

Macao 澳門



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Printers

Unique Network Printing Fty. Ltd

ISSN 2076 - 5479 All rights reserved

Cover Photo

Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge
by Xinhua News Agency

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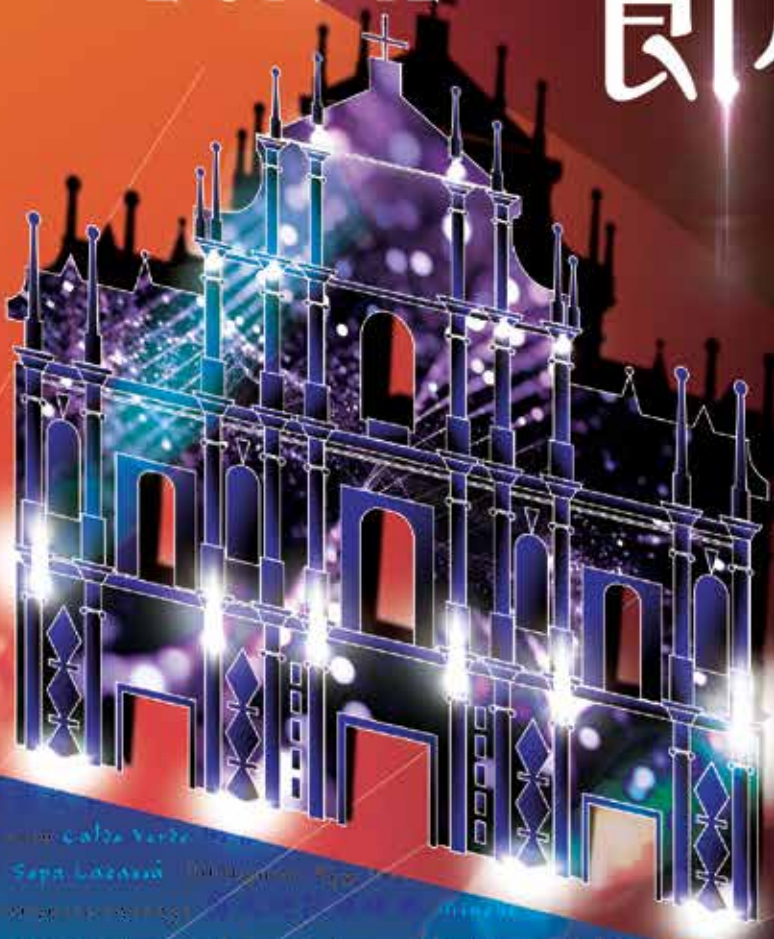

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Building bridges and opening doors

For millennia, China has built bridges for connection and opportunities. Today, it continues to push these boundaries with its latest engineering marvel: the Hong Kong–Zhuhai–Macao Bridge.

Inaugurated in October, the world's longest sea-crossing bridge is expected to facilitate regional integration and promote business opportunities, by bringing all 11 cities of the Greater Bay Area within a one-hour travel radius of one another. With Macao serving as one landing point for the bridge, what role will the city play?

A cursory glance at current events – and the historical record – makes clear that Macao is no stranger to bridging the divide, bringing together far-flung people and ideas for the benefit of all.

Just days before the launch of the megastructure, the annual Macao International Fair welcomed international exhibitors, including 30 companies from its partnering country, Mozambique. “More than coming to Macao, we came to the world,” Ragendra de Sousa, the country's Industry and Commerce minister, told us. For Mozambican entrepreneurs, Macao is the door to opportunities for growth and partnerships.

We also sat down with two local entrepreneurs to discuss their model car kit business. Big fans of Macau Grand Prix, the duo transformed their lifelong passion into a prominent business, establishing Beemax Development Co Ltd in Macao, with manufacturing done in GBA cities. To date, the company has built a solid network of buyers and sellers in Hong Kong, Japan, and Europe.

We see the same international reach with Nuno Lopes, a Macao-born, London-educated fashion designer who made his triumphant return to the city this October, debuting his latest collection at the Sands Macao Fashion Week. His glamorous, thoroughly modern designs provide a sharp counterpoint to the traditional art of Wu Li, currently on display at the Macao Museum of Art. A poet and master painter, Li left the arts for a spartan life as one of the first Chinese Jesuits, having studied Catholic theology and Latin at St Paul's College in Macao.

From its earliest history, Macao has served as a platform for opportunities and exchanges, a role that will only grow as, over the several years, the city forms stronger connections with the Greater Bay Area and the world.

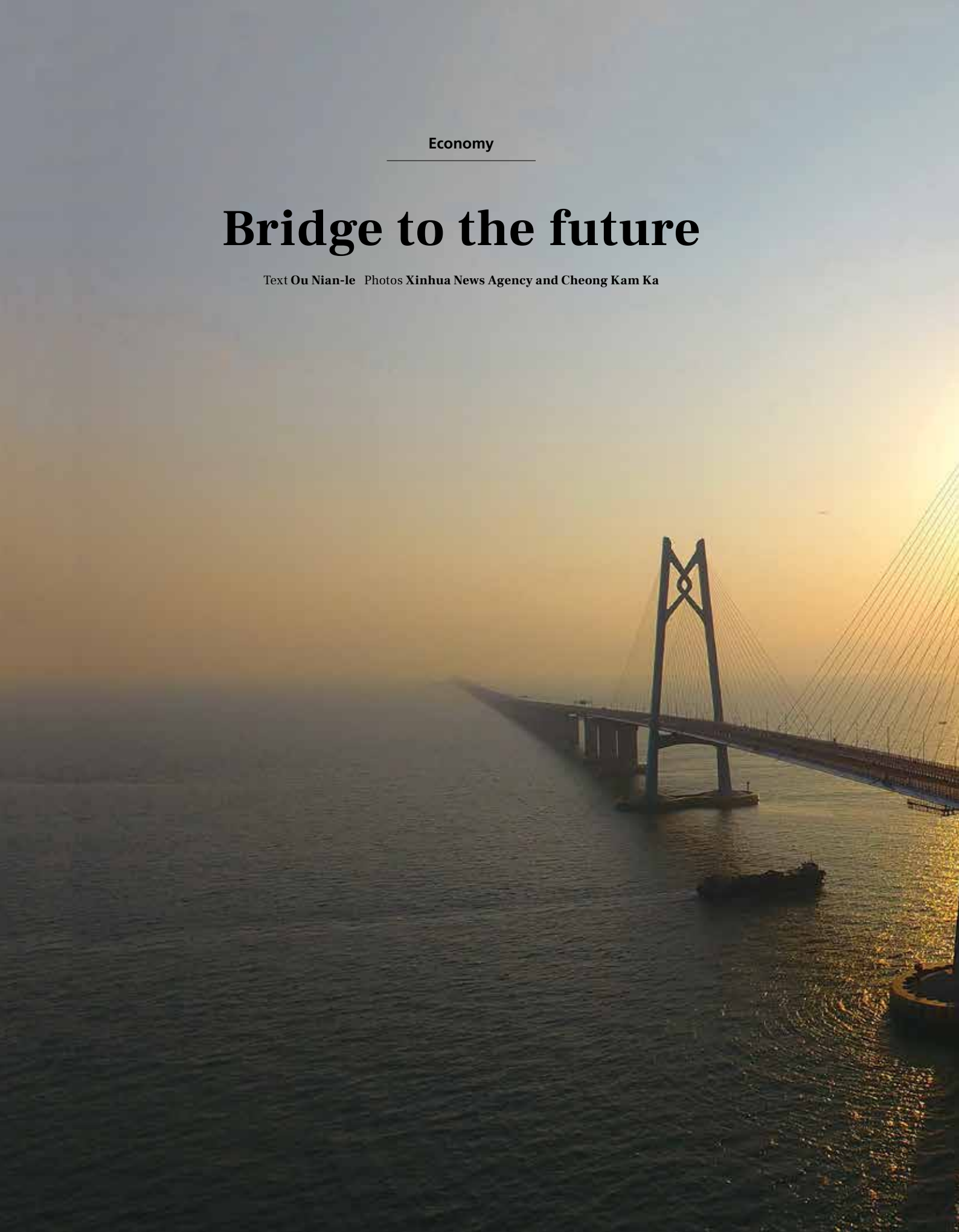


Gonçalo César de Sá
Editor-in-Chief

Economy

Bridge to the future

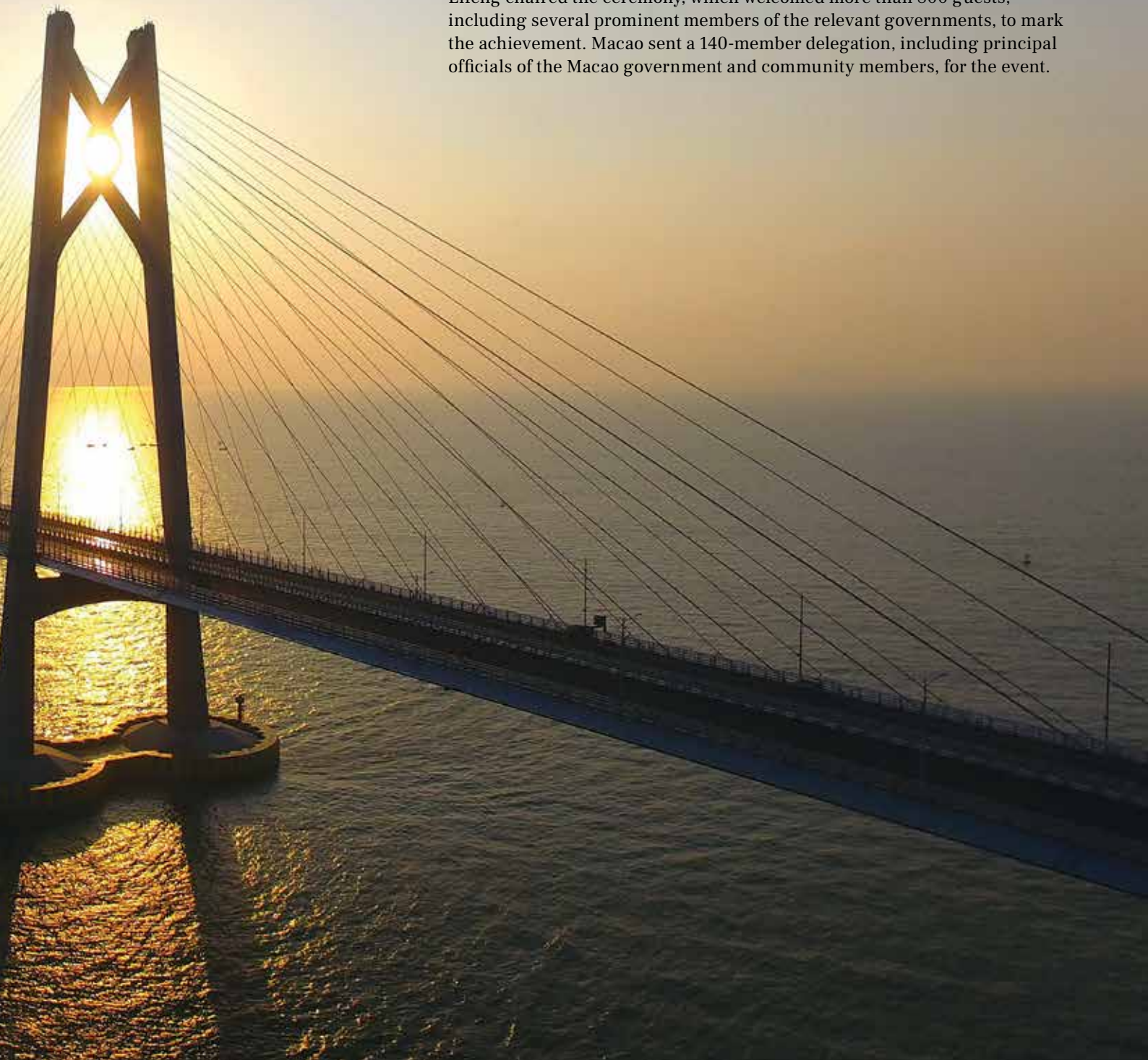
Text **Ou Nian-le** Photos Xinhua News Agency and Cheong Kam Ka



On 23 October, Chinese President Xi Jinping ushered in a new era of regional integration with the opening of the Hong Kong–Zhuhai–Macao Bridge (HZMB). After nine years of construction, this first-ever land link between Hong Kong and the west bank of the Pearl River Delta has become the world's longest sea-crossing bridge – and it's most expensive bridge period, estimated at more than RMB120 billion (US\$17 billion).

President Xi was guest of honour at the opening ceremony, accompanied by Vice Premier Han Zheng as well as Chief Executives Chui Sai On of Macao and Carrie Lam of Hong Kong.

Chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission He Lifeng chaired the ceremony, which welcomed more than 800 guests, including several prominent members of the relevant governments, to mark the achievement. Macao sent a 140-member delegation, including principal officials of the Macao government and community members, for the event.





Chinese President Xi Jinping walks to attend the opening ceremony of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge with the Chief Executives Carrie Lam and Chui Sai On

Macao Chief Executive Chui Sai On



President Xi dubbed the record-setting bridge “an extraordinary project” that represents “confidence and rejuvenation.”

“It shows China’s hardworking spirit, ability to innovate, and ambition to realise world-class achievements ... Its completion has proven that Socialism is achieved through hard work, as is the new era. It should not only be of high quality but also be maintained well, fulfilling its function and role in building the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.”

Chief Executive Chui echoed the positive outlook on future integration and economic progress: “The close communication between the three governments in building the bridge demonstrates the successful implementation of the ‘one country, two systems’ principle. It will have profound significance in driving economic development of the region. It will also improve opportunities for Macao people to have exchanges with people on the mainland.”

Chui also spoke to the efforts made to streamline

the movement of people and goods between the different regions: “Customs clearance work between Macao and Zhuhai will be carried out on a ‘Joint Inspection and One-time Release’ principle. The innovative form of boundary clearance is in order to make the process efficient for travellers using the Hong Kong–Zhuhai–Macao Bridge.”

He believes that the bridge will facilitate Macao’s contributions toward the Greater Bay Area (GBA) and the Belt and Road Initiative.

After the opening ceremony, President Xi, Vice Premier Han, Chief Executives Chui and Lam toured the bridge with other guests. One guest, Macao Chamber of Commerce Chairman Ma Iao Lai, noted that the more convenient link between Hong Kong and Zhuhai will help Macao’s small and medium-sized enterprises break the shackles of a limited local market and open up a broad market in the GBA.

The bridge opened to traffic the following day at 9 am.

Constructing a megalopolis

The bridge, together with the new high-speed train linking Hong Kong and Guangzhou, was designed to strengthen the physical and economic ties binding the two SARs to mainland China.

The two transportation links are key elements of the GBA, a national strategy set to play out over the next 20 years, transforming Macao, Hong Kong, and nine cities in Guangdong province into a cohesive economic powerhouse.

The nine mainland cities – Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Foshan, Jiangmen, Zhaoqing, Huizhou, Dongguan, and Zhongshan – already account for 85 per cent of the economy of Guangdong province, itself the most prosperous in China. By integrating these cities with Hong Kong and Macao, the Chinese central government aims to create the world’s biggest bay area in terms of economic scale, as well as a world-class centre for innovation and creativity.

Bridge works near Hong Kong



According to estimates by China Centre for International Economic Exchanges, by 2030, it will reach that goal with a GDP of US\$4.62 trillion, exceeding those of Greater Tokyo and Greater New York.

The new transportation links will effectively bring all 11 cities within a one-hour travel radius of one another, neatly complementing the existing logistics network. The GBA boasts multiple high-traffic international airports and three of the world's ten busiest container ports. It's also home to two major financial centres, Hong Kong and Shenzhen, each with their own stock market.

Beijing wants to create within the GBA a single market for finance, manufacturing, and technology. The new bridge will accelerate the movement of people and goods within the GBA, and enable greater freedom of movement for residents of Macao and Hong Kong to live and work in the mainland.

A triumph of design

For all it will simplify travel and relations in the future. Building the world's longest bridge-cum-tunnel sea-crossing proved a complicated and time-consuming process. One major issue was the location: the

bridge is situated in the flight path of Hong Kong International Airport and crosses one of the busiest cargo waterways in the world, with more than 4,000 vessels passing through each day.

Now complete, the 55-km dual three-lane carriage way snakes across the Pearl River Delta before dipping more than 40 metres below the waves to accommodate boat traffic. Two artificial islands serve as landing points for either end of the 6.7-km tunnel section, each one measuring 100,000 sq metres and equipped with its own facilities. Traffic control and surveillance systems monitor the flow of vehicles, while heart monitors and 'yawn cams' will alert the bridge's control centre to potentially vulnerable drivers.

