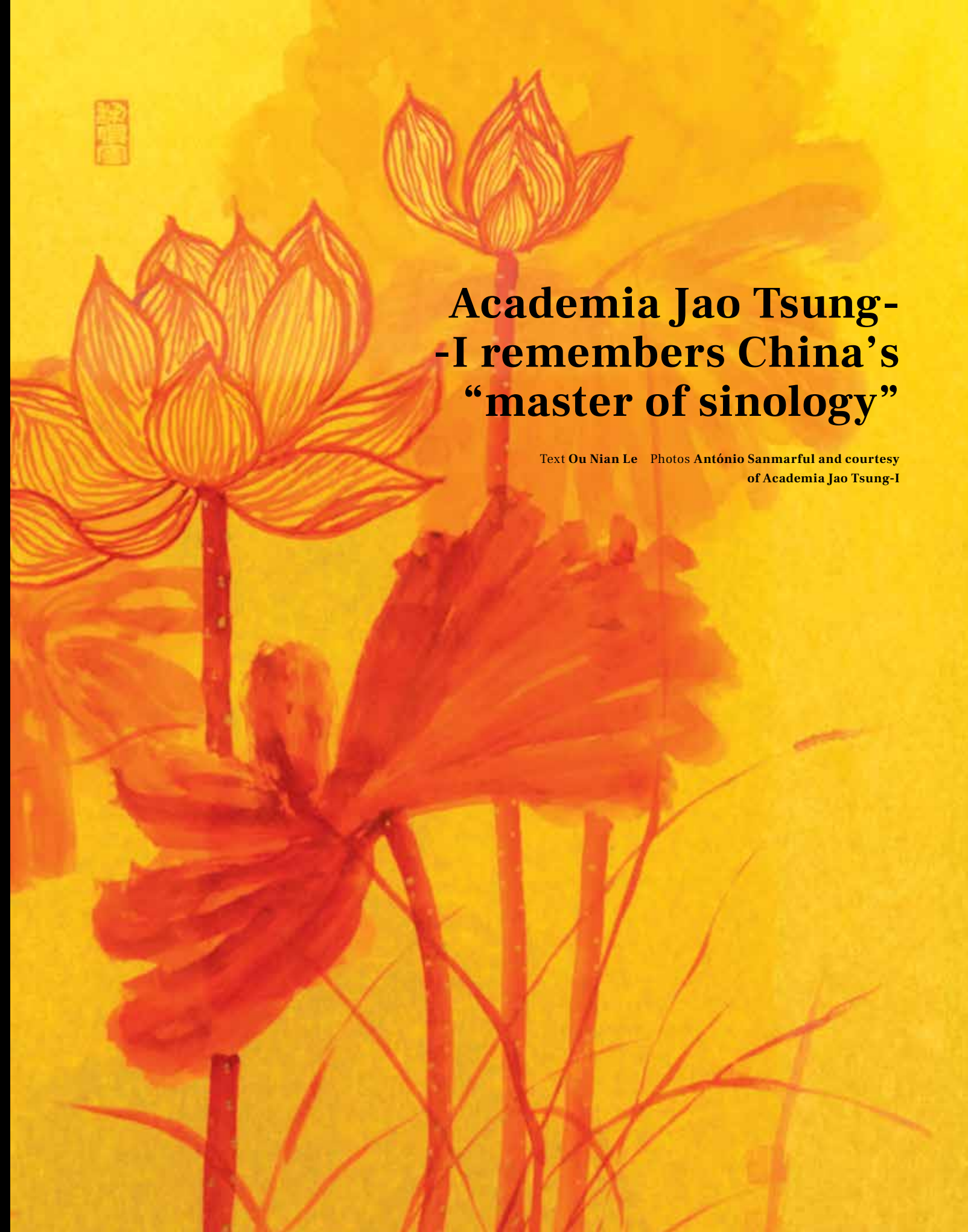
Celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the  
Macao Chinese Orchestra



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## Academia Jao Tsung-I -I remembers China's “master of sinology”

Text Ou Nian Le Photos António Sanmarful and courtesy  
of Academia Jao Tsung-I





## Academia Jao Tsung-I, opened in August 2015 and houses 400 paintings and 75 artworks.

An academy in Macao remembers a “treasure of the nation”: Professor Jao Tsung-I, one of the greatest Chinese scholars of the 20th century, who passed away in February this year at the age of 100.

In August 2015, Professor Jao himself attended the opening of Academia Jao Tsung-I, located in a heritage building on Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida, just a few doors from the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) in Tap Seac Square.

It houses 400 paintings and 75 artworks by the professor which he

personally donated to the Macao government. A permanent exhibition of his paintings and calligraphies is open to the public.

“He was given the title of ‘treasure of the nation’ by his fellow scholars for his achievements in research, literature, and arts. Very few people combined his skill in painting with his depth and breadth of scholarship,” said Chio Ut Hong, a senior official in the Division of Research and Publications of the IC. The professor also had deep links with Macao.

When the University of East Asia was established in the city in 1981, Jao was invited on as a visiting professor and served as chair professor at the School of Arts. He left the university in 1987, but his time there – particularly in founding the Department of Chinese Literature and History for the graduate school in 1984 – left its mark.

So in 2004, the university, now known as the University of Macau, awarded him an honorary degree of Doctor of Humanities and the title of Honorary Professor. He also served as an adviser to archaeological studies of cultural relics in the city, including the excavation of a site at Hac Sa Beach in Coloane in 2006.

In 2011, he donated 30 calligraphies and paintings to the permanent collection of the Macao Museum of Art. Two years later, he gifted 159 art pieces and academic works to the Macao government.

His namesake Academia Jao Tsung-I is housed in a former residential building constructed in 1921. This neo-classical structure, with its elegant columns and refined details, was inscribed on the list of protected heritage sites in the city in 1984. Locating the academy here fulfils the government aim to transform heritage premises into cultural facilities, allowing visitors to enjoy the great scholar’s works within one of Macao’s architectural jewels.



Professor Jao Tsung-I

Landscape of Coloane island, colour on paper





## Young prodigy

Jao was born in 1917 into a wealthy family in Chaozhou in the north of Guangdong province. His father was both a successful businessman and an accomplished scholar. In his hometown, he built a library with more than 100,000 books.

In his later years, Jao reminisced about his childhood: “When I was small, I spent the whole day immersed in ancient books and paintings in the library. I was completely absorbed; I never felt lonely. From an early age, I had this aptitude. No matter what was going on outside in the world, I would concentrate on what I was doing. Using all your concentration – then you could do something well.”

