

Macao 澳門

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for Macao in 2019 p.32**

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THE 50TH ISSUE OF MACAO MAGAZINE



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A decade of showcasing Macao to the world

As the Chinese saying goes, “At 50, I knew my destiny.” Macao Magazine has yet to reach its 50th year of establishment. However, with 50 issues published since October 2009, we have certainly established a purposeful path: showcasing the best of Macao to the world.

Through nearly a decade of in-depth reporting and beautiful photography, Macao Magazine has brought to local and international readers the very essence of Macao – its unique culture and traditions, economic development, regional integration and relationships with foreign countries, particularly within the Portuguese-speaking world.

With the 50th issue, we hold to our mission in addressing global issues that impact Macao. This includes a detailed report on Chinese President Xi Jinping’s visit to Lisbon, during which the two countries’ leaders agreed on supporting Macao’s role as a platform for Sino-Portuguese relations. In an exclusive interview, the President of the Portuguese Republic Marcelo Rebelo

de Sousa reaffirms Portugal’s desire to strengthen its relations with China and to cooperate in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Meanwhile, Macao’s role in the nation’s overall development was reiterated in the Beijing agreement between Macao and China’s National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), as well as President Xi’s expectations on developing the city through proactive participation in the Greater Bay Area and the BRI.

Macao Magazine has also focused on issues closer to home, showing the world how Macao has developed economically and socially based on the strong relationships between communities in the city. This issue sheds light on the new budget that proposes MOP2.3 billion in social support to share the fruits of Macao’s success with its people. We also speak to the architect in charge of designing the new Central Library of Macao, which promises to be a tranquil haven for learning and community in the heart of Macao.



Gonçalo César de Sá
Editor-in-Chief



A full-page photograph of Chinese President Xi Jinping walking past a guard of honor in Lisbon. He is wearing a dark blue suit and a light blue tie. The guard of honor consists of soldiers in grey uniforms with bayoneted rifles. The word "Politics" is written in the top right corner.

Politics

Portugal's place in China's Belt and Road Initiative

Text Paulo Figueiredo Photos Patrícia de Melo Moreira/AFP and Xinhua News Agency

Chinese President Xi Jinping and Portuguese
President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa in Lisbon

From the outset, the visit to Portugal by Chinese President Xi Jinping, 4–5 December 2018, was regarded by both governments as a landmark in the existing strategic cooperation. Indeed, China's head of state returned to Beijing with assurance of Portugal's participation in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), a position that promises Portugal a valuable role in the strategy, which is already shaping global connectivity in the 21st century. Macao's own role was also ensured, at the highest level by both China and Portugal.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed during the visit solidified Portugal's participation in the BRI document lasts for five years, and is valid for extension through further five-year periods unless terminated by one of the parties. In addition to being a key point for the BRI in the Iberian Peninsula – Spain shied away from signing a similar MoU – Portugal emerged from President Xi's visit as a key partner in Europe.

The document addresses both countries' support for synergies between the BRI and “priorities defined in the investment plan for Europe and the EU Strategy on Connecting Europe and Asia, including the Trans-European Networks, and [welcomes] the outcomes of the discussion in the EU-China Connectivity Platform.” This should help to allay concerns expressed by Portugal's European partners regarding a harmonious articulation between China and the EU's projects.

Under the agreement, the two sides will work together within the BRI to realise the goal of enhancing development and translating mutual complementary strengths into advantages for practical cooperation and sustainable growth. They also agreed to strengthen cooperation and promote Europe-Asia connectivity, in part by jointly establishing “an economic cooperation framework which is open, inclusive, balanced, fair, transparent and beneficial to all,

according to international rules.” The goals include promoting the growth of the blue economy, by deepening the “blue partnership,” which aims to promote collaboration between the two countries' governments, science and technology sectors, businesses, and general public in related fields.

In terms of articulation, the two sides committed to promoting bilateral cooperation guided by the principles of “extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, with respect for each other's core interests and deepen mutual trust and beneficial cooperation for common development and prosperity.” This, in accordance with their respective international obligations and applicable domestic laws and regulations, ensures the safe and smooth progress of related cooperation projects and promises to energise their economic and social development.

