

# Macao 澳門

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Belt and Road Initiative takes  
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*Leptanilla macauensis*: A new  
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**Cover Photo**  
Macao Bats 4th Annual Mini Rugby Festival  
by Ant nio Sanmarful

Tomorrow starts today

Chinese say: “A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.” Africans say: “If you wish to move mountains tomorrow, you must start by lifting stones today.” These two proverbs tell us one thing: to achieve success, you must start somewhere. This universal truth underlies the apparently disparate topics in this issue of Macao Magazine.

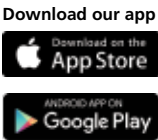
From a handful of children turning up to play rugby in 2008 to more than 120 players today, the thriving Macau Bats grew from a group of parents keen to give their children more opportunities to play and grow. Macao itself has come a long way in sports, from small-scale activities to internationally renowned events, backed by a Sports Bureau that works to promote athletics and support athletes every step of the way. From financial support to developing skills and providing high-quality facilities, the Sports Bureau believes that, with their help, young Macao athletes can go all the way.

Another story describes how one young researcher began his work with the most rudimentary of tools; through

long hours and tireless dedication, he discovered a whole new species of ants in Macao, which he named after the city. Then there is the story of a former IT professional who turned his life-long love of gaming into the highly anticipated video game, “Fight the Horror” – a dark thriller set in Macao’s historic sites that is set to launch at the end of this year. All this passion originated, grew and has been fostered in Macao – proof that a city’s size does not limit its potential.

In early May, Macao Chief Executive signed co-operation agreements with Cambodia and Thailand as part of the government’s efforts to promote the Belt and Road Initiative. We also explore how Portuguese-speaking African countries, important partners in the Initiative, are harnessing technology for innovative economic development; this allows small businesses and new entrepreneurs to dream big. From mobile payments to social enterprises, these early steps reveal the potential of the continent – an evolution in which China is playing a major supporting role.

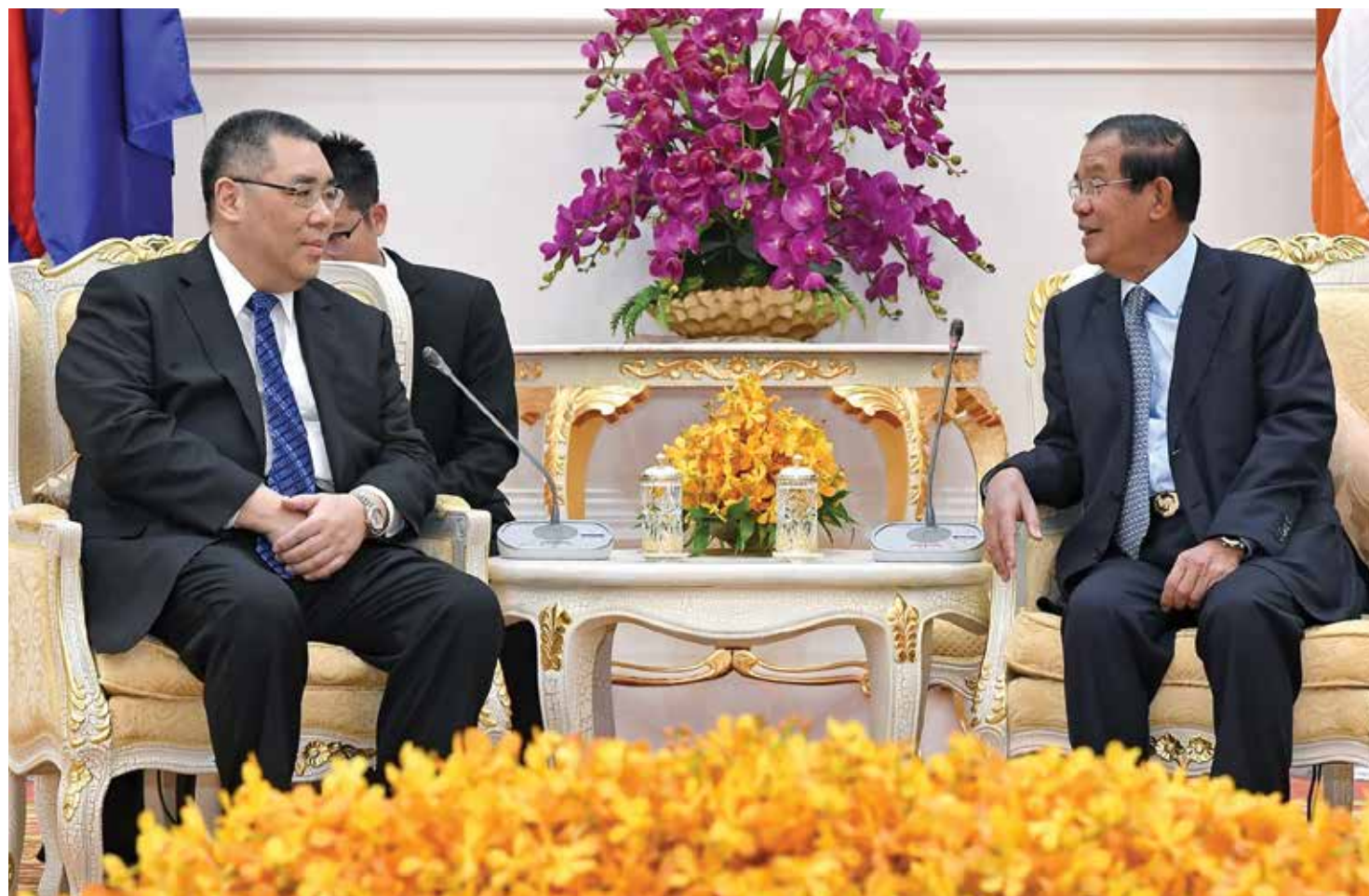
On the move



Gonalo

Gonalo C sar de S   
Editor-in-Chief





Macao Chief Executive Chui Sai On and Cambodia Prime Minister Hun Sen meet in Phnom Penh



Macao Chief Executive Chui Sai On and Thailand Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-o-cha meet in Bangkok

## Politics

# Macao promotes the Belt and Road Initiative in Southeast Asia

Text Louise do Rosário Photos Government Information Bureau

**Macao signs co-operation agreements with Cambodia and Thailand to promote the Belt and Road Initiative.**

In early May, Macao Chief Executive Chui Sai On visited the Southeast Asian nations of Cambodia and Thailand, both key partners in Macao's promotion of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

The Chief Executive described the visit to the two countries as "productive and fruitful, particularly in terms of expanding Macao's contribution to the BRI." The five-day visit, 7-11 May, included stops in Cambodia's capital, Phnom Penh, and the Thai capital of Bangkok, at the invitation of the respective national governments.

During the visits, the Macao

government signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Cambodia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and a twinning arrangement with Thailand's Phuket Province. It also signed two co-operation agreements relating to the development of traditional Chinese medicine in Thailand.

Leaders of the two countries spoke highly of Macao's achievements in tourism and in economic and trade matters. They also highlighted the city's strategic positioning as a world centre of tourism and leisure, and as a commercial and trade co-operation

service platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries (collectively known as the Platform and Centre).

According to the Chief Executive, the visits achieved four goals: reinforcing ties and outlining clear guidelines to deepen mutually beneficial co-operation; promoting Macao's unique advantages in terms of facilitating the BRI; boosting efforts to diversify Macao's economy and promote bilateral co-operation in a range of industries; and lastly, it complemented the Macao government's policy of promoting youth development.



The visits marked the first time a government delegation included representatives of local youth associations and members of the “Gathering of Thousand Talents” group, inaugurated last April. It was a sign of the government’s support for the involvement of local young people in national development strategies, while also helping them to develop a global outlook.

The Macao government delegation also included the secretary for Administration and Justice, Chan Hoi Fan; secretary for Economy and Finance, Leong Vai Tac; secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam Chon Weng; as well as all members of the Executive Council and representatives of returned overseas Chinese

communities in Macao.

In addition to meetings with senior officials of Cambodia and Thailand, the Macao government also organised a number of events in each country to promote Macao’s tourism industry and the development of traditional Chinese medicine.

### Visit to Cambodia

The first stop on the visit was Cambodia, where the delegation spent three days. Chief Executive Chui had a meeting with Cambodian Foreign Minister Prak Sokhonn on 7 May, shortly before the two men signed a Memorandum of Understanding on co-operation for the promotion of friendship. On

8 May, Chui met with members of the Senate and National Assembly, including Heng Samrin, president of the National Assembly.

Chui noted that the Macao government “pays great attention to fostering closer ties with Cambodia as part of Macao’s contribution to the BRI,” adding that the two sides will work together to seek closer co-operation, particularly in tourism and training, cultural affairs, education, and financial services.

Samrin said Cambodia has a strong relationship with China, noting that the country has offered strong support to Cambodia’s development. Investments from China, particularly in infrastructure development under the BRI, have played an important

part in its economic growth, he noted.

Samrin expects both sides to strengthen co-operation in several areas, particularly in tourism, by studying the possibility of establishing more direct flight services.

The Chief Executive touted the potential benefits of closer ties between Macao and Cambodia in tourism, namely in areas such as tourism management and training. “Cambodia has rich tourism resources in terms of historic and cultural attractions, while Macao is a well-established tourist destination, combining a historic centre included on the World Heritage List of UNESCO with modern entertainment facilities,” he said.

### Macao and Phuket sign twinning agreement

The visit continued in Bangkok, where Macao and Thailand’s Phuket Province agreed to the establishment of a twinning arrangement to promote co-operation and mutual development.

The “Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of Friendship City between the Phuket Province of the Kingdom of Thailand and the Macao Special Administrative Region of the People’s Republic of China” was signed by the director of the Protocol, Public Relations and External Affairs Office of Macao, Lei Ut Mui, and the governor of Phuket Province, Norrapat Plodthong.

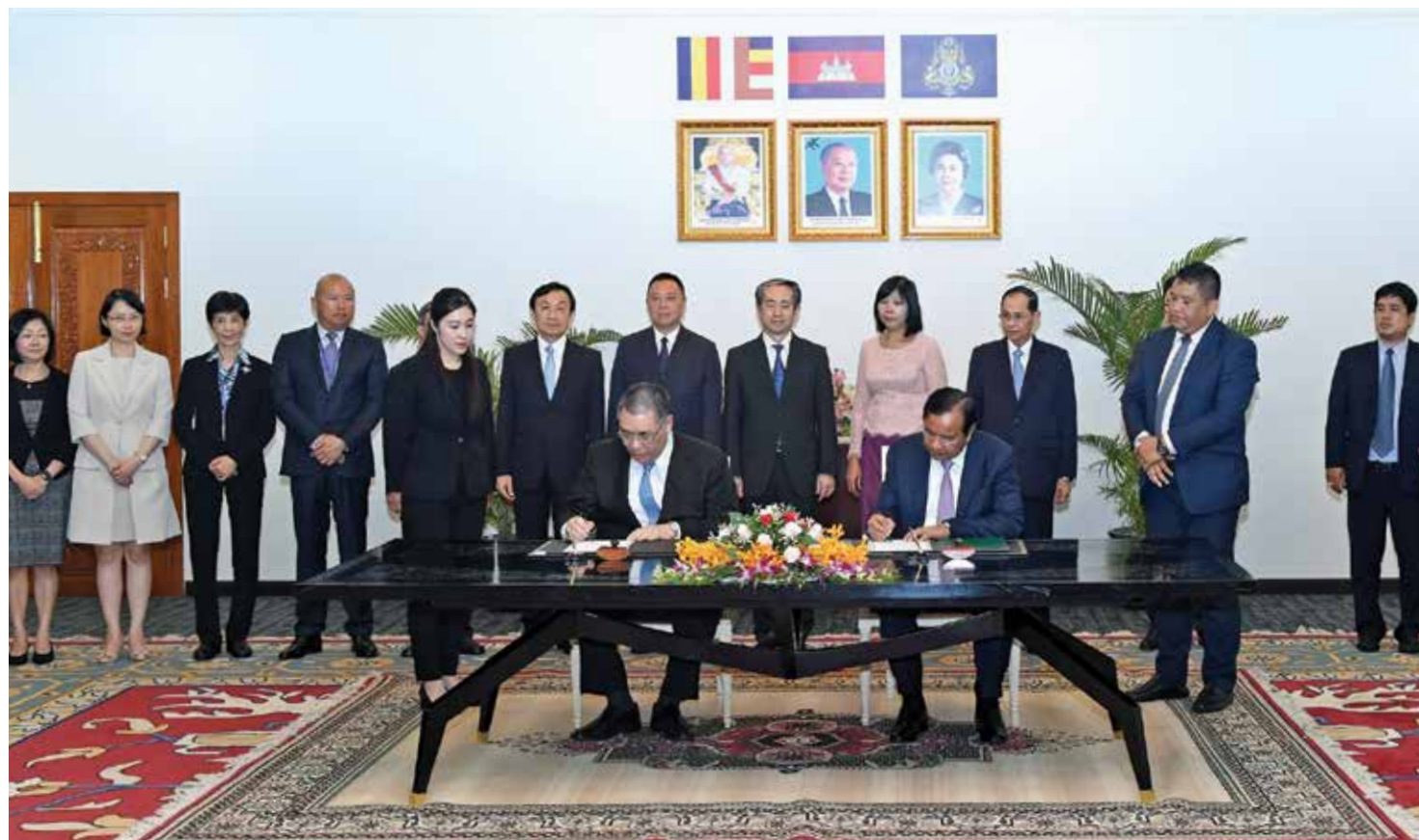
The document, signed on 9 May, aims to advance co-operation between Macao and Phuket in various aspects, while encouraging more frequent exchanges between government officials and relevant public departments from both places.

Chief Executive Chui and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, Don Pramudwinai, witnessed the signing ceremony, after which they held a joint press conference.

Speaking at the press conference, Chui said there are bright prospects for co-operation between Macao and Thailand, describing Thailand as one of its key regional partners in helping Macao to push forward its contributions to the BRI. He affirmed Macao’s commitment to expanding co-operation with Thailand, particularly in fields such as education, traditional Chinese medicine, and exchanges with Portuguese-speaking countries.

For his part, Pramudwinai said Thailand could assist Macao in exploring new markets in other member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, such as Laos and Myanmar. He believes Macao could play an important role as a gateway for Thailand to access markets in southern China.

The minister said he hopes there will be a greater number of investments in Thailand from Macao via the country’s Eastern Economic Corridor Development Plan, which plans to invest US\$45 billion in the development of infrastructure in three provinces east of Bangkok by 2021.