It proved an ideal environment to cultivate a scholar. Under the guidance of his father, Jao studied poetry, ancient books, and other scholarly pursuits. Then he studied painting with a master and learned the basis of his art.

At the age of 13, he entered the Jinshan Middle School in Guangdong but stayed only one year because he found the courses too superficial. He preferred to study on his own, guided by his father’s extensive book collection. Then when he was 15, his father passed away. Jao took over the Chaozhou Arts Magazine, which his father had edited, and published articles in the Lingnan Scholars Newspaper. His reputation began to spread.

In 1938, he was accepted as a researcher at Zhongshan University in Guangzhou. The focus of his study was ancient books and classical Chinese culture. Later that year, after the Japanese invasion, the university moved to Dengjiang in Yunnan province in southwest China. Suffering from ill-health, Jao moved to Hong Kong, where he

remained until the city fell to the Japanese in December 1941. During those years, he researched oracle bones and read a large number of historical books.

In 1949, Jao returned to Hong Kong for a second time and made it his permanent home. He flourished in the city because it provided freedom for scholarly work and was well managed. The scope of his study was very broad; it included ancient history, oracle bone inscriptions and Chu Ci, an anthology of Chinese poetry with roots in the Warring States period (475–221BC).

In 1952, he joined New Asia College in Hong Kong, where he taught poetry classics, Chu Ci and literary criticism. From the 1960s onwards, he travelled widely, accepting positions at universities across the globe.

## A gifted polymath

An erudite scholar, Jao was well known for the depth and breadth of his scholarly pursuits, which included classical studies, oracular bone inscriptions, archaeology, epigraphy, bamboo and silk texts, bibliography, regional folklore studies, the study of poetry and *ci*, historiography, palaeography, religious studies, art history, music, and literature.

More than mere interests, he pursued each topic with distinction and often ground-breaking research: he initiated research on the Dunhuang manuscripts, turning it into a global discipline; he provided the first translation of the Babylonian creation epic Enûma Eliš into Chinese; and he conducted the first comparative study of oracle bone inscriptions, the earliest known form of Chinese writing which dates back to the late 2nd millennium BC.



Wisdom Path, on Lantau Island

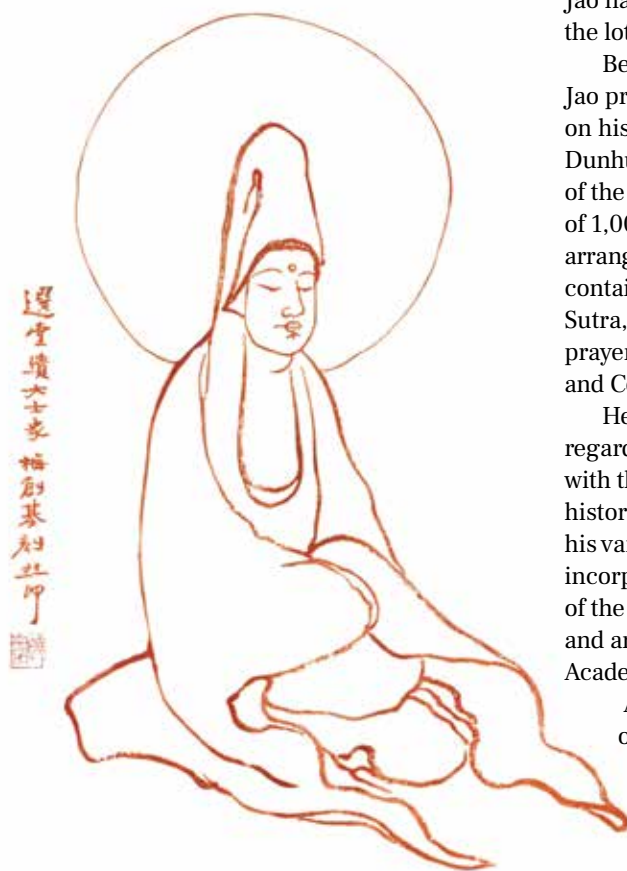
In addition to his academic pursuits, Jao explored a variety of complementary creative avenues, often receiving recognition for his achievements. His works of Chinese calligraphy and painting boast a unique character – he even created his own calligraphic style, Jao’s Clerical Script, that is held in particularly high regard. An installation at Ngong Ping on Lantau Island took his calligraphic work to a monumental scale with 38 towering steles that form the Wisdom Path, now an important local landmark.

Through intense study, he developed a command of the painting techniques of the Four Monks of the Late Ming and mastered those of artists such as Fu Qingzhu and Chen Laolian. Jao even learned to play the *Qin*, an ancient string instrument of China, and is well known as a writer of the ancient Chinese literary genres.

He received numerous awards and honours from academic institutions in France, Russia, Japan, Australia, and mainland China, as well as Hong Kong and Macao. In 2011, the Purple Mountain Observatory in Nanjing named a minor planet after him: Jao Tsung-I Star, or simply 10017.

Through an academic career of 80 years, he published over 100 academic and artistic monographs and nearly 1,000 academic papers.

Avalokitesvara, Woodblock print on paper



## Buddhist influence

Jao began reading Buddhist scriptures as a child, teachings that would greatly influence his approach to life and his work. “He loved to paint the lotus flower, which is a symbol of Buddhism. The flower flourishes even in mud and dirt. Goodness can grow even in a difficult surrounding,” Chio explained.

“Macao is called the ‘blessed land of the lotus’,” she noted, adding that “it is known that Professor Jao Tsung-I was given his name by his father Rao E, with an expectation that he would learn from Zhou Dunyi, an erudite scholar of the Song dynasty (960–1279AD) and author of the famous essay *On the Love of the Lotus*. The essay has given an immortal image of gentleman to the lotus, featuring a famous sentence literally meaning ‘It comes out of mud yet is not contaminated; it is washed by waving water yet unaffectedly graceful.’ One may say that Professor Jao has been closely connected with the lotus since his birth.”

Beyond his affection for lotuses, Jao produced many artworks based on his comprehensive research of Dunhuang art, a collection of some of the finest Buddhist art over a span of 1,000 years. The Wisdom Path, arranged in a twisting infinity symbol, contains Jao’s calligraphy of the Heart Sutra, one of the world’s best-known prayers revered by Buddhists, Taoists, and Confucians alike.

He studied Zen Buddhism, and regarded the revival of Zen paintings with the keen eye of a scholar of that history. So much of what he studied in his varied scholarly pursuits became incorporated into his art, a reflection of the “dual synthesis of scholarship and art” which he advocated and Academia Jao Tsung-I embraces.