In accordance with the concept of cooperation, development and win-win progress under the BRI, Portugal and China also undertake in the MoU to “make full use of existing bilateral cooperation mechanisms, multilateral mechanisms and institutions that they both joined.” Leveraging entities including the World Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Asian Development Bank, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and effective regional cooperation platforms – in particular the EU-China Connectivity Platform – “to form synergy and provide each other support.”

Stating their will to “promote global connectivity in sectors of common interest in an harmonious, balanced and respectful manner,” Portugal and China established seven key areas of cooperation. The first – policy coordination – will complement all subsequent cooperative actions, ensuring that both countries adopt policies aimed at achieving their shared goals.



Chinese and Portuguese delegations meeting

The second – air, land and maritime transport, logistics, and port infrastructure – will take into account the role of the Port of Sines and other ports may fill in the implementation of the BRI, given their “privileged geographic position,” realising Portugal’s wish to give its ports a major role in the initiative.

Prior to the signing of the agreement, the Portuguese government was already in full steam promoting the use of the Sines port, located in the southwest of the

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed during the visit solidified Portugal’s participation in the Belt and Road Initiative.

country, for the BRI. Now, Chinese players, working within the BRI, will have a word to say over the future of Sines, including the new Vasco de Gama terminal. According to CL Brief, contacts are open between the Portuguese government and Chinese maritime operator COSCO corporation, among others.

Development of air transport links between the two countries will also be fostered, according to actual market demands, as well as strategic rail connections, as foreseen in the bilateral agreement.



President Xi Jinping and his wife Peng Liyuan received a warm welcome from President Rebelo de Sousa

The third area of cooperation established in the MoU signed during Xi's visit is mobility and connectivity, with both sides committing to enhance initiatives aimed at promoting R&D, production and use of electric vehicles, as well as the setting up of other energy-efficient infrastructure and intermodal transport solutions, including the establishment of strategic rail connections with the Trans-European Transport Network and the sustained development of direct air transport links.

In the energy sector, the fourth area of cooperation, the two countries will combine forces namely through the exchange of knowledge and experience in the integration of renewables, sustainable and smart electricity transmission, as well as in grid management.

The fifth area of cooperation, trade and investment, promotes both "on the basis of a level playing field, and internationally agreed upon norms and standards, market rules, with a view to expanding the two-



-way investment and trade flow.” The agreements seeks to “further deepen investment, trade and industrial cooperation, as well as cooperation in related third country markets,” which bodes well for the Portuguese-speaking countries, many of whom are actively seeking outside investment and development. Tying back into previously mentioned areas, this section

further states the two countries’ determination to actively cooperate on investment projects in the electric mobility sector in Portugal.

The sixth cooperation area is finance, encouraging respective financial institutions to “provide financing support and financial services for production capacity, investment and trade cooperation.” Portugal and China also established the goal of strengthening exchanges between their currency and financial regulators.

The final area of cooperation covers people-to-people connectivity. This includes sister cities networks, education, culture, health, tourism and public welfare, among others, through the enhancement of cooperation between local governments, media, think tanks, and youth.

Beyond defining areas, the MoU also sets out modes of cooperation, including high-level visits and exchange mechanisms, currently in place or to be created, all with the aim of “building a multi-tiered information sharing platform for communication, increasing transparency, and encouraging participation of people in all sectors of society.” The sides further committed to carry out joint plans, economic and technological exchanges and cooperation, joint research and pilot programmes in key areas, as well as information sharing, capacity building, personnel exchanges, and training.

To support the implementation of major programmes, such as infrastructure, energy, transport and digital programs under the BRI, the two sides set out to “explore mutually beneficial models of cooperation,” in accordance with market principles. They will also work to promote cooperation between public and

private capital, “provide investment and financing support through diversified models, and strengthen exchanges and cooperation to ensure safety of the projects.” Factors like the sustainability of debts will be considered when mobilising funds.

500 years in 24 hours

President Xi’s whirlwind 24-hour visit to Lisbon began with Portuguese President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa inviting him to feel “at home” in the capital.

The official visit, which de Sousa will reciprocate in April 2019, also served to highlight 40 years of bilateral diplomatic relations between the two countries whose ties, with Macao at the epicentre, are now more than 500 years old.

Capturing newspaper headlines and live on Portuguese news channels, the visit by the Chinese head of state took place in an atmosphere of official pomp, but also popular participation: the Chinese community residing in Portugal mobilised in large numbers to support Xi at the main public moments of the visit, including the military parade in front of the Jerónimos Monastery, the visit to the National Assembly with military honours and even the arrival at the Hotel Ritz in central Lisbon, which served as the Chinese president’s headquarters for the duration of his visit.