The cost of the megastructure is being shared between the Guangdong provincial government (44 per cent), the Hong Kong government (43 per cent), and the Macao government (13 per cent). These contributions account for less than half of the total, with the remainder being sourced through bank loans.

Roughly 50,000 construction workers and engineers, both Chinese and foreign, worked on the project.

Built to last 120 years, chief designer Meng Fanchao took into account factors such as accidental ship strikes, magnitude-8 earthquakes, and a perennial threat to the region: typhoons. "It can cope with typhoons with winds of more than 360 kph," he said. Typhoon Mangkhut, which hit Macao and Hong Kong in September, reached windspeeds of up to 250 kph, well below the structure's threshold.

"We went through numerous challenges during the design and construction process. There was initial disagreement between the different governments on the checkpoint arrangements. The different governments had different opinions on technical standards," Meng said. "We were able to settle for the highest standard in the end."



“

The bridge will facilitate Macao's contributions toward the Greater Bay Area and the Belt and Road Initiative.

Chui Sai On





The biggest impact of the bridge will be to accelerate the integration of Hong Kong and the western Pearl River Delta.

Crossing the delta

Border crossing facilities flank the bridge, one on the east bank for Hong Kong and one on the west bank shared by Macao and Zhuhai, with services for passengers and vehicles open 24 hours a day.

Set on an area of 71.6 hectares, the Macao border crossing facility includes two public car parks with a combined capacity for 6,089 private vehicles and 2,054 motorcycles.

Under the new inspection system, travellers will be required to pass border controls only once

– via either the automatic, semi-automatic, or manned channels depending on the identification documents – to complete the departure and arrival formalities.

Commercial freight and public bus services are expected to make up the bulk of bridge traffic. The bridge bus service from all three check points runs 24/7, offering highly competitive prices and convenience for those looking to cross the delta. Fares range from MOP65 (US\$8.05) during the day to MOP70 (US\$8.67) at night, with reduced prices for both children

(MOP33; US\$4.09) and seniors (MOP35; US\$4.33).

Shuttle services from locations within Macao come with a higher price tag: HK\$160 (US\$20.40) between Prince Edward in Hong Kong and the Galaxy Hotel in Macao, or HK\$170 (US\$21.67) between Kwun Tong in Hong Kong and Sands in Macao. While comparable in price to the ferry services, which run between HK\$171 (US\$21.80) during the day and HK\$211 (US\$26.90) at night, the shuttles take 40–50 minutes longer than the one-hour ferry ride.

Authorities expect the bridge to see 50,000 bus trips per day. Local taxis will not be allowed on the bridge.

New cross-border permits for private vehicles are currently capped at 5,000, with an additional 3,000 becoming available in three months. The bridge will also be accessible to the nearly 28,000 vehicles in Hong Kong and 3,000 in the mainland that currently possess cross-border licences.



Key to regional integration

The biggest impact of the bridge will be to accelerate the integration of Hong Kong and the western Pearl River Delta (PRD). Hong Kong and foreign companies have long concentrated investment in cities along the rail and road corridor to Guangzhou, turning it into the “factory of the world.” The HZMB creates for the first time a rapid road connection between this area of the PRD and Hong Kong’s international airport (HKIA) and seaport. This will increase the volume of goods and people between the airport and Macao and cities on the western PRD.

In 2017, HKIA handled 4.94 million tonnes of air cargo, making it first in the world for cargo for the eighth consecutive year. Of its cargo, high-value items that must be shipped quickly account for less than 10 per cent by volume but 40 per cent

by value. The main items are fresh food, flowers, fashion, electronic goods, and pharmaceuticals.

Producers of these goods in the western PRD, Hainan, Guangxi, and other areas of the southwest will be able to ship such items more quickly to the HKIA. The bridge promises to cut the current travel time between Zhuhai and the HKIA from about four hours to 45 minutes. Such a drastic decrease in travel time will encourage companies to locate manufacturing in these areas.

Then there is passenger traffic: HKIA handled 72.9 million passengers in 2017, up 3.3 per cent from the previous year, maintaining its position among the top 10 in the world. It connects to more than 220 destinations, including 50 in the mainland, and handles more international passengers than the top five airports in the mainland combined.

Tourism trade off

Macao expects to see its tourism industry benefit the most from the new bridge. Visitors from Hong Kong and mainland China account for more than 80 per cent of the visitors to Macao; many travel to the city via Hong Kong. The bridge offers them a more affordable alternative to the current ferry services.

The 24-hour shuttle bus services between the three cities will run every 5 minutes during peak hour, 10–15 minutes during non-peak period and every 15–30 minutes overnight.

This increased accessibility complements the ambitious goal set out by the Macao Government Tourism Office of 40 million visitors by 2025. More visitors means more customers for the city’s hotels, casinos, restaurants, and shopping malls. ●

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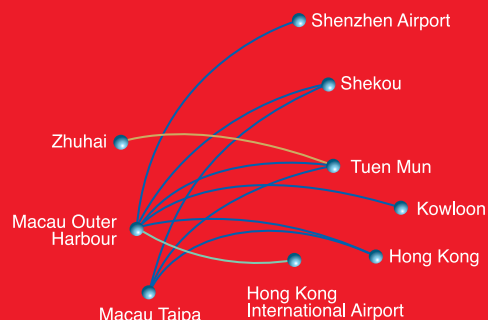
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Bringing Chinese medicine to the world

Text Mark O'Neill Photos António Sanmarful





One day in November 2001, Professor Wang Yitao took a helicopter from Hong Kong to Macao, where he was picked up by a government car to attend a meeting with then Chief Executive Edmund Ho.

“He invited me to come to Macao and develop Chinese medicine. He offered funds, an initial MOP10 million,” Wang recalled in an interview. “I said Macao should complement the development of medicines in China and become a platform to unite technology from abroad and the best traditions of the industry at home.”

The two men reached an agreement. Wang left with an appealing salary and a free 200-sq metre apartment at Hong Kong University of Science and Technology for lower income and a 280-sq metre laboratory.

Now, 17 years later, Wang has state-of-the-art laboratories covering 28,000 sq metres on the campus of University of Macau in Hengqin and leads a team of 36 specialists recruited from top universities around the world.

He is director of the Institute of Chinese Medical Sciences and of the State Key Laboratory of Quality Research in Chinese Medicine, one of two such laboratories at the university.

“People in Europe and North America do not see Chinese medicine as a drug but as a supplement,” he explained. “They say that it is not based on science; we are changing that. We’re conducting the scientific research needed and publishing it; we produce an academic magazine [Chinese Medicine] in English.”

He proudly shows visitors around the laboratories, equipped with the newest equipment from Germany, Japan and the United States. On the wall hang the photographs of his staff, who include graduates from the universities of Edinburgh, Yale, Cambridge and Stanford, as well as UCLA and the National Cancer Institute in the US.

“In aeronautics and aircraft carriers, China is close to the world standard,” he noted. “But she is weak in pharmaceuticals. In the top 500 drug firms in the world, there is not a single Chinese firm. The Chinese government wants to build a company bigger than Pfizer.”



Professor Wang Yitao

Betting on Macao

The establishment of the Institute of Chinese Medical Sciences (ICMS), the city's first research-oriented institute, in 2002 was a direct result of that fateful meeting between the Professor and Edmund Ho. Devoted to promoting the research of Chinese medicine and nurturing local talents in biomedical and pharmaceutical sciences, the institute has trained over 500 Master's of Science and PhD students.



They say that the Chinese medicine is not based on science; we are changing that. We're conducting the scientific research needed and publishing it.

Wang Yitao

In 2010, just two years after the first class of PhD students graduated, ICMS hit another major milestone when the University of Macau was chosen to host two State Key Laboratories.

The State Key Laboratory of Quality Research in Chinese Medicine (SKL-QRCM), the first of its kind, was jointly established by ICMS and Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST). The lab co-operates with the State Key Lab of Natural and Biomimetic Drugs at Peking University in



innovative research on Chinese medicine (CM).

Quality evaluation of CM is the lab's main focus of research, broken down into five key areas: effectiveness, safety, stability, controllability, and systemic research. The lab aims to be a platform for international co-operation, innovative development, and systemic research in CM.

Since 2011, the SKL-QRCM and ICMS have published 1,598 academic papers, 13 academic books, and

applied for 31 patents. The papers have been cited 23,918 times, an average of 15.0 citations per paper.

The lab successfully passed the mid-stage assessment in 2013, its achievements garnering high praise from the Expert Committee of the Ministry of Science and Technology.

In addition to their success in research, publication and patenting new processes, the SKL-QRCM has made important strides in becoming a global collaborative platform for CM.

These collaborations have advanced innovation, particularly in the areas of cancer, auto-immune and respiratory diseases, as well as development of systematic drug screening technologies. A partnership with the US Pharmacopeial Convention (USP) to establish quality standards for Chinese medicine will aid the lab's efforts to internationalise CM. The drug standards set by USP are used in more than 140 countries.

The ICMS and SKL have an annual budget of MOP26 million



(US\$3.24 million), of which MOP10 million (US\$1.24 million) comes from the FDCT (O Fundo para o Desenvolvimento das Ciências e da Tecnologia) and MOP16 million (US\$2.31 million) from UM. Each year 10,000 young people tour the two centres, part of Wang's effort to popularise and explain the valuable work they are doing.

Second-generation excellence

Professor Wang's story is as remarkable as the campus where he works. His father was Wang Yusheng, one of China's most famous pharmacologists of his era; he studied at the Peking Union Medical College, established by foreign Christian missionaries.

Born in 1949, Wang grew up in a house full of bottles of Chinese herbs and dinner

conversations of how to cure the sick in an era when Western medicine was too expensive for all but a small number of elite.

In 1966, when Wang was 17, Mao Zedong launched the Cultural Revolution. Like millions of other city teenagers, Wang was sent to the countryside "to learn from the peasants." He spent the next decade as a farmer and a worker, earning six fen (RMB0.06) a day.

The government reinstated the national university entrance exam, the gaokao (高考), after its absence of 11 years. Many consider the 1977 exam the most competitive in China's history with less than five per cent of the 5.7 million people who took the exam qualifying for university. Wang was one of them.

He attended Chengdu University of Traditional Chinese Medicine (CDUTCM),



graduating with a bachelor's degree in 1982; he was 33 years old. An outstanding student, Wang was invited to stay on as a teacher and became the head of his department, the first to be chosen by the members of the faculty. During his tenure, Wang helped establish the educational system for CM at CDUCTM, and went on to serve as dean and vice president of the university.

In 1996, he was invited to join the China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences (CACMS) in Beijing where he was deputy director. There he worked together with Tu Youyou, who would go on to become the first Chinese Nobel laureate in physiology and medicine in 2015.



In her speech to the Nobel prize committee in Stockholm on 7 December that year, she said: “Chinese medicine and pharmacology are a great treasure house for medical research which should be explored and raised to a high level. Adopting, exploring, developing, and advancing these practices would allow us to discover more novel medicines beneficial to world health care.”

Wang believes that he is carrying on Tu’s work. “She was limited in what she could do. Her facilities and laboratories were not so advanced,” he explained, a reality that makes her award-winning discovery all the more impressive. “Now, we have state-of-the-art equipment and can do much more.”

In 1999, three years after joining the staff of CACMS, Wang was appointed by the Ministry of Science and Technology as one of

the two chief scientists for the first Chinese medicine project under the National Basic Research Programme. Established by the government in 1997, the programme (also known as 973 Programme) aims to develop basic research, innovations, and technologies aligned with national priorities in economic and social development.

The next year, Wang moved to the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, where he was appointed head of research of CM. Its government had a similar idea to that of Edmund Ho: to find ways to modernise and commercialise CM.

While the city enjoyed an abundance of capital and talent, something was still missing for Wang. Only two years later, he accepted Ho’s offer to come to Macao where he’s thrived ever since.

Commercialising Chinese medicine

The next stage is to turn the research done in the laboratories into products for sale at home and abroad. For this, Wang chose to partner with the Taiji Group of Chongqing, one of China’s top 500 enterprises and top 10 pharmaceutical firms. According to its 2017 annual report, it posted sales last year of RMB8.74 billion (US\$1.26 billion), up 9.84 per cent on 2016, and had assets of RMB10.66 billion (US\$1.54 billion), up 11.91 per cent.

The group boasts 12 pharmaceutical factories, more than 30 pharmaceutical and commercial companies, of which 3 are listed, and produces more than 1,500 Western and Chinese medicines.

The 20 pharmaceutical firms in Macao are small and traditional, family businesses that prefer to continue their normal production. There is little interest in, or land available for, large-scale production.

“Sichuan is the home of Chinese medicines,” Wang noted. “It is a treasure house of herbs. Many of the senior managers of Taiji studied under me. I helped the firm develop products 20 years ago.”

Twenty years from now, consumers from Kolkata to Chicago may be purchasing the fruits of this current partnership, Chinese medicines first developed in the laboratories of the University of Macau. ●

Taiji spring water from the Taiji Group (Chongqing)





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Beemax: Macao's first model car kit company

Text **Annie Lao** Photos **António Sanmarful**

Designing model car kits that are manufactured in Zhongshan and Gongguan, for sale worldwide.



Toyota Celica Rally model

We sat down with the two founders of Beemax Development Co Ltd, Antonio Ieong (director) and Daniel Liu (non-executive director), at their office to discuss their passion for building racing model car kits and how they decided to set up their own racing model car kit business in Macao in 2012 and opened in 2013.

Beemax employs 20 people, designing model car kits that are manufactured in Zhongshan and Dongguan, China, and sold around the world. Japan and Europe make

up the majority of their market, accounting for 50 and 30 per cent respectively, while the remaining product goes to mainland China, Hong Kong, Southeast Asia, and the US.

According to Liu, Beemax produces about 50,000–60,000 model car kits per year, selling 22 different kinds of racing model car kits globally.

Shanghai-born Ieong, 51, moved with his family to Macao where he met Liu, 43, a native of the city. The friendship they formed as children in

the 80s grew over time, built in part on a shared love of watching Macau Grand Prix and building car models.

“Building model car kits was in our blood already,” Lie reflected. “Before we even started up our own company, we had actually designed our first ever model car kit in our home.”

Seizing their opportunity

For all of their interest in racing and model car kits, the two men didn’t initially set out to

McLaren F1 model



turn their hobby into a business. They cultivated their expertise over the years, building an expanded network in the model car kit industry. Then opportunity came knocking: leading Japanese model car kit manufacturer Fujimi reached out to the pair about consulting on the design of their model car kits. “We said, ‘why not!’” Liu recalled. They helped Fujimi verify details of their model car kits and provided 3D data of racing cars to the company for free.

In 2005, before making their

design input, the pair visited the company’s factory in Humen town of Dongguan. “It was very interesting for us to see their operation, see how they produced their model car prototypes,” Liu said. While relatively simple in the past, he explained, newer technologies and innovations require that the model car kits of today be designed in a more sophisticated way.

It was that realisation that spurred Jeong and Liu to start their own business, confident they

Leading Japanese model car kit manufacturer Fujimi reached out to the pair about consulting on the design of their model car kits.

Volvo 240 Turbo model (centre)



could provide better quality products with the expertise garnered from their work with Fujimi. Armed with additional research into the industry and market for model car kits, and a solid network of buyers and sellers in Japan, the two friends launched Beemax.

Do what others don't

From their partnership with Fujimi, they realised there was room to improve on the basic racing car prototypes, both in detail and quality. "Grand Prix cars race at 15-16 different places each year, so the design of each racing car will need to be amended for their stickers and tires," Jeong explained. It's why Fujimi brought them in to consult: the two men had a knowledge base that the company lacked.

Another Japanese manufacturer, AOSHIMA, approached them about providing the same service in 2011. The two companies formed a co-operative partnership, with AOSHIMA agreeing to print the Beemax logo next to their own on products with shared input after Beemax launched.

To produce each new prototype of a model car kit, a valid license must be requested from its specific car manufacture company. "Getting a proper license has never been easy for us as all racing cars have different car manufacture companies. Applying for a license from a particular company is expensive, too," Jeong revealed. "On average, it would cost us around 30,000-50,000 euros (US\$34,756-57,926) to get one valid license for a whole set of a model car kit mould."

To date, they have invested nearly MOP10 million (US\$1.24 million) in the company. In order to break even, they would need to sell at least over 13,000 units of each of their model car kits.