According to the introduction of Wong King Keung, one of the three founders





Academia Jao Tsung-I



of the University of East Asia, “[Jao] impressed people with his personality. His demand for the standard of scholarship was very high. He was pleasant, yet serious. If you asked him an academic question, he would respond rigorously and empirically.”

The professor found the correct balance between work, health and rest, enabling him to live a long and productive life. Chio said that, during his visit to Macao for the opening of the academy in 2015, then 98-year-old Jao was healthy and clear minded.

#### Role of Academia Jao Tsung-I

The academy averages around 1,000 visitors a month, with a roughly even split between local people and tourists, said Chio.

“This is a cultural area, with many historical buildings. This building is a symbol of the Sino-Western combination that is Macao: the external structure is Western but the inside has many Chinese features,” she noted. “Macao has a strong tradition of Chinese culture, it is close to people. It is good to spread Chinese traditional culture

among local people. They like to use this space.”

The academy contains a library with writings of, and catalogues about, the professor, in addition to the permanent collection of his artworks. It is also a venue for cultural activities, with the library, a room for temporary exhibitions and an auditorium, that local associations can apply to use. Like Jao himself, the academy endeavours to use its resources to promulgate Chinese culture and arts, and promote academic exchange in the field of sinology. ●

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## History



# Understanding the world through currency

Text Mark O'Neill Photos António Sanmarful

## The Currency Museum at the University of Macau showcases currencies of all eras.

When visitors arrive at the Currency Museum at the University of Macau, they see a cowry shell, the oldest form of money that was used in China many millennia ago. Through the various collections, visitors explore the evolution of currency in China, and the world more broadly, moving from that distant past through to the present day.

The museum opened in April 2017, created by the university's Faculty of Business Administration (FBA) and is housed in its main building. It showcases various forms of Chinese currencies – shell, metal, and paper – developed throughout its history, as well as those of Macao and Hong Kong, alongside Western currencies. Additionally, there are collections focused on local entities and traditions closely associated with currency.

Professor Jacky Yuk-Chow So, dean of the FBA, said that they had three main objectives in setting up the museum: enhancing information retention, understanding currency history, and evaluating possible future currency. "In traditional education, students listen to teachers and retain 30 per cent of what they hear and forget the rest. But, if they do things themselves, they retain 70 per cent. If they can feel, touch and experience something, they have a stronger memory.







Professor Jacky Yuk-Chow So, dean of the Faculty of Business Administration

“We want to provide a platform for active learning for our students. Many business courses nowadays require ‘hands-on’ experience after the lectures from the instructors,” So explained. “We hope that by reviewing the collections in the museum, the students can relate to what they learned in the classroom, especially for classes such as money and banking.”

Another objective is to allow students and the public in Macao to learn more about the history of money in China and in Europe. “Comparing the East and the West, students should be proud of the economic performance of ancient China and therefore motivate them to ‘Love China, Love Macao’,” So said. “In the Song dynasty [960–1279AD], China accounted for 40 per cent of the gross world product. Its currencies were very popular and welcome by many countries in Europe and Asia, including Japan.”

A solid grounding in the history may provide insight on the new digital currencies,

allowing students to “assess if cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin and Litecoin can really become money, or are just commodities.” Whatever their conclusion, So stressed that “the technology behind Bitcoin and Blockchain cannot be overlooked” as it “will drive financial technology and the financial services industry.”

The dean said that he was satisfied with the results of the museum so far. “We have had many visitors from Macao and outside, including students, teachers, museum people, and the general public. Many have come from local secondary schools, as well as individual visitors from the mainland. All have been able to gain a greater understanding of currencies.”

The museum is open between 10:00 am and 5:00 pm, Monday–Friday. While it is meant to “enhance teaching and learning for students at our university,” So again noted that the public is welcome to visit.

### Building from scratch

The FBA decided to set up the museum, but with no budget to buy exhibits or even furniture, they turned to the community for help. They asked banks and companies for donations to purchase furniture, and approached the Macau Numismatic Society about members possibly lending or donating their collections.

The response was overwhelmingly positive. David Chio, president of the Macau Numismatic Society, saw the museum as an opportunity to promote their collections. With his support, members of the



Furniture donated from the community



Macao bandar's notes from 1910s to 1940s

society gave and lent a variety of pieces for display. For their part, the banks donated antique furniture that is both attractive and precious.

In total, the faculty spent only MOP 200,000 (US\$24,900), for the interior decoration and layout of the room that houses the museum. They also received support and contributions from government agencies, companies, local secondary schools, associations, and individuals.

### Historical currency

There are eight collections in total – including ancient Chinese coins, money from the Republic of China, and banknotes issued by banks in the People’s Republic of China and Macao. Coins and notes aren’t the only things on display. Photographs related to Macao’s



banking industry comprise one collection while another includes a copy of an imperial edict issued by Emperor Qianlong (1735–96) authorising the establishment of a mint. Even red packets get their own collection, a reflection of their prominence in Chinese culture and close ties to currency.

The most valuable items are

historical coins, which are kept in locked cabinets for security reasons. They date from several different dynasties – the Qin, the Song, the Ming, and the Qing – accounting for nearly 2,000 years of Chinese history. Those minted during the prosperous Song dynasty include coins from both the Northern Song (960–1127AD)





Macao subsidiary notes



Macao Pataca banknotes, issued by Banco Nacional Ultramarino in the 1980s: 5 Patacas, 10 Patacas, 50 Patacas, 100 Patacas and 500 Patacas (from right to left)



100-pataca note celebrating the 100th anniversary of Bank of China

and the Southern Song (1127–1279AD) periods. Some of these are extremely valuable and would sell for thousands of US dollars at international auctions.

Picking up where the imperial coins left off is a cabinet containing coins and paper money issued during the Republican period. These include banknotes issued during its early years, which are as large as a third of a sheet of A4 paper – far too big to fit into the wallets of today. There are also banknotes bearing the face of Dr Sun Yat-Sen, father of modern China.

### Money in Macao

The Macao collections include historical photographs as well as legal tender issued in Macao, including a five-pataca banknote of Banco Nacional Ultramarino (BNU) in the 1980s. This may invoke a sense of nostalgia among those who remember that, at one time, Macao had a five-pataca note instead of the five-pataca coins in circulation today. The collection includes a complete set of coins that have circulated in Macao, beginning with the first coins issued in 1952.