Supporters wore flags of both countries and carried bright red posters with phrases in Chinese extolling Xi. In conversation with journalists, they expressed enthusiasm for the high-level understanding between the two countries, as well as satisfaction with Portugal as a host country.

Bilateral negotiations were ongoing during the visit and culminated on 5 December with the signing of a joint declaration at the Palace of Queluz (known as the “Portuguese Versailles” for its luxurious interiors) outside of Lisbon. The set of bilateral agreements between the two countries address a number of important topics, from climate change to trade.

Those in the Portuguese business and scientific community with ties to China were particularly pleased with the seventh article of the document which states that “Portugal welcomed and expressed its interest in participating” in the Belt and Road Initiative.

The MoU on this initiative “enshrines the deepening of the political dialogue and promotes sustainable connectivity between Europe and Asia in the field of transport,” in particular “through the development of direct strategic free and fair trade, closer cooperation and understanding between peoples in areas of common interest, on a harmonious, balanced, and respectful basis of international commitments equally accepted by each of the parties.” The two sides also reaffirmed their interest in fostering cooperation with third countries in regions such as Africa and Latin America.

This point perfectly encapsulates the aspiration of the Portuguese government – and a large part of the business community – to bring to Portugal infrastructure projects linked to BRI, while also incorporating scientific initiatives by creating bases for cooperation. The explicit reference to cooperation with Africa and Latin America not only advantages Portugal, but Macao and the rest of the Portuguese-speaking world.

Celebrating the 20 years of Macao’s administration return to China in 2019, the final declaration also highlights the role of the hub for the Lusophone community, recognising “the remarkable development successes” that the MSAR has achieved since its inception and emphasising “Macao’s important role in the Luso-Chinese relationship.”

The two countries expressed “a willingness to strengthen Macao’s role as a bridge and link to promote Portugal-China long-term friendship,” in addition to “a willingness to continue to support Macao’s role as a service platform for trade cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking countries.”

The same recognition is extended to Forum Macao, 15 years after its establishment, with the two countries reiterating their commitment to the implementation of the fruits achieved in their Ministerial Conferences, and to continue to promote pragmatic cooperation in all matters with concrete actions within the framework of the Forum.

After a lunch with Portuguese Prime Minister António Costa at the Palace of Queluz, and the signing of almost two dozen official and business agreements, Xi described the visit as “a great success,” which has “[engendered] driving forces for the development of the bilateral strategic partnership.”

“As we feel the bilateral relationship is at its best point in history, we will seize the 40th anniversary of bilateral relations as a new point of stability to deepen our friendship and cooperation and elevate our global strategic partnership to a new level,” said the Chinese president, speaking against the bright red background of the two countries’ flags.





The objectives for the near future are clear: to maintain the trend of frequent high-level visits; and to strengthen exchanges between governments, parliaments, political parties, and at local level between peoples by generating “understanding and mutual support on matters of vital interest,” explained Xi. The ultimate goal, he said, is “to continually raise the level of mutual trust.”

Both leaders were effusive in expressing their satisfaction with Portugal’s cooperation in the BRI, which already includes Eastern European countries like Hungary and Greece in the Mediterranean.

“We will insist on the spirit of openness, inclusiveness and shared interests; create more synergies between development strategies; reinforce the construction of the BRI and successfully implement existing projects; improve cooperation mechanisms; expand collaboration areas; and jointly explore third party markets,” he said.

For Portugal, which is still recovering from the 2011 economic crisis, inclusion in the BRI promises to make the country more central in global transport and logistics routes, taking advantage of its strategic location in the Atlantic region. It also increases the country’s status as an investment destination for Chinese companies, which already have a significant presence in key sectors such as energy, banking, insurance and health.

Speaking at a press conference along President Xi, Prime Minister Costa reiterated his government’s wish – which had already been expressed by his Economy minister – to receive “new root investments by Chinese companies” in the production sector. Several industrial and logistic parks all over the country, namely in Sines, have expressed interest in receiving them.