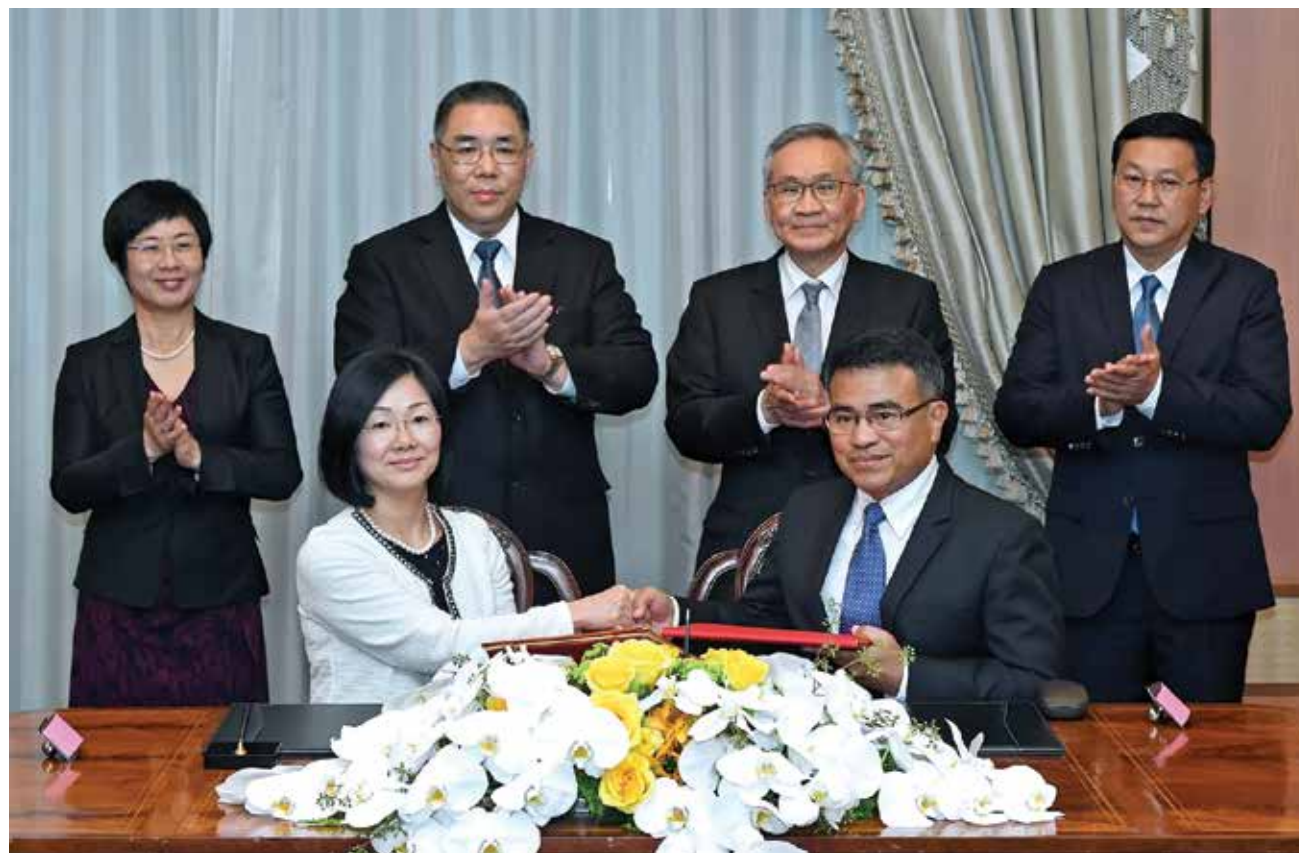
Macao Chief Executive Chui Sai On, and the Senior Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation of Cambodia, Prak Sokhonn, sign the Memorandum of Understanding in Phnom Penh



Chui Sai On with members of the Macao “Gathering of Thousand Talents”



Macao Chief Executive Chui Sai On, and the Thailand Minister of Foreign Affairs, Don Pramudwinai, hold a joint press conference in Bangkok



Macao Chief Executive Chui Sai On, and the Thailand Minister of Foreign Affairs, Don Pramudwinai, witness the signing of the “Memorandum of Understanding” between Phuket Province and Macao

## Gateway to the Pearl River Delta

The following day, 10 May, Chief Executive Chui met the Prime Minister of Thailand, Prayuth Chan-ocha, in Bangkok. Chui stated that Macao’s engagement in the development of the Guangdong–Hong Kong–Macao Greater Bay Area could promote closer co-operation between Macao and Thailand, pointing to the potential benefits for overseas economies willing to participate in the project.

“Macao welcomes closer ties with Thailand, particularly in areas such as tourism, cultural affairs, economy and trade, and financial services. The Macao government is looking forward to learning from Thailand’s experience as a long-standing global tourism destination.”

He stated that both sides should jointly participate in the development of the BRI, utilising their respective strengths with a focus on the Initiative’s goals of unimpeded trade, financial integration, and people-to-people bonds.

During the meeting, the Chief Executive briefed Prime Minister Chan-o-cha on Macao’s development prospects. These included the city’s Platform and Centre policies, its contribution to the development of the BRI, and opportunities arising from the Hong Kong–Zhuhai–Macao Bridge, a landmark transport link expected to open soon.

Chan-o-cha highlighted the deepening ties between Macao and Thailand in various areas, the result of years of successful co-operation. He added that the Thai government has a policy of promoting tourism co-operation with neighbouring jurisdictions; that could be another driving force for sustainable links

between Macao and Thailand.

Chan-o-cha stated that, following Macao’s inclusion in the UNESCO Creative Cities Network in the field of Gastronomy, there are good opportunities for co-operation in that area, as well as in garment, hospitality, and creative industries.

The Thai Prime Minister said he believes Macao could become an important gateway for Thailand to access markets in southern China, benefiting from both the BRI and the development of the Pan-Pearl River Delta (PPRD) region.

Chief Executive Chui also met

“*Macao could become an important gateway for Thailand to access markets in southern China.*”

Prayuth Chan-o-cha

Thailand’s deputy prime minister, Somkid Jatusripitak, and stressed the importance of enhancing regional co-operation.

Chui said Macao would strive to transform itself into a gateway for Thailand to promote trade co-operation and tourism in markets within the PPRD region. He added that the city’s links with Portuguese-speaking countries would also facilitate sustainable co-operation between Macao and Thailand.

Chui noted that Macao and Thailand already have in place a good foundation for close co-

-operation, adding that he is looking forward to strengthening ties in tourism and financial services.

During the meeting, Jatusripitak said that Thailand, in turn, plans to position itself as a gateway for the PPRD region to explore opportunities in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Vietnam. To achieve that, Thailand plans to use Macao as a connecting point within the PPRD region.

The Thai deputy prime minister proposed the establishment of a communication channel between Thailand and the provinces in the PPRD region, as well as the cities of the Greater Bay Area. This aims to boost ties with all parties, namely on investment and trade, education, and tourism.

Aside from the meetings, the Macao government delegation also attended the opening of the 2018 Traditional Medicine International Development Forum (Thailand).

During the forum, the Chief Executive witnessed the signing of five agreements between public departments of the Macao and Thai governments, and between commerce chambers and associations.

## MGTO brings taste of Macao to Bangkok

Elsewhere in Bangkok, the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) kicked off a three-day promotion of its cuisine in the city. The Macao Café Food Truck toured different locations in Bangkok to meet with the public and promote Macao as a newly designated UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy with a diverse array of tourism offerings. Thailand is one of Macao’s top ten sources of visitors.

MGTO Director Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes and MGTO representative in Thailand, Uracha Jak, together with Thailand’s



superstar “Pope” Tanawat Wattanaputi and other guests, attended the start of the road show on 10 May. Thai travel trade, media, and the public took part in the event at Siam Square, a shopping and entertainment area in the Thai capital.

“Thai people can experience our destination, culture, heritage and signature events through the Macao Café Food Truck, which will be a road show in various key strategic locations within Bangkok, such as Siam Square and Chidlom,” Senna Fernandes said. “This is a very exciting year for Macao and we are giving special emphasis on our promotions to our recent designation as a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy.”

The MGTO director also touted a number of exciting upcoming events, including the Macau Grand Prix, the Macau International Marathon, and the 3rd International Film Festival & Awards Macao. “We want to invite Thai people to join and experience our city.”

Thailand and Macao are connected by regular flights operated by two air carriers, Air Macau and Air Asia, which provide 60 direct links a week between Macao, Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Utapao, and Phuket. ●

Macao Café Food Truck offers a taste of the city's cuisine in Bangkok



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Economy

# Zhongshan sees future as world-class manufacturing base, transport hub

Text Ou Nian Le Photos Cheong Kam Ka and Eric Tam



Sun Yat-sen Statue



**Zhongshan is to evolve into a world-class manufacturing base for modern equipment, and serve as a regional technology and R&D centre.**

For more than 30 years, Zhongshan has been one of the ‘four little tigers’ of Guangdong, an industrial powerhouse closely linked to the economies of Macao and Hong Kong. With the 13th Five-Year Plan (2016–2020), the central government gave the city four new priorities for its future development.

Building on its industrial history, the city will evolve into a world-class manufacturing base for modern equipment, and serve as a regional technology and R&D centre. It will become a regional integrated transportation hub for the west bank of the Pearl River Delta, increasing connectivity as the region draws closer together, while maintaining its role as a boutique city offering residents a

high standard of living.

For the next stage of manufacturing, the plan designated three pillar industries for Zhongshan: biomedicine, semi-conductor lighting, and high-end, innovative electronic information. It will also set up an industrial cluster around the needs of yacht manufacturing, while established industries will work to enhance quality and branding. Agriculture, which sustained the city prior to industrialisation, will find new life through developing efficient, highly cost-effective formats, such as leisure and tourism agriculture.

To develop the service sector, Zhongshan will broaden promotion of its cultural services, design and R&D, technology, software, and



Zhongshan city



Zhongshan high-speed trains

Downtown Zhongshan



international logistics capabilities beyond the local market. It plans to leverage existing provincial-level import facilities to increase imports of certain commodities, an effort further enhanced by the establishment of a cross-border e-commerce import platform and distribution centres for imported consumer goods, which may also function as cross-border direct purchase outlets.

The plan also emphasises the emerging financial sector as a key field, promoting the development of high-end services and a financial development platform integrated with various zones in the city. Zhongshan already boasts more than 20 Chinese and foreign banks in its Central Business District and a number of institutional platforms.

By focusing on the finance industry, Zhongshan aims to innovate financial organisations, products and services, develop emerging financial industries and provide a modern financial

service system while bolstering economic growth and providing more financing options for future projects.

A number of construction projects have already furthered its establishment as an integrated transport hub for the west bank of the Pearl River Delta (PRD). To boost connectivity with the east bank, it accelerated work on the Shenzhen–Zhongshan (SZ–ZS) Corridor and the Shenzhen–Maoming High-Speed Railway (Shenmao HSR), as well as its connecting lines. These efforts will be further enhanced by the opening of the Hong Kong–Zhuhai–Macao Bridge, due in 2018.

Work has begun on the corridor linking Zhongshan to Shenzhen on the opposite bank. The complex project involves two suspension bridges, two artificial islands, and the world’s widest underwater tunnel. At a total length of 24 km, it will cut travel time between the cities by 30 minutes compared to the Humen Bridge, currently the

only direct connection between the two sides of the Pearl River.

The new SZ–ZS Corridor will benefit from the Hong Kong–Zhuhai–Macao Bridge, combining to drastically reduce travel times and enable further regional integration. It will also provide serious competition, once completed in 2024, with cheaper fees and no need to stop for customs and immigration clearance.

Meanwhile, the first phase of the Shenmao HSR is set to open this year, cutting travel time between Guangzhou and Maoming to 2.5 hours, half of what it is currently. The second phase, which will connect Zhongshan, begins construction this year with completion slated for 2024.

Despite its strong industrial sector, Zhongshan retains its role as a boutique city located in the heart of the PRD. With a population of only 3.26 million – small by mainland standards – the city is blessed with many parks, wide avenues, and a warm climate. It





aims to attract buyers interested in purchasing a second home there, as the city offers a high standard of living and is well-suited to retirees. The new transportation links make it especially appealing to SARs residents keen to get the most for their money without straying too far from home.

The plan also envisions the city promoting its spa resorts, boating, medical/health tourism, and retirement centres. One of the plan's other goals has already been achieved: in August 2017, Zhongshan secured its first national 5A-class rating for the former residence of its namesake, Dr Sun Yat-sen, the father of modern China. The tourist attraction will benefit greatly from the planned SZ-ZS Corridor, which enters the city in Cuiheng, the hometown of Sun.

**Birth of a 'Little Tiger'**

For all of its grand plans these days, Zhongshan's rise is relatively recent. With poor road and rail transport links to Foshan, Guangzhou and the rest of China, the city spent much of its history on the margins of the economy, relying heavily on agriculture. It received very limited investment during the first 30 years of the PRC, when everything was decided by central planners.

That all changed in 1980. In the reform era, its proximity to Macao and Hong Kong – more specifically, to their investors, capital, and technology – suddenly became an enormous advantage for Zhongshan, as did its lack of investment. Unencumbered by giant state firms with too many employees

and backward technology, the city enjoyed the flexibility needed to innovate.

It developed town and village enterprises, under a model in which each township specialises in a single product. Local units supply all of the parts and components needed for the single product, leveraging proximity to increase production efficiency. Each operates independently, leading to considerable variety in products: Dachong town produces mahogany and rosewood furniture while neighbouring Shaxi makes casual wear. Huangpu specialises in processed food and nearby Dongfeng, electrical household appliances. Guzhen makes lighting fixtures while its neighbour, Xiaolan, produces locks, hardware, and electronic acoustics.

The result of this policy can be seen in the report of the city's economy in 2017 by its statistics bureau. The four largest items, in terms of output, were integrated circuits (669.5 million), electric bulbs and lighting (264 million pieces), household fans (71.2 million), and microwave ovens (29.8 million).

Manufacturing accounted for just over half of the city's GDP with RMB173 billion (US\$27.18 billion), up 4.9 per cent. The service sector came second at RMB165 billion (US\$25.92 billion), up 9.1 per cent, and agriculture and forestry were third with RMB6.69 billion (US\$1.05 billion), down 2.5 per cent.

The city is the production base of several of China's home appliance giants, including TCL and Midea. In 2017, the city produced 2.88 million colour television sets and

406,000 intelligent televisions, 6.66 million acoustic sets, 9.04 million household refrigerators, and 1.02 million household washing machines.

The Five-Year Plan seeks to build on these existing strengths and develop high-tech enterprises at the same time. The number of such enterprises increased from 236 in 2011 to more than 1,700 in 2017.

Industrial added-value of high-technology manufacturing reached RMB21 billion (US\$3.3 billion) in 2017, an increase of 11.2 per cent and accounting for 18.5 per cent of total industrial added-value. Output of modernised services reached RMB101 billion (US\$15.87 billion), up 9.3 per cent over 2016 and accounting for 61.3 per cent of that output in the service sector.

In 2017, foreign trade was

RMB258.15 billion (US\$40.56 billion), up 15.4 per cent; exports rose 16.6 per cent to RMB205.6 billion (US\$32.3 billion) and imports rose 10.9 per cent to RMB52.6 billion (US\$8.26 billion). A total of 271 new foreign-invested projects were approved during the year, up 103.8 per cent, with contracted investment of US\$826 million, down 22.3 per cent, and an actual investment of US\$508 billion, up 7.4 per cent. Manufacturing accounted for 32.2 per cent of the actual investment figure.

Today, among the cities on the west bank of the PRD, Zhongshan is second only to Foshan in terms of GDP and total value-added industrial output. It had a GDP of RMB345 billion (US\$54.2 billion) in 2017, an increase of 6.6 per cent over the previous year.



### ‘Little Macao’ and big business

Macao has its own investment in the city: a framework signed by the Macao government and Zhongshan in July 2014 agreed to establish a new pilot zone in Cuiheng. Located within the Cuiheng New Zone (CNZ), 30 km north of Macao, the Guangdong-Macao Co-operation Pilot Zone will include an industrial park, an international trade services platform, an education and training park, an international cultural exchange zone, and a tourism co-operation zone.

The first phase of the project calls for the development of an area of five sq km within the CNZ and the establishment of a display zone to promote comprehensive collaboration around fostering moderate economic diversification, enhancing competitiveness of both cities, and consistently improving people’s livelihoods.

While much of the land will be dedicated to business, it also offers Macao residents an excellent alternative for retirement, with one lawmaker proposing the creation of a ‘little Macao’ in the zone. More open and green than

the compact Macao – the CNZ boasts 50 per cent coverage by trees, lawns, and water – it also enjoys close proximity to the city. Even more so once the SZ-ZS Corridor is completed in 2024, the critical transport link entering Zhongshan through Cuiheng.

Chief Executive Chui Sai On visited Zhongshan in January 2015, meeting with its mayor and the Communist Party secretary. He received positive feedback on a proposal to include the pilot zone in Cuiheng. It is among the least developed of Zhongshan’s 18 townships and eager to attract outside investment. Located just over the city limits of Zhuhai, it offers a prime location and inexpensive land.

The CNZ itself stands as the largest project in the town’s history, with a planned area of 230 sq km, and one of the newest phases of the development of Zhongshan. It combines multifaceted production capacity – producing pharmaceuticals, precision machinery, and intelligent electronics – and a service sector focused on finance, culture and tourism with a desirable living space.