Two photos of the main BNU building, now on Av. Almeida Ribeiro, capture the history and change in Macao over the last century. Taken in 1907 and 1991, the two images show a building little changed in more than 80 years. The almost rural setting of the earlier photograph, however, has disappeared. Today, that quaint backdrop has been replaced by the towering skyscrapers of a thriving modern city.

In 2012, the Bank of China issued 100-pataca notes to mark its 100th anniversary. The elegant design,

which features an ink wash painting of a lotus with a vertical rather than a horizontal orientation, won awards. The bank donated a set of these notes to the museum collection.

Macao's history with establishing its own banks began in 1902 with the first Macao branch of BNU. Then came the Hang Seng Bank, founded in 1935, and the Tai Fung Bank, founded by Ho Yin in 1942. During World War II, the Hang Seng Bank of Hong Kong moved to Macao to escape the Japanese occupation. Here it became the Rong Hua Bank, a name it retained for three years and eight months. The bank reverted

back to its original name when it returned to Hong Kong after the Japanese surrender.

The Hang Seng Bank of Hong Kong has since been acquired by HSBC, and the Hang Seng Bank of Macao became Delta Asia Financial Group in 1993.

The Wing Hang Bank Ltd was set up in Macao in 1967, but was later bought by the Overseas-Chinese Banking Corporation. In 1972, gambling tycoon Stanley Ho set up Seng Heng Bank, which was acquired by Industrial and Commercial Bank of China in 2009, becoming ICBC Macau.

### Red packets

One of the museum's most unique collections focuses on red packets, which Chinese use to gift money during Chinese New Year and other auspicious occasions. It includes a variety of designs and styles that illustrate the ubiquity of these colourful envelopes.

There are old style and rare red packet collections issued by Tai Fung Bank and HSBC made of golden paper and decorated with symbols of long life. Others feature the lotus, the symbol of Macao, while one given out by Christian churches is decorated with verses from the Bible and images of the Holy Family. From Macao's luxury hotels, we see red packets crafted from silk and leather. Even international fast food giant McDonalds embraced the tradition, issuing them to mark its 25th anniversary in the city.



## Changing face of money

On one wall is a history of coins and money, in China and the West, starting from the cowry shells of the Neolithic period. Centuries later, this type of commodity currency gave way to proto-money, as ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia began using units of weight – measured against gold and silver bars respectively – to facilitate trade.

Metal coins first appeared in China near the end of the Shang dynasty. As ancient China experimented with different shapes – shell, spade, knife – the West continued to rely on other systems. The first minted coins in the West would not appear until the reign of Alyattes (610–560BC) in Lydia, an area which is now Turkey.

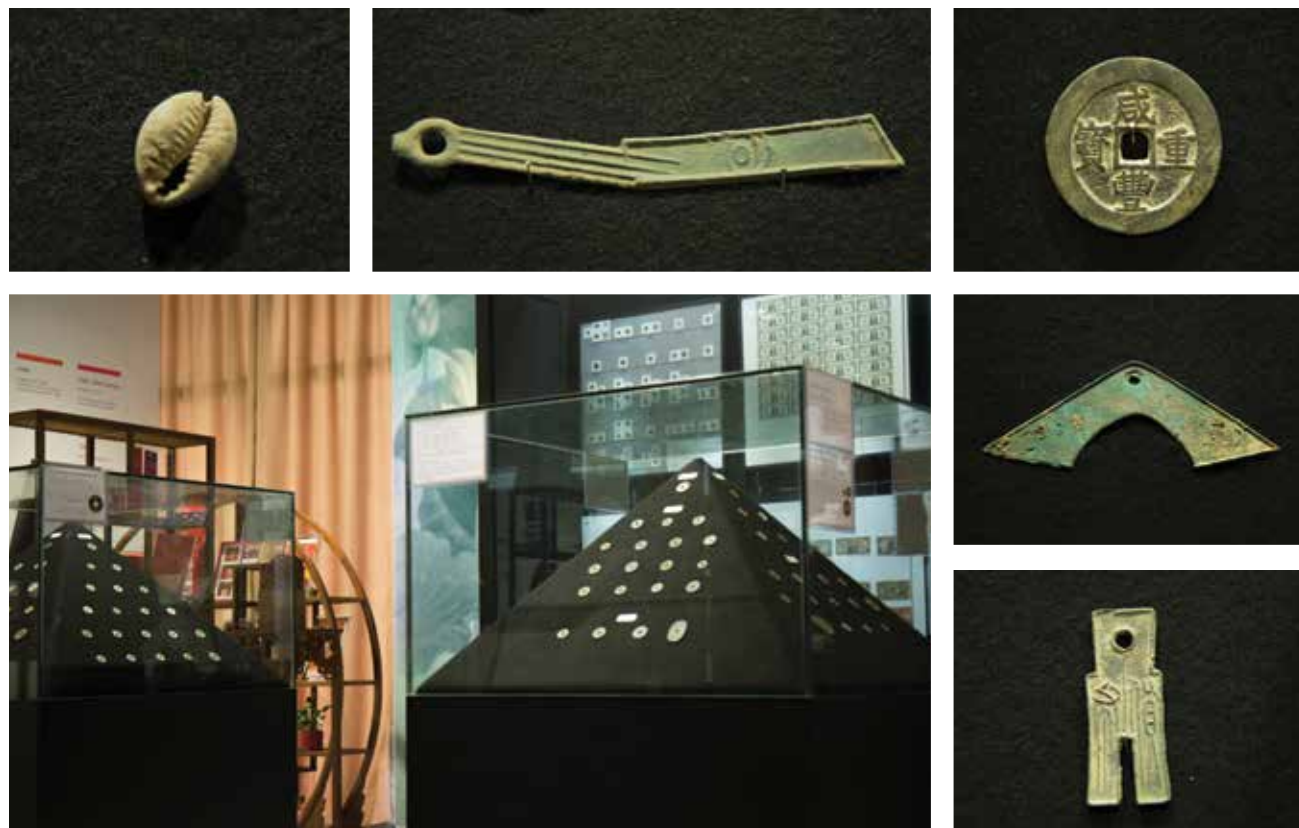
The rest of the ancient world soon followed, developing their own metal coins and pioneering new elements in the materials and design of coins. Alexander the Great (336–323AD) became the first king to put his own portrait on a coin; earlier Greek drachma favoured images of gods and animals. Emperor Qin Shi Huang (221–210BC) introduced a single, uniform currency for the new Chinese empire comprised of gold and copper coins. The design – round coins with a square hole in the centre – remained common in China until the 20th century.