Without explicitly referring to the biggest deal that currently involves companies from both countries – China Three Gorges (CTG) offer to acquire the capital of EDP (Energias de Portugal) – Costa underlined the government’s openness to the “reinforcement of investment [by Chinese companies] in assets where [they] have been investing in Portugal.” The Portuguese government has already given its approval for the takeover of EDP by CTG, valued at EUR9.07 billion (US\$10.28 billion), although it still has to be approved by the regulatory authorities of countries where the Portuguese company is present, namely those in Europe and North America.

With Portugal’s public debt still high at over 125 per cent of GDP, the Portuguese government also welcomed the suitability of Portuguese bonds emission in yuan, after the Chinese rating agency, Dagong, gave its green light to such financial operations.

Both leaders were effusive in expressing their satisfaction with Portugal’s cooperation in the BRI, which also includes countries like Hungary and Greece.

As President Xi Jinping flew away from Lisbon, he could be assured that he now had in Portugal another BRI partner, facing the Atlantic, and with direct links to Africa and South America. ●



Chinese President Xi Jinping and Portuguese Prime Minister António Costa

A flurry of deals

Located in the heart of the Atlantic, the Azores archipelago is set to become a central point for Portuguese-Chinese cooperation.

Terceira Island, home to the Portuguese Air Force base Lajes Field, is the focal point for both countries. According to Prime Minister António Costa, Portugal is open to China using the base, which has seen a drawn down of US forces in recent years.

China has expressed interest in Portugal's Atlantic International Research – or AIR – Centre in the Azores, which monitors climate change and its effects, particularly on the Atlantic and surrounding countries. Research conducted there aims to contribute to a more sustainable future, and to generate jobs for a local economy hit hard by the partial withdrawal of the US.

While not part of the initial workshops to establish the AIR Centre, China was represented at the High-level Industry-Science-Government Dialogue in April 2017 and sent a delegation from the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology and the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) to the Azores in December 2017. The Portuguese government regards China and India as important partners for the AIR Centre.

Another point for scientific cooperation will be STARlab, a research and technological development

laboratory spread across three facilities in China (Shanghai) and Portugal (Peniche and Matosinhos). The project, set to open in March, aims to develop technologies and engineering systems to improve the knowledge, management, and sustainable exploitation of oceans and space. Over the next five years, the two Portuguese facilities will use a joint EUR50-million (US\$56.68 million) investment by both countries to manufacture microsatellites; CAS is already a leading investor in the sector worldwide.

In terms of business cooperation, Chinese e-commerce platform Alibaba took centre stage in the wake of Xi's visit to Portugal, signing a deal with Portuguese trade agency AICEP to place Portuguese products on its e-marketplace. Alibaba also presented its widely used payment service Alipay, now available for Portuguese businesses, while in Lisbon.

More than a dozen business deals were signed during the Chinese president's visit. AICEP also signed an agreement with China's biggest food distribution company that will create a service centre for Europe in Matosinhos. Other deals include those between EDP and China Three Gorges; REN and its shareholder State Grid; and Portuguese state bank CGD and Bank of China, which will combine for the issuance of so-called panda bonds from Portugal, in yuan.

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Macao to hold a crucial position in Portuguese-Chinese relations

Text **Paulo Figueiredo** Photos **Rui Ochoa**

In an exclusive interview with Macao Magazine, the President of the Portuguese Republic, Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, speaks about relations with China, the role that Macao continues to play, and the opportunities for Portuguese entrepreneurs in the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative.

This will be a year of commemorations. What are the main lessons to learn from the four decades of diplomatic relations between Portugal and China, and the two decades of Macao's integration into the People's Republic of China?

Indeed, 2019 will mark 40 years since Portugal and China re-established diplomatic relations. Despite being the oldest such ties between a Western European country and China, they had been circumstantially interrupted between 1949 and 1979. It will also mark 20 years since Macao returned to Chinese rule.

The resumption of diplomatic ties and our relations over the last 40 years are very positively appraised by both China and Portugal, as well as how we negotiated and implemented Macao's retrocession to China. Proof of that common positive assessment is the fact that during the state visit of President Xi Jinping, the two countries signed a commitment to hold, over the course of 2019,

a festival of Portuguese culture in China and another one of Chinese culture in Portugal.

The main lessons to learn are the same ones we had learned during more than 500 years of relations between Portugal and China that respecting the inherent differences of each nation's culture and lifestyle ensures that there is plenty of space for all the interests and prospects that bring us together. We do not have to be the same to understand each other, and we understand each other well and with mutual esteem.