Sun Yat-sen statue



Sun Yat-sen’s former residence

### Humble beginnings

Even with its recent economic ambitions, Cuiheng remains best known as the birthplace of Dr Sun Yat-sen, known in Mandarin as Sun Zhongshan. The city, previously known as Xiangshan, was renamed in Sun’s honour shortly after his death in 1925, making it one of only a handful of Chinese cities named after a person. His birthplace is the main tourist attraction in the city, a 3.15-sq-km site encompassing a park, ancient village, and a large museum housed in his former residence.

Like Macao, much of what is now Zhongshan was once underwater with only scattered islands reaching above the surface. As the area gradually filled with alluvial silt, it became dry land. It first became known as Xiangshan (Fragrant Hill) in 1082.

After the collapse of the Southern Song dynasty (1127–1279), many descendants of the court, including members of the Imperial family, settled there. During the Qing dynasty, the city built embankments to stop flooding and increase the area under cultivation. With a large area of arable land, abundant rainfall and access to the dense water transport of the Pearl River Delta, the city flourished.

After the First Opium War (1839–42), many Xiangshan people, including Dr Sun Yat-sen, went abroad to study or live. They were among the founders of modern China. These migrants became a great source of capital, know-how, and international networks, especially in the post-1979 reform era. An estimated 800,000 overseas Chinese originally came from Zhongshan, with many now residing in Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Macao. ●



Entrance to Sun Yat-sen’s former residence



Portuguese-speaking countries

# AFRICAN WEB ENTREPRENEURS ON THE RISE

Text Nkembo Chris Kiala

**As China-Africa trade expands, e-commerce makes rapid strides.**

Since China became Africa's largest trading partner in 2009, trade has continued to flourish, aided by cooperative frameworks put in place by the Chinese government and its African counterparts. The momentum is expected to build over the medium term, and the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Co-operation in September is likely to help ensure that these increasingly close economic ties become even closer. The Belt and Road Initiative, China's ambitious global trading and investment strategy, may set a new tone for the country's investment on the continent. For the time being, this initiative is having a greater impact on East Africa – especially in Kenya, Djibouti and Egypt, but over time the benefits are likely to be seen in other parts of the continent.



Luanda, Angola

China-Africa trade volumes continue to increase, rising by 19 per cent last year. In the years ahead, e-commerce is expected to propel growth. Countless web entrepreneurs in China are already focusing their attention on the potential of e-commerce in the African trade and investment picture.

Defined as transactions that occur over the internet, e-commerce involves the sale and purchase of goods and services on a website and/or a social media platform. Technology has already sparked some ingenious solutions in Africa, from mobile payments to security crowdsourcing. Following the celebrated success of M-Pesa, a mobile phone-based money transfer, a financing and microfinancing service called BitPesa was launched as a digital foreign exchange and payment platform. Eager to promote safety and security, authorities are increasingly

subscribing to popular social media networks and encouraging 'friends and followers' to report criminal activity.

This is all made possible by the growing accessibility across the continent of affordable smartphones, the majority of which are manufactured in Shenzhen, China's technology hub. Even African-owned mobile phone companies, such as 7mobile and Facemundi in Angola, outsource the manufacturing of their devices to partners in China.

Now, at the touch of a button, one can digitally access a multitude of Guangzhou's long-established supply chains for goods and services. The fourth industrial revolution, blurring the lines between physical and digital, is propelling an upsurge of web entrepreneurs across the globe and now more visibly in Africa.





Maputo, Mozambique

### The rise of African web enterprises

Bypassing the conventional models for setting up a business, e-commerce platforms are gaining popularity. Without the need for large amounts of capital and requiring only a modest corporate infrastructure, small and micro-enterprises can import and export goods and services more easily than ever before.

Web enterprises in Africa's Portuguese-speaking countries have customised their navigation tools for their respective niche target markets, taking

into account local geography, language, and consumer preferences.

Mozambique's most prominent web enterprises, for example, offer delivery services in multiple regions around the country. Jumia, a free classified advertising platform, and Compra, an online store, are among the more successful ventures. Similarly, online shopping is gaining traction in Angola, and reshaping consumer trends across the country. Well-known brands in the e-commerce space such as BaobaBay and Kitandeira, amongst others, feature quality Chinese-

-made goods for the middle-income customer. Even 7mobile smartphones are available online on the Soba e-Store.

Tech entrepreneurs are also exploring innovative solutions in e-commerce. Tupuca, launched in 2015, is Angola's first food delivery platform; it now boasts around 30,000 users and 11,000 orders per month, up from just 400 per month in January 2017. Its market is currently limited to Luanda, where users of its mobile app can order food from any of its 81 active participating restaurants. The tech startup, 2017 winner of the Angolan round of



Africa's most successful technology platforms

### Chinese businesses are connecting the dots

As e-commerce gains traction throughout Africa, Chinese investors are recognising its immense potential. Leading the way is Alibaba, the flagship of e-commerce success in China. In order to improve access to e-commerce opportunities, Alibaba's Electronic World Trade Platform partnered with the World Trade Organization and World Economic Forum to launch the Enabling E-Commerce initiative.

Founder and Executive Chairman Jack Ma used his visit to Kenya last year to announce the launch of a US\$10-million African Young Entrepreneurs Fund, which seeks to support African online businesses. Ma also shared his plans to build capacity in internet technology, artificial intelligence, and e-commerce through strategic partnerships with African universities.

In addition to education and funding, a number of key elements will contribute towards breaking down barriers to tap market potential. First, internet access is an essential component to enabling e-commerce. According to Internet Live Statistics, the total number of internet users in Angola and Mozambique is estimated at 5.9 million and 1.8 million respectively. High costs have branded it a luxury, which ultimately inspired yet another web entrepreneur's innovative solution: Angola's first free internet provider, Wi-Connect, offers an advertising platform to its clients that eliminates the cost for the end user. Airports and shopping centres have shown the highest user frequency, as well as academic institutions which restrict browsing to authorised

*Executive Chairman of Alibaba, Jack Ma, used his visit to Kenya last year to announce the launch of a US\$10-million African Young Entrepreneurs Fund.*

educational websites.

Second, the postal system and courier companies need to provide more reliable and affordable services. Mirroring actual bilateral trade – China is Angola's largest trade partner and Mozambique's fourth largest – China is the main source of products purchased through e-commerce transactions in Angola. However, e-commerce is changing the rules of global trade, prompting regulators to fast-track the effort to reduce trans-border obstacles. For developing countries, much like those mentioned above, new rules still need to be created on cross-border data flows, data storage, digital signatures, the protection of source codes, and privacy.

Third, the online payment facility requires shoppers to possess a credit card, which are not readily available in Angola or in São Tomé and Príncipe. To compensate, a growing number of online shopping sites and services are accepting alternative payment methods via ATM, POS machines, and internet banking. To remain relevant, African countries need to recognise the importance of narrowing the digital gap and promoting digital development.



## Chinese investors lay the path for future investors

Since UnionPay International launched its operations in Mozambique in December 2017, UnionPay cardholders have been able to make payments in the country using China's credit infrastructure. Africa is one of China's fastest-growing outbound tourism destinations and UnionPay's network has grown rapidly on the continent, which it affirms to already be established in 50 African countries and regions.

Observing similar trends in Kenya, in early 2018, the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) launched a loyalty program in co-operation with Stanbic Bank (a division of South Africa's Standard Bank). The program applies to the existing ICBC card when used for specific travel-related expenses in the partner country (ICBC cards in Kenya and Stanbic cards in China). By rewarding cardholders for charging certain expenses in Kenya, ICBC is tapping into the pool of Chinese tourists visiting East Africa, who have an average consumption of US\$1,250 per person. Over 50,000 Chinese tourists visited Kenya in 2017 and another 60,000 are expected this year, doubling the amount from 2015.

The investment needed for this kind of market penetration is typically driven by co-operation agreements brokered by the Chinese government.

On a tour of Africa in January this year, Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi visited two Lusophone countries, Angola and São Tomé and Príncipe. Wang pledged his country's continued support for closer economic ties and called on Chinese enterprises to invest in these markets. Such rhetoric mirrors observations of a gradual shift in Chinese foreign



direct investment and trade in Lusophone Africa from mega projects to entrepreneurial ventures.

The sharp drop in oil prices since 2008 has hammered Angola's oil-based economy and revealed serious fiscal mismanagement. Hence, the Angolan government has commissioned fewer contracts; hundreds of Chinese projects have been halted and thousands of Chinese workers have left the country. Even at Luanda's grandiose anticipated international airport, an ambitious project on the outskirts of the capital city, all work has been halted indefinitely.

***Africa is one of China's fastest-growing outbound tourism destinations and UnionPay's network has grown rapidly concurrently on the continent. The payment system says it has already established a presence in 50 African countries.***



Union Pay in Mozambique

For Chinese companies operating outside the public sector, the looming financial crisis has presented a new set of challenges. The Central Bank of Angola has imposed stringent currency controls and commercial banks have had limited access to foreign exchange, hampering imports on all fronts. The shortage of US dollars has also prompted a growing demand for euros. Meanwhile, the Angolan kwanza continues to depreciate, with an official exchange rate that is nearly half the informal market rate. This has made it especially difficult for the business sector to import goods.

When the Bank of China entered the Angolan market last year, it was initially speculated that this would boost imports from China by circumventing problems from a shortage of dollars in the domestic economy through direct currency exchanges between the kwanza and China's renminbi. Alas, the Chinese state-run bank is subject to the same rules and regulations as all other international banks, such as South Africa's Standard Bank and Russia's VTB, which facilitate trade with their home country but operating in dollars or euros. The Chinese community in Angola has found an innovative solution online: using WeChat, China's most versatile mobile application, the local community created a

## A world of opportunities awaits you

The Economic and Trade Co-operation and Human Resources Portal, based in Macao, offers dozens of opportunities and leads for trade and business. Business owners from across the Portuguese-speaking world have said that they rely on the portal to explore possibilities to further their business ventures in China, and vice versa.

With the touch of a button, users can search more than 25,000 products, filter by country and category – including nuts, beverages, vegetables, and so much more. A decade ago, these business opportunities would never have been so readily available, but today, this portal can open up doors to the right projects and partners.

The portal also boasts over 650 personnel registered on its bilingual database – an essential component when trying to bridge China and the Portuguese-speaking countries.

The wealth of resources and data available from the portal increase each day, enabling people from around the world to grow their businesses offline and online. With China's booming economy, it is crucial to have a database that can bridge the gap and connect to all of these countries. The portal does exactly that – it brings together investors, project owners, and professionals who are all looking for a way to get ahead of the game.



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

brokering platform for trading currencies. Since the unofficial rate for the kwanza generally prevails, aspiring Chinese investors in Angola are able to take advantage of the more favourable rate.

During the Chinese foreign minister's visit to Angola, the two countries also signed an agreement to waive certain visa requirements for general passport holders. This move is set to increase the volume of Chinese business tourism in Angola, with an additional objective of attracting foreign direct investment into the manufacturing sector. In the meantime, however, trade will continue to dominate China-Africa economic relations, particularly amid the growing ranks of Chinese enterprises and entrepreneurs looking to optimise their entry into African markets through e-commerce. ●



# Finding *Leptanilla macauensis*

Text Cathy Lai Photos Krollfilm and courtesy of Danny Leong

Danny Leong, a young Macao-born researcher, discovered a new ant species in Macao, making it the fourth species to be named after the city.



Microscopic image of *Leptanilla macauensis*

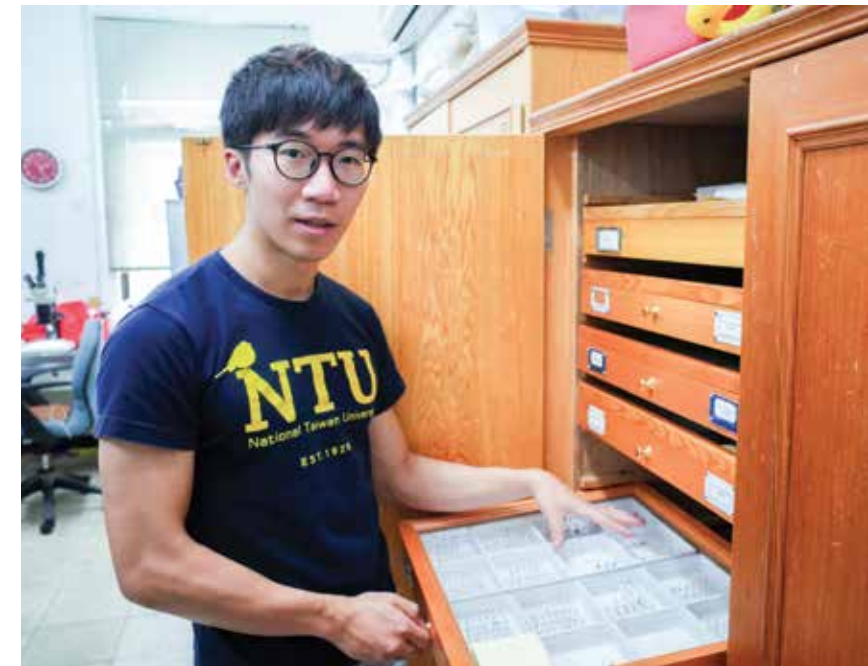
The Insect Biodiversity and Biogeography Laboratory at the University of Hong Kong served as an important base for Danny Chi-Man Leong's study of Macao's ant species over the past three years. The research was carried out on an entirely voluntary basis, according to Leong, as it was not within the scope of school projects.

Every day, he would spend long hours sitting in front of the stereomicroscope, searching through soil and leaf litter for ant samples. The size of ants varies, from at least 10 mm in length to sizes hardly distinguishable to the naked eye. It was a painstaking process: just 5 ml of soil and leaf litter would easily take him an hour to search through.

But one night, he found something unusual in the soil samples collected at Ilha Verde, a small hill situated in the northern part of the Macao Peninsula. It was a tiny ant, no more than 1 mm long, bearing the features of a very rare ant genus, *Leptanilla*, distinguished by its small size, pale yellow colour, and short antennae due to its subterranean nature.

It was a rare find, as there were just five previous records of *Leptanilla* in Southeast China. Just when Leong thought he had hit the jackpot discovering the rare ant genus in Macao, he noticed another intriguing detail on the tiny ant: its subpetiolar process formed a small and hook-like spine, an element that other *Leptanilla* species do not display.

Leong was excited. This could be his first time to discover a whole new species in his hometown, but he needed more samples to consolidate his findings. Over the next five hours, he searched through a soil sample



Danny Leong at the Insect Systematics Laboratory, Taiwan University

collected from the same area and found four more ant samples with the same hook-like spine.

After comparing it against all known ant species in mainland China, at 1:30 am, he emailed his findings to Dr Benoit Guénard, assistant professor in the School of Biological Sciences at the University of Hong Kong. The two had been working together closely in studying Macao's ant species. Five hours later, Guénard replied: "This is a pretty exciting catch."

On 25 January 2017, this previously unknown ant species was discovered for the first time. One year later, it would be known as *Leptanilla macauensis* (澳門細蟻), the fourth species to be named after the city.

## Entering the world of entomology

Born in 1993, Leong did not find his calling to entomology at a young age. Like many young people in Macao, he had struggled to find his path in life. "I did not know what I wanted to do for my future, until one day, I walked into a shop that sold exotic animals such as snakes, lizards, and ants," he recalled, "and then I thought to myself, 'Life is short, I don't want any regrets.'"





A specimen of *Papilio bianor*

Leong went home and talked about this new decision with his mother. “Will you let me experience the Darwin life for a few years?” he asked. His mother was supportive, but not without worries; she knew it would not be an easy career path to take in a highly commercial society like Macao.

In 2013, Leong was admitted to Taiwan University, where he would spend the next five years, completing a bachelor’s degree and master’s degree in Entomology. “When you look at a butterfly with the naked eye, you don’t see how special it is. But when you place it under a microscope, you will find thousands of glowing scales on its wings,” he enthused. “Once I entered the world of entomology, I became obsessed. It is world full of wonders.”