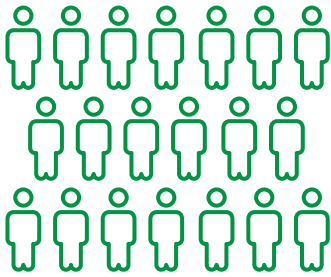
"Our main business expenses go towards applying for a proper license for each of our model car kits," Jeong said. One valid license can last for only three years, introducing another challenge to their efforts to meet sales goals.



Antonio Jeong (left) and Daniel Liu (right)

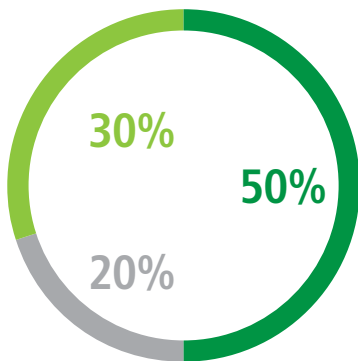


BEEMAX TEAM



Beemax employs 20 people

WORLDWIDE MARKET



● Japan ● Europe
● Mainland China, Hong Kong, Southeast Asia, and United States

PRODUCTION



Beemax produces
about 50,000 – 60,000
model car kits per year



22 different kinds of
racing model car kits
globally



A dedicated team explores the world market

It may also offer an opportunity since their Japanese competitors have shown themselves unwilling to make such a financial investment, in addition to the tedious paperwork involved. “We have an advantage compared to our counterparts in Japan due to the language barrier and rigid administration with licensing,” Ieong noted. Here, they can hire a lawyer and apply for all necessary licenses with relative ease.

Yet, as Ieong described it, in the beginning, it was impossible for them to approach racing car

companies for a valid license without the help of an agency. “We realised we had to go to Japan to attend exhibitions in person to reach out to the licensing agency for information,” Ieong explained. “Networking is very important for us to do business and to attract new buyers at the same time.”

Now, they fly to Japan twice a year to attend model car shows, such as the All Japan Model and Hobby Show and the Shizuoka Hobby Show, to learn and keep up-to-date with the latest product trends in the industry.



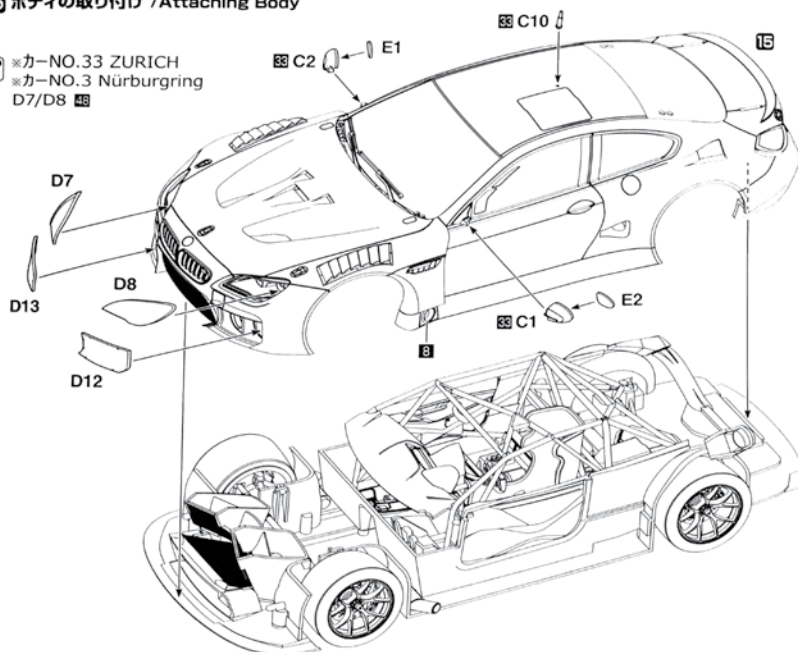
This commitment to put both time and money in licensing helps set the company apart, allowing them to produce much more detailed model car kits and to branch out into new areas. They believe a tendency toward conservatism in investment leads Japanese companies to mainly produce Japanese model car kits; foreign racing model car kits are rare. Beemax seized on this gap in the market “by introducing our unique European racing model car kits in Japan; our sale in Japan has been quite well,” Jeong said.



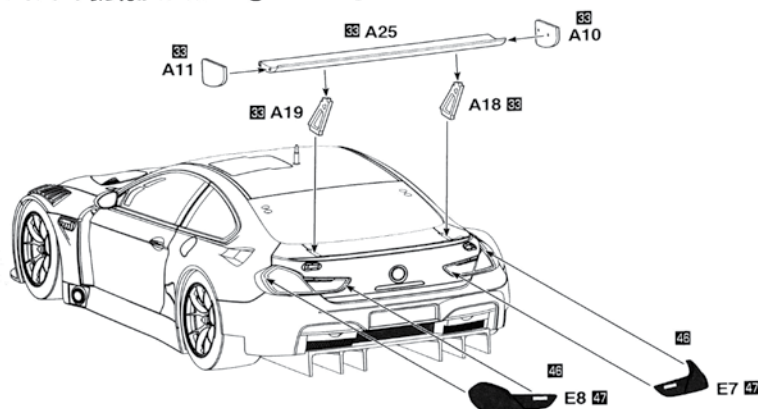
Beemax office and model kit

16 ボディの取り付け / Attaching Body

※カーNO.33 ZURICH
 ※カーNO.3 Nürburgring
 D7/D8



17 リヤウイングの取り付け / Attaching Rear Wing



Japanese instructions on how to assemble the parts

Obstacles for growth

Following their success in the Japanese market, Beemax is turning its focus toward building a more global customer base, targeting potential new buyers in the US, Europe, and Australia. “Right now, we are only selling around 3,000 pieces of model car kits per year in the US and Europe,” Ieong added. They currently sell about 200 pieces per year in Macao.

The pair revealed that they have enlisted the help of an agency to present their products at the world’s largest toy fair, Nuremberg International Toy Fair. Held annually in Germany since 1949, the most recent edition attracted 73,000 trade visitors and purchasers from more than 120 countries, making the fair a prime opportunity for Beemax to reach out to new markets. They also sell model car kits in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou, based on the network that has served them so well in the past.

The high cost of sending their products overseas presents another obstacle to their efforts to expand. “We don’t have the competitive rate of delivery fee in Macao,” Ieong said, noting that even nearby Hong Kong can ship for less. “It is also harder for us to have revenue or break even when we only receive a small amount of orders from Europe, so now we are working on attracting buyers interested in buying large quantities.”

Despite the challenges they face, Ieong said it’s been a dream come true for the childhood friends to turn their hobby into their business. “I always tell my team that running a business like this in Macao has never been easy, but there is always a way we can do it,” he asserted. “We keep it up and continue to work on our long-term mission to produce high-quality model car kits and design new unique products to stay competitive in the industry.” ●



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China

Key role for **Foshan** in Greater Bay Area

Text **Luo Xunzhi** Photos **Eric Tam**



Caption

In the competition among cities in the GBA, Foshan has a few trump cards to play. It has an excellent transport system, with an intercity line to Guangzhou and high-speed lines to Jiangmen, Zhuhai, Shenzhen, and Hong Kong.

The manufacturing powerhouse of Foshan has a key role to play in the development of the Greater Bay Area (GBA) as it moves to upgrade from traditional to state-of-the-art industries.

The GBA is one of China's national economic strategies for the next 20 years, developing a world-class megalopolis out of two SARs (Macao and Hong Kong) and nine cities of Guangdong province (Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Dongguan, Foshan, Jiangmen, Zhaoqing, Zhongshan, and Zhuhai).

According to estimates by China Centre for International Economic Exchanges, by 2020, the total economic output of the GBA

will be comparable to that of the Greater Tokyo Area. By 2030, its GDP will reach US\$4.62 trillion, exceeding that of Tokyo, Greater New York and the San Francisco Bay Area, to become the world's largest such megalopolis in terms of economic output.

The nine cities, home to just 52 per cent of Guangdong's population, account for 85 per cent of the province's economic output. Foshan ranks fourth in terms of GDP, behind Hong Kong, Shenzhen, and Guangzhou. In 2017, Foshan's GDP reached RMB954.96 billion (US\$139.02 billion), up 8.5 per cent in 2016, according to the city's statistical bureau.



The 11 cities of the GBA are divided into three levels, according to their economic size, with Hong Kong, Shenzhen, and Guangzhou in level one. Around each of these is a city cluster: Hong Kong, Macao, Zhuhai, and Jiangmen form one cluster while Shenzhen, Huizhou, Dongguan, and Zhongshan form the second. The third is Guangzhou, Zhaoqing and Foshan, which is considered a level-two city along with Dongguan.

Foshan's great strength is in manufacturing, which generates nearly 60 per cent of its GDP, the highest among the 11 cities, compared to 40 per cent for Shenzhen, and 30 per cent for Guangzhou. While currently much weaker in terms of cargo handling, outranking only Huizhou and Zhaoqing, its numbers are improving. In 2017, its port handled 79.67 million tons of goods, up 20.5 per cent; of these, there were 3.9 million containers, up 21.3 per cent.

Leveraging assets

In the competition among cities in the GBA, Foshan has a few trump cards to play. It has an excellent transport system, with an intercity line to Guangzhou and high-speed lines to Jiangmen, Zhuhai, Shenzhen, and Hong Kong. With direct connections to all three city clusters, Foshan is within one-hour travel distance of all of the cities in the GBA.

In January, Foshan Mayor Zhu Wei announced that the city would start construction of a new airport in the Gaoming district this year. Aiming to become an aviation hub in the western GBA, the city is also planning an aviation economic zone around the airport. Construction is slated for completion in 2021 (the city currently relies on Guangzhou's Baiyun International Airport).

Foshan has a powerful private sector, whose industrial output in

2017 rose 10.2 per cent from a year earlier and accounted for 81.3 per cent of the city's overall industrial growth. It has nationwide brand companies like Jianlibao, New Zhongyuan Ceramics, Midea, and Foshan Haitian Flavouring & Food.

The city has long been a magnet for foreign investment, which totalled US\$80.89 billion at the end of February 2018. Among them are 60 Fortune 500 companies which have invested in 116 projects, including food, auto parts, electrical equipment, and chemicals. Notable firms include Anheuser-Busch, Walmart, Kohler, Toshiba, Toyota, Siemens, Fiat,

ArcelorMittal, and Shell.

Foshan companies themselves are starting to invest heavily abroad. Between 2015 and 2017, they launched 112 overseas investment projects, involving US\$5.8 billion.

By 2017, 54 Foshan firms had gone public, with a combined market capitalisation of RMB972.2 billion (US\$140.8 billion). Gains in this important economic platform were strong enough to land Foshan in the top 10 cities in China in terms of the market capitalisation of its listed companies for the first time, ranking seventh in the country.





The city has long been a magnet for foreign investment, which totalled US\$80.89 billion at the end of February 2018. Among them are 60 Fortune 500 companies which have invested in 116 projects.

The city government is designing its industrial strategy to meet the objectives of the national Made in China 2025 plan. This involves improving the quality and efficiency of its six traditional industries while simultaneously introducing new innovative and high-technology products.

Foshan leads the country in production and sales of 'white goods,' large-scale appliances including microwave ovens, washing machines, and refrigerators. In 2017, the household appliance industry had a total output value of RMB211.17 billion (US\$30.74 billion), up by 9.1 per cent over 2016. The sector accounted for 24.7 per cent of the output of the six traditional industries (automobiles and auto parts, ceramics, furniture, textiles, metal products, and household appliances).

In the last few years, the city has worked hard to integrate its manufacturing industry with internet, big data and AI technologies, to accelerate the expansion of the digital economy.



Qinghui Garden



Statue of Kuan Yin

The Midea Group, a Fortune 500 company, is working with German robotics company KUKA to upgrade its manufacturing processes. The company, based in Augsburg, Germany, is a global leader in industrial robots and factory automation. After making an initial offer in 2016, Midea took over the firm in January 2017 by buying 74.55 per cent of its share, increasing their total stake to 94.55 per cent. In 2017, KUKA recorded annual revenue of EUR3.5 billion and employed more than 14,200 workers.

Foshan is home to four automobile makers: the South China base of FAW-Volkswagen, Beiqi Foton Motor and two manufacturers of special-purpose vehicles. In addition, the city government has set up a production base for new energy vehicles (NEVs), which includes R&D centres, production of essential parts, and recycling and reusing of batteries. More than 20 leading companies have already moved into the 'NEV Town' in the city's Shunde district. It aims to develop the Internet of Vehicles, cloud computing, and other big data technologies.

As part of Healthy China 2030, Foshan has prioritised development of biomedicine, medical devices and health services, as well as modern Chinese medicine and food and beverages. It aims to foster a highly concentrated cluster of this sector, considered the most promising in the 21st century.

This past April, at a conference on technology innovation in the city, Mayor Zhu said that innovation in such industries was essential to support its economic and social development.

In February, the city announced that it would build the Foshan Advanced Manufacturing Science and Technology

Guangdong Laboratory over five years with a total investment of RMB5.5 billion (US\$793.65 million), raised from the city and district governments.

Known more succinctly as Jihua Lab, it will cover an area of about 67 hectares and be located next to Wenhan Lake in the Nanhai district, an area considered the core region of the city's high-end innovation cluster. By the construction midpoint in 2020, there should be nine laboratories, including robot and advanced control and bio-manufacturing.

In June 2018, the city hosted the GoforIsrael conference for the first time, attracting 1,200 participants and more than 500 Chinese investors. One hundred entrepreneurs from Israeli start-ups and high-tech companies in areas including AI, IT, cyber, energy, life sciences, telecom and automotive technologies used the event to introduce their technologies to Chinese investors.

Nadav Cohen, Israeli consul-general in Guangzhou, noted the central role of Foshan in developing the GBA into the largest technology centre in the world, as well as its key role in the Belt and Road Initiative.

Diverse industrial base

Data from the city's Statistical Bureau showed GDP in 2017 reached RMB954.96 billion (US\$51.68 billion), an increase of 8.5 per cent from 2016. Of this, manufacturing accounted for the largest share, RMB557 billion (US\$80.37 billion), up 8.2 per cent. The service sector was next with RMB383 billion (US\$55.26 billion), up 9.1 per cent, and agriculture and forestry third with RMB14.6 billion (US\$2.10 billion), up 1.9 per cent.

The private sector is the main driver of growth in the city. In 2017, its GDP was RMB606.7 billion (US\$87.54 billion). Gross domestic product generated by firms with investment from Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan, and abroad rose by 8 per cent.

Among the fastest growing industrial sectors were calculators and office machinery, up 17.6 per cent; electronics and telecommunications equipment, up 16.6 per cent; medical equipment and metres, up 11.1 per cent; and pharmaceuticals, up 8.3 per cent. Output of petrochemicals grew by 9.5 per cent, new materials 1.9 per cent, and bio-technological products and high-end medical machinery, 2.1 per cent.

During the year, the city received 49.3 million visitors, up 7.9 per cent. There were 275,400 foreigners, up 7.9 per cent, and 1.186 million from Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan, up 3.8 per cent.

The city's traditional industries remained strong with most seeing double-digit growth: metallic items (17.1 per cent); furniture (11 per cent); construction materials (10.9 per cent); food and beverages (10.6 per cent); domestic electrical appliances (9.1 per cent); and textiles and garments (7.3 per cent).

Foshan continues to be one of China's biggest manufacturers of domestic appliances. In 2017, local manufacturers produced 6.65 million gas stoves, up 1.5 per cent; 8.45 million gas water heaters, up

2.8 per cent; 15.92 million room air conditioners, up 3.3 per cent; 26.7 million pieces of furniture, up 11 per cent; and 4.65 million washing machines, up 33.7 per cent. Microwave ovens saw a significant decrease, down 30.8 per cent to 37.6 million.

In 2017, investment in real estate hit RMB145.4 billion (US\$20.98 billion), up 18.2 per cent, of which RMB101.7 billion (US\$14.67 billion) went into residential properties, up 17.9 per cent.

During the year, the city received 49.3 million visitors, up 7.9 per cent; of these, 14.98 million stayed at least one year, up 10.9 per cent. There were 275,400 foreigners, up 7.9 per cent, and 1.186 million from Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan, up 3.8 per cent. Tourism brought in RMB70.97 billion (US\$10.24 billion) for the city, up 13.6 per cent.