What is the significance of Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to Portugal in 2018? And what are the objectives of your visit to China in 2019?

President Xi Jinping's visit to Portugal was of paramount importance for the vitality and strength of the two countries' relationship. It made a historic contribution to those two aspects, singularly helping enhance contacts



Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, President of the Portuguese Republic

and commitments to develop partnerships between the two countries' public and private sectors. Today, we have more agreements and more joint commitments for the future, clearly a result of that visit. It was the third time since we re-established diplomatic ties that a Chinese president came to Portugal on a state visit, which by itself indicates the special attention given to our country by Chinese policy, of which we are naturally very proud and content.

Given the current level of bilateral relations, which both governments consider to be “at the highest level in their history,” is China’s rising status in the world an advantage for Portugal?

The increasing affirmation of China is a result of its own merit, of the arduous and selfless labour of the Chinese people, and the persistent choice of development policies which have brought about economic wellbeing and a pace of growth unparalleled in the history of China – unparalleled in the world of today. That is why the progressive affirmation of China in the international scene will always be advantageous for the world as a whole, and certainly for Portugal as well. Portugal sees many opportunities in this development of China.

Has Portugal known how to benefit from the Portuguese-Chinese ‘link’ of the Macao SAR to project its economy and culture, or are there still aspects to improve? Which ones?

Macao will always hold a very central position in the picture of Portuguese-Chinese relations. The ever-friendly and special relations between Portugal and China would never have happened without Macao’s unique contribution. On the other hand, the special identity of Macao has created the conditions enabling the Special Administrative Region of China to continue playing a unique role in China as a platform for dialogue with Portugal and with all the Portuguese-speaking countries. The relationship between Portugal and China extends beyond the relationship via Macao, though Macao can always play a unique role by boosting or optimising that relationship.



The ever-friendly and special relations between Portugal and China would never have happened without Macao’s unique contribution.

Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa

The future establishment of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area promises to create one of the world’s biggest markets, open to Portuguese companies. Is Portugal aware of these new opportunities in southern China?

Portugal and Portuguese entrepreneurs are certainly very aware of this stimulating regional economic integration project in what will be one of the world’s most dynamic regions, there in the Pearl River Delta. The population density, productivity, and consumption capacity have already made the region one of drivers of the global economy, and all countries and companies naturally pay attention to those figures.

Chinese companies have invested in sectors of the Portuguese economy such as energy, banking, health, and insurance. Has Portugal become an important gateway for China in the European Union?

The Chinese investors you refer to are three: State Grid, which has invested in the domestic power distribution network; China Three Gorges, which has invested in energy production; and Fosun, which has invested in banking, insurance, energy, and health. These are very important investments in key areas of our economy and our society. They are investments that result from the fact that in the respective tenders the Chinese investors presented proposals that were more advantageous for Portugal than those of the other interested parties. In other words, they won due to their own merit and are making a major contribution to sustaining employment in our country. Like other investors, with other origins; all are welcome.



Beyond those companies, Portugal is surely capable of attracting new investment, ideally in other areas and with other more industrial characteristics, with the creation of structures from the ground up. Finally, we cannot forget that Portugal is neither the first nor the second nor even the third ranked destination of Chinese investment in Europe – we are the fifth. We must therefore keep the facts in mind and continue working based on a rigorous understanding of the realities.

What advantages can Portugal, particularly its economic players, bring to partnerships with large Chinese

companies in third countries, specifically in Africa and Latin America?

That is a good question to ask the Chinese companies that seek us to develop partnerships in third countries. Factors and comparative advantages indicated to us by our Chinese counterparts usually include our deep-seated knowledge of the economic and legal systems of those countries and the ease of interpretation and communication with the respective societies.

How do you assess the importance of China's new Silk Road strategy for development of the global economy and for Portugal in particular?

The Belt and Road initiative launched by President Xi Jinping in 2013 is a major infrastructure and trade connection project, basically oriented toward what we call 'Eurasia.' It is a very promising initiative and has kindled debate about the development of trade and transport frameworks linking Asia and Europe, with branches to other continents, namely Africa and the Americas. It complements the European connectivity initiative launched by the European Union, as well as other partners. Surely, we all stand to gain from the success of these complementary initiatives, which should together foment global trade, development, and prosperity. ●

Macao strengthens participation in Belt and Road Initiative

Text José Luís Sales Marques Photos Government Information Bureau and Xinhua News Agency

With the agreement signed between the Macao government and the National Development and Reform Commission, Macao is ready to strengthen its participation in the Belt and Road Initiative.