Leong became a research assistant in 2014, working under Dr Shiuh-Feng Shiao, a famous insect taxonomist and head of the Insect Systematics Laboratory at Taiwan University. Collaborating with researchers such as Dr Shiao and Dr Chung-Chi Lin, another important advisor in his studies

of ants, Leong discovered two new ant species in Taiwan, *Anochetus lanyuensis* and *Technomyrmex formosensis*, and published academic journal articles on each, “Description of a new species of the genus *Anochetus* Mayr (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) from Orchid Island, Taiwan.” (2018) and “Taiwanese species of the ant genus *Technomyrmex* (Formicidae: Dolichoderinae)” (2018).

Life as a researcher and student keeps him busy, but Leong has never forgotten about his tiny friends in Macao. He knows that there haven’t been any new insect species found in the city for more than a decade, not since the discovery of *Dasyhelea gongylophoda* (圓額毛蠓新種) and *D. linlingae* (林玲毛蠓新種) in 2005.

Leong pointed to an absence of local researchers studying the insect species in Macao, especially ants, which are one of the most diverse insect species in the world. According to him, the first academic journal article that touched upon the study of Macao’s insects was published in



1921 by Dr. William Morton Wheeler, a famous American myrmecologist, a type of entomologist specialising in ants. This was followed by a number of publications by scholars from mainland China and Japan. By 2008, there were 54 known local ant species but no new species were added for nearly a decade.

“It is not common for foreign entomologists to study the insect biodiversity in Macao, because Macao is a highly urbanised area. They would rather go to tropical forests or stay in their hometowns, which they feel emotionally attached to,” he explained. “That’s why we need local researchers to do it.”

### Invaluable mentorship

In 2015, Leong spent his summer holiday exploring Macao’s green areas, including Guia Hill, Ilha Verde, and the green area in Coloane. Despite his lack of experience and proper tools, he still managed to collect a large number of ant samples using only simple clamps and plastic bags.

Leong was convinced that there was a high possibility of finding undiscovered species in Macao. He wrote a letter in English to share his findings with Dr Guénard from the University of Hong Kong, a well-known entomologist who specialises in ant studies. “At the beginning, he didn’t understand what I was trying to say in the letter, because the English was so badly written,” Leong laughed.

However, Dr Guénard was intrigued by two words: ‘ants’ and ‘Macao.’ “Exploring ant diversity in Macao could provide a good comparison point with the work we are doing in Hong Kong, due to the proximity of both cities, and the fact that they are separated by a major delta,” Guénard explained. “Also, as both cities have been heavily impacted by human activities and global trade for centuries, it was meaningful to study how native communities were responding to these changes and to the arrival of new exotic species.”

Since then, Guénard has been an important mentor for Leong in his study of Macao’s ants. The two also went on field trips together to collect ant samples during each summer and winter break. Guénard allowed him to use the laboratory at the University of Hong Kong, taught him the proper way to collect ants, make specimens, and most important, how to write academic journal articles in English.

Ant species collected by Leong in Macao



“My writing was terrible at the beginning. I had absolutely no idea of how to write an article. Still, he patiently read through my rough drafts and set me on the right track,” Leong said gratefully. “To date, I have already published 10 journal articles. If it weren’t for him, I would not have been able to even start the first one.”

Meanwhile, Dr Shiao, his supervisor at Taiwan University, continued to be an important presence in his passion project, providing him research tools and equipment, and helping him improve his presentation style and significance in academic writings. In 2017, Leong, together with Guénard and Shiao, published the journal article “Ants in the city, a preliminary checklist of Formicidae (Hymenoptera) in Macau, one of the most heavily urbanized regions of the world.” Through their research and discovery, the total number of known ant species and subspecies in Macao has more than doubled from 54 to 113.

### The spirit of scientific discovery

Leong’s dedication in studying Macao’s ant species led him to the exciting discovery of *L. macauensis*. “The soil samples from Ilha Verde were actually collected for the study of invasive ant species in Macao,” he noted. “Although we know that the chances of discovering a new species in Macao are high, the findings still gave me a big thrill.”

The discovery of the new ant species on 25 January 2017 was just the beginning of a long journey to prove its existence. Leong, Guénard, and Seiki Yamane (a Japanese entomologist from Kagoshima University), spent the next six months co-authoring the journal article “Lost in the city: discovery of the rare ant genus *Leptanilla*



Leong and Dr Guénard on a field trip

(Hymenoptera: Formicidae) in Macau with description of *Leptanilla macauensis* sp. nov.”

The article discusses the habits and physical features of *L. macauensis* and includes close-up photos of the species. It notes that the species are toxic arthropods that prey on ground centipedes, meaning they play an important role in maintaining the soil ecology.

Submitted to Asian Myrmecology, a peer-reviewed

journal dedicated to the study of Asian ants, the article detailing their findings underwent six months of assessment by leading entomologists from China and Japan before the discovery was officially announced on 31 January 2018.

“It has been a long journey,” he said. “You need to go through the process of assessment and publication to prove that your findings are valid. That is why science is so respected by people.”

Originally, Leong considered naming the new-found species ‘lotus’ or something else that signifies Macao, before deciding to simply name the species after Macao itself. “They are the fourth species in the world that bear the name of Macao [after *Toxorhynchites macaensis* (澳門巨蚊), *Chlorophorus macaumensis* (澳門虎天牛), and *Crematogaster macaoensis* (澳門舉腹蟻)]. I hope Macao people can take good care of them,” he said.

The authors also decided to publish the article on Science Citation Index, which ensures higher credibility and wider distribution among scientists; however, it also required a considerable financial investment to make the article available for free to the public. “Guénard understood my financial concern and offered to take care of the fees,” he said thankfully. “If it weren’t for him, people who would want to read about *Leptanilla macauensis* would have to pay US\$20-30 to purchase the paper.”

***Through their [Leong, Guénard and Shiao’s] research and discovery, the total number of known ant species and subspecies in Macao has more than doubled from 54 to 113.***

### A bigger ambition

According to Leong, as of February 2018, the recorded number of insect species in Macao was 754. However, he believes that the actual number could easily reach 8,000, based on the photos taken by like-minded insect enthusiasts and the variety of insect samples he collected in the past three years.

“We are practically surrounded by insects every day, and some species may even be unknown to us. Unfortunately, people don’t seem to care too much about them,” he lamented. “Therefore, it is important to promote entomology in Macao. If we can learn more about the natural world around us, we will treat the environment better.”

Leong was also aware of the financial problem that would come along his research path. Suggested by Guénard, he started a crowd funding on Facebook, and raised US\$6,717 – nearly US\$3,000 more than his goal – from supporters mainly comprising Macao locals. “The fund will be entirely used for studying Macao’s insects. With this money, I can buy research equipment and send specimens to entomologists all over the world. By inviting their input, I am confident that a comprehensive checklist of Macao’s insect species can be formulated in the foreseeable future.”



*Leptanilla macauensis* and ants of normal size under the microscope

Ant specimens collected and prepared by Leong





*Camponotus nicobarensis* Bingham,  
a local ant species of Macao



Leong leading a group of parents and  
children to explore green areas in Macao

Having secured funding, Leong launched the project in March of this year. The coming months will be filled with a mixture of field work, sorting and studying of samples, as well as public education projects as Leong plans to give at least 10 speeches for schools, communities, and NGOs. He expects to produce a small report on his findings by early 2019.

Leong's other research area is the distribution of invasive ant species in Macao, such as fire ants, which can inflict painful bites and stings on humans and cause the extinction of native species. Right now, he is looking for local ant species that can resist fire

ants, through experiments such as putting fire ants and a local species together to observe their competition over food and habitats. "I want to find a species strong enough to fight against fire ants, because one day, we may rely on them to eliminate this dangerous species."

Leong graduated this June with a master's degree from Taiwan University, and will start a PhD in Biology this October, focusing

on ant taxonomy. He has plans to work with local schools during the summer break to spread information on ants and insects in Macao. However, his focus will always be scientific research. "I want to inspire people with science; this will always be my principle." ●



Lost in the city: discovery of the rare ant genus *Leptanilla* (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) in Macau with description of *Leptanilla macauensis*. Leong can be reached at [chimanleo@gmail.com](mailto:chimanleo@gmail.com) for entomological exchange

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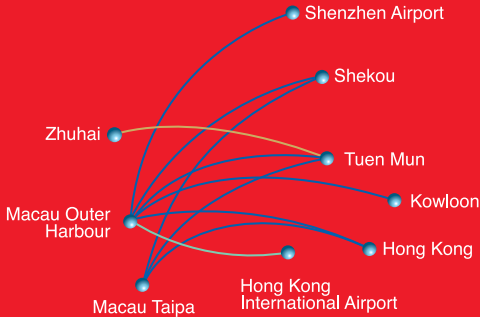
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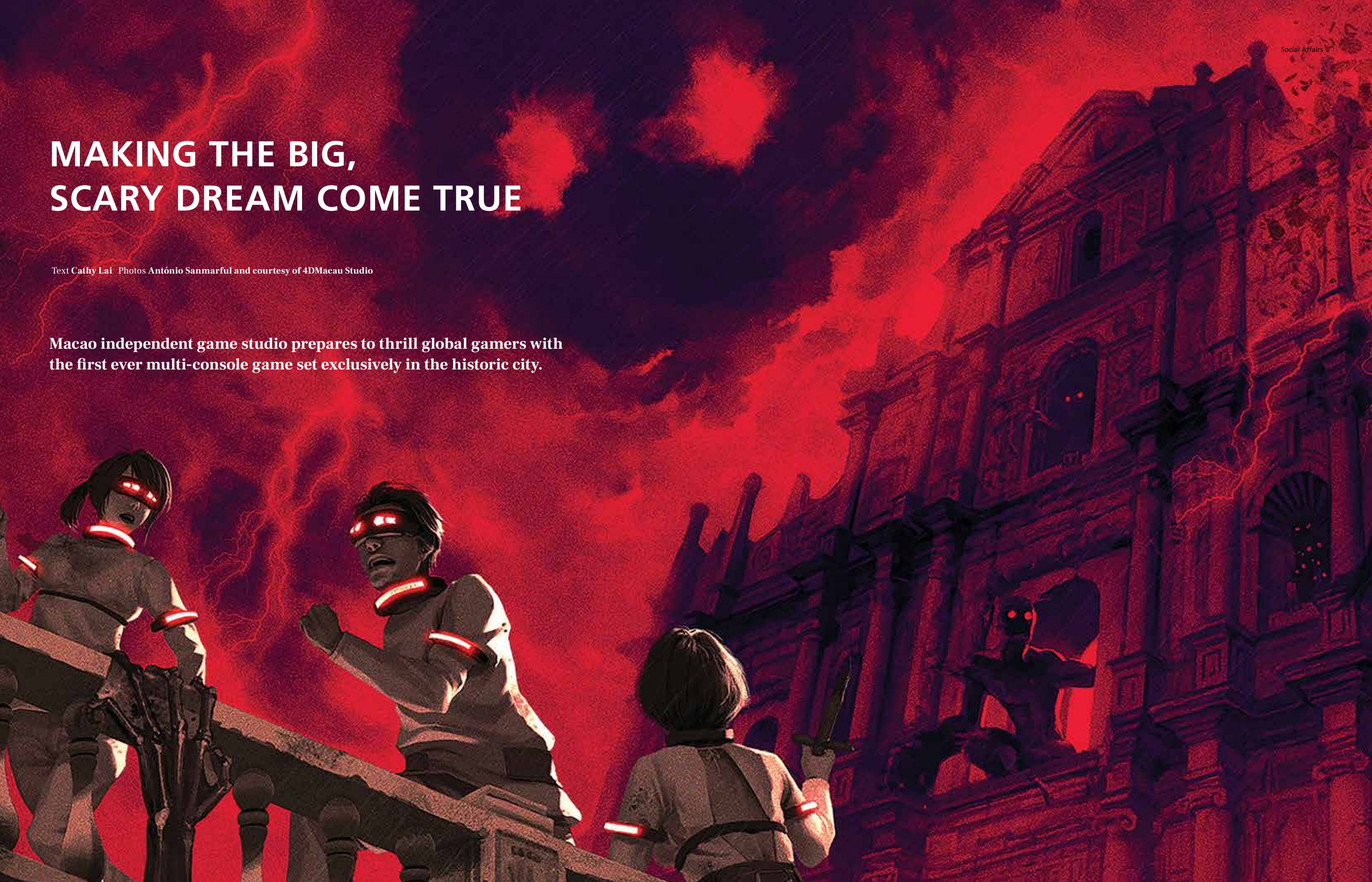
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# MAKING THE BIG, SCARY DREAM COME TRUE

Text Cathy Lai Photos António Sanmarful and courtesy of 4DMacau Studio

Macao independent game studio prepares to thrill global gamers with the first ever multi-console game set exclusively in the historic city.





In a booming economy like Macao, which is exploring the path to diversification, chances are high for university graduates to find a promising career opportunity, although not necessarily matching their college majors or personal interest.

Tony Lam, a programmer in his mid-30s, is no stranger to such a situation. In 2006, he graduated from the University of California, San Diego with a bachelor's degree in Computer Science. Upon returning to Macao, his hometown, he was hired by a local university as an administrative officer, and later on, joined the government department to work as a technician.

The jobs offered him stable income and a sense of security, he admitted, but it was not within his area of interest.

Lam did not put aside his passion for technological innovation. As an escape from the busy work week, he would spend much of his free time in a small studio on Travessa dos Santos playing video games with friends, a hobby he has had since childhood. More importantly, he kept writing codes and developing apps to ensure that his computer skills would not get rusty.

The juggle between his full-time job and personal interest continued for several years, until

he realised that the weekend escape could no longer satisfy his growing appetite. In 2016, he quit his job to focus fully on developing 4DMacau Studio. "At that time, I had already saved up some money. I believed I was ready to set up a company."

With 4DMacau Studio, Lam was determined to kick off a passion project that would require a fair bit of effort – he needed to build a team of talented artists and computer technicians, re-create Macao's historical cityscape, and even borrow the help of some horrifying creatures such as vampires, ghosts, and zombies. After all, if the dream doesn't scare you, it isn't big enough.



The A-Ma Temple

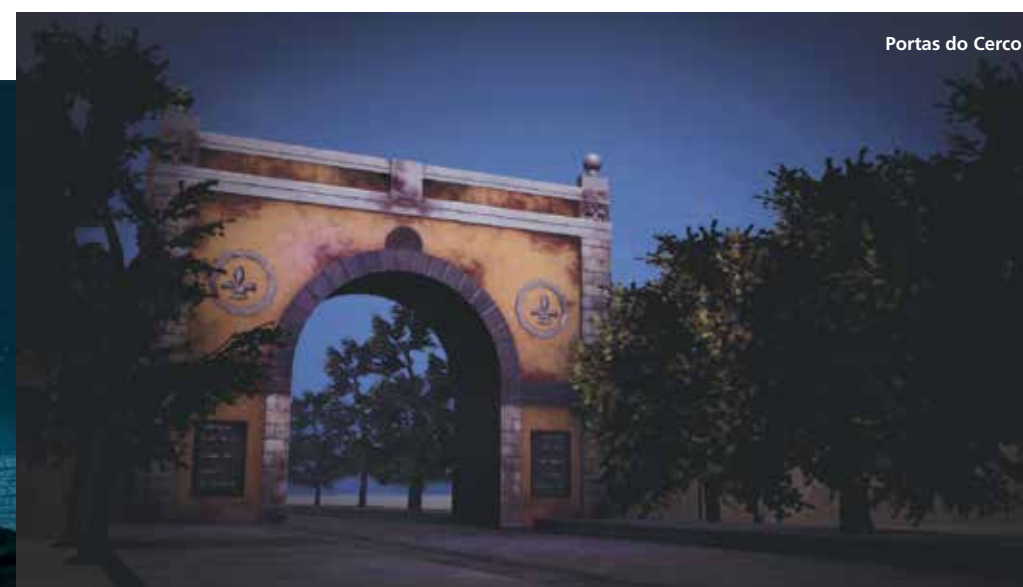
*Players form teams of three to face off against two opposing teams, each one working together to solve the puzzles – and survive.*

For instance, a five-minute walk from the historic Portas do Cerco will lead you to the Lin Fung Temple, also known as the meeting point between Lin Zexu and the Portuguese officials during his anti-opium campaign [in 1839]; and just a few blocks away from there is the murder site of Macao's former governor João Ferreira do Amaral [in 1849]. We are basically walking into history every day," he said.