In 2017, Foshan exported RMB315.4 billion (US\$45.51 billion) worth of goods, up 1.7 per cent, and imported RMB120.4 billion (US\$17.37 billion), up 19.6 per cent. Exports to Hong Kong dropped 6.1 per cent to RMB41 billion (US\$5.92 billion), while those to the US went up 10.9 per cent to RMB49.5 billion (US\$7.14 billion). Actual foreign direct investment during the year totalled US\$1.623 billion, up 10.3 per cent. Of this, manufacturing accounted for 24.3 per cent, real estate 8.8 per cent, and retail and wholesale 2.6 per cent.

At the end of the year, the city had a population of 7.66 million, an increase of 2.6 per cent over end-2016. The average income of urban residents was RMB46,849 (US\$6,760), an inflation-adjusted increase of 6.6 per cent, while rural residents averaged RMB26,390 (US\$3,808), an inflation-adjusted increase of 7.2 per cent. ●

Foshan, a city to visit

Foshan is a city rich in history: birthplace of Cantonese opera, the lion dance and several schools of martial arts, it also boasts numerous examples of Lingnan traditional architecture and folk culture.

- The city takes its name, which translates as 'Buddha Mountain,' from a hill near the centre of town where three bronze sculptures of the Buddha were discovered in 628 AD. A monastery was founded nearby, with Foshan growing up

around it. When the monastery was destroyed in 1391, a Taoist temple became the new focus of the community.

- By the early Ming dynasty (1368–1644), Foshan had developed into one of the four great markets of China, thanks to its booming ceramics and metal industries. It emerged as a major steel producer in the 19th century, consuming most of the province's iron ore production. Ceramics and steel remained the principal industries until the 1950s.

- Foshan is the birthplace of the Wing Chun school of martial arts. Some of its most famous practitioners, Leung Jan and his student Ip Man, also hail from the city. Ip, whose story inspired a series of successful films, in turn taught one of international cinema's most prominent martial artists: Bruce Lee.

Martial arts enthusiasts and curious tourists alike flock to the city's museum to Ip Man every year.

橋單臂獨



Foshan martial arts

仙八酒醉



鼎舉王霸



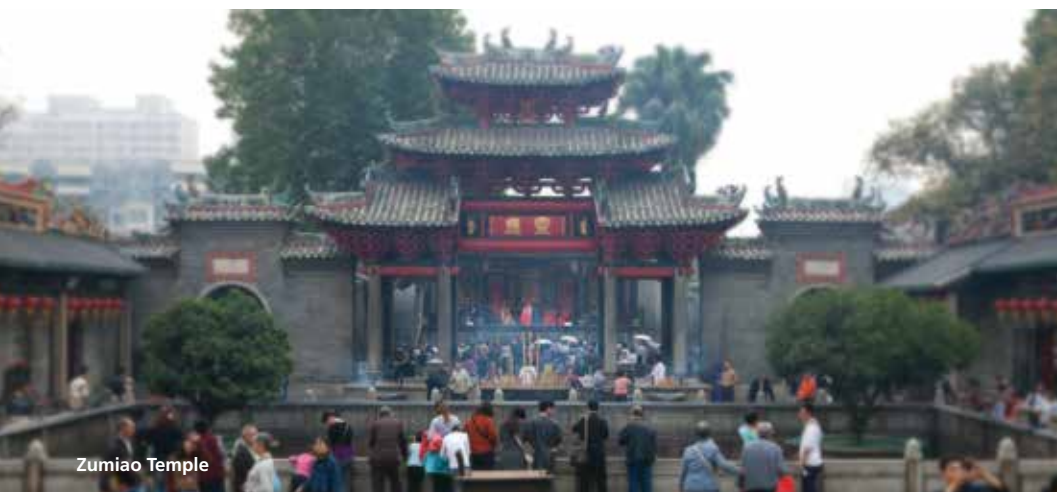
鶴餓脚獨



羊擒虎餓



虎伏弓雙



Zumiao Temple



Ip Man bust



Foshan ceramics





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Politics

Investing in stronger ties

Text Sha Kai Sa Photos António Sanmarful

Investment in small and medium-sized enterprises is very important for Mozambique because they contribute to the national economy and promote the social wellbeing of Mozambicans by generating family income and creating jobs.

Maria Gustava has served as the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Mozambique to the People's Republic of China since January 2018. She previously held the same position in Indonesia, Timor Leste and Thailand, as well as serving as High Commissioner of Mozambique to Singapore and Malaysia. We recently spoke with Gustava about the role of Macao in facilitating Chinese investment in Mozambique, and how these projects and partnerships are aiding the country's development.

In recent decades, China has provided significant financial backing for major construction projects in Mozambique. The country is clearly undergoing a new phase of economic development. What are the areas where Chinese investment and financing should be directed?

In the last several years, China has become one of Mozambique's main partners, to the point that the two countries decided to establish a strategic co-operative partnership in 2016 during the state visit by His Excellency President Filipe Jacinto Nyusi to China. Owing to both countries' good relations, China has been financing major engineering projects in Mozambique such as roads, bridges, buildings, and other projects in the scope of the government's efforts to promote economic and social development.

In my opinion – whilst bearing in mind Mozambique's current development phase – investment by China should primarily focus on projects that enhance production capacity, especially in the areas of agriculture, transportation, infrastructure, energy and economic and industrial parks, given the potential domino effect those areas represent for the economic growth.

Mozambique has been calling for investment by small and medium-sized enterprises in the country's economy. How does Mozambique aim to convince Chinese companies and businesspeople to operate in the country?

Investment in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) is very important for Mozambique because they contribute to the national economy and promote the social wellbeing of Mozambicans by generating family



Meeting in Beijing between delegations from China and Mozambique (September 2018)

income and creating jobs. Most of our business community works at the level of SMEs; that's why we believe that financing them and boosting their capacities will create conditions to expand and strengthen the economy.

Mozambique offers good conditions for business development, taking the following into account: (i) its geostrategic location by the Indian Ocean; (ii) the presence of abundant mineral and energy resources, as well as excellent conditions for agriculture, tourism, and provision of services; and (iii) the existence of legislation open to receiving foreign investment in various areas. In this regard, we have therefore been using various platforms to provide information to Chinese citizens and entrepreneurs, and outline Mozambique's potentials and the legal framework governing investment.

This is a continual process of mutual familiarity and interaction, of seeking opportunities for

companies and entrepreneurs on both sides, which helps enhance and consolidate economic and commercial ties between the two countries in a spirit of shared and mutually advantageous gains.

With China's support, Macao has been positioning itself as a platform for business between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries. How can Mozambique take advantage of this platform?

The establishment of Forum Macao furthered and consolidated the strong historic ties between Macao and the Portuguese-speaking countries (PSC). So, Macao has indeed been serving as a co-operation platform, helping to strengthen relations involving business, investment, trade, and economic co-operation between China and the PSC.

Mozambique has utilised this platform by participating in related programmes and projects with emphasis on: (i) exchanges of

visits for mutual knowledge and understanding; (ii) participation in seminars on promoting investment and business opportunities; (iii) training and capacity-building of talented youths and personnel in the areas of health, agricultures, tourism, human resources, SMEs, and finance; and (iv) cultural interchanges.

We believe Mozambique can also take further advantage, through (i) implementation of the memorandum on productive capacity between China and the PSC, the aim being to overcome the 'retail view' in economic and commercial exchanges and to adopt a strategic vision substantiated by a clear presence of companies from Macao in those countries, particularly in Mozambique; (ii) creation of conditions to facilitate access to the Co-operation and Development Fund, a strategic mechanism that can enable execution of sustainable projects that impact socioeconomic development of the PSC; (iii) human

resource training in accordance with Mozambique's needs and priority training areas in Macao and the interior of China; and (iv) increased investment and trade.

China is a country full of potential for partnerships and the creation of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) opens new opportunities for business between Mozambican entrepreneurs and the GBA. How can Mozambique take advantage of what the GBA eventually has to offer?

Creation of the Greater Bay Area is a major accomplishment of the Chinese central government which will bolster regional integration of the three regions under the "one country, two systems" rationale. The GBA is a project that opens yet another window of opportunity, joining the Forum on China-Africa Co-operation, Forum Macao, and

the recent Belt and Road Initiative, whose main aim is to promote and strengthen business and co-operation relations between China and the world.

The rate of use of the windows available in China is still relatively low, though it is encouraging. I am nevertheless convinced that Mozambicans will be able to use the advantages and conditions created by the GBA, such as the movement of people via the new bridge linking Guangdong province, Hong Kong, and Macao. In the future, the GBA may enable stronger trade exchanges and the establishment of partnerships between Mozambican and Chinese entrepreneurs.

Do Mozambican entrepreneurs know how to find business opportunities in China? Is there sufficient information about what China has that can help Mozambique's

economic development, and does Mozambique provide information oriented to potential Chinese investors?

China has become one of the main investors and a commercial partner of Mozambique, thanks to increasing interaction between Mozambican and Chinese businesspeople. Indeed, entrepreneurs from our country have visited different Chinese provinces to buy products that can be traded in the Mozambican market. Many Mozambicans have partners or suppliers of Chinese products, working in compliance with current laws in both countries.

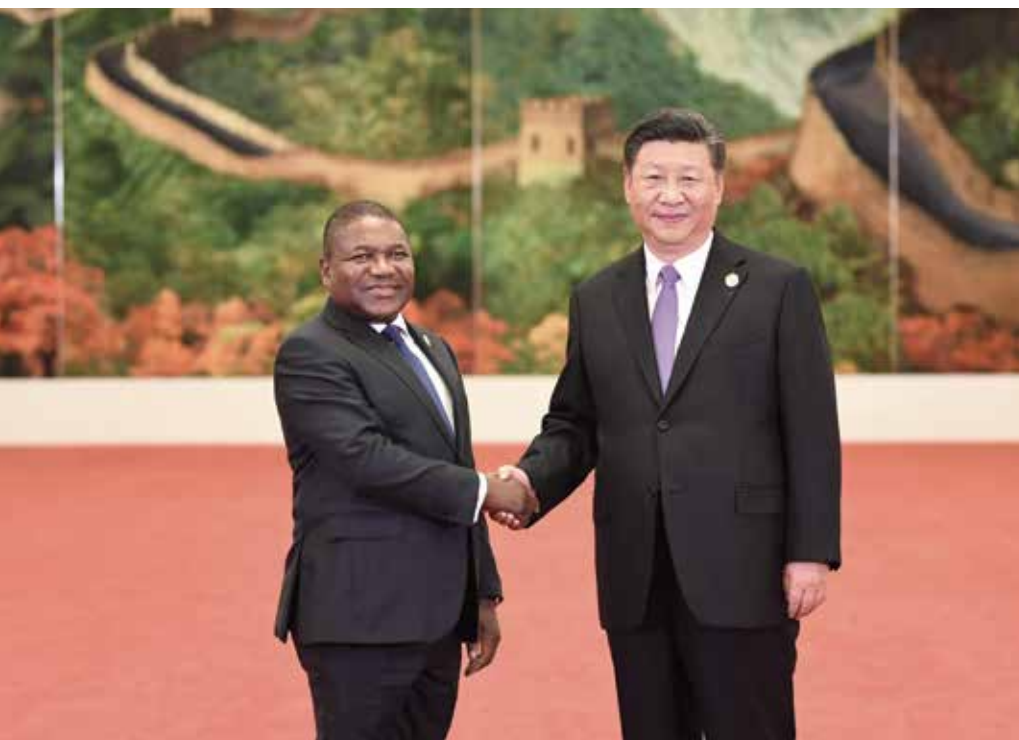
As you know, there's never enough information, just like there is no perfect market. However, Mozambican entrepreneurs do have the necessary information to start doing business with Chinese entrepreneurs, disseminated at seminars, fairs and roundtable conferences. Such actions are carried out by the Mozambican agency for exports and imports (APIEX) in coordination with Mozambique's embassy in Beijing, with involvement of its consulate in Macao and its honorary consul in Hong Kong.

The work continues, as we strive to convince more and more Chinese businesspeople to view Mozambique as the right destination for their investments.

Mozambique has been a member of Forum Macao since its founding 15 years ago. What benefits has the Forum brought to the economic and trade relationship with China? What more can be done?

Since its inception, Forum Macao has represented a unifying mechanism and platform that complements bilateral co-operation between Macao and the PSC.

Chinese President Xi Jinping (right) with the Mozambican President Filipe Nyusi in Beijing (September 2018)





The Forum has a great deal of potential, even though the results are still modest. We can see that in the first seven months of 2018 trade exchanges between China and member countries grew to around US\$82.15 billion, the main partners being Brazil, Angola, and Portugal. Trade exchanges with Mozambique totalled US\$1.49 billion, up 45.13 per cent compared to the same period.

Mozambique has benefited tangibly from co-operation with China, using the Macao platform, in areas such as agriculture, via the Wambao agriculture development project; personnel training for various sectors of Mozambique's economic and social life; traditional medicine; and real estate, with the involvement of the Charlestrong company in low-cost housing projects for Mozambicans.

Regarding the future, I believe that Macao should be able to improve as a co-operative platform, identifying and publicising existing opportunities and potentials in China, Macao and the Portuguese-speaking countries while fostering more dialogue between the parties involved, so they can together work out the best strategy for direct intervention of companies and allow greater flexibility to build partnerships in bilateral and trilateral projects. The Forum must work to convince Macao's business community to develop more business in member countries, making use of the current advantages.

Mozambique will continue working to boost and improve coordination and communication between its diplomatic and consular mission in Beijing, the permanent secretariat of Forum Macao and the focal point of Mozambique.

As Mozambique's ambassador in China, how do you view the development of bilateral relations in upcoming years? What role can Macao play in those relations?

Relations between the Republic of Mozambique and the People's Republic of China date to the period of Mozambique's liberation struggle, and have been strengthened and expanded over the last 43 years of diplomatic ties.

Mozambique and China share many things in common and I believe that relations of friendship, solidarity, and co-operation between the two countries will continue to be marked by openness,



I am convinced that economic and investment co-operation will soon achieve the same excellence that characterises the political and diplomatic relations between our countries

Maria Gustava

reinforcement, and continual expansion based on mutual advantages and respect.

I am convinced that economic and investment co-operation will soon achieve the same excellence that characterises the political and diplomatic relations between our countries, through better use of the various windows of opportunity offered by China, including the Belt and Road and GBA initiatives.

I am sure that Macao will contribute to this improved co-

-operation through its role as a platform complementing bilateral co-operation between China and the PSC, reinforcing economic, trade and investment relations to effectively enhance production capacity. Establishing synergies and business partnerships will assure the development of industrial parks and the construction of access routes to link production centres to distribution and consumption centres. This will effectively build up the value chain for Mozambican products and ensure the transfer of technologies that create jobs and improve the wellbeing of the Mozambican population.

What is your view on the importance of the Portuguese language as a factor to support Mozambique's economic and cultural development with China?

Language brings people together; it is a basic element for forming socio-cultural identity. Within the Forum, the Portuguese language is a fundamental conduit joining China and the PSC through Macao.

The 10th Cultural Week of China and the Portuguese-speaking Countries, the 23rd Macao International Trade and Investment Fair (MIF) and the 8th Jiangsu Summit, all hosted by Macao, showcased the importance and contribution of the Portuguese language for promoting socio-cultural development of the Forum countries, including Mozambique.

It is evident that language and culture are elements mutually complemented and strengthened by the educational and entertainment programmes substantiated by the establishment of Confucius Institutes and construction of the Mozambique-China Cultural Centre in Mozambique, meant to enhance interaction between the peoples of our two countries. ●



Mozambique Pavilion in MIF 2018

Safaris, Vegetarian Burgers, Capulanas and the ‘Blue-Eyed Girl’

Text **Paulo Figueiredo** Photos **António Sanmarful and Cheong Kam Ka**

Mozambican products and resources spotlighted at Macao International Fair 2018.

“More than coming to Macao, we came to the world,” said Ragendra de Sousa, Mozambique’s Industry and Commerce minister. He spoke to Macao Magazine after a busy morning on the first day of the Macao International Fair 2018 (MIF), 18 October, where Mozambique was the featured Lusophone country.

“Not only is Macao here, but also Europe, Canada, the US, and all the Portuguese-speaking countries,” he said after visiting the 2018 Portuguese-speaking Countries Products and Services Exhibition (PLPEX). “Macao is a hub that has everything to go right.”

This trip marked de Sousa’s first experience of the city, and he could not help but marvel at Macao’s development, rivalling some of the world’s more modern cities. “The

physical dimension of what I’m seeing here is a complete surprise,” he remarked.

De Sousa, a member of the country’s ruling party and a respected, well-established academic, didn’t come to Macao to see the sights, though. He and his frequent companion, Lourenço Sambo, the head of Mozambique’s investment promotion agency (APIEX), spent their stay focused on attracting major investments during this critical time for Mozambique.