The future of currency may abandon physical materials altogether, though, moving beyond coins and banknotes to purely digital cryptocurrencies. Despite the rising trend in cryptocurrencies,

new forms emerge almost daily. Professor So remains sceptical, arguing that “e-money will not replace currency. The risks are too high and they are too erratic.”

He’s not wrong. Most cryptocurrencies don’t survive past the first few months, leaving investors with so-called ‘zombie coins’ that retain none of their original value. For So, they are “a commodity which you can invest in, but not a currency.” Yet as the museum demonstrates, currency changes over time, taking on new forms and issuing from new sources. Understanding this long history will give students the grounding they need to evaluate new innovations – including cryptocurrencies – as the evolution of currency continues into the future. ●

Different forms of currency



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20:00 中國 CHINA VS 波蘭 POLAND	20:00 中國 CHINA VS 泰國 THAILAND	20:00 中國 CHINA VS 塞爾維亞 SERBIA

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## Chance and challenge: chronicling the histories of Macanese families

Text **António Bilrero** Photos from the *Famílias Macaenses*



The second edition of *Famílias Macaenses* (Macanese Families) by the historian and genealogist Jorge Forjaz consists of six volumes with thousands of pages, encompassing nearly 500 families, with more than 70,000 cited names and over 3,000 photos. But this massive collection, the author affirmed, was initially “born by chance.” The first three-volume edition came out in 1997, followed two decades later in 2017 by the second, revised and updated with 80 new chapters. But Forjaz is sure of one thing: “There won’t be a third edition written by me – 20 years from now I won’t be here to do anything.”

The first question in a long-distance conversation with this historian and archivist, who lives on Terceira Island in Portugal’s mid-Atlantic Azores, was to gain an understanding of how a work of that size could come about by chance.

For the author, it’s all very simple. Everything began when he came to Macao in 1989 as resident director of the territory’s International Music Festival. He brought along some papers so he could continue his work on the genealogies of families from Terceira. Genealogy, he said, “is a parallel activity” that has accompanied him since his youth. That’s why he entertained himself during his spare time in Macao by continuing the work of a lifetime: the genealogies of Terceira Island, in around ten volumes.

He recalled that, after three or four months, he “had finished the work with all those papers,” leaving him wondering what he should do with his free time in Macao.

“After a certain time, a historian who’s far from his archive doesn’t have anything new to work on. The archive is the source of his research. So I decided to have a look at what there was about Macanese families. And in the territory there was a historian everyone knew: Father Manuel Teixeira.”

Forjaz had found what he would later call the “key” to his work on Macanese families.

The Catholic priest Manuel Teixeira was, and still is for many, the greatest ever historian of Macao and one of the major researchers on the Portuguese presence in Asia. He left behind more than a hundred historical works, the overwhelming majority of them focused on Macao.

The relationship between the two men began with a conversation at St Joseph’s Seminary, where Father Teixeira lived:

“I wanted to know what he thought about me taking all those things he’d done in a dispersed



manner, putting it all together in a new form and eventually developing it in other directions,” Forjaz recalled, referring to the information about Macanese families found throughout Father Teixeira’s work. “And he was fantastic. Above all, beyond opening the door for me to the genealogical world of Macao, Father Teixeira encouraged me: ‘Do it. I would like to have done it, but I’m too old now.’”

That was in 1990, the year the work began.

Forjaz’s commission as festival director lasted from 1989 to 1991. In addition to “reading the entire work of Father Manuel Teixeira,” for those years he spent all his free time reading and investigating in the archives.

“In all the lines, in all the chapters, in all the footnotes of the works by Manuel Teixeira – I found something that interested me and I set it all down. My idea in the beginning was to do something light. I wanted to compile everything that had references to

families or individual information about various figures.”

After the bibliographic work had been reviewed, he moved on to research records in Macao. That’s when he had his first “nice surprise” – albeit after a brief shock.

Following the example of Portugal, where parish records had all been transferred to district archives, Forjaz sought that information in Macao’s historical archive only to be informed that it possessed no such documentation.

“I thought my work had ended there. Without parish records there’s no more investigation.”

But someone told him to consult the territory’s parishes, because they might have some of the material he was looking for.

The historian explained that until the 1910 revolution in Portugal all such records – baptism (birth), marriage, and death – were kept in the parishes. Only later, in 1911, were the civil registry services, as they are known today, created.

“And history can only be done with documents. In the world we live

in – the western, Christian, Catholic world – we were lucky to have a 16th-century pope [Paul III] who summoned a council, the famous Council of Trent, and one of its many results was an order for Christendom that all parishes should record who had been baptised, married or died, etc,” he enthused; hardly a surprise, given the primacy of records in his work. “Before the Council of Trent there were no official records, just private ones.”

Regarding Macao, the genealogist recalled the “nice surprise” he found in the territory’s parishes, especially Sé, which boasted a “very well-organised” archive of records.

“Unlike in mainland Portugal, in the former overseas colonies the civil registry took years to establish; it wasn’t done right away in 1911. Macao’s case is quite exceptional. It only happened around the 1950s. That was a tremendous help for researching the families of Macao,” he noted.

“From then on, I went to work in the churches’ archives. For two

years [1990–1991], I spent my weekends, late afternoons, and evenings mainly in the Sé parish archive. It was extraordinary work. I saw all the marriages, all the births, all the deaths from the 18th century up to the date I was working. Everyone passed through my hands; everything fell into the net. In theory, none escaped me.”

He continued: “Meanwhile, the commission had reached an end; it was 1991. I went to speak with IPOR [Instituto Português no Oriente], then headed by Anabela Ritchie, to find out if they were interested in helping support a continuation of the work, as I had already gathered a lot of valuable information. The institute liked the idea and requested the collaboration of Fundação Oriente, which decided to support the project. After [1991], and until the publication of the first edition [in 1997], I visited Macao every year.”

But with so much information available, it would have been a pity to leave out many Macanese families who had settled since the 19th century in Hong Kong and Shanghai, in the latter until the Communist victory in 1949. That’s why, during that years-long process, Forjaz spent a great deal of time at the then Portuguese consulate in Hong Kong, consulting archives that had arrived five decades previously from the Shanghai consulate. He also visited Catholic parishes in the old British colony.

Later, he added information gathered from many trips to Brazil, the United States, Canada, Australia, and Singapore. “I looked across the whole world after the Macanese.” And there were thousands of letters – “Yes, back then there was no internet” – received in

response to thousands of others sent to request information about families so the respective files could be built. A “crazy job” that culminated in the publication of the three-volume first edition in 1996.