Lam went on explaining that Fight the Horror comprised seven mystery stories based on the city's historical legends, including those mentioned previously. Players form teams of three to face off against two opposing teams, each one working together to solve the puzzles – and survive.

Curious gamers can get a glimpse into the dystopian Macao created by Lam's team in one trailer, where the usually bustling tourist area around the Ruins of St Paul's transforms into a dark, abandoned site.

Although designed to deliver thrills and terror, the game contains some elements that may put a smile on the faces of local players – Chinese waffle clips are weapons for fighting off monsters and consuming casino chips can improve energy levels.



Portas do Cerco

### The perfect setting

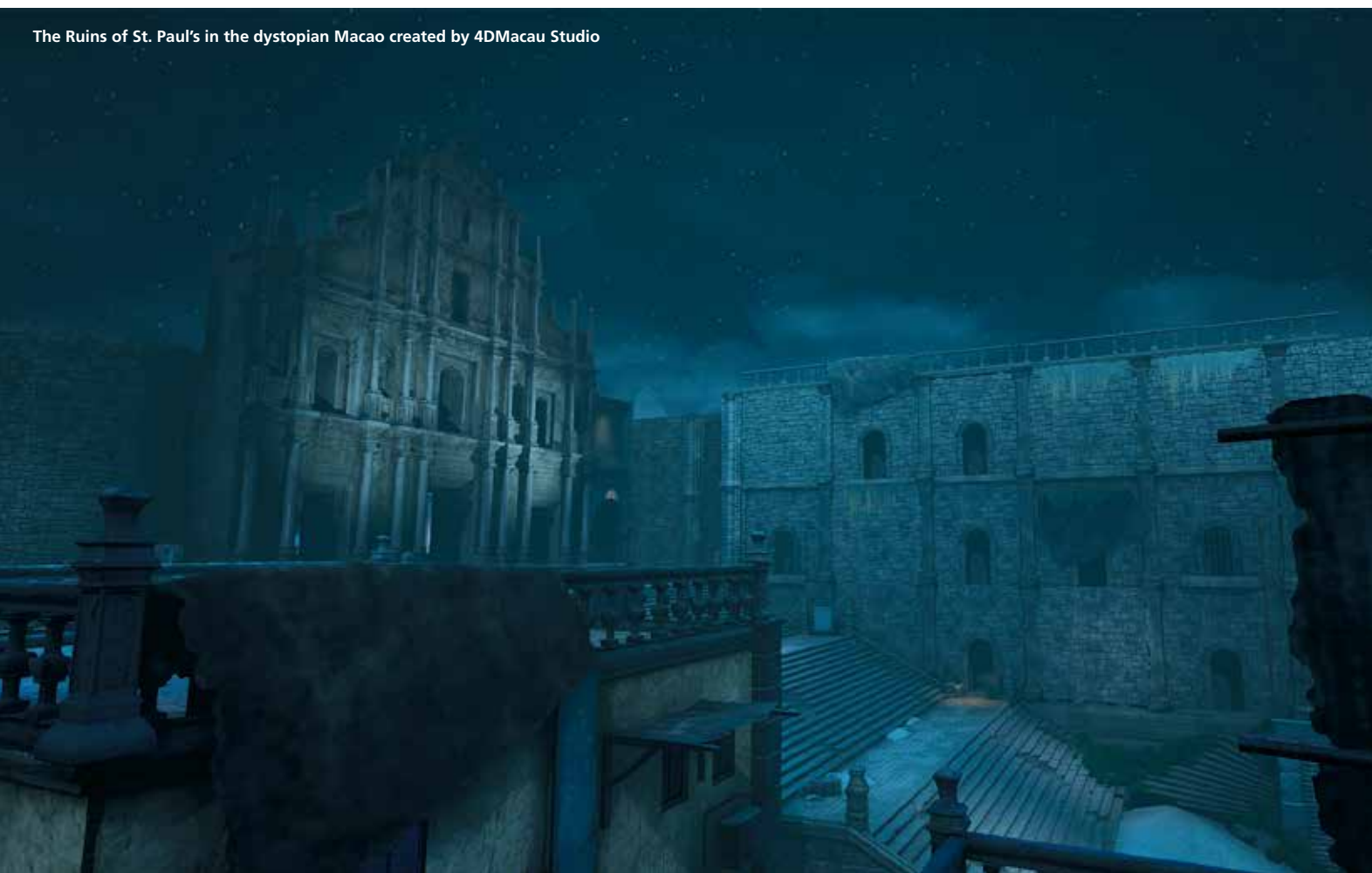
Since mid-2017, images and video clips of ghosts and demons invading Macao's historic landmarks have been spreading on social media, sparking interest and curiosity among netizens and video game players. They serve as the teasers for Lam's Fight the Horror, a multi-console game set to launch in December this year.

"If I can only do one game in my life, this will be it," he said. "I am one of those who love going into a haunted house to get scared. I love the excitement, and the props and decorations are just beautiful."

Being a great admirer of Macao's deep history and culture, Lam had no difficulties finding the perfect setting for his game.

"Macao is a very interesting place, full of stories and legends.

The Ruins of St. Paul's in the dystopian Macao created by 4DMacau Studio





“I had once heard people joking that Macao people grow up eating casino chips, because the casinos contribute a lot of tax revenue each year,” Lam laughed. By building a game filled with Macao’s cultural elements and promoting it to the outside world, Lam believes the game could inspire more people to explore beyond the glittering skyscrapers to discover a different side of Macao.

### Finding local talents

From arcade machines to affordable home consoles, video games have come a long way over the last several decades to become a multi-billion dollar business. In 2017, consumers around the world spent US\$108.4 billion on this popular form of entertainment. Home to around 600 million gamers, China emerged as the world’s leading market in 2017, worth US\$30 billion.

Meanwhile, the number of independent game studios – sometimes made up of just a handful of game developers – is on the rise elsewhere in the world, thanks to publishing platforms like Xbox Live Arcade and the App Store, and open access to game engines such as Unity and Unreal Engine.



Weapons and tools used in the game



Lin Zexu

In Hong Kong, where the industry is still in the beginning stage, game developers have enjoyed occasional successes over the past decade. For instance, Deadheads, released in 2017 by Cmun, stands out as a premier multiplayer first-person shooter for mobile phones. Story-based adventure game Get Rich or Die Gaming, released by Baller Industries in 2010, sold more than 100,000 copies.

In line with its endeavour in economic diversification, Macao is making initial steps to catch up with this global trend. In 2017, the city for the first time became a location for Global Game Jam, one of the world’s largest game creation events, bringing together dozens of local game developers to come under the challenge of creating a new game within 48 hours.

This may have raised the question among local game enthusiasts: when will Macao be ready to develop a full-fledged video game?

Tony Lam, as executive director of 4DMacau Studio, is seeking for an answer. When he started off building the team, he set a principle for himself: to hire only Macao people. “Because I wanted this game to be a Macao production,” he said.

According to Lam, universities in Macao do not provide courses directly related to game development, but design graduates and IT graduates actually have huge potential to be trained for this specific industry.

Bone Ng, a graduate of Design from Macao Polytechnic Institute, is an example. He worked as a computer hardware salesperson after graduating in 2015, but a passion for game development motivated him to learn 3D animation online. Two years later, Ng met Lam at the Macao Global Game Jam and was recruited as the creative director for 4DMacau Studio. His knowledge of arts and 3D animation enables Ng, who is also the lead 2D/3D artist, to ensure high-quality graphics in the game.

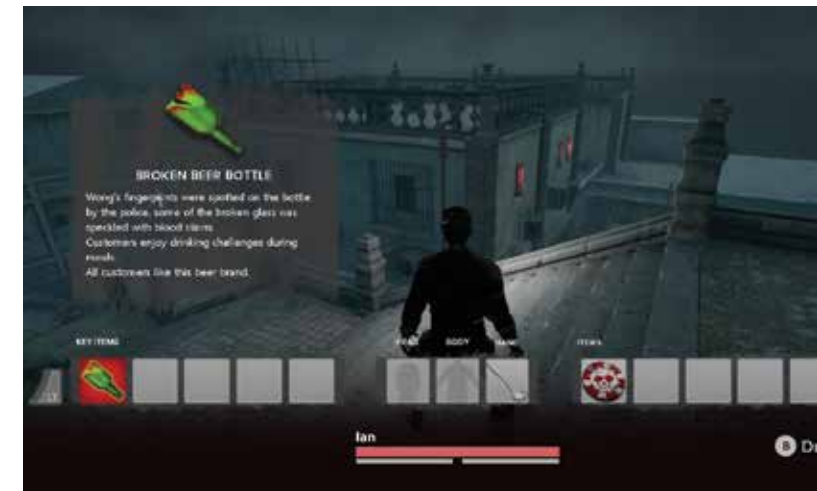
Through recommendations from friends and recruitment fairs at local universities, 4DMacau Studio gradually expanded into a team of 11 core staff, including Lam and Ng, plus other local specialists such as 3D artists, sound engineers and programmers, most graduates of Macao Polytechnic Institute.

According to Lam, the team has grown alongside the development of the game, as different specialisations were needed at different stages. However, the difficulties of finding local talents have never stopped giving him a headache.

“People with good skills may either be focusing on their own studios, or working in the IT departments of big companies,” he explained. “Besides, they are uncertain about the future of this business in Macao, because we don’t have any successful examples already.”

To optimise the quality of the game, Lam decided to establish an auxiliary office in Taiwan where he could recruit experienced game developers to join their team.

“I think I am only halfway to the goal of building a pure Macao team, but at least I have made sure that the core production of the game was done in Macao,” he reflected. “Now, my team and I are hoping to learn as much as we can from the experienced people in Taiwan, so that we can bring back those skills to Macao.”



Scenes from Fight the Horror



### A global vision

Looking back at the making of *Fight the Horror*, a process spanning more than a year, Lam is happy with all the breakthroughs his studio has achieved so far, as a small company starting from scratch.

This includes being authorised to launch the game on major console platforms, namely PS4, Xbox One and Nintendo Switch, which will come a few months after its initial release on PC in December.

Meanwhile, the team wasted no time in preparing the game to enter the global market. Attending international summits and exhibitions is part of the endeavour.

At Game Developers Conference, one of the world's largest professional game industry events which took place in San Francisco this March, 4DMacau Studio was among the 550 leading technology companies – alongside the likes of Amazon and Sony – to showcase its latest game development.

It was also selected as one of the ten exhibitors to pitch their games to a panel of investors and publishers. To Lam, it was an experience that required the same amount of courage for “running naked.”

“It was like performing on the stage of *American Idol*; you would receive a lot of harsh comments,” he recalled. “However, I couldn’t worry too much. After all, who knows when the next Macao local will get to stand on that stage?”

Encouragement kept coming as they received compliments from big developers at the conference, including a leading Japanese company whose name they preferred not to reveal.

“I thought they were hoping to sell us some services or resources when they approached us, but then we realised that they actually wanted us to help them develop a game.”



4DMacau Studio



Tony Lam (left) and Bone Ng (right)



Sketches of ghostly creatures in *Fight the Horror*



Lam pitching his game to a panel of investors and publishers at Game Developers Conference

Although he had to decline the invitation due to the lack of manpower, such a significant acknowledgement of their capability kept the whole team in high spirits for months, Lam said.

With only several months left before the launch of *Fight the Horror*, Lam and his team are now looking for publishers to promote and distribute the game on a global scale. “I think we should look beyond Macao into the overseas market,” Lam said. “We will first focus on Europe and the United States, and Japan will be the next.”

Lam revealed that the studio would soon kick off a big round of promotion, which includes building a multi-player demo and inviting more YouTubers to try it out.

To Lam and his team, there is a purpose beyond profit that keeps them motivated. “It is not just about this game. It is about the whole industry,” he explained. “If we can make it a success, people will start to believe in this industry, and by then, we will see more studios appear in Macao.” ●



## Sports

# Raising the bar for sports

Text Cathy Lai and Mariana César de Sá Photos António Sanmarful

**In an interview, Sports Bureau President Pun Weng Kun shared how Macao is strengthening its sports sector – from developing new facilities to organising international sports events to creating subsidy schemes to fully finance citizens who want to become professional athletes.**

**When you took office two years ago, the Sports Bureau set organising large sports events, training local athletes, and expanding Macao's public sports facilities as key priorities. What are the most significant accomplishments the Sports Bureau has achieved so far?**

I took up the post in the first half of 2016, and have been working on several directions. Firstly, the focus has been on how to improve athletes' ability to increase their participation in international sports events. Secondly, how to increase, and improve sports facilities and venues. Thirdly, the hosting of large-scale sports events such as the Wushu Masters Challenge. It was a challenging task as it was the first time we organised such an event, but we received support

all around – from our colleagues to different parties. This year, we are entering the third year of organising this event and we feel a lot more prepared and confident after two years of hard work.

We have continuously tried to push for an increase in the number of events, be they car races or marathons, because our team members are very collaborative and professional.

By using these events as a platform, other than the sports tourism element, we also added cultural and creative elements to our events to add diversity. Also, through our large-scale sports events, we hope to benefit different industries in Macao. In the past two years, we have noticed more businesses and industries have become involved with our events –

I believe this is because each event has at least 10,000 participants and can be a great platform for them.

**The Wushu Masters Challenge is in third year now. Has it grown? And will any new elements be added to make it more diverse?**

When we organised the Wushu Masters Challenge the first year, we were both familiar and not familiar with it. We were familiar because we fully understood Chinese Wushu as a sport, but the question was how to link different activities together in the four-day schedule for Macao's citizens and tourists. During our first year, we were still exploring. Now, we have reached the third year and our event has become more established and internationally recognised.

At the end of 2017, the





International Wushu Federation (IWUF) approached us in the hopes of including the World University Wushu Championship at the event. This will be the first-ever such championship worldwide. The IWUF will be joining the championship to learn more about it and holding their board meeting during our event. This is extremely encouraging to us because it shows that we are internationally recognised and that we have been successful thus far.

**You mentioned many large-scale events have included cultural and creative elements. In fact, Macao has given high-priority status to the cultural and creative industries. In your opinion, what are the possible synergies between the cultural and creative industries and sports?**

There are infinite opportunities for collaboration. Macao has a lot of young people and many of them are talented in these aspects. But in the past, they may have been hindered by the fact that there were too few platforms for them. In the past two years, they have observed that our platform, compared to others, has a larger visitor flow and the internationalism of the events is significantly higher. Whether it is for the products from the cultural and creative businesses, or other goods, these events are able to attract more people to visit or purchase their products. These events also serve as a showcasing platform to the world.

**How is the Athletes Training and Formation Center progressing? Are there any updates the Sports Bureau can share with us?**

The Macao athlete-training centre is a building that many people in the Macao sports circle



have wanted. However, the centre's construction is still in progress; we estimate that the first phase will be completed by October 2019. Of course, more time will be needed for the final round of completion, but by then we will be able to enter and use the training centre, which will be able to benefit more athletes.

**Could you give us an overview of the centre, details such as what types of events can be held and what kind of trainings can take place?**

Our training centre has three major functions. The first is the training stadium, which contains what we call "large spaces." These spaces will provide better conditions for all types of sports. Another element is the dormitory for athletes; we plan to be able to accommodate 300-400 athletes in this space, and of course a canteen will be included. We will also have a Sports Medicine Centre, which will be located in the training centre – we will have doctors specialised in sports medicine along with research experts.

**The Sports Bureau is negotiating with the University of Macau to utilise its facilities. Has the Sports Bureau reached any formal agreements?**

Yes, most of the sports facilities on the Hengqin campus have been open to the public or sports associations to use through the Public Sports Facilities Network – even their football and athletic fields will be solely managed by us. We will allocate the time slots for school trainings and for the Macao football team, for example.