While de Sousa captivated audiences with his good-humoured approach, Sambo brandished a long list of concrete investment proposals – from mining to tourism resorts – spread across the country’s provinces.

“We know our potential. But our international partners don’t know

us,” de Sousa said. “We came here to make ourselves known to the world, both in terms of our production, but also the investments that the country needs.”

Chinese investment exists in every major sector of Mozambique’s economy, from tea and cashew farming, to heavy sands and coal mining, to industry – and the government is keen to build on that success.

“We have several Chinese investment projects ongoing, and we came here to get even more, because our economy needs a lot of investment to reach the kind of fast-paced economic growth that we want and need,” the minister said.

Mozambique needs all kinds of infrastructure, from housing to hotels that will lodge in the future liquid natural gas workers, to



agriculture in the vast available land. With so many of these types of investments needed in the near future, now could be the most advantageous time to invest, and both Chinese investors and the Mozambican government know it.

At MIF, de Sousa had not a minute to spare between the official events, and meeting Macao government officials and potential investors.

Mozambique is expected to have a major economic boom in 4-5 years, with liquefied natural gas (LNG) investment projects – one of them (Area 4) involving China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) – coming on stream.

At MIF, de Sousa consistently referred to the massive energy project as Mozambique's "blue eyed-girl," a Portuguese term for a precious and much-valued possession.

A Chinese business mission, including many of those that approached Mozambique's investment agency at MIF, is being organised to visit the country in a little over a month.

Agriculture, tourism, and telecoms will be a significant part of the mission, de Sousa told Macao Magazine. "We are restructuring the public sector, including some companies that need fresh capital in their shareholder structure, and the business mission will come in due time for this matching to be made," he added.

A budding eco-economy

The Lusophone country opened its stand at PLPEX 2018 in a lively fashion, with Mozambican musicians setting the tone and the brilliant, bold patterns of traditional capulanas (Mozambican sarongs) worn by APIEX staff adding colour.

Nearly 30 Mozambican companies participated in the exhibit, highlighting the country's diversity and its ambition for growth and partnerships.

José Ganje of Big Five Safari sees potential to attract tourists for eco-tourism and photographic safaris in his country, namely in the massive Gorongosa National Park, one of the world's best animal reserves.

"To be here is an enormous, very noble opportunity. We're making contacts and visitors are keen to know more of Africa and Mozambique," Ganje said. The event also provided an opportunity to learn more from Macao's huge and booming tourism industry.

Ragendra de Sousa, Minister of Industry and Commerce Mozambique



José Ganje



António Matonse

“I’m going home with more knowledge,” he told Macao Magazine. “This city is spectacular, with its bridges, islands and very unusual buildings, which I never imagined to see.”

The wonders of Macao were more familiar to António Matonse, a veteran former diplomat who first visited the city while still under Portuguese administration. Today, he sees a “super modern region, attractive for everyone and especially tourists, very developed and obviously a notable economy, in global standards.”

The fledgling entrepreneur also sees an opportunity at MIF 2018: “This is a great doorway for China and the Portuguese-speaking countries.” Matonse came to the event looking for partners for a new food concept: badjia burgers. Made of traditional nhemba beans and spices, these vegetarian burgers look like the real deal and taste great, too.

“The consumer’s reactions have been beyond our expectations. People value the fact that this is a vegetarian burger, but also very tasty, and both these qualities interact in a very positive way,” he told Macao Magazine.

His goal is to franchise his recipe to Macao and mainland China, while also exploring the possibility of securing a Chinese investor to help bankroll a healthy fast food chain.

But the badjia burger, Matonse explained, is a cultural experience as well, a true taste of Mozambique’s heritage. While the badjia concept – nhemba bean flour mixed with spices like saffron and fried – was brought to the country by Indian migrants, the burger is Western.

Orlanda Barbosa, who recently expanded from the food industry to clothing and accessories, brought her own cultural fusion

product to the fair. Her designs combine the traditional capulana cloth of Mozambique with leather and cork from Portugal, where she currently lives, to make unique, eco-friendly products. With bold colours and striking patterns, the coats, wallets, shoes, and fashion accessories displayed drew many a fair goer to her booth.

“My goal is to combine and show our Mozambican culture in many ways,” Barbosa told us. “If we produce something which is very traditionally African, people in other countries will not wear it. But anyone can wear my models.”

Being in Macao was much more than a business opportunity for Barbosa. She fell in love with the city’s “very strong energy” on a previous visit. “I felt an enormous will to live and I said that I had to come back,” Barbosa recalled. “There is a lot of light and energy here.”

The blue-eyed girl and her 'suitors'

While Mozambican entrepreneurs were busy showcasing their goods, the government officials, de Sousa, and Sambo shuttled around holding meetings and opening official events. Sambo highlighted specific opportunities while de Sousa chose to “speak to the heart” of potential investors.

At a business forum highlighting MIF 2018's two featured guests – Mozambique and Fujian province – de Sousa reminded investors of the country's vast and largely untapped potential, including a nearly 2,500-km Indian Ocean coastline that makes it an excellent fit for businesses connected to the nascent blue economy.

Located in the southeastern corner of Africa, Mozambique boasts

800,000 sq km and a population of a mere 30 million, which de Sousa noted, gives the country a very low population density.

“It's the equivalent of 4 people for a football pitch. So in my country, it's still very difficult to play football, because we need a lot more to have the 22 people you need” for two teams, the minister playfully told the Forum's audience.

“Because of this lack of people to ‘play football,’ the country is primed to receive agricultural investments,” de Sousa said. “We have a lot of arable land, but our agriculture is mostly small-scale. We need to modernise and jump into commercial farming.”

In addition to cropland – “available for Mozambicans, but also for any investor in the audience” at the Forum – de Sousa highlighted an opportunity in forestry. “We want to preserve, to make sustainable

forestry. To export processed wood, not in rough, and invest in replanting trees,” he said.

Serving all of this new economic activity creates a challenge for infrastructure. Mozambique has three major ports: one in Maputo (south), serving the capital and adjacent regions, as well as South Africa and Zimbabwe; another in Beira, which serves the centre of the country, along with Malawi and Zambia; and the Nacala deep water port, which is also a special economic zone. With its vast shoreline, the country is not only interested in developing more ports, but also coastal shipping, as a way to link industrial zones to major ports, as a gateway for exports.

Then there is what the minister calls “the blue-eyed girl”: Mozambique's vast natural gas resources.

Orlanda Barbosa



Lourenço Sambo, APIEX president



“This will turn Mozambique, in the next 7-10 years, into a major LNG producer,” de Sousa pointed out, reminding the audience that contracts have already been signed and exploration platforms are under construction, set to reach the area in the near future.

The country wants to export gas, “but also to develop its chemical industry,” he said. There are projects already ongoing, and others planned, for LNG sub-products such as fuels and fertilisers and “the country is open to more proposals to develop the downstream” of the energy industry.

Playing off the Mozambican minister’s metaphor, Leong Vai Tac, Macao’s secretary for Economy and Finance said that, while Mozambique had its blue-eyed girl, Fujian province was akin to a “very good-looking boy, able to venture and be successful in the world.”

“With Macao being such a romantic city, we can only imagine what will happen between this girl and this boy,” Leong told the amused audience, adding, “Do not forget Macao and what we did for your future.”

On a more serious note, Leong underlined that China has become Mozambique’s biggest foreign investor, and that the African country is located at a “key point” within the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Macao, he added, is keen to actively engage in the BRI, while achieving “very positive results” both in strengthening its role as a global centre of tourism and leisure, and as a hub for Lusophone countries.

According to Fujian Vice-Governor Zhang Zhinan, co-operation between Macao and Fujian exists in multiple areas but there is ample room for growth, namely in Lusophone countries. “Mozambique has many human

and natural resources, and we can certainly continue to work together to create a positive environment of economic and commercial co-operation through platforms such as MIF and strengthen our ties.” Fujian, Zhang said, will be “a central point for the Maritime Silk Road,” and the authorities welcome a more global reach for the province’s economy.

Displaying Macao’s matchmaking skills, several agreements were signed at the Mozambique-Fujian-Macao Investment Forum, including plans to exhibit Fujian products in Macao, a medical centre, along with other projects in environment and the blue economy.



We want to preserve, to make sustainable forestry. To export processed wood, not in rough, and invest in replanting trees.

Ragendra de Sousa

Prioritising diversification

Mozambique came to Macao feet on the ground, with a set of specific priorities and projects, and left with a sense of mission accomplished. The road to sustainable economic growth and development remains long, but with investments on the rise there is cause for optimism.

APIEX head Lourenço Sambo told Macao Magazine that the goal is clear: to have “more Chinese investors in Mozambique,” adding to economic growth and development.

According to CLBrief Intelligence Service, Macao tourism and real estate developer David Chow also met with the Mozambican authorities at MIF and showed interest in looking for investments in the African country. Macao construction company Charlestrong already has an extensive portfolio of projects in Mozambique.

While it is important to have major multinationals investing on a billion-dollar scale in LNG or coal, gems and graphite mining projects, the government attaches great importance to bringing in service providers for the energy industry, typically small and medium-enterprises.

Numbering the priorities, Sambo puts agriculture at number one, given the quantity and quality of arable land available, and infrastructure at number two “because you can’t have agriculture working without irrigation or energy” from coal, gas or hydroelectric, all abundant resources in Mozambique. Being “such a beautiful country,” tourism also ranks high in terms of priorities, Sambo said.

The key is economic diversity.

“We are already on the map in terms of coal and LNG, but that is not enough, because we are not going to eat coal or drink gas,” he said. New industries are needed, that will create jobs and locally produced goods, and MIF offers an important stepping stone for the country.

“When we look at this hub in Macao, we see a huge market – which is China – and also the interaction with the Portuguese-speaking countries,” Sambo said. “For us, that is crucial.” ●



Mozambique: a land of opportunities video



Cultivating creativity

Text **Hélder Beja** Photos **António Sanmarful**

Creative Macau – Center for Creative Industries celebrates its 15th anniversary this year. Founder and coordinator Lúcia Lemos sees a bright future for the project in continuing to develop and promote local creative talents.

For the past 15 years, Creative Macau has nurtured artistic and creative development in the city, offering local creators the chance to showcase their works both at home and abroad.

The project, developed and managed by the Institute of European Studies of Macau (IEEM), has grown to more than 500 members under the leadership of founder and coordinator Lúcia Lemos. When Lemos was invited to spearhead the project in 2000, few could have predicted the economic boom to come.

“Due to the economic crisis that hit Asia, Macao and Hong Kong suffered a lot. Everything basically stopped, and we thought we could contribute with something, by creating a structure, a kind of inner bridge to connect the local creative people,” said Lemos.

“We’ve tried to create a space to show what creative people from several fields were doing. We wanted people to be able to show their works, to communicate and to use this space for gatherings, meetings, and exchanging ideas.” The Creative Macau gallery, located on the ground floor of the Macau Cultural Center, welcomes art forms ranging from painting and photography to film, installation, and design.

In its first years, Creative Macau had a very practical goal of trying to connect artists and businessmen. “Macao’s economy started showing that it could grow, with the opening of some of the main casinos. From 2004 onwards, there was a boom,” Lemos said. Recognising a valuable new market, the team at Creative Macau worked to connect the casinos with the works of local creative people.

At the same time, Creative Macau was trying to showcase local creations abroad, traveling to different fairs and shows around the world. “In 2005, we were invited by Experimenta Design to show local works in Lisbon.



I'm thinking of new ideas and for sure will go beyond Creative Macau.

Lúcia Lemos

Later on, we got a similar invitation to Hong Kong," she recalled. Other trips have taken them to cities like London and Porto, Portugal and to the furniture show Salone del Mobile in Milan, Italy.

"Some of our activities aimed to show what was being done here to the outside, a lot in Asia, through conferences and seminars." But, she stressed, "the most important thing we've done was to give the opportunity to creative people to show their works."


Obstacles to development

Lemos admitted that the idea of putting together a quality cultural space "wasn't easy to achieve." Creative Macau "can't subsidise everything, especially not the creative process, there's no budget for that." Instead it offers creators a platform for their work, helping with promotion and exhibiting. The early years of the gallery were marked by "very unconventional shows, displaying things in a very different way."

"I remember that the Hong Kong artistic community, singers and others, would come here to look for products they couldn't find elsewhere," she said. "I believe we were pioneers in some ways."

Over time, the gallery shifted to a more classical way of showing artworks, with a mix of shows from well-established artists and those taking the first steps in their artistic careers. "In the beginning, there were not many solo exhibitions. Only the very big names would do it," Lemos recalled. "Now, we've opened that path to many artists who've never had a chance to do a solo before."





Supporting a broad range of creators holds a certain satisfaction for Lemos, who hopes to encourage emerging artists who have shown potential in their works.

Showcasing local talents like Mel Cheong, Kent Leong, Fortes Pakeong Sequeira, João Miguel Barros, Rui Rasquinho, Alice Kok, and Noah Ng Fong Chao not only elevates their individual profiles, it enriches the creative landscape of the city. This, Lemos believes, is a central piece of the institution's legacy in Macao.

But not everything has been easy along the years. Looking back, Lemos can clearly identify what she hoped could have gone better. "There are things that we couldn't make happen. We've listed 12 fields of work, and that's a lot," she said. That range – from crafts to software development – has allowed Creative Macau to develop a more broad-based concept of creative arts in the city. But for a project with only three people on staff, including Lemos, they can only do so much.

"When we've tried to take local products abroad, I felt that we didn't have enough new products to keep showing. Creators believe you can show the same products in the same events, but that doesn't work," she explained. Lemos and her team considering renting a work space for local creators who haven't developed far enough to have their own studios or companies. "But we realised that probably would only be possible in a different kind of culture; it wouldn't work here."

According to Lemos, the "very fast pace" in Macao makes projects more volatile. She referenced the Cultural Industries Fund, created by the Cultural Affairs Bureau "with a great budget, but still with results that are not stable."

"Perhaps that's a characteristic of Macao. In Hong Kong, where I went for many meetings, if you wanted to be a fashion designer or a graphic designer, you'd be able to start working," she noted. "Here, despite all our efforts, we were never able to help the companies' representatives and the creators find a common ground and work together. They could never trust each other."

Her other great regret centres on the many opportunities that local artists chose not to take. Creative Macau has "many contacts from many countries, for the local artists to go on artistic residences," but "in general, people didn't want to go," said Lemos. "There was a lack of commitment, and when that doesn't exist, things are not possible. I believe we gave opportunities, but those were not always taken."

Moving images

An opportunity well taken by thousands of video makers is the Sound & Image Challenge (www.soundandimagechallenge.com), a video competition launched by Creative Macau years ago that evolved into an international film festival. This year, for its 9th edition, the festival received more than 4,000 film submissions from countries such as Brazil, Portugal, Belgium, Russia, and the US. The music video competition, which aims to promote original music from Macao, drew more than 600 entries.

The 72 short films selected in the categories of fiction, documentary and animation, as well as 11 music videos, will be presented over six days, 4-9 December, in the Dom Pedro V Theatre in Macao.

Prior to the festival, the Creative Macau gallery will be hosting an exhibition of shortlisted posters for this year's edition. Turning the promotional poster into its own contest in 2017 pulled yet another aspect of Macao's creative arts – graphic design – into the festival.

"I'm thinking of new ideas and for sure will go beyond Creative Macau," Lúcia Lemos said with a smile. Having been with the project for 18 years, Lemos remains committed to what she believes is an important contribution to the city and its government.

"I want to put my hands on new things, but still need time to mature these ideas," she intimated. "I would love to continue doing this for some more years, and I'm fully open to the challenges ahead of me." ●

Macao Museum of Art remembers Chinese art master and Jesuit

Text **Ou Nian-le** Photos **António Sanmarful**



“From the second floor, I can see three ways. I hear no wind but the waves of the sea like thunder. I watch the seagulls come and go. It is on the second floor that I live and sleep.”

These words come from a poem written in the 1680s by Wu Li, a native of Changshu in Jiangsu province, when he was studying to become a Jesuit priest at St Paul’s College. He was in his 50s and learning Christian theology and Latin. Before coming to the city for seminary, Wu had mastered Chinese traditional painting, garnering acclaim for the unique style of his exquisite landscapes. Today, he is recognised as one of the Six Masters of the early Qing period.