### The second edition

Then came the decision to go ahead with a new revised and expanded edition of the work about Macao’s families, a generation after the first. Asked whether there will be a third edition in another 20 years, Jorge Forjaz’s answer is categorical: “Signed by me, there definitely won’t be. Because 20 years from now, I won’t be here to do anything. So in that aspect the case is closed. Even if I am here, it just won’t happen – I’ll be very old.”

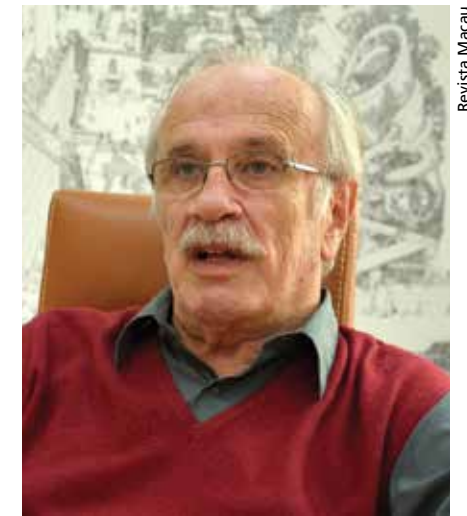
But isn’t that what he thought about the second edition?

“Yes. Doing this new edition was also crazy. I’d never thought of doing it. To the point that, when I finished the first one, I turned to other projects,” Forjaz said. Over the years, he compiled genealogies of families in India, Mozambique and São Tomé and Príncipe, travelling from east to west after the former overseas provinces. “For me, Macao was a closed case.”

Forjaz even donated the entire archive organised for the initial edition – namely the correspondence and the library he had put together in Macao – once they were no longer needed at home.

“It was extremely important material and I decided to offer it to an archive in Los Angeles in the United States: the Old China Hands Archives of California State University, Northridge. That archive has only one aim: to preserve the Western memory in

## About Jorge Forjaz



Revista Macau

The historian and archivist Jorge Forjaz was born in November 1944 in Angra do Heroísmo in the mid-Atlantic Azores. He has a history degree and a passion for genealogy, is married with three children and grandchildren. He once worked in the Public Library and Archive of Angra do Heroísmo. He then served as regional director of cultural affairs of the Azores Autonomous Region, secretary-general (resident director) of the Macao International Music Festival and cultural attaché of the Portuguese embassy in Morocco. He worked as director of the Museum of Angra do Heroísmo and also produced five television series for RTP-Azores, notably “In Webs of Silk.” He has been a corresponding member of the Portuguese Academy of History since 1997. Jorge Forjaz’s more than 30 published works mainly focus on genealogy of the Azores, particularly Angra do Heroísmo, though others also stand out: *Macanese Families*, awarded by the Fundação Oriente – Portuguese Presence in the World Prize of the Portuguese Academy of History; *Luso-Descendants in Portuguese India*, *Portuguese Families of Ceuta* and *Genealogies of São Tomé and Príncipe – Benefits, Honorifics of the 20th century (1900-1910)*.

António Sanmarful



The six volumes of *Famílias Macaenses*



China,” he explained. “They receive donations from families and people who have been all over China. Around 40 crates of material were shipped from the Azores. It’s all there, organised. So the matter of Macao was resolved.”

But – and there’s always a ‘but’ in such stories – he ended up returning to Macao in 2012, 15 years after the first edition, to give a lecture about Macao families at the invitation of his friend, the architect Carlos Marreiros, and the Albergue.

“At that conference, Carlos Marreiros put forward the challenge: ‘How about a second edition?’ It’s usual to think of one when the first is sold out. To issue a new edition, exactly the same as the first one,” Forjaz reflected. It didn’t seem possible at the time, though, since he lacked sufficient information to build on his existing work.

But then, he acknowledged, he began “pondering the matter.”

“And I recalled that the times were different, we’re no longer in a time of letters, it’s the time of the internet. Telephones nowadays have become very easy to use. Meanwhile, I consulted the Archives of Macao and there were new arrangements enabling documentation to be reviewed,” he explained. Confident that the resource landscape had changed since his first edition, completed in the early days of the internet, Forjaz had a change of heart: “I thought that maybe there were conditions to do a new edition, with new and updated information.”

He also benefitted from a phenomena common after the publication of genealogies: people offering him information, instead of the other way around.

“[Genealogists] write, make phone calls, knock on doors to ask for information. Genealogy

has two times: historical time and current time. Historical time is when, during that research, you learn in the archives and records who the parents, grandparents and great-grandparents are, etc. But later, if you want to find out who the children or grandchildren are, you have to ask, telephone, send an email to obtain information,” he explained. For all the work involved, results can be difficult to come by.

“Hundreds either don’t answer or provide only a rough reply. Sometimes it’s easier to find out the

“*I recalled that the times were different, we’re no longer in a time of letters, it’s the time of the internet. Telephones nowadays have become very easy to use.*

Jorge Forjaz

name of a great-great-grandfather than to learn the name of a grandchild. And a genealogy can’t be made with the just the name José or João. You have to enter information such as full name, place of birth, name of parents, studied here, degree from there, etc... The file has to be complete or as complete as possible. A genealogy is not a telephone directory of names.”

After the first published edition, he had received “an unimaginable number of letters saying... ‘I’d like to complete my chapter – this, that and the other thing are missing.’ But once published, nothing can be done.” He held onto the letters

nonetheless, and when embarking on the second edition, he used them to update the information.

Technological progress also made its contribution. “For the first edition I wrote individual letters, addressed to each person. This time I sent, for example, one email to Casa de Macau in Australia asking it to ‘please inform your members that I’m working on this’... In most cases after a week went by I started receiving information.”

Taken together, these resources allowed Forjaz to collect a massive amount of information on which to base a new edition. “It was a big leap. For now, what happened in the last 20 years has been updated, corresponding to a generation. Later, the genealogies which were incomplete in the first edition of the work were finished, and that allowed me to add nearly 80 new chapters about the families missing in the first edition,” he underscored.

For Jorge Forjaz, one particular type of addition proved the “cherry on top of the cake”: photographs.

“In the first one there are 150 or 200 photos. In the second, there are more than 3,500, and the photos are the portrait of peoples’ souls. They have a name and a date. When you have a photo, you can see the person. There are fantastic photos from Shanghai and Hong Kong. Interestingly, I have older photos from that area of the world than from families in the Azores. So that’s how the second edition was born.”