“

*In the past two years, we have noticed more businesses and industries have become involved with our events.”*

Pun Weng Kun

**Will the 2018 Macau Grand Prix in November see significant changes?**

This year, the Macau Grand Prix is celebrating its 65th anniversary. We will have six races; three out of the six are world cup events, including Macau Formula Three Grand Prix with the FIA Formula Three World Cup, and the FIA GT World Cup.

We also have the Guia races, which we used to call WTCC but now call WTCR [World Touring Car Race] and the final round of the championship, which will also be held in Macao, because of the historical significance of the circuit here.

We have also prepared a series of celebration events such as branding November as the Car Racing Month. We will be continuing our auto show at Tap Seac Square while also adding new activities for parents and children. We hope to engage children from an early age to encourage their interest in Macao's car races. We are planning some opportunities

for participants to get up close to the Guia Circuit, maybe by organising some running events. We have never tried this before and we are still in the planning stages.

**Could you please share more information on the activities for parents and children?**

We would like to develop a simulation of the Guia Circuit for children at the Tap Seac Square. We have prepared some cars for them to experience it first hand. Parents will be able to join them in this simplified racecourse too. It's a concept under development but we hope that every citizen in Macao, no matter how old they are, be they adults or children, can participate and celebrate the 65th anniversary of Macau Grand Prix.

**The FIVB Women's Volleyball Nations League has just ended – has it fared well? Do you see any room for improvement at this event?**

Macao has been organising



women's volleyball competitions for 18 years and every year has also improved. In 2018, the format of the International Volleyball Federation changed and with it, the name also changed.

Before, competitions were held over a three-day weekend but from this year onwards the competitions will be held on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. When we started, we thought holding the event on weekdays would be challenging, but the results surprised us. Competitions held on weeknights attracted more audiences to watch onsite – especially during the last day of the event, it was a full house – creating a very different, and significantly more optimistic, atmosphere on the courts.

**How many international sports events does Macao participate in and will this number increase? Do local athletes face any challenges when competing abroad?**

It is hard work for Macao athletes as many of them are amateurs. They train or attend competitions after school or work, but the Sports Bureau has tried to be supportive to every sports association to encourage them to participate in different international competitions.

It's hard to estimate the number of competitions we have attended; on 18 August this year, Macao will be participating in the Asian Games, which will be held in Jakarta, Indonesia. We have a delegation size of more than 160 athletes competing in 16 sports. We carefully selected these 16 sports. Our technical committee selects the attending athletes based on their performance during their trainings and

international competitions. We have expectations, but also don't want to put too much pressure on them.

**What does the Sports Bureau envision for Macao's future sports development?**

There are two aspects of Macao's sports development: one is competitive sports and the other one is sports for all.

We have a grand mission for sports for all. We hope to attract more citizens to participate in sports, which can help improve their health.

***We hope to encourage athletes, if they can, to become full-time athletes during their golden period, or almost full-time athletes.***

Pun Weng Kun

As for competitive sports, we are actually facing great challenges. Macao's population size is small; to select elite athletes is not that easy. Unlike other countries with millions or hundreds of millions of people, we only have hundreds of thousands of people. Luckily, Macao athletes work very hard. In some particular sports, they can be more outstanding, and we try to give them resources to better support them. For example, for sports like martial arts, diving, etc... where athletes show greater potential, the Sports Bureau is willing to

train them full-time and provide them with full support.

**What type of support can the Sports Bureau offer citizens who are interested in becoming full-time athletes? Can you provide some examples?**

One plan is to support current athletes; we allocate allowances according to their competing level. For an athlete new to the training team – mostly made up of youngsters – we are talking about an allowance of a few hundred dollars per months, we hope this allowance will encourage them to keep it up.

For other athletes we are talking about MOP20,000 (US\$2,475) or 30,000 (US\$3,717) per month. This allowance is solely for them; the Sports Bureau still fully covers coach fees and outbound trainings.

We often say that an athlete's golden period is not very long and wonder, what should they do after retirement? We offer a subsidy scheme for retired athletes. We hope to encourage athletes, if they can, to become full-time athletes during their golden period, or almost full-time athletes. Upon their retirement, we provide some perks for them. For example, after their athletic careers, we hope they can pursue advanced studies, hopefully go back into universities.

We will cover their tuition fees for the duration of their university degrees. We will also continue to provide them the allowance they received prior to their retirement. We fully subsidise them. We hope they don't have to worry much about their living costs, and they can pursue a university degree, which can provide for a better future life. ●

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# From small beginnings come great things

Text Inara Sim Photos António Sanmarful

**Adding fun to a powerful sport, the Bats pave the way for the future of rugby in Macao.**



## The Bats put Macao Rugby on the map

If you're a sports fan in Macao, chances are you tune in to football and basketball games for your weekly sports fix. The little-known sport of rugby is more associated with prep schools and elite colleges, and the smaller-scale sports fields in Macao bear little resemblance to the sprawling manicured lawns of the English boarding school where the sport was born. But with the stellar rise of local junior rugby team, the Macau Bats, things could be set to change. From scrums to rucks to mauls, the sport's physical and fast-paced nature has children in Macao hooked.

### Starting small

In January 1996, the Macao Rugby Union was founded by a group of Portuguese friends and avid rugby players in support of the Portuguese National team who had been invited to join the Hong Kong Sevens rugby tournament. Responding to a noticeable absence of many sports-related activities for children in Macao, the junior club was established in 2008. Only a handful of children attended the first training session. Today, the Macau Bats boast 130 players across seven age groups, ranging from Under-6s to Under-16s.

What began as a small team of children keen to get outside and burn off steam, the Bats have transitioned from a predominantly expat base to a diverse group of children with a strong local presence. Drive by the Taipa stadium on a Saturday morning, and you will see scores of parents lining the sidelines, a far cry from their early days.

"It was very small in the beginning," recalled Simon Carrington, former club president



Donald Shaw, Macau Bats President

and current U-12s coach. "It was basically just a group of kids throwing a ball around." Although his children have now left Macao to study abroad, Carrington continues to devote his time to the club he helped foster. "For me, it's all about the journey," he said. "Watching it grow from nothing to what we have today has been a real privilege."

### State of play

These days, if you live in Macao, especially Taipa, chances are you know a parent or child involved with the Bats. "There was a time when rugby was kind of stuttering in Macao," said current Bats president, Donald Shaw. "Simon did a great job in developing the club over the past few years, and that's definitely one of the reasons that we are now sitting in a much stronger position in terms of numbers." Like most of the parents involved, Shaw started out as a dad on the sidelines. "I

***What began as a small team of children keen to get outside and burn off steam, the Bats have transitioned from a predominantly expat base to a diverse group of children with a strong local presence.***





Jason Lam



Ziva Fernando



Nigel Ng

managed to stay there for a few weeks,” he laughed. “You go from fetching the ball to offering a hand to organise matches, and before you know it, you’re a part of it.”

While children in Macao may not be able to escape cultural pressures to succeed within an increasingly competitive education system, it’s refreshing to know that the Bats’ main focus is fun. “We’ve tried really hard to make it fun and entertaining for the kids, because they won’t enjoy it and won’t want to come back if you don’t,” said Shaw. “Clearly we’ve got to make it as positive as we can and make it something the kids want to do.”

Fellow dad and coach, Matt Birkwood, agrees. “It’s all about getting the kids involved,” he said. “They might not even touch a ball for the first six games, but they build confidence and start to feel like a part of a team.” Heartwarmingly, most of the younger children don’t even know – or care – if they win or lose. Birkwood summed it up nicely: “All they care about is the fact that they had a great morning running around throwing a ball with their friends.” The club tries to maintain a strong focus on their five core principles: teamwork, sportsmanship, respect, fitness, and fun.

Traditionally a male-dominated sport, the Macau Bats welcome both boys and girls to

Alix Fernando



participate. “We have about 10 girls spread across the teams,” noted Shaw. “They all hold their own, and in certain cases, they are the star players.” Boys or girls, competitive or not, the joy the children get from playing is evident when asked about playing for the Bats.

“Playing rugby makes me so happy,” said Ziva Fernando, who plays in the U-7s. “I feel really proud to play for Macau Bats when we go to Hong Kong.”

Teammate Nigel Ng agreed, “The Hong Kong teams can be hard to play against. I love it when we can beat them!”

Jason Lam, also from the U-7s, loves everything about it. “I’m excited to play rugby,” he said. “I want to try to score, I want my team to win and I want to have fun with my friends.”

“

*I’ve seen them become bolder, braver, make personal breakthroughs and learn to play the game with intelligence and teamwork, even at such a young age. It’s a real joy to see.*

Alix Fernando

As the number of players has increased, so has the coaching side. “We’ve got 28 coaches now, about 4 at each age group,” said Shaw. “We put them through training and coaching courses to learn the technicalities, but

sometimes it’s just about having extra hands and helping to encourage the kids.”

Like most of the parents, this is U-7s coach Alix Fernando’s first time coaching. “I’ve discovered I have a real passion for it,” she said. “I’ve been coaching this group since some of them were four years old and their progress is immense. I’ve seen them become bolder, braver, make personal breakthroughs and learn to play the game with intelligence and teamwork, even at such a young age. It’s a real joy to see.”

The coaches, along with the small administrative team, all volunteer their time for the club, so local and corporate sponsors offer great financial support. “As long as there is good coming out of it, they are happy to back us,” Shaw said. “Their support is great.”







### Hong Kong connection

Despite the growing popularity of rugby in Macao, there is still a deficit of players to constitute regular local matches. Because of this, the Bats have been ‘adopted’ by Hong Kong Rugby Union, and are now associated with the Hong Kong mini-tournaments. The teams make the trek to Hong Kong about once a month to play matches against Hong Kong teams.

“It’s a real competitive rugby experience for them,” Shaw said. “Once we get the kids and the parents experiencing a rugby festival in Hong Kong, it’s like a conversion. The level of enthusiasm and competitiveness just skyrockets.”

“Hong Kong has so many hundreds of kids to choose from, they have up to five or six teams at each age group,” added Fernando. “We have one team for each age group. Macao is teeny by comparison, so we really are making a serious mark when we are beating strong Hong Kong teams.”

As well as Hong Kong matches, the Bats also take part in regional tournaments, which have seen the group travel to Kuala Lumpur, and more recently, Bangkok for the International Rugby 10s tournament. The U-12 team entered as unknown underdogs and almost won in their division, only just being beaten in the final moments by the favourites, the KL Tigers. “It’s a real fantastic experience for them,” said Shaw. “They really come back buzzing.”

### Bright futures

Fifteen-year-old Daniel Estadieu has been playing with the Bats since he was six years old and is now one step closer to his dream of becoming a professional rugby player. After nine years at the club, he will leave next season to attend a rugby academy in France.

“It has been such an honour to play with the Bats,” he reflected. “Not only have I made great friends, I’ve learned that if you want something, you need to work hard for it. I hope I can take everything I’ve learned from my time with the Macau Bats and bring it to the game in France.”

### China’s growing interest in rugby

Eager to expand into new territory, World Rugby has set its sights on China. In 2016, they teamed up with Chinese conglomerate Alibaba, whose sports division announced a US\$100-million investment in Chinese rugby. With promises of professional leagues, lucrative Sevens tournaments, and possible Olympic rugby medals, they’re aiming high: one million people playing the sport in China within the next 5-10 years.

Shaw has seen the shift in China’s interest. “China is very positive towards rugby now, especially as rugby is now an Olympic sport, they’re really getting behind that,” he explained. “We’ve had a few Chinese teams playing in Macao. As time goes on, China will want to see Hong Kong, Macao, and the mainland more involved.

“If you grow the grassroots, who knows where it might lead,” he added. “The objective is to just keep growing the numbers and keep the kids coming in. We’re getting a lot more of the local kids involved, and in the end, that has to be the future of the club.” ●

Macao Bats 4th Annual Mini Rugby Festival



# Serbia's Women National Team wins Macao pool of Volleyball Nations League

Text and Photos Courtesy of Volleyball Nations League (FIVB)

The Serbia women's national volleyball team won the Macao pool of the first Fédération Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB) Volleyball Nations League (VNL) after beating China, Poland, and Thailand during the tournament that was held in Macao in May.

Serbia beat Thailand (3-1), Poland (3-1) and China (3-1), commanding wins that netted the team a maximum nine points – three per match – toward their pool ranking.

Having dominated in Macao, Serbia moved to third within the overall standings in week two of the competition. Tijana Boskovic gave the top performance for Serbia with 25 spikes, 5 blocks – a team record – and 2 aces. Overall, scoring an impressive 32 points.

China placed eighth, a win over Thailand and narrow loss to Poland, earning them four points toward their pool ranking. Gong Xiangyu led China with 11 spikes, a block, and an ace.

The VNL is a new competition launched by the FIVB in 2018 for the top men's and women's national teams in the world. It comprises a total of 16 teams for each gender, 12 core teams and 4 challenger teams.

For the women's competition, Brazil, Italy, China, Serbia, Thailand, Turkey, South Korea, Germany, Japan, Russia, the Netherlands, and the US form the 12 core countries.

Argentina, Poland, Belgium, and the Dominican Republic have been selected as challenger teams.

The Preliminary Round of the inaugural 2018 VNL ran from 15 May until 14 June for the women. Each team plays against the other 15 teams once for a total of 120 matches, before entering the Finals, where 10 matches will determine which of the 6 competing teams take home a medal.

Each core nation hosts at least one pool, and the host country for the Finals will be guaranteed a chance to compete for gold. This year, China hosted the Finals in Nanjing, 27 June-1 July.

Macao has held 21 editions of the FIVB Women's Volleyball World Grand Prix from 1994 to 2017. ●



Serbia - Thailand game



China - Poland game



Serbia National Team



Chinese Team



Polish Team



Thai team



# Riding the waves

Text **Cathy Lai** Photos **António Sanmarful and H. K. Chan**



**Macao's wakeboarding tournament is the first stop of the 2018 Asian Wake Series, with over 90 riders from seven countries.**

The ferry ride between Macao and Hong Kong became more interesting than ever over the last weekend of May, as passengers who looked out of the windows were likely stunned to see some spectacular wakeboarding spins.

The three-day event, 25–27 May, welcomed international wakeboard riders to Macao's waterfront for the first time, as the city hosted the inaugural Macao Wakeboard & Wakesurf Open.

The tournament served as the first stop of the 2018 Asian Wake Series, drawing the participation of 90 riders from seven countries and cities including Macao, Hong Kong, Taiwan, China, South Korea, Japan, and Singapore.

However, even those who turned out to catch the competition may not know about the heroes behind the scenes who brought this international sporting event to their home town.

"It has been ten years since my friends and I established a wakeboard club to bring together like-minded people who love the sport. We practice on the waters near Hac Sac Beach on a weekly basis," said Ricki Sio, head of the Macau Wake Trace wakeboard club.

"This year, we believed we were ready to host a tournament."

According to Sio, it took the club more than a year and a half to prepare for the event, from setting the venue and inviting players from different countries, through to securing sponsors, professional MCs, and judges.

But their hard work paid off, as the event delighted spectators and challenged players as they kicked off the four-part series.

Held at Fisherman's Wharf Park, the tournament was divided into nine contest divisions, with the Men's Open being the most anticipated session, as the anything-goes final ended with a battle among top riders from Japan and Korea.

However, the competition venue – located just hundreds of metres away from the busy waterway of Outer Harbour Ferry Terminal – created a fair number of challenges, even for the most experienced riders.

"Wakeboarding requires relatively calm waters, so that riders can perform tricks on the waves generated by the towboats," Sio explained. "We saw a lot of good riders falling off the wakeboards here, because the ferries traveling nearby were generating a lot of turbulence."

The challenging conditions attested to the skills of the winning riders, including Yu Hamazaki, a competitor from Japan with multiple champion titles. Finishing various elaborate spins and flips along a designated track of 750 metres, he was crowned Men's Open champion with a score of 88 – the perfect gift for his 17th birthday the following day.

The champion title of Women's Open went to Hinata Yoshihara, also from Japan. She scored 71.67 to defeat four other players, all from Hong Kong, in the final.