The poem is part of “Beyond the Scenery,” an exhibition of calligraphy, paintings and poetry created by Wu, his mentors and friends, to mark the 300th anniversary of his passing. Nearly half of the of 84 sets have never before been on public display, a fact sure to draw

crowds to the Macao Museum of Art exhibition, running 7 September–11 November.

“It took us a year to organise this exhibition,” said Chan Kai Chon, director of the museum. “It required the support of the Palace Museum in Beijing and the Shanghai Museum, which lent us pieces, and the approval of the national authorities [to allow them to leave the mainland]. We thank them and the Hong Kong Museum of Art for their support.”

Wu left behind less than 100 paintings. While most are held by the Palace and Shanghai Museums, 28 and 35 respectively, the remaining pieces are scattered across museums in Tianjin, Nanjing, Taiwan, Japan, and the US. According to Chan, this exhibition marks the first time that so many works of Wu Li have been exhibited in one place.

“Wu was a man of many talents – poetry, articles, calligraphy, playing the lute, painting, Latin, and theology. He was remarkable,” Chan reflected.

Chan Kai Chon, director of the Macao Museum of Art



Cultivating an intellectual

Wu was born in 1632 in Changshu, Jiangsu province, east China. With a mild climate and fertile land in the Yangtze River Delta, it was and is one of the richest cities in the country.

Wu was born into a gentry family of learning and status. His grandfather and great-grandfather were high officials under the Ming dynasty (1368-1644). For generations, his family lived near the former resident of Yan Yan, a major disciple of Confucius in the south.

He received a traditional education, learning Confucianism and Buddhism and studied poetry, painting and the *qin*, a seven-string instrument similar to the zither. His father passed away when he was young. His mother chose not to remarry – earning praise from society – and concentrated on raising Wu and his two brothers. The family was highly educated but poor.

When he was 12, a cataclysmic change occurred: the overthrow of the Ming dynasty by a Manchu army from northeast China, and the establishment of the Qing dynasty (1644-1911). The people of Changshu saw the brutal tactics used by the Qing army to subdue resistance in the areas south of the Yangtze river. Wu himself witnessed three massacres committed by the army in the city.

For a family like the Wus, loyal to the Ming, it was a blow that they could barely accept. Like other educated Han intellectuals of his time, Wu took a vow not to serve the new regime, which was Manchu and not Han Chinese.

Alexis Tam Chon Weng, secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, at the opening of the exhibition





Changshu was a centre of religion as well as commerce, housing several Buddhist temples. It was also home to a Confucian residence that had been converted into a Catholic church, next door to the Wu home. The city was one of the centres of propagation of Catholicism in China, exposing Wu to missionaries from Europe.

The exhibition contains photographs of the Wu family home and nearby buildings, which Director Chan took during a personal visit to Changshu in March this year. "We cannot say for sure, but I believe that Wu was baptised a Catholic during his early years," he said.

Wu did not want an official career with the wealth and rank it would bring. He focused instead on his art. His greatest talent was landscape painting in the traditional style of ink and water; he was famous for his dry brush strokes and light colours. He painstakingly emulated originals from the Song (960-1279AD) and Yuan (1279-1368AD) dynasties and sold them to provide for his mother and family. The death of his mother in 1662 affected him deeply.

His distinctive style made him one of the Six Masters of the early Qing period, all natives of southern Jiangsu. While nearly all specialised in landscape paintings (Yun Shouping painted flowers) Wu stood out for his willingness to innovate on the work of the old masters. By the 1660s, Wu had established a strong reputation as a painter and an accomplished man of letters, writing poems and books – the perfect embodiment of the scholar-painter.



Portrait of Wu Li



1. Emulation of Zhao Mengfu's Misty Valley and Pine Trees, colour on paper

2. Misty mountains, ink on gold paper

3. Qian Qianyi Calligraphy in running script, ink on paper





Taking up a new tradition

As a young man, Wu had been interested in Buddhism, but it had never satisfied him entirely. His interest in Catholicism came later in life when, in 1670, he accompanied a friend to Beijing.

There he met Jesuits working at the Imperial court and found himself impressed by their work, their scientific learning, and the Baroque churches they had built in the capital.

When he returned to Changshu in 1672, he found a flourishing Catholic community of 20,000 people, boasting 14 churches and 21 chapters. He met Jesuit missionaries like François de Rougemont and Philippe Couplet, a Belgian. Over the years, Wu nurtured a growing interest in the church and when his wife died in 1680, he made the momentous decision to become a Jesuit priest at the age of 50.

It was a remarkable choice for an accomplished Chinese intellectual, giving up his lifestyle and status as a famous painter for a spartan, celibate existence. “For Chinese painters, this decision of Wu Li was as if he had died,” said Director Chan.

In 1681, Couplet was recalled to Europe, to promote the China mission of the Jesuits and plead its cause before Pope Innocent XI. He planned to take with him five Chinese candidates for the priesthood, including Wu. But his age and ignorance of Latin proved disqualifying to the Jesuit superiors, ending Wu's journey in Macao.

In the end, Couplet took with him just one Chinese candidate,

Michael Shen. During his travels in Europe, Shen met with King James II of Britain, who was so fascinated by the young man that he had a portrait made of him. It still hangs in the Queen's Gallery in Windsor Castle today, a striking record of the first Chinese person to visit Britain. It could easily have been a portrait of Wu Li.

The exhibition reflects Wu's thoughts as he sat in his room in the seminary overlooking the South China Sea, in a poem, “San Ba Ji” (Collection from St Paul's). “It was not possible to go to Europe, So I stay in Macao in the autumn and the spring.” Wu travelled home in the summer before returning to Macao where he studied Catholic theology and Latin at St Paul's College.

Chan said that, during Wu's years in Macao, his studies largely kept him too busy to paint. “After he became a Jesuit, the number of his compositions fell. But he did some works, with the aim to attracting people to Catholicism.”

In 1688, he was consecrated a priest under the name Simon-Xavier a Cunha in a ceremony conducted in Nanjing by Luo Wenzao, the first Chinese apostolic vicar and bishop. Wu was one of the first three priests personally ordained by Luo.

Wu was assigned as a missionary in his home province, in Jiading, in what is now Shanghai. In his letters, Bishop Luo described Wu as having faith and zeal to evangelise. Where he once struggled with the language, he could now say Mass in Latin. He even created a new branch of poetry, based on Christian theology but using classical Chinese forms.



Wu family home in Changshu



Chinese ink pot

“

*For the past 10 years,
I have not found a
way out of this city
of distress. Yet the
clock cares not for the
depths of my distress.
It chimes day and
night for itself.*

Wu Li

Struggle to evangelise

Relations between the Qing emperor and the Catholic church were good in the 17th century. The Jesuits served at the Imperial court, advising the emperor in areas including astronomy, mechanics, diplomacy, and the manufacturing of artillery. Two Jesuit translators took part in Sino-Russian negotiations over the Treaty of Nerchinsk in 1689.

In 1692, Emperor Kangxi issued an edict of toleration of Christianity; the Jesuits were overjoyed. By the end of Kangxi's reign in 1722, there were an estimated 300,000 Catholics in

China, out of a population of more than 100 million.

Wu spent the rest of his life working as a missionary in the Shanghai region. These years marked the beginning of a difficult period for Catholics in China, as the papacy's intolerance for Chinese rites provoked a backlash in the country. Sometimes Wu had to work in secret, travelling often and living in harsh conditions. He preached to fishermen and farmers. One convert recorded the sermons Wu delivered in 1696 and 1697 in the book *Kou Duo* (*Record of Word and Deeds*), the first collection of sermons by a Chinese priest.

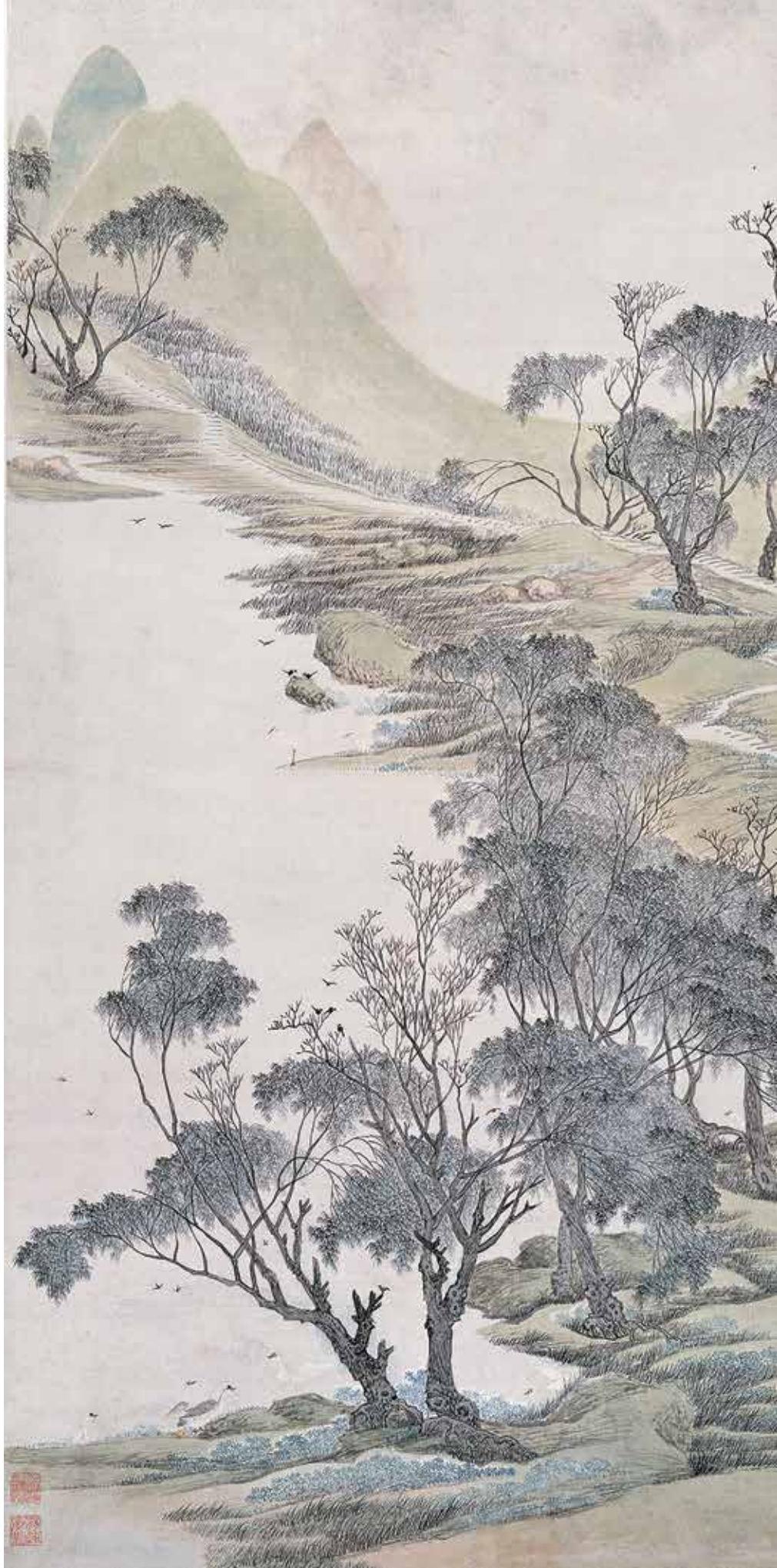
Although he always retained a profound faith in God, a bleak sadness settled over Wu in his old age. "For the past 10 years, I have not found a way out of this city of distress," he wrote in one of his poems. "Yet the clock cares not for the depths of my distress. It chimes day and night for itself."

He died in 1718 in Shanghai, aged 86. He was buried there in the Jesuit cemetery of a Catholic church outside the south gate; it was later destroyed in the Cultural Revolution (1966-76).

The exhibition does not convey much sense of the final decades of Wu's life. But Director Chan believes that a close look at some of the paintings from this period show how Wu was influenced by Western paintings, in particular, his use of perspective. "In those in the traditional Chinese style, the trees are the same size, wherever they are. But, in others, those further away are smaller. This was the Western way."

Trading in his paintbrush for the pulpit may have diminished Wu's fame during his lifetime, but three centuries later, his legacy remains strong. Opening night of his commemorative exhibition drew high-profile guests from government, museums, philanthropy and publishing, as well as the bishop of Diocese de Macau and the superior of the Jesuits. Few people from the 17th century could hope to command such an audience. ●

Lake in spring, colour on paper



Social Affairs

Flying without fear

Text Cathy Lai Photos Cheong Kam Ka and courtesy of Clovis Chu

Clovis Chu, awarding-winning pilot from Macao, takes readers on a journey fraught with dangers and excitement.



Clovis Chu entered the cockpit of an aeroplane for the first time when he was travelling to the Philippines with his family. At seven years old, the complex array of equipment and the spectacular view of the sky left a lasting impression on his young mind. Twelve years later, he entered pilot training school and never looked back, embarking on a life-long pursuit of professionalism in aviation which he sees as both a competitive sport and a conveyance of expeditions.

Chu's adventures have already taken him across half the globe, marked by his fair share of challenges and excitement, risks and rewards. Specialising in six helicopter types, including the Robinson R44 and R66, and Airbus AS350 and EC130, he is the consultant on helicopter pilot training for the General Administration of Sport of China, and the overall champion of China National Helicopter Championship in 2017. With Macao lagging behind in developing this profession, Chu is ready to bring his skills and experience to his hometown.

Talent for engineering

Calm and articulate as he explained theories from aircraft operations to weather impact, it is easy to recognise Chu's gift for logic and technology. Born in 1987 in Macao, Chu graduated from Pui Ching Middle School, well known for its math and science education. As Chu reached Form 3 (secondary education, equivalent to grade 8–9), he was already studying university-level mathematics with his like-minded friends as an after-school activity.

Chu left Pui Ching Middle School in 2005 to further his study at Ashbourne College, where he completed his final years of secondary school and prepared for A-levels (subject-based qualifications for further schooling, training or work). With an advantage in math and physics, he became the top-scoring student in his class and won first prizes in a number of math contests held in his school.

Chu's curiosity about aviation never subsided; reading books about flying and aircrafts remained his favourite pastime. When it was time to prepare for university,



Clovis Chu

Chu realised that he could be a perfect candidate for aeronautical engineering, a highly technical subject relating to the science or practice of building or flying aircraft.

Having passed the entrance exams with almost full marks and delivering good performance in the interviews, Chu received offers from the University of Cambridge, Imperial College London, Bristol University – the top three universities in the UK for aeronautical engineering.

He opted for Imperial College London which, despite being a world away from Macao, made him feel at home. “I liked the campus of Imperial College, it feels very warm, I felt like I had returned to Pui Ching Middle School,” Chu smiled.

An eye-opening journey

Imperial College London is home to more than half a dozen wind tunnels, including one of the longest in Europe, which accommodates state-of-the-art cockpit simulators for aircrafts and Formula 1 race cars. Entering the college in 2008, Chu set off on a new and exciting adventure. “It was a very happy time in my life, because I was able to meet many top-notch experts in the field,” he recalled.

Chu had his first taste of flying through the flight training organised by Imperial College

Aeronautical Society, a student union which provides extra-curricular activities for aeronautics students. “Although aeronautical engineering is not about training pilots, many of its students want to learn flying,” he said.

Chu started with unpowered gliders, and then moved on to fixed-wing. But he was quickly drawn to a special flying machine, which, unlike conventional planes, can fly in multiple ways. “Helicopters are also called ‘rotorcrafts’, because their wings rotate,” Chu explained. “[A helicopter] can hover or spin on the spot, fly forward, backward, and sideways. I wanted to find out how it worked.”

In 2011, Chu became a student of world-renowned pilot Quentin Smith, founder of HQ Aviation flight school in Buckinghamshire, which boasts one of the biggest helicopter fleets in the UK. Affectionately known as ‘Captain Q,’ Smith has more than 30 years’ experience as a licensed pilot. The two-time Helicopter Aerobatics World Champion also holds the Guinness World Record for being the first man to fly to the North and South Poles in a helicopter.

Chu described his teacher as a philosophical person, and a very creative trainer. “He made me learn a lot, even though I didn’t realise it at the time.”

According to Chu, Smith was especially keen on training his ability to respond to unexpected circumstances, sometimes with very unconventional methods: “He would first chat with you on random topics to distract you,” Chu recalled, “and then he would suddenly pat your shoulder and shut down the engine, leaving you only a few seconds to react.”

Smith would take over if his student failed to react in time, but to Chu, such trainings are essential:



“You will encounter a lot of emergency situations when you are up in the sky. You have to stay calm and alert all the time, otherwise you won’t be able to handle them.”