Despite his repeated, and sincere, assertion that he won’t be doing a third edition, there may still be more to come: “I believe what will happen in the future is that the information will be updated on the internet, without a new printing.” ●

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# Workers of Macao: their untold stories

Text Cathy Lai   Photos António Sanmarful

As you leave home for work each morning, you cross paths with people heading to their own day jobs. Whether it's the suited-up lady striding across the street, or the young man with headphones on waiting at the bus stop, it is a sight so common you probably never gave it a second thought.

But in a month that celebrates the achievement of workers – 1 May being international Labour Day – it is worth wondering about the busy people that walk past you each morning. Why is this girl carrying a sketchbook? Have I seen that man in sports gear somewhere before? There is a story behind every anonymous face, yet we rarely get a chance to learn them. Here, we present you with the stories of eight workers in Macao. They are dreamers who made courageous career moves, adventurers who found new challenges, and optimists who discovered their purpose in life through work.

They may not be the same familiar faces you see every day, but their stories will surely inspire your curiosity, or perhaps remind you of your own story that has yet to be told.



**Coreen Choi, Art Director at FOOD4U Macao**

“When I was a kid, I didn’t talk much, but I spent a lot of time drawing random things. I enjoyed it a lot. When my family saw my drawings, they were thrilled. They encouraged me to carry on with this interest. Through their support, I was able to pursue a creative career, studying design-related subjects in overseas countries like the United Kingdom and Canada. However, I stopped drawing by hand when I found that many of my classmates could draw way better than me.

I didn’t pick up the pencil again until more than 10 years later. By then, I had already worked as a full-time designer for several companies in Hong Kong and Macao. It was a tough job. I had to work long hours every day, frantically chasing deadlines. Because of the stress, I hadn’t been able to sleep well for many years. One day, I walked into a book store and found a book called *Yoga for Your Brain*. It taught people how to draw patterns with an empty mind. I gave it a try and found that it really helped me relax.

As I practiced more, I created my own form of patterns. I showed it to my friends and family, and they loved it. That’s when I decided to turn my creations into business. I put them on shirts, umbrellas and purses, and sell them online. Right now, I am also working full-time for a local food delivery app, in charge of its brand identity design. My boss knows that I have started my own business, but he is very supportive. After all, every designer has a dream to follow.”





**Elzira Rosario, Dancer and Ballet Instructor at Stella & Artists Macao**

“I quit my job as an administrative officer at a local university in 2013. I was encouraged by my friend to pursue a professional dancing career because I have been dancing since I was eight. When my family learned about my career decision they were a bit worried; they thought I was wasting the education I received at school. I understood their concern, but it was a risk that I was willing to take.

I started taking a lot of freelance jobs teaching and performing; afterwards, I was introduced to a lady who runs a local dance school, Stella & Artists. We have very similar views on everything related to dancing, so I proposed establishing a long-term ballet course at her school. She said yes quickly; she really trusted me. After becoming a registered teacher with the Royal Academy of Dance, I taught my first class at the dance school in 2015. Since then, I have already taught 100 students, from children as young as three to adults.

I continue to perform on stage as a professional dancer, taking part in a lot of major events and festivities in town. I realised that by doing my job well as a teacher and a performer, I am spreading a positive message to people who love dancing that it is possible to transform their passion into a career in Macao.”



**Jeffrey Nungay, Fitness trainer Philippines, aged 32**

“I joined the police force in the Philippines when I was around 23, but I was not happy. It’s not who I am. After three years, I decided to leave. I became a fitness trainer in Bahrain in 2012, and quickly realised that it was my path. I felt so much more at ease. It really changed me a lot. People often spend so much on their appearance, but it is actually more important to spend more effort to make ourselves healthy. That’s why, as trainers, we focus more on imparting a healthy lifestyle than body building because fitness is also wellness.

In 2015, when I was visiting Macao for vacation, I learned that Macao Fitness was looking for professional trainers. I gave it a try and received an offer immediately. While providing personal training to around 10 members on a daily basis, I also compete in a lot of physique contests. Last year, I won second prize at Olympia Amateur Asia. It was an extraordinary experience. I’ve gotten to meet a lot of interesting people from around the world; and because I can dance, I am very good at posing. In terms of expressing my body, my physique and movement goes with the music. That’s the best part of it.”





**Martinho Moniz, Executive Chef at Vic's Restaurante, Rocks Hotel**  
Portugal, aged 38

"I grew up in a small town called Barreira in Leiria. My parents are farmers, very honest and hardworking people. They wanted to make sure that I would be able to take care of myself; so when I was just a kid, I had to wash my clothes, tend to the animals on the farm, and cook for my family. My father would sometimes bring home fresh fish, and my mother, who is very fond of baking, would let me cook with her.

I have developed a strong passion for traditional Portuguese cuisine due to my upbringing, but I also love new challenges because they help me progress. I have worked with several good restaurants in Portugal, from making traditional dishes to contemporary cuisine. I started my journey in Asia in 2010, when I moved to Hong Kong to open the first Portuguese restaurant in town. I couldn't speak one single English word at that time, but I was able to make it a huge success in just six months.

I took charge of the kitchen of Vic's Restaurante a year ago. Although I have moved up the ranks, I am still very involved in the kitchen, working closely with my team 12 hours a day. I enjoy getting my hands dirty, leading my kitchen by example. I taste every dish before they are served to our guests. This mentality has a lot to do with how my parents raised me. That's why I always tell everyone that I am not a chef, I am a cook."



**Natasha Fellini, Portuguese teacher at Macau Anglican College**  
Brazil, aged 34

"I moved to Macao from Brazil with my family in 2001, after my father was offered a job at Air Macau as a pilot. I completed a bachelor's degree of Portuguese Language and Culture at University of Macau, and became a Portuguese teacher there in 2008. It was a natural decision for me, as I have always wanted to be a teacher. I would even pretend to be the teacher of my dolls when I was a kid.

Four years later, I was hired by Macau Anglican College, teaching Form 1 to Form 4 students Portuguese. It has been seven years now and I still enjoy it a lot. I do miss Brazil very much, but I am also aware that it is not a perfect teaching environment, with little support given by the government to the education sector.

Last year, I was invited by my cousin to give a talk about Macao in his class in Brazil. The students there were so excited. They asked all kinds of questions, including whether the Macao students behaved better than them. It was so much fun, so we thought, 'why don't we invite them to write to my students in Macao?' Since then, we have received about 30 letters from my cousin's class. My students were excited, too. They wrote back to them, answering all of their questions about Macao. Some of them even became friends on Facebook or Instagram. It is also a great experience for me because, in some ways, it allows me to stay connected with the people in Brazil."