Other contest divisions included Men's and Women's Novice and Intermediate, as well as Men's Advanced, allowing riders of different levels to compete for titles. They ranged from prodigies who became title-holders at a very young age to late bloomers who prove that it is never too late to try a new sport.

Yang Yu Yeh, who just turned 11, was one of the youngest contestants in the tournament. Competing with adult riders from Hong Kong, Korea and Taiwan, he won the first runner-up title of Men's Intermediate.

According to his mother, Daisy Chen, founder of Mosquito Wakeboard Club in Taiwan, Yang has been practicing wakeboarding for four years and has previously won first places at tournaments held in Jiangsu, Hong Kong and Japan.

Meanwhile, Vong Chi Wing from Macao was named the top local rider after scoring 79.69 points to obtain the first runner-up title of Men's Novice. At the age of 41, he started wakeboarding three years ago and became obsessed with it:

"It is such an exciting sport. I will continue for as long as I can."  
Unfortunately, for dedicated wakeboard riders, Macao may not provide favourable training conditions, as most of its waters are not deep enough to support inboard towboats that can generate big waves, especially during low tides.  
Coreen Choi, chief designer of the tournament and the local female rider with the highest score, pointed to the importance of training in China or Hong Kong on a regular basis.

"The waterfront of Fisherman's Wharf is one of the few locations in Macao that can accommodate an inboard boat," she explained. "But for normal practices, we travel to the waters near Hac Sac Beach. We can use an outboard boat there, which generates smaller waves than inboard boat and thus the variety of tricks we can perform is restricted."

"It is a sport that requires a fair amount of time and money, and carries some risks of physical injury," Sio added. "That's why we often see people come and go."  
He went on, explaining the injuries he had suffered throughout the years, obstacles that did not deter him from pursuing improvement. "Because it's like a constant pursuit of a girl, who will never give you everything," he smiled. "There is no limit to this sport; you will always find room to make a breakthrough."

As the tournament ended, Sio was happy to see how much both the riders and spectators had enjoyed the event. It certainly boosted his confidence in organising a second tournament next year.

"We want to let people know how amazing wakeboarding is," said Sio – the yells and applause following each stunning spin proved that they succeeded. ●



Hinata Yoshihara (left) and Yu Hamazaki (right)



Ricki Sio (left) and riders



Coreen Choi (second from right) won fourth place in Women's Novice



Culture

# Chagall's whimsical imagery at our fingertips

Text Mark O'Neill   Photos António Sanmarful

**Chagall exhibition transports museum visitors to southern France.**

The Macao Museum of Art (MAM) is showing an exhibition that transports visitors thousands of kilometres away to the southern coast of France, inviting them to experience the sharp light, deep-sea blue, and rich colours of the Mediterranean through the work of an iconic artist.

The exhibition “Marc Chagall, Light and Colour in Southern France” showcases more than 100 works by Russian-French artist Marc Chagall, one of the most versatile and prolific artists of the 20th century. Active well into his 90s, Chagall created a major solo exhibition at the Pompidou

Centre in 1994, a year before his death.

Born in the Russian Empire, in what is now Belarus, Chagall spent decades chasing his dream (and surviving turmoil) around the world. He began his art career with a move to the heart of the Russian Empire, then France, Germany, the Soviet Union and the US, before settling permanently in southern France in 1948. He also travelled in Europe and to Israel.

Decades of travel provided him with a rich understanding of landscape, geography, colour and painting styles, all of which are in evidence in the exhibition.







Entrance to the Marc Chagall exhibition

“I have travelled widely and visited many countries,” he once said. “I have travelled many roads, across the globe in my search for colour and light.” In 1950, he purchased a property in Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat on the Cote d’Azur, a part of France he would call home for the rest of his life.

It is the works of this period that are on display at the museum. They include landscapes, flowers, trees, and scenes of southern France. He was inspired by the deep blue of the Mediterranean and the striking landscapes of the Cote d’Azur. “My heart waits and falls still. I can see the sun flowing. Its rays cover my face,” he wrote.

This is the first major exhibition of his works in Macao, and highlights the incredible diversity of his creations – from

oils to stained glass, gouaches to costumes, lithographs to tapestries— Chagall did it all.

### A touch of France in Macao

The exhibition opened on 1 June and runs until 26 August. It is open to the public, free of charge, with Cantonese-language tours available every Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

A highlight for both the 29th Macao Arts Festival and the 2018 Le French May, the exhibit was organised by MAM, the Macao Government Tourism Office and the Macao Foundation. Additional help was provided by the Musée National Marc Chagall in Nice, Opéra National de Paris, in collaboration with Bouquinerie de l’Institut, Cécile Léon Art Projects

in Paris, and the generous support of the Chagall Estate.

At the opening ceremony, Paule Ignatio, acting consul general of France in Hong Kong and Macao, said that the exhibition allowed visitors, “to get a glimpse of this beautiful region that he loved, through his very special touch.”

Ambre Gauthier, co-curator of the exhibition, reflected on what might have been: “Marc Chagall travelled a lot during his life but never went as far as Asia. My feeling is that, influenced by many cultures, he would certainly have enjoyed and appreciated Macao as I do. Inspired by the Mediterranean atmosphere that one can feel in Macao, I decided to present artworks created during the 20 peaceful years he spent in the south of France.”

### A winding road

Chagall was born Moyshe Shagal in 1887, the eldest of nine children of a poor Jewish family in Vitebsk, a city in what is now Belarus. He developed an intense interest in art at a young age. When his mother tried to enroll him in the local Russian high school, she was informed that government schools did not admit Jews. Without hesitation, she offered the headmaster 50 roubles – an incredible sum – to admit the 13-year-old boy; he accepted.

There was no art of any kind in the family home. While difficult, his time at the school proved pivotal in the artistic life of Chagall; when the young man saw someone draw, “it was like a vision, a revelation in black and white.” From 1906 to 1910, he studied art in the imperial capital of Saint Petersburg. First, at the school of the Imperial Society of the Protection of Fine Arts, then at the progressive Zvantseva School of Drawing and Painting. Since Jews were not allowed in the capital without an internal passport, Chagall obtained a temporary one

from a friend.

In 1910, he left Saint Petersburg for the capital of the art world: Paris. In this new atmosphere of freedom, he continued to study and painted constantly, melding avant-garde French influences with a gift for colour and emotional resonance, humour and unashamed sentiment not found in the city’s art scene. It was during this period that he adopted the more French-sounding moniker, Marc Chagall.

Chagall travelled to Germany in 1914 for his first solo exhibition, staying until it opened in June.

Art pieces in Chagall’s exhibition







1. *Boy among Flowers*, 1955. Gouache, watercolour and India ink on Japan paper  
2. *Preparatory Gouache for Siren and Fish*, 1956–60. Gouache and pastel on paper  
3. *Battle of the Flowers*, 1967. Lithograph engraved by Charles Sorlier under the direction of Marc Chagall  
4. *Paradise*, 1961. Oil on hardboard

Longing to see his fiancée again, he left Berlin for Vitebsk, planning to stay a short time before taking his new wife to Paris. But when the Russian Empire entered World War I the same year, Chagall found himself unable to leave. He continued working, building his reputation through exhibitions in Moscow and Saint Petersburg, before transitioning into the bureaucratic and academic sides of art in the wake of the October Revolution of 1917.

In 1923, he finally returned to Paris; a stopover in Berlin revealed that the many works he'd left for exhibition before WWI had been lost. In the late 1920s, he visited the south of France for the first time, basking in the vivid colours and beautiful landscapes of the Mediterranean coast.

Chagall spent many productive years in France, occasionally travelling outside for exhibitions and other projects, before conflict intruded once again. Hitler came to power not long after Chagall began work on his Bible illustrations, a project that took the artist to Israel for two months in 1931; the series would not be completed until 1956.

The Jewish artist lived under Nazi occupation in France for a year before escaping with his wife to the US in June 1941; their daughter and her husband followed. Chagall would not return to Paris until 1948.

In the 1950s, after receiving French citizenship, he settled in southern France with his second wife; his first wife had died of an infection in 1944. Chagall would spend the rest of his life there, enjoying the lively art scene and temperate weather until his death in 1985 at 97 years old.

### Finding new light

For a life marked by so much conflict, Chagall's art "embodies a universal message of peace," according to the MAM. "Borrowing from many 20th-century art movements but never aligning with one, his oeuvre is distinct and instantly recognisable, with vivid colours and warm light inviting you on a journey to far and imaginary horizons."

He said that the intensity of the light in southern France had a profound effect on him. "Greece, where he travelled in 1952 and 1954, also became a source of inspiration. Colour, in an aesthetic and a symbolic sense, is essential to Chagall, an architecture within the composition and a vector of spirituality. A thematic renaissance was also to take shape, where

mythical beings, mermaids, fish and radiant suns adorn his creations, providing a Mediterranean aura to the paintings."

Works inspired by his visit to the Greek island of Poros appear in the exhibition, dominated by brilliant blues, as well as are also images of the Parthenon and the Acropolis. This type of ancient architecture, as well as mythological and Dionysian figures, musicians, fishermen, and fish are common themes in his work.

The exhibition includes costumes he designed for a new ballet, *Daphnis and Chloë*, set to the music of Ravel; he was also tasked with creating a series of lithographs on the same subject. The ballet premiered at the Brussels opera house La Monnaie in 1958. His designs for the sets and costumes were enriched with the strong light and deep blue he saw in Greece.



1. Costume for the role of Daphnis, 1958–59  
2. Costume for the role of Chloë, 1958–59



## Visual poetry

His travels imbued colour into his work but Chagall's Jewish heritage nurtured and shaped the poetic quality considered to be his greatest contribution to contemporary art.

"Since my early youth, I have been fascinated by the Bible," he wrote. "It has always seemed to me that it is the greatest source of poetry of all time. Since then, I have sought this reflection in life and in art. The Bible is like an echo of nature and this secret I have tried to transmit."

The exhibition contains a number of his compositions with Biblical themes: Moses before the burning bush, Moses striking the rock and receiving the Tablets of the Law, Jacob wrestling with the angel, and Noah and the rainbow.

In 1959, he was commissioned to create 12 stained glass windows for the synagogue of Hadassah University Medical Center in Jerusalem. Each window represents one of the 12 tribes of Israel, replete with symbolic elements – plants, animals, and colours – drawn directly from scripture and midrashim (ancient

“

*Since my early youth, I have been fascinated by the Bible. It has always seemed to me that it is the greatest source of poetry of all time.*

Marc Chagall

commentaries on Hebrew scripture). Chagall attended the unveiling in 1962. Photographs of the windows are on display in the exhibition.

In 1963, French Culture Minister André Malraux commissioned him to create a monumental piece for the ceiling of the Palais Garnier auditorium, a painting that would span 220 square metres to cover the original, created between 1869 and 1871.

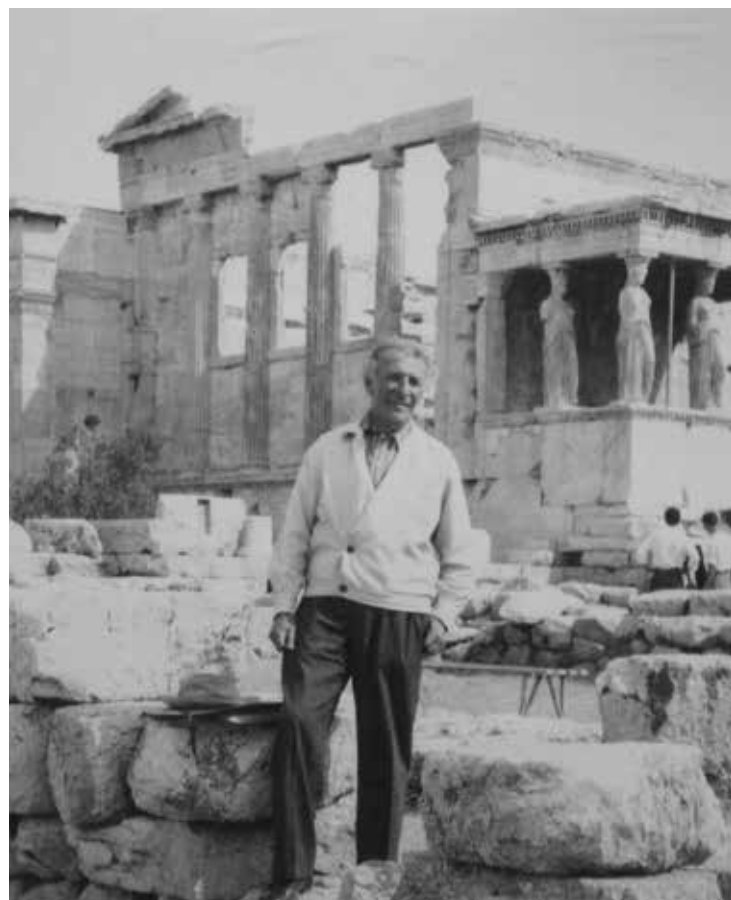
Then 77 years old, Chagall accepted the challenge and worked on the project for a year. His painting pays tribute to 14 composers and their works, with each of the five sections dominated by a brilliant hue of blue, green, white, yellow and red.

Inaugurated on 23 September 1964, the work defied early critics who felt a modern, non-French artist was a poor fit for this vaunted hall of French culture. But his sublime use of colour – blue for Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, green for Wagner's *Tristan and Isolde*, and so on – dazzled audiences and today it is one of the opera house's most popular attractions.

It was his most ambitious project in a lifetime of art, and appears in images at the MAM exhibition. In the late 1960s, the Louvre exhibited a collection of his work that would later be given its own museum in Nice, and his exhibition at the Grand Palais in Paris was opened by the French president.

So it's no surprise that in 1977, the French government awarded him the Grand-Croix de la Légion d'honneur, the country's highest honour. In 1984, he held a major solo exhibition – a retrospective spanning 76 years of work from the still-active artist – at the Pompidou Centre in Paris. The last surviving master of European modernism, Marc Chagall died on 28 March 1985, aged 97, at his home in Provence. ●

Marc Chagall in Greece (1952-54)



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History

# The Return of Nanhai No 1

Text **Mark O'Neill** Photos **António Sanmarful** and **Xinhua News Agency**

## Macao Museum exhibition spotlights landmark salvage.

The Macao Museum is showing an exhibition detailing the extraordinary story of how a fully loaded cargo junk of the Southern Song dynasty (1127–1279) was recovered from the bottom of the sea off the coast of Guangdong province, where it now sits on permanent display at the Maritime Silk Road Museum.

“Treasure from the Deep Sea – Exhibition of Underwater Archaeological Relics of the Nanhai No 1” opened 18 April and runs until 31 July.

The shipwreck, first discovered in 1987, remains the oldest and best-preserved junk ever found in the South China Sea. It sank in the waters between the islands of Shangchuan and Xiachuan, 20 nautical miles from the port of Dongping, on its way from China to India or the Middle East along the Maritime Silk Road. The three-masted Chinese junk measured 30.4 metres long with a capacity of around 200 tons, its hull loaded with tens of thousands of pieces of porcelain when it sank. Over the centuries, a thick layer of silt built up around the wreckage, helping to preserve the ship and its cargo.

In December 2007, after long and meticulous preparations, a 530-ton barge transported the shipwreck, secured inside a watertight steel caisson, from the sea floor to Hailing Island, a journey lasting four days. From there it was moved to a new museum, built specially to house the ship at a cost of nearly RMB200 million (US\$31 million), situated along one of the island’s many beaches. The intact salvage and excavation of the Nanhai (South China Sea) No 1 was the first operation of its kind in China’s history, and a landmark in underwater archaeology and marine engineering. Only a handful of shipwrecks worldwide have ever been salvaged while remaining intact.

Artifacts discovered on the Nanhai No 1 ship



### Bringing Nanhai No 1 to Macao

The exhibition exploring this landmark project is one of many events and activities scheduled this year to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Macao Museum. At the same time, having some of the treasures of Nanhai No 1 in Macao for the exhibition also served to strengthen ties. “This exhibition is in accord with cultural exchanges between the countries and regions in the Belt and Road Initiative, and within the co-operation framework

between Guangdong, Hong Kong, and Macao,” said Loi Chi Pang, director of the museum.