A close call

Years of training with Smith has carved a motto in Chu’s mind – to fly without fear – and it keeps him motivated in the pursuit of new adventures. “With a helicopter, I can land on any flat land half the size of a tennis court, as long as it doesn’t affect others. It allows me to explore and land on different places. That gives me a huge sense of satisfaction.”

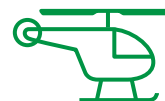
However, with every adventure, there will always be risk. When asked of the most unforgettable crisis he had encountered up in the sky, he answered with a usual calm ease, “There are far too many.”

In May this year, Chu was flying into the mountain range that forms the border between Spain and France, during one of his self-initiated adventures across Europe. Before setting off, he had checked weather forecast and found that the weather was good, the cloud ceiling was high. However, Chu remained mindful of the unstable condition he could experience amid the high-altitude peaks.

“Because it can generate mountain waves, like irregular turbulence,” he explained. But that time, the weather was exacerbated by a sudden hail storm, which cooled down the air rapidly and created wind shear (a difference in wind speed and direction over a relatively short distance) putting Chu and his helicopter in great danger.

Chu remembered that throughout the next 30 minutes, the helicopter was shaking so vigorously he had to grab onto something to maintain stability. At

HOW DOES IT WORK?



In order to fly, an object must have ‘lift,’ a force moving it upward. Helicopters use two or more rotor blades, set at an angle and rotating rapidly on a central shaft, to deflect air downward which in turn creates that upward force. This offers helicopters a level of aerial agility that planes, which rely on fixed wings and moveable airfoils, cannot match. They can take off or land without a runway, move up or down, backwards or sideways, even hover in one spot. This makes helicopters ideal for tasks where landing space is limited and agility paramount, such as medical transport or search and rescue, or more commercial applications like sightseeing tours or short-range transport.

one point, the speed of his helicopter was pushed up by the wind all of a sudden from 50mph to 130mph – only 10 mph short of its limit.

“An inexperienced pilot may try to work against the helicopter for balance. You will do this when you are nervous, but this is wrong,” he explained. “The only right thing to do is keep calm, go with the movement, and do everything gently. Otherwise you may damage the helicopter.”

As he finally reached his destination in Bordeaux, the ground staff at the airport expressed surprise at his late arrival. In response, he said, “I almost died in the mountains.”

The sky has no limits

Chu took his passion for aviation to the next level by entering into international competitions. In 2015, he joined the FAI World Helicopter Championship in Poland to compete with top athletes from around the world. Last year, he represented Macao at the China National Helicopter Championship and became the overall champion among 50 opponents.

“Through competitions you can improve your flying skills very quickly, because you are required to accomplish a lot of difficult tasks, and to push the limit of your machine,” Chu pointed out. The tasks include performing flying stunts, such as rolls and loops, and precision landing with error less than 1cm. According to Chu, these acts require years of practice and

the perfect collaboration between the senses and all four limbs.

The award-winning pilot is also determined to promote public interest in aviation in his hometown. In 2015, he established the Macau General Aviation and Flying Association (Macao GAFA). The association aims to impart aviation knowledge to local young people by organising a basic ground school, regular trial flights and seminars at local high schools and universities.

Right now, Chu is working with aviation associations across the Greater Bay Area to establish an air cadet program targeting young people from the region. “We hope to recruit a team of young people through the program. We will educate them with in-depth knowledge of aviation through regular classes and take them on flying practice at different places so



You will encounter a lot of emergency situations when you are up in the sky. You have to stay calm and alert all the time, otherwise you won't be able to handle them.

Clovis Chu

that they can put their knowledge into practice.”

But Chu is already making an impression on local youngsters. He flew in four helicopters for the seventh Macau Business Aviation Exhibition, which took place at the Macau International Airport in early November. It marked the first time helicopters were included in the event, in which Chu also hosted the “One-hour Flight School,” offering young participants a chance to learn about the operation of helicopters up close.

While Chu may have inspired some young people to follow his footsteps, the adventurer is already planning an epic journey that will set him on the path of his teacher, Quentin Smith.

“I may do a world tour on helicopter next year, first from east to west,” Chu said. “It will need months of preparation, from arranging ground maintenance to an emergency team that will follow you throughout the journey, but I am determined to be the first Chinese to accomplish this.” ●



Clovis Chu at the World Helicopter Championship 2015, Poland

澳 C

EXPOSIÇÃO COLECTIVA DAS ARTES VISUAIS DE MACAU

— 視 藝
藝 界

COLLECTIVE EXHIBITION OF MACAO VISUAL ARTS

— 聯 世 2018

28 | 09

18 | 11

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From material to masterpiece

Text Jamie Ha Photos Courtesy of Sands China Ltd.







Nuno Lopes

Nuno Lopes has come a long way in his short career, successes underpinned by passion for his art and an impressive work ethic.

Flashing cameras at every blink; hundreds of visitors unable to peel their eyes from the runway; and exciting chatter filling the vicinity – these were just a few memorable moments from the second edition of Sands Macao Fashion Week.

The fashion week, 18–24 October, showcased leading luxury and lifestyle fashion brands. Headliner Emporio Armani – in collaboration with luxury retailer Rainbow Group – shared its Fall/Winter 2018 collection at the invitation-only opening gala.

The next day saw the return of the Walk on Water runway, as models strutted down a walkway suspended over the canals of the Venetian Macao wearing designs from the Spring/Summer 2019

collection of local up-and-coming Nuno Lopes.

Born and raised in Macao, Lopes moved to London at the age of 15 to pursue his fashion career, earning a Bachelor's in Fashion Design from London Middlesex University. His graduate show in 2015 drew the attention of British Vogue and Vogue Italia, while 2017 found him participating in London Fashion Week – all firsts for a Macao designer.

Recognised as one of Asia's Top Young Fashion Designers at the Fashion Asia Awards 2016, Lopes brought his work back to the continent the following year with a show at Shenzhen Fashion Week. Many celebrity stylists have reached out to the designer since his brand launched in

mid-2015, with clients including British synth-pop band Years and Years and socialite Paris Hilton, a personal favourite.

Lopes has come a long way in his short career, successes underpinned by passion for his art and an impressive work ethic. Just a week before his graduation fashion showcase in London, his first show ever, Lopes was waking up in the early hours before sunrise to start work. With more students than sewing machines, he remembers rushing to the college campus each day to claim one for himself.

Day after day, he would lug all his materials and sketches to campus, half-frozen in the peak of London's winter. He survived off English breakfast tea and Kit Kat bars, too focused on finishing his pieces to break for proper food. Lopes strongly remembers this as the moment that nearly broke him.

Had it not been for a reassuring phone call and text message from his mother, reminding him how hard he had worked and to stay positive, Lopes very well might have forfeited his passion in that split second. "If I had chosen to give up then, I would not be here right now, talking to you after my very own brand's show in Macao Fashion Week," he reflected.

Lopes was beaming over his first show in his hometown of Macao, expressing great appreciation to Sands Resorts Macao for giving him "such a great platform to share [his] work." The Cotai Strip is arguably the hottest tourist attraction in Macao, where all the fashion lines can be seen as "a form of connection and gateway to countries around the globe."

Nuno Lopes shows his collection at the Walk on Water runway






NUNO LOPES
LONDON

“

If I had chosen to give up then, I would not be here right now, talking to you after my very own brand's show in Macao Fashion Week.

Nuno Lopes



FILA

CHARLES &

N
NUNO LOPES
LONDON

Passion for glamour

Lopes displayed a talent for sketching from a young age, but it was the women in his life that turned his interest toward fashion. One of Lopes' fondest childhood memories is of the time his grandmother handmade a Halloween costume for him. It marked the first time he laid eyes on a sewing machine. Immediately captivated by it, the young Lopes thought to himself, 'How amazing is this machine ... a simple tool for making clothes that you can express yourself with.'

He also recalled the beautiful dresses that she wore to work, pieces that spoke to him even though he knew nothing of fashion at the time. His mother, who placed third in the 1985 Miss Macau pageant, contributed to his lavish fashion sense and love of glamorous designs – a love clearly on display in the National Costume outfit that Lopes created for his sister, Debora Oliveira, who represented Macao at Miss Grand International this October.

The design – a glittering, beautifully embroidered mermaid gown and matching fur-trimmed stole that trailed behind her, dotted with golden lotuses, accessorised with golden bracelets, finger tips, and an intricate golden head piece – was meant to embody the essence of Macao, a theme that runs throughout his work.

Gold became a signature of Lopes' design from his first show, a representation of the glitz and glamour of his hometown. Having lived away from Macao since his teenage years, incorporating gold into his collections helped him cope with feelings of homesickness. It is a thread that will continue to run through his work as it evolves over time. Gold also reminds Lopes of his most admired designer, the late Gianni Versace; the Versace brand remains one of his favourite fashion lines.

Crystals and glitter appear frequently in his designs as well, enriched with metallic hues. Currently, his cherished material to work with is mesh, a delicate fabric that acts much like glass in architecture, emphasising the metallic elements with its transparency.

Despite being drawn to fashion through the women in his life, Lopes began his own fashion line with mostly clothing for men. 'It's so hard to find exciting male clothes on the market. People usually have to go shop





expensive brands and spend thousands,” he explained. Thus, Lopes strives to provide affordable fashion that is both presentable and glamorous for his buyers. His line even includes a couple swimwear pieces for men.

Sharing with us his ambitions for his fashion brand, Lopes said his ultimate goal for the future is to showcase his work at Milan Fashion Week, as he feels it best suits his personality in fashion. He has his sights set on Shanghai Fashion Week in the coming years, as well.

Lopes claims there are many great fashion designers residing in Macao; several were nominated alongside him at Fashion Asia Awards 2016. But the issue they all face is the lack of strong platforms to share and express their work through. Fashion shows and events are still relatively rare in the city; Sands Macao Fashion Week itself is only in its second edition. Without opportunities to showcase their designs, breaking into the industry remains a challenge for young local designers.

Lopes sees cause for optimism, though, noting that Asia has fantastic potential for the fashion industry thanks to a growing economy and high consumer rates. He’s already opened studios in Macao and mainland China to use for client fitting. The Greater Bay Area, he believes, will open more doors for himself – and other Macao designers – to reach a larger audience.

The next generation

As part of the Sands Macao Fashion Week 2018, Sands Resorts Macao partnered with Macau Productivity and Technology Transfer Center (CPTTM) to support their on-going campaign for Macao’s cultural and creative industries.

The CPTTM Fashion Rejuvenation – Exhibition of Eco-Friendly and Functional Fashion displayed pieces in the rotunda of the Parisian Macao, unique creations from local designers that embrace sustainability in an industry known for waste. They also organised the Young Designers Runway Show, featuring collections from several Macao fashion brands, that closed out the week. Both venues provided the exact platform that young professionals in the fashion industry in Macao need. ●

History

Former pharmacy shows life of Dr Sun Yat-sen in Macao

Text Mark O'Neill Photos António Sanmarful

Built some time before 1892, the restoration of the pharmacy was a long and difficult job for the Cultural Affairs Bureau, after the Macao government acquired the property in 2011.



Down a narrow street in the heart of old Macao is a sparkling shop, recently restored to its former glory after years of disuse. This is the Chong Sai (Chinese and Western) Pharmacy, which, more than a century ago, belonged to Dr Sun Yat-sen, the father of modern China.

Acquired by the government of Macao in 2011, the property underwent a painstaking restoration at a cost of MOP14 million (US\$1.74 million) before opening to the public on 15 December 2016, the 150th anniversary of Sun's birth. The property is one of 10 that the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) began assessing for potential cultural value in 2015. It received classification and protection as a monument just last year. Located at 80 Rua das Estalagens, the shop sat on one of three streets that formed the commercial heart of the city in the early 20th century.

The three-storey former shophouse now serves as a museum space, with sections on archaeological artefacts and traces, renovation techniques of the building and architectural features, as well as a section dedicated to Dr Sun Yat-sen and Macao.

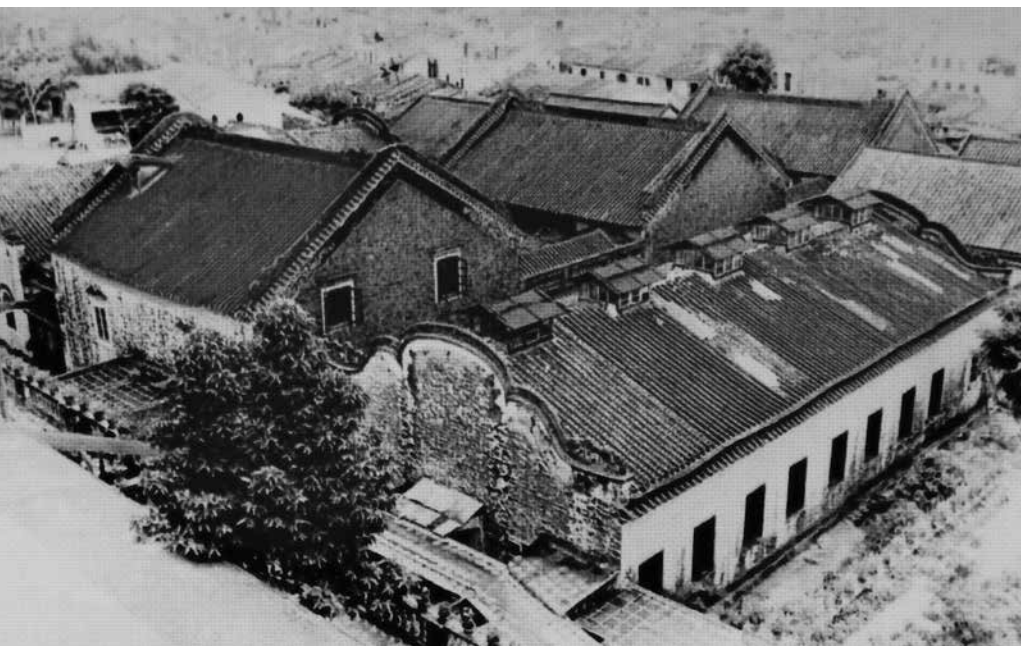
The exhibits offer a vivid impression of Sun's brief medical practice in Macao between autumn 1892 and September 1893, and the city's deep links with him, his family, and his republican mission. Macao served as a base of his revolutionary party and became the permanent home of his elder brother and Sun's first wife, Lu Muzhen, and along with their children.

Lu lived here until her death on 7 September 1952, at the age of 85. Six years later, in 1958, the family home became the Sun Yat-sen Memorial House.

“When [Sun] was studying Western medicine in Hong Kong, Chinese businessmen in Macao invited him to come here and treat their friends,” said Harold Kuan Chon Hong, a senior technician

in the IC’s Department of Cultural Heritage. “That is why he came here after his graduation. He was the first Chinese in Macao to practice Western medicine.”

Initially, Sun worked at the Kiang Wu Hospital. The museum includes photographs of the hospital when it was built in 1871 to serve the Chinese population of the city. Sun went on to open two clinics: one



at Largo do Senado and one in this restored building.

“The name [Chong Sai] is interesting,” Kuan remarked. “It tells us that Sun dispensed both Western and Chinese medicine. He was the only Chinese doctor in Macao who did this.”

But the Portuguese doctors of Western medicine refused to work with Sun. “They did not welcome him and would not cooperate with him,” said Kuan. The records do not tell us what spurred this hostility, but it was severe enough that Sun was forced to move his medical practice to Guangzhou in late 1893.

Old buildings of Kiang Wu Hospital built in 1871, where Dr Sun Yat-sen practised medicine

A recurring theme

Macao played an important role in Sun's life. His father, Sun Dacheng, a landless farmer, worked here for 16 years as a shoemaker between 1829 and 1845 before returning home to Cuiheng village in neighbouring Xiangshan (now Zhongshan) county, 27 kilometres away, to marry and start a family.

There, he farmed land rented from others and worked as a night watchman to earn extra money. Sun was born on 12 November 1866, the fifth of six children.

In 1871, Sun's elder brother Sun Mei, then 17 years old, followed an uncle to Hawaii to escape poverty and make a better life. He started as a hired labourer but eventually became a prosperous cattle rancher and store owner, famous in the community.

He invited his younger brother, then just 13 years old, to join him in 1878. The next year, mother and son passed through Macao on their way to Hong Kong, where they took a British steamship for Hawaii. There he studied math, science, British history, English, and Christianity at 'Iolani School and briefly attended Oahu College (now Punahou School) before returning to home in 1883.