**Rix Un, President of Green Future Macao, aged 30**

“I was running a green construction company with some friends when I became one of the founders of Green Future in May 2012. At that time, I saw myself as a businessman more than an eco-activist because I thought the organisation could provide for some development opportunities. But then [Queenie] joined Green Future a few months later, and she became a huge influence on me. She really devoted herself to the environmental cause; she showed me that it's possible to be a real eco-advocate, and motivated me to be fully involved in environmental work.

Many people think that life is not easy when you are working full-time for an environmental NGO. For sure, you cannot compare its pay with that of other companies, but it's a totally different lifestyle. Being an eco-advocate helped me get rid of all the unnecessary pursuits and desires. Because I don't need beautiful clothes, shoes and other luxurious products, I don't have to spend much money. I realised that I had been doing too much in the past, and now I feel very relaxed and light hearted. It's a world full of wonders, and she brought me into it.”

**Queenie Fok, Chairperson of Green Future Macao, aged 28**

“After completing a bachelor's degree of environmental science at Nanjing University, China, I returned to Macao in 2012, hoping to find a job related to my education background. During a volunteer activity, I was introduced to one of the founders of Green Future, a local environmental NGO, and I learned that they were looking for full-time staff to run the organisation. I immediately signed up for the job.

And that's how I met him [Rix], he is also a founder of Green Future. Since I was hired, we have been working closely together on small and big projects, from vegetarian cooking workshops to coastal clean-up activities. He has a lot of ideas and is more experienced than I am. I was often really idealistic in the past – I wanted our schedule to be full of activities – but he was able to pull me back to reality. When I felt stressed at work, he would tell jokes to make me laugh. I think he has changed me in many ways over the years. I've become more relaxed and easy going because of him.”

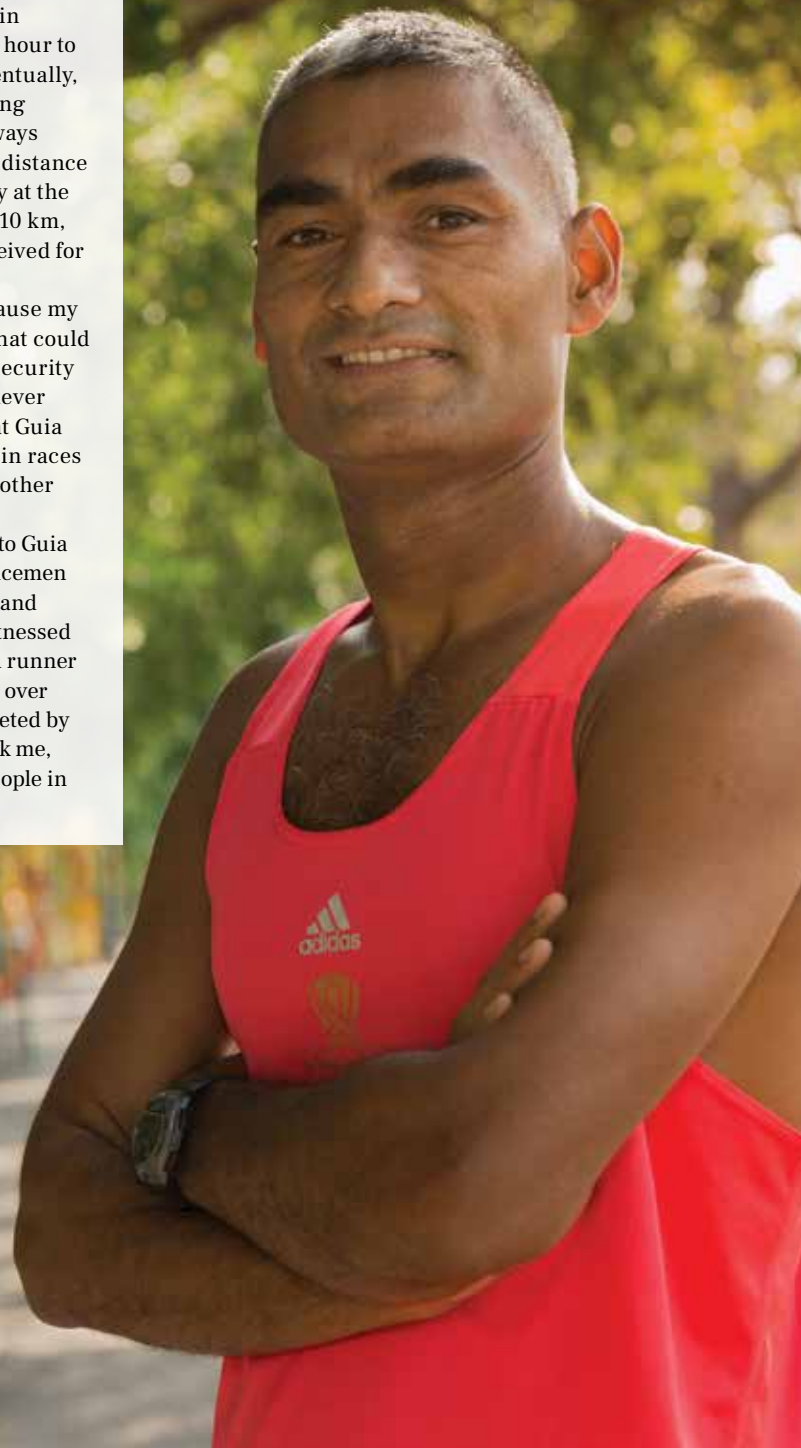


**Nari Chand, Security officer  
at local gaming operator**  
Nepal, aged 40

"I grew up in Gwellk, my home town in Nepal. For many years, I had to walk one hour to school, sometimes – even had to run; eventually, I became very fast. I joined a lot of running competitions during high school and always finished first. I got even better with long distance running after I joined the Nepalese Army at the age of 18. Every morning, I had to run 5-10 km, as part of the military training that I received for the next 10 years.

I came to Macao in around 1988 because my friends told me that Macao was a place that could make people happy. I have worked as a security officer for local hotels since then, but I never gave up on running marathons. I train at Guia Hill every day and regularly participate in races held in Macao, Hong Kong, Zhuhai, and other nearby cities.

Two years ago, when I was on my way to Guia Hill, I saw a man being chased by two policemen on the street. I ran after him immediately and helped them stop the man. People who witnessed this event recognised me as the marathon runner I am, and in just one day, my photo was all over Facebook. Since then, I am constantly greeted by strangers on the street, and they would ask me, 'Going for a run?' I don't know why, but people in Macao seem to be very happy with me."



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