Chief Executive Chui Sai On (left) and NDRC Chairman He Lifeng (right)



In early December 2018, Chief Executive Chui Sai On and National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) Chairman He Lifeng signed an agreement to support Macao's "full participation and contribution to" the construction of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Officially known as the "arrangement," it seeks to foster development and reform between the NDRC and the government of the MSAR, defining priority areas where Macao must decisively move forward and attain results. It also offers new clues as to the contribution expected from Macao, particularly in regard to the building up of the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road.

It aims "at giving full play to Macao's strengths in serving the [BRI], and generating fresh competitive advantages for the city and its economy," according to a statement from the Macao Government Information Bureau.

It comes as no surprise that a good deal of measures included in the arrangement are aimed at complementing Macao's established strategic roles.

The arrangement clearly establishes that Macao will "organise the liaison between the service platform and the Belt and Road Initiative, clearing the path for further developments to take place."

A clear priority: development of Macao's financial services to transform itself as a platform between China and the Portuguese speaking Countries (PSC), advancing the internationalisation of the yuan. There are no specifics on which financial services will be given priority, although previous statements by the Macao government point toward further development of financial leasing services, which play into the city's financial strengths.

The MSAR government also announced significant fiscal incentives to boost economic ties between Macao and the PSC for private businesses, by exempting income earned or generated by Macao companies in PSC from payment of supplementary income tax in 2019.

Other areas covered by the arrangement include encouraging Macao's participation in regional trade organisations, as well as non-sovereign international professional bodies; high-level forums and international-level exhibition relating to the promotion of BRI; developing Macao's role as a base for multicultural exchange promoting Chinese culture; cultivating bilingual Portuguese-Chinese talents; and further promotion of the construction of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA).

The most innovative aspect of the arrangement deals with Macao becoming an important modal transport, trade, and logistics centre in the Maritime Silk Road. This objective, not clearly indicated before, could take different forms since it implies moving people and cargo around in a network of connectivity linking the GBA with South East Asia and beyond. It also signals that tangible conditions will have to be built up for the purpose, based on historical legacies and immaterial condition the city already has. In fact, this purpose conveys in a single stream two features of Macao's history, past and present.

In centuries past, Macao served as a trade hub and a node in the trade network linking China with North and South Asia, not to mention Europe by way of Portugal. Intriguing then that, a day before the signing of said arrangement, President Xi was in Portugal where both governments agreed on Portugal's participation in the BRI. Xi said in Lisbon that "Portugal is the important junction that links the Silk Road and the Maritime Silk Road," referring to the overland economic corridors and the sea route of the BRI.

In modern times, Macao's relations with the peoples and countries of South East Asia is well known. The city is home to many families and businesses with links to a whole spectrum of

cities and regions within this area, as well as strong and enterprising communities of mainly Chinese compatriots of Southeast Asian origin.

Chief Executive Chui described his May 2018 visit to the Southeast Asian nations of Cambodia and Thailand as “productive and fruitful, particularly in terms of expanding Macao’s contribution to the BRI” through these key partners. In June 2018, a delegation of mainland and Macao professionals and entrepreneurs in the construction sector visited Myanmar and Thailand seeking opportunities to cooperate and invest in infrastructure related projects.

The signing of this new agreement comes after lengthy, comprehensive consultations and background work developed by government and private think tanks, mostly linked or coordinated to higher education institutions and the Macao Foundation. The Macao Silk Road Association and the Institute of European Studies of Macau are among the organisations that contributed to the discussion of Macao’s role in the BRI.

The BRI is a comprehensive Chinese strategy of economic development and international cooperation, involving over 100 countries and organisations. Originally focused on building connectivity through

massive investments in related infrastructure along six overland economic corridors to Europe and maritime routes through the Indian Ocean to Europe, other regions – including the PSC – could be integrated into the BRI in the near future.

The BRI is the cornerstone of China’s development strategy and foreign diplomacy, connecting its domestic economic development agenda with its engagement, at various levels, with the world economy. It is a grand multi-state cooperative project, involving multilateral and bilateral relations, economy, culture, security, and people-to-people dialogues.