A visit to the museum in Yangjiang, which houses the wreck and the many objects unearthed from it, inspired Loi: “I saw the whole ship inside. It had a big impact on me so I had the idea of this exhibition. Many months were necessary to prepare for such an exhibition, between 6 and 12 months. I spoke with my colleagues and the executive committee of the museum, who approved the idea.”

Throughout its history, Macao was an important port on the Maritime Silk Road, which connected China to trading partners in Southeast and South Asia, as well as the Middle East, Africa, and Europe.

“It was not an easy exhibition to arrange. The significance was in the recovery and archaeology, a first in China. Our mission was to explain that to the public, how this had been achieved. We did a lot of research,” said Loi.

“The intact salvage of Nanhai No 1 was an enormous feat of engineering and proved extremely difficult. It involved



Loi Chi Pang, director of the Macao Museum





Artifacts recovered on Nanhai No 1

fighting against the elements and the mud surrounding the boat thick with the sediments coming back at the speed of 10cm a month, as well as the instability of the weather. The operation was followed closely at home and abroad.”

Macao Museum, through co-operation with the Maritime Silk Road Museum, is now the first institution outside the mainland to hold such an exhibition focused on this landmark underwater archaeological achievement.

### Southern Song turns to the seas

According to Loi, the Song dynasty, especially the Southern Song, was a turning point in China's foreign trade. “The main reason was war. The traditional Silk Road went west from Xi'an, and through Xinjiang, and two routes north and south of the Tarim Basin to Central Asia. But the Song dynasty had already lost control of this area, and had no alternative but to turn to the seas of the south.

“So it looked to Japan and Korea and south towards Southeast Asia and, through the Straits of Malacca, to India and Africa. The Song built large ports in Quanzhou, Mingzhou [now Ningbo] and Guangzhou to serve these markets,” he explained. “Quanzhou became one of the world's biggest ports, trading with more than 60 countries and regions, including Japan, Korea, Thailand, and Arabia.”

Nanhai No 1 set off from Quanzhou, laden with porcelain,

***Macao Museum is now the first institution outside the mainland to hold such an exhibition focused on this underwater archaeological achievement.***

mainly from the five most prominent kilns of the dynasty: Jingdezhen (Jiangxi province), Longquan (Zhejiang), Yi, Dehua and Cizao (Fujian). After a stop in Guangzhou, it departed for its final destination – possibly in India or the Middle East – only to sink in the nearby South China Sea, still within sight of shore. Experts believe the ship likely went down in a storm or capsized due to excess weight.

Initially estimated to carry between 60,000 and 80,000 items, experts now believe the total could be as high as 100,000. Astonishingly, when divers located the ship, they found the porcelain to be in perfect condition, many pieces still secured by ropes. On the underside of the porcelain, researchers found writing and serial numbers, allowing them to trace where the pieces came from. In the upper part of the shipwreck, they discovered a vast number of pans and nails, and excavations have since turned up hundreds of gold, silver and copper sets, and around 17,000 copper coins.

Other items found onboard, including a number of gold items and the skulls of two snakes, indicate the owner of the Chinese-style ship was likely Indian or Middle Eastern.

Loi said that the shipwreck illustrates the scale and model of trade during the Southern Song and how the Maritime Silk Road worked. “It opens a window on the exploration of the Maritime Silk Road.”

### Building an expansive exhibition

More than simply presenting some of the many treasures recovered from the ship, Macao Museum wants visitors to appreciate the decade-long process to recover Nanhai No 1 intact. “We want people to see the story behind the exhibition,” said Loi, a goal that took time and money.

“We spent over a year preparing it. There is much more material than we can show in our exhibition rooms. Hence we created a QR code that people can scan to get a better understanding of the story of the story online. The organisation cost around MOP3 million (US\$372,000), more than other exhibitions.”

Response has been excellent: in the first 10 days, 14,000 people came. Mainland visitors dominated the weekday crowds while more Macao people came on the weekends. “People from Guangdong knew about the shipwreck. Some from Heilongjiang province had never seen the sea. They were very excited.”

Visitors can see a model of the junk made by a top craftsman in Macao. The original ship was built around 1216, a medium-sized merchant vessel with three masts and the type of watertight bulkhead characteristic of a Fuchuan junk. While junks have been around since the third century AD, little is known about Chinese ship building and navigation techniques during this important period in the country's maritime history, making Nanhai No 1 an especially significant find.

The exhibition also includes examples of many kinds of porcelain that the junk was carrying, as well as some of the equipment used by divers and the archaeological team for this unique project.

Small-scale replica of the Nanhai No 1 ship







The Guangdong Maritime Silk Road Museum (Nanhai No 1 Museum) in Yangjiang, Guangdong province

## Reclaiming a piece of maritime history

Raising an 800-year-old ship from the sea floor, intact, with nearly 200 tons of fragile cargo, was no mean feat. Excavations of the wreck remained limited for decades after its discovery, but in 2001, with funding and a team in place, the long process of recovery began. The dive team found that the shipwreck's structure was complete and the wood in good condition, so it was decided that the whole ship would be recovered.

In November 2003, the Guangdong provincial government decided to build the Maritime Silk Road Museum in Yangjiang, as a permanent home for the shipwreck after its intact salvage.

In May 2007, a large floating rig with a powerful crane built in Shanghai at a cost of RMB600 million (US\$93.51 million), then the largest of its kind in Asia, was ready. With it launched a barge costing RMB70 million (\$10.91 million); it would house the caisson

containing the shipwreck and take it on land.

At the site, the crane carefully lowered the steel caisson 24 metres below the surface, placing it alongside positioning piles, to surround the hull on five sides. The open bottom was then sunk into the surrounding mud using massive concrete weights. Workers then spent two months excavating the mud around the caisson to insert bottom-supporting steel beams, completely encasing the sunken vessel.

Once secured, the sacrificial base beneath the beams was cut free and the watertight container – steel, ship, silt, and seawater dangerously close to the barge's 5,000-ton limit – was raised to the surface. After nine months of painstaking preparations, on 21 December, the final lift was completed in just a day and favourable weather conditions allowed the barge to begin the four-day trip to shore.

From the beach where it landed, the caisson was then transported

to the nearby museum by way of enormous marine airbags, along with wooden logs for protection, where it was finally placed in a massive pool-type container. Known as the Crystal Palace, the container mimics the natural conditions that preserved Nanhai No 1 for so long while allowing archaeologists to continue the labour-intensive work of unearthing thousands of objects from its hull. It also has offered visitors to the Maritime Silk Road Museum a literal window into the process, able to observe the ongoing excavation from windows on two sides of the pool.

Recovering the Nanhai No 1 marked the first major project undertaken by Chinese underwater archaeologists, a remarkable engineering feat that has not been repeated. "It was very difficult to do," Loi explained, noting that the country has since adopted a different approach. "Now, the idea is to protect such cultural items and leave them where they are. Let us preserve them in their original place." ●

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Historic sketch of the Typa and Macao

# Typa Anchorage

Text Mark O'Neill Photos António Sanmarful

**Evolved from what was once a favoured waterway and port for foreign trade during the Qing dynasty, today it is Macao's famous Cotai Strip.**

Visitors to the Cotai Strip today see a row of luxury hotels and casinos, resembling the famous strip in the American gambling mecca of Las Vegas. Little do they know that the ground beneath their feet was once sea, an anchorage that played an important role in the history of Macao and its part in the Maritime Silk Road.

This fascinating history of trade and transformation with the exhibition “Typa Anchorage: Names of the Past and Present,” was held between 20 April-18 June at the Nostalgic House of Taipa Houses-Museum. The aptly-named museum encompasses five historic houses that served as the residences of senior Portuguese civil servants for nearly a century after their construction in 1921.

At the end of 1999, the government turned the houses into a museum site open to the public under the name Taipa Houses-Museum. Located on Avenida da Praia, next to the Our Lady of Carmel Church and a garden, the houses overlook a wetland with lotus flowers. Together, they constitute one of the prettiest landscapes in Macao.

The houses also sit right next to what used to be the Typa Anchorage – ‘Taipa’ in Portuguese – an area where hundreds of

foreign merchant ships once docked. The exhibition introduced visitors to the land through the place names of the past and present, and historical stories which took place there.

## Alternative anchorage

The Taipa that exists today was created by extensive landfill that joined three small, adjacent islands and later, the separate island of Coloane. The waters around what is now Taipa, Coloane, and the neighbouring island of Hengqin – part of Zhuhai – were known as Sap Chi Mun, the ‘cross gate.’ This was Typa Anchorage, a large waterway where Western ships could berth or through which they could enter the Pearl River estuary.

The Portuguese established the city of Macao as a trading port in the mid-16th century. Its location made the city an important trans-shipment point for the import and export of goods from China.

“The main port of Macao was the Inner Harbour,” said Sio Kit Meng, the exhibition curator and staff in the Department of Museums of the Cultural Affairs Bureau. “But only ships from Portugal and Spain, and other





Typa Anchorage: Names of the Past and the Present exhibition

Catholic countries were allowed to dock there. In the 17th century, ships from other nations, like Holland and Britain, came here to trade, but the Portuguese would try to stop them from coming into the Inner Harbour.”

Instead, they docked in the Typa Anchorage to the south. This was not under the control of the Portuguese but of the ruling Qing dynasty (1644–1911). “It was a very safe place, suitable for cargo ships, with deep water. If the ships wanted to go to Guangzhou, they would register with Qing officials in Macao. The officials then sent staff to guide them up the Pearl River to Guangzhou,” she explained, emphasising the importance of the channel as a gateway to the interior for those unable to access the Inner Harbour.

### A changing landscape

Taipa Island originally consisted of three small islets, known today as Big Taipa Hill, Small Taipa Hill, and Pak Ou Hill. The Chinese residents were farmers and fishermen who drew from their everyday experiences when inventing names for the places where they lived. One of these names was Kai Keng (雞頸), or ‘chicken’s neck,’ reflecting how the east slope of the island stretched into the sea in a way that resembled the neck of a chicken. Or Iat Lap Mai (一粒米), which means ‘a grain of rice,’ for a small islet east of Big Taipa Hill. That same ‘grain of rice’ is now home to the control tower of the Macau International Airport.

It was after the First Opium War (1839–42) between China and

Britain that the Portuguese began to expand their control outside the urban area of the Macao Peninsula. Foreigners began to settle in the islands of Taipa.

As a result of the war, the British took control of the island of Hong Kong, and with it, the best deep-water harbour on the southeast coast of China. Macao quickly lost its monopoly of China’s foreign trade. Ships and companies moved from there to Hong Kong, preferring the better facilities and stability of British control and their legal system. It was a serious blow to the economy of Macao.

In the 20th century, the whole of Taipa became a civil parish, named for Our Lady of Carmel Church. The five residences that would become the Taipa Houses-Museum were built during this period.

### Reclaiming Coloane and Hengqin

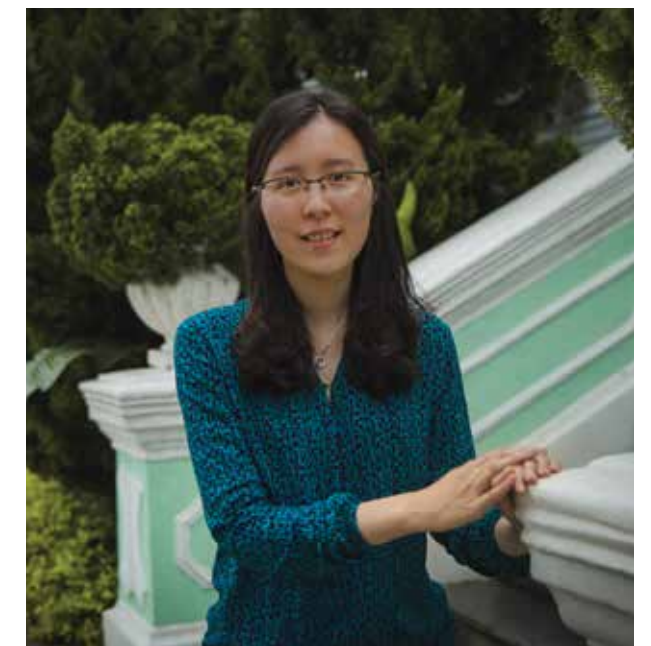
Coloane was once Kuo Lo Van (過路灣), which means ‘the bay of the cross roads’, a name later adopted by the Portuguese. The western coast of the island was known as Im Chou Van, or the ‘bay for harvesting salt,’ for its large reserves of salt which local people collected and sold to the citizens of Macao.

“Many pirates were operating out of [Coloane]. In 1910, the Portuguese attacked and defeated them and took over the island, which they made part of Macao,” Sio added. It later became the Parish of St Francis Xavier.

To the west of Taipa and Coloane were two islands known collectively as Hengqin, which means ‘horizontal zither.’ Fishermen chose the name to describe what they saw from their vessels, the two islands – Dahengqin and Xiaohengqin – recalling the traditional musical instrument.

Later, the sea between the two islands was filled in and Hengqin became a single island and part of Zhuhai. Now, it is a special economic district and home to several major projects, including the marine theme park Chimelong Ocean Kingdom and the new University of Macau campus. The campus encompasses more than 80 buildings on about 1.1 square kilometres of land and is under the jurisdiction of the Macao government.

Sio Kit Meng, exhibition curator and staff in the Department of Museums of the Cultural Affairs Bureau





1. Tam Kong Temple
2. Taipa and Coloane, each lying off coast of the other, 1970s
3. Mansion of the chairman of the Municipal Council of the Islands
4. Former Military prison turned primary school



## Charting Macao

The exhibition includes a Chinese translation of the *China Sea Directory*, a work so pivotal that scholars consider it part of the knowledge base of civilisation as we know it. Originally published by the United Kingdom Hydrographic Department, the Chinese translation was done in 1874, during the Qing dynasty. It was one of many Western books, especially on scientific and technical matters, which the government commissioned in an effort to

narrow the wide gap between China and the West.

“It was a remarkable piece of research, covering the whole of China’s coastline,” Sio explained. “Each British ship that went to China did research and recorded it. The British did more research on the coast of China than the Chinese.” Where the British maps were detailed and precise, Chinese maps of the period were relatively primitive, showing only a rough outline of the geographic features.

The exhibition also delves deeper into the different place

names in the area around Typa Anchorage, providing detailed descriptions that offer insight into the geography and cultural environment of the period.

Today, these names are little more than a memory, existing only on old maps and in museums. So much has changed: the sea between Taipa and Coloane was filled in; as well as the eastern area of Taipa, creating the Cotai Strip that visitors see today. It is a future, a landscape, that none of the farmers and fishermen who once lived on the islands could have imagined. ●

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Zoom

# 2018 Macao International Dragon Boat Races

Text **Jamie Ha**   Photos **António Sanmarful**

Occurring on the fifth day of the fifth month of the lunar calendar, this year's Macao International Dragon Boat Races took place on 16–18 June at Nam Van Lake. An event that brings together several teams, the races kick off with a mixture of drumbeats and cheering from the vast crowds of supporters. Behind months of team trainings, adrenaline and excitement, lies a deep-rooted story represented by the Dragon Boat Festival.

Today, this festival is commonly associated with the respected Chinese poet and minister, Qu Yuan, who took his own life by drowning in the Miluo River to protest against the corruption that befell the state of Chu during the Warring States period. It is said that all those who admired Qu Yuan raced out on their boats to save him and toss rice into the water so as to stray the hungry fish away from feeding on his body.

Altogether, teams compete in 10 races, divided in to two categories (Open and Women's) with the final winners determined by three races: the Macau University Student Invitation Standard Dragon Boat Race and the Macau International Invitation Standard Dragon Boat Race (both Open Category) and Macau International Invitation Standard Dragon Boat Race (Women's Category). China Nanhai Jiujiang team from Guangdong finished strong in first place for the open final long boat 500 metres. Following after was SJM Golden Jubilee in second, Macau in third, Singapore in fourth, Hong Kong in fifth, and Guangdong Junjingwan Group Dabu in sixth.



















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