He brought with him the village's first kerosene lamp – and a certain disdain for traditional religion after years of Christian schooling. When he and a fellow student destroyed the statue of a traditional deity, which they regarded as an image of superstition, the villagers were furious. Sun's father had no choice but to send him to Hong Kong, where he continued his education at the Diocesan Boys' School.

Sun went on to study medicine at Hong Kong College of Medicine for Chinese (forerunner to the University of Hong Kong), of which he was one of the first two graduates in 1892. He returned home only briefly, in 1885, to marry Lu Muzhen, the daughter of a Chinese merchant in Hawaii; it was a marriage arranged by the two families, which was the custom at that time.

As a student, Sun was in Hong Kong with a group of revolutionary thinkers nicknamed the Four Bandits, holding meetings and writing tracts against the decay and corruption of the Qing government.

He also became friends with a Portuguese named Francisco Hermenegildo Fernandes, who worked as an interpreter at a court in Hong Kong. The two reunited in Macao in 1893, Fernandes having returned to work in the family business. Sun, upon graduating the previous year, had left Hong Kong

in search of a place where he could practice medicine.

Fernandes proved a beneficial ally in his new home in Macao. After founding *Echo Macaense*, the city's first weekly bilingual newspaper, in July 1893, Fernandes used his platform to promote Sun both as a physician and a critical political thinker.

It wasn't enough, though. Facing resistance and hostility from the medical community in Macao, Sun left the city to practice in Guangzhou. After taking part in a failed uprising in Guangzhou in 1895, Sun fled back to Macao. "It was Fernandes that sheltered him and helped him to flee to Japan," Kuan noted. A photograph of the Portuguese publisher appears in the museum's collection.

"The Qing government asked the colonial authorities to arrest Sun," said Kuan. "They did not refuse the request but did not actively seek him. They were passive. This helped him."



Dr Sun Yat-sen with family



Leaders from the various overseas Chinese communities at a welcome party for Dr Sun Yat-sen, which took place in the Yu Garden (now Lou Lim leoc Garden) in Macao

Dr Sun Yat-sen with friends in Macao



Sun Yat-sen family members

On 29 March 1925, 20,000 people in Macao – one-fifth of its population – attended a memorial service at Kiang Wu Hospital.

Over the next 16 years, Sun led more than a dozen attempts at overthrowing the Qing government before succeeding in 1911. In January 1912, Sun became president of the new Republic, a position he held for less than three months due to Yuan Shikai, the most powerful military leader in China at the time, taking over in March.

Before his death in 1925, Sun made a few trips to Macao to visit with family and supporters. A photograph from his visit in May 1912, a few months after his short-lived presidency, shows the large group of Macao businessmen who gathered to welcome him.

Sun spent the last years of his life once again taking up the

cause of revolution as the fledgling republic descended into the so-called Warlord Era, marked by multiple military factions vying for control from their regional strongholds.

Despite his failing health, he continued to travel and give speeches outlining his vision for China's future. Dr Sun Yat-sen died on 12 March 1925 in a Beijing hospital where he was being treated for liver cancer. He was 58 years old.

On 29 March that year, 20,000 people in Macao – one-fifth of its population – attended a memorial service at Kiang Wu Hospital. A statue of him now stands there in his honour.

Painstaking process of restoration

The restoration of the pharmacy was a long and difficult job for the IC, after the Macao government acquired the property in 2011. Built some time before 1892, when Chong Sai Pharmacy was established it belonged to Tso Yau, a prominent local businessman and founding council member of the Kiang Wu Hospital.

The building is a typical traditional three-storey Chinese shophouse, with a business space on the ground floor and living quarters on the upper floors. Composed of three halls on a front-to-back axis, separated by two enclosed courtyards and connected by side corridors, it has an area measuring 525 sq metres on a narrow 188-sq metre tract of land.

After Dr Sun left for Guangzhou, the building was rented and sold several times and used as a Taoist hall. From the 1930s, it was primarily used for the textiles business and later leased to an electrical appliance store.

By the time the government of Macao acquired it, the building had been abandoned for years. The IC had to repair the roof, to stabilise the structure, kicking off a search for the appropriate materials. Their commitment to using original materials meant that, rather than buying

Harold Kuan Chon Hong, senior technician in the Cultural Affairs Bureau's Department of Cultural Heritage





Interior of the former Chong Sai Pharmacy

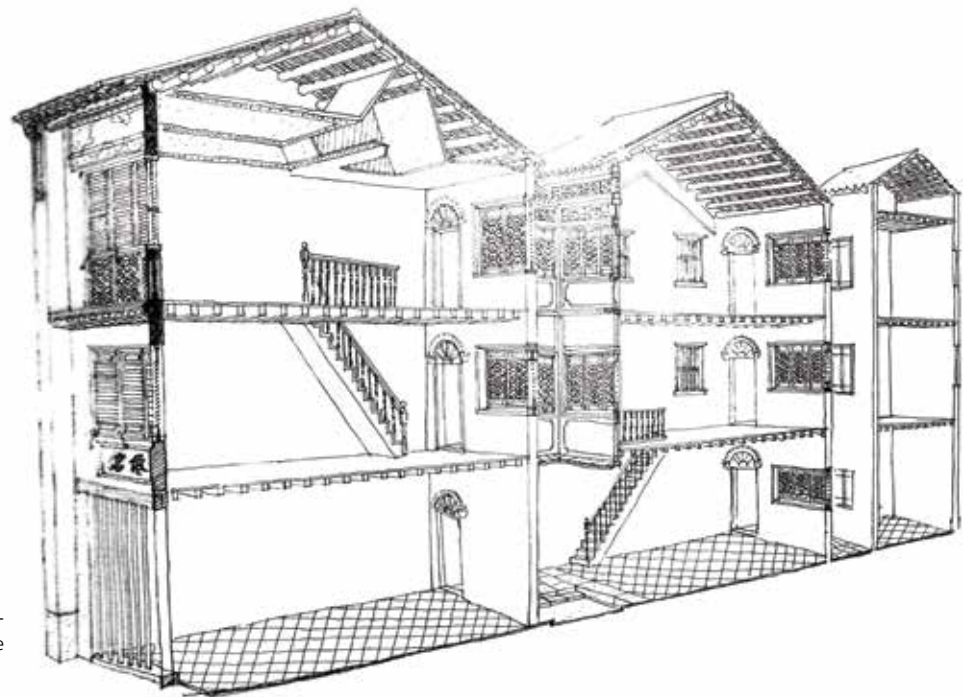


Diagram of a shop-house structure

wholesale construction materials, the IC had to go to sites where old buildings were being demolished and salvage what they needed. It was the same with the damaged wooden beams and fir slabs.

Then they ran into an entirely new problem. Excavation revealed material below the building that archaeologists believe had been part of the early coastline of Macao. Recognising the historical value, the IC altered

their restoration plans to integrate the archaeological discovery into the museum experience. A railed opening allows visitors to see the exposed stone structure beneath the shophouse floor.

The narrowness of the building, typical of shophouses, and lack of side access also complicated the renovation process. While the IC took great pains to preserve the historic building, they did make some concessions to modernity. A lift,

staircase, and toilet were added at the rear for the convenience of the public.

The beautifully restored structure now offers visitors a glimpse of the city's everchanging coastline and invites them to explore the traditional shophouses that once populated the heart of Macao. It also tells the story of the city's connection to Dr Sun Yat-sen, a man of humble beginnings whose vision and unwavering dedication gave rise to modern China. ●



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Horário de Funcionamento: Fortaleza da Guia e Centro de Informações:
9:00-18:00 (Entrada permitida até às 17:30)
Capela da Guia: 10:00-17:00

Endereço: Colina da Guia



Shedding new light on the past

Text Ou Nian-le Photos António Sanmarful

One of the missions of Macao Museum is to show the ordinary life and industries of Macao over the centuries. For this, it needs to collect items from daily life found in people's houses and the places where they work.





As part of the year-long celebration of its 20th anniversary, Macao Museum arranged a special exhibition featuring dozens of never-before-seen pieces from its collection. Opened 29 September, the “Assemblage of Treasures” exhibition runs until February next year.

The more than 80 items/sets illustrate the continuous dedication of the museum to collect historical relics with cultural and artistic value related to Macao.

The pieces are divided into six sections – Lingnan Paintings, European Travellers’ Paintings,

Style and Life, Multicultural Macao, Exhibition Overview, and Education Space – that highlight more than 400 years of cultural exchanges between East and West. Notable pieces include paintings from masters such as Gao Jianfu, George Chinnery and Auguste Borget, all of whom lived in Macao and developed a special bond with the city.

History and heritage

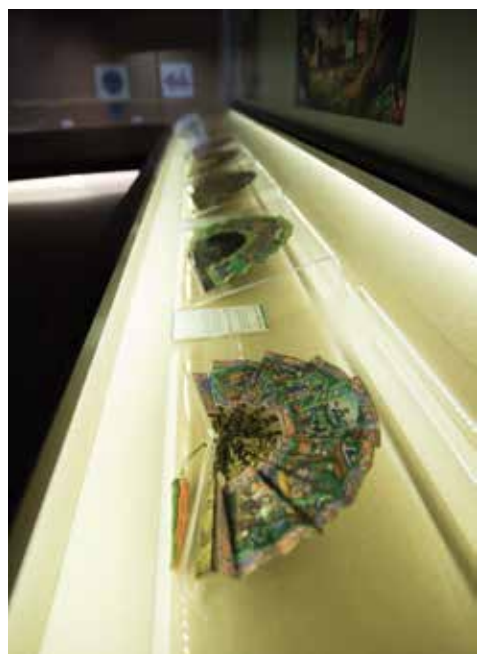
Mount Fortress provides a fitting backdrop for a museum dedicated to the complicated history of Macao. Built by Jesuits

in the 17th century, it served as the city’s principal military defence for almost 300 years. Converted into the former Meteorological Services in 1965, the site found a new purpose when it opened as Macao Museum in April 1998.

The government selected the site four years earlier, in 1994, endowing it with a mission to “advance cultural and museum undertakings to preserve cultural heritage and carry forward Macao’s unique cultural diversity fusing Chinese and Western cultures.”

Construction began in 1995, following the completion of





archaeological studies on the site. The challenge of designing a functional museum within the hilltop fortress was given to Portuguese architect Carlos Bonina Moreno, who had been based in Macao since 1982. The museum was officially opened by then Portuguese Prime Minister António Guterres on 18 April 1998.

In July 2005, the Historic Centre of Macau was inscribed on the World Heritage List of UNESCO; Mount Fortress figures among the many significant historical monuments of the Centre.

The museum consists of two underground levels and a third located on the topmost level of the fortress, where the former Meteorological Service was housed. Moreno's design retained and preserved the architectural character of the site and its particular configuration. The museum itself is dedicated to providing a record of the history and culture of Macao through its nearly 8,000-piece collection.



Building up and spreading out

Director Loi Chi Pang described the first seven years of the museum's life, from 1998 to 2005, as the period of foundation. "We started to put on special exhibitions devoted to important themes of Macao. These included the Goods of Macao, the Film Industry of Macao, Macao during the Anti-Japanese War and the Culture of China's Ancient Qin [a classical musical instrument]."

"The time from 2006 to today has been the period of development. We began to cooperate with important museums in many countries and regions, to describe the history of Macao," he explained. "Then we established a system of Macao's non-material intangible cultural heritage. We have completed 10 projects under this category."

While he offered Paris' Louvre and the Italian National Archives as examples of international partners, the museum has also worked with museums and other institutions in Hong Kong, even putting on joint exhibitions with them.

"For example, Macao Museum took responsibility for the overall planning of the 'Maritime Porcelain Road - Relics from Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao Museums.' This was the exhibition that went to the most cities and had the most impact in China," he said.

The museum has organised many large-scale exhibitions on subject matters ranging from the invention of photography and early photographs of Macao to engravings from the Louvre collection. To mark the 20th anniversary on 18 April, the museum opened "Treasure from the Deep Sea - Exhibition of Underwater Archaeological Relics of the Nanhai No 1," the first such exhibition outside mainland China.



Loi Chi Pang, director of Macao Museum

The museum has built up its own collection through different sources, making purchases at home and overseas of pieces it considers suitable, and taking donations from individuals and companies.

"We have had donations from the wealthy, ordinary people and large companies, including the entertainment firms," Loi said. But with limited storage space, the museum must be selective with what it accepts. "We consider what we already have in that category. We have no place to store large items, like machinery."

Asked if the museum would like to build a new warehouse for its pieces, Loi pointed out that space in the city was at a premium. "Everyone wants space - for housing, cultural events, for music."

He noted that each museum in Macao had its own distinct role:



George Chinnery's paintings

“The Macao Tea Culture House, for example, specialises in the history and culture of tea. The Macao Science Center is responsible for spreading knowledge of science,” he said.

One of the missions of Macao Museum is to show the ordinary life and industries of Macao over the centuries. For this, it needs to collect items from daily life found in people’s houses and the places where they work.

To make purchases, the museum has five specialist committees which decide what items should be bought. They have standards and guidelines to adhere to. “I can oppose a purchase, but I must give reasons,” said Loi. “Each year we have a budget for such purchases. The amount differs each year.”

Government invested in local history

The museum runs on funds provided annually by the government, a figure Loi declined to share.

“We do not accept donations from private individuals. They cannot talk directly to me. They must give to the government, which can then approve funds for the museum,” he said.

The Cultural Affairs Bureau has received donations from overseas Chinese, such as Wong Ieng Kuan of Peru. “This was at a time when the government was less wealthy than today. [Wong] has several libraries named after him. Usually, such donors like to give to schools and libraries, which educate the next generation.”

By contrast, museums in the West rely heavily on monetary donations from wealthy individuals; such contributions are often tax-deductible. Loi explained that the situation in the Chinese world is different: “Inheritance taxes are lower. Chinese want to pass their fortune on to the next generation. And the government of Macao is very rich.”

Ticket sales go directly to the government. The entry price for tourists is low, and free for Macao residents.

This year the museum expects 500,000 visitors, up from 450,000 in 2017. “Of these, 70–80 per cent are people from outside Macao,” Loi pointed out. He believes that this abundance of tourists, along with limited parking for the hilltop location, discourages many local people from visiting.

To increase the number of local visitors, the museum organises many activities, including performances, interactive shows, and events in its garden.

The museum has organised many large-scale exhibitions on subject matters ranging from the invention of photography and early photographs of Macao to engravings from the Louvre collection.

Keeping up with change

Looking to the future, Loi said that Macao is changing very fast, especially the way people are receiving information. “We need to improve our services and attract more young people. We now have wi-fi in the museum and multi-media services. We must keep pace with this change.”

Remembering the ordinary life of Macao is an important part of the museum’s mission. To continue building its collection, the museum must inform people of the importance of what they possess and the need to preserve it. This will encourage people to donate items and help preserve Macao’s more recent history for future generations.

“Let people have this recognition themselves: ordinary life is also culture,” Loi said. “We should not rely only on a few people. More and more Macao people recognise this than before. But we still have room to improve.” ●



Zoom

29th Macao International Fireworks Display Contest

Text **Jamie Ha** Photos **Government Information Bureau**

China, the winner of the 2018 Macao International Fireworks Display Contest





Japan

The 29th Macao International Fireworks Display Contest was a spectacular success this year, beginning with fireworks performances on 1, 15, and 29 September, and ending on the night of 1 October, China's National Day. Liuyang New Year Fireworks Trading Co Ltd from China stole the show and won the championship. Following their lead, the fireworks teams Marutamaya Ogatsu Fireworks Co, Ltd. from Japan and Potsdamer Feuerwerk Vertriebs GmbH from Germany took the first and second runners-up placements.

Coming together from all around the world on an annual basis, various internationally-acclaimed fireworks companies

prepared their best performances to challenge one another. The ten teams proudly represented this year, in order of appearance in the contest, were: the Philippines, Korea, Japan, Belgium, France, Portugal, Germany, Austria, Italy and China. Macao warmly welcomed the fireworks companies from Korea, Belgium, France and China, who made their debut this year in the city.

Continuing on from its inaugural edition in 1989, the contest has evolved into one of the city's most prominent and signature events. An immense number of spectators gather throughout Macao specifically to revel in this communal event.

Since this year's contest coincidentally occurred during China's Golden Week, there were even more visitors; they hurried to watch the fireworks performances first-hand. This opened a giant door of opportunity for Macao to provide an unforgettable experience for new, and returning, tourists.

The 29th Macao International Fireworks Display Contest raised the bar when it comes to competitions and events alike. We can be sure Macao has high ambition for future large-scale affairs aimed at attracting a broad range of international attention, adding to Macao's reputation as a top destination for tourism and leisure.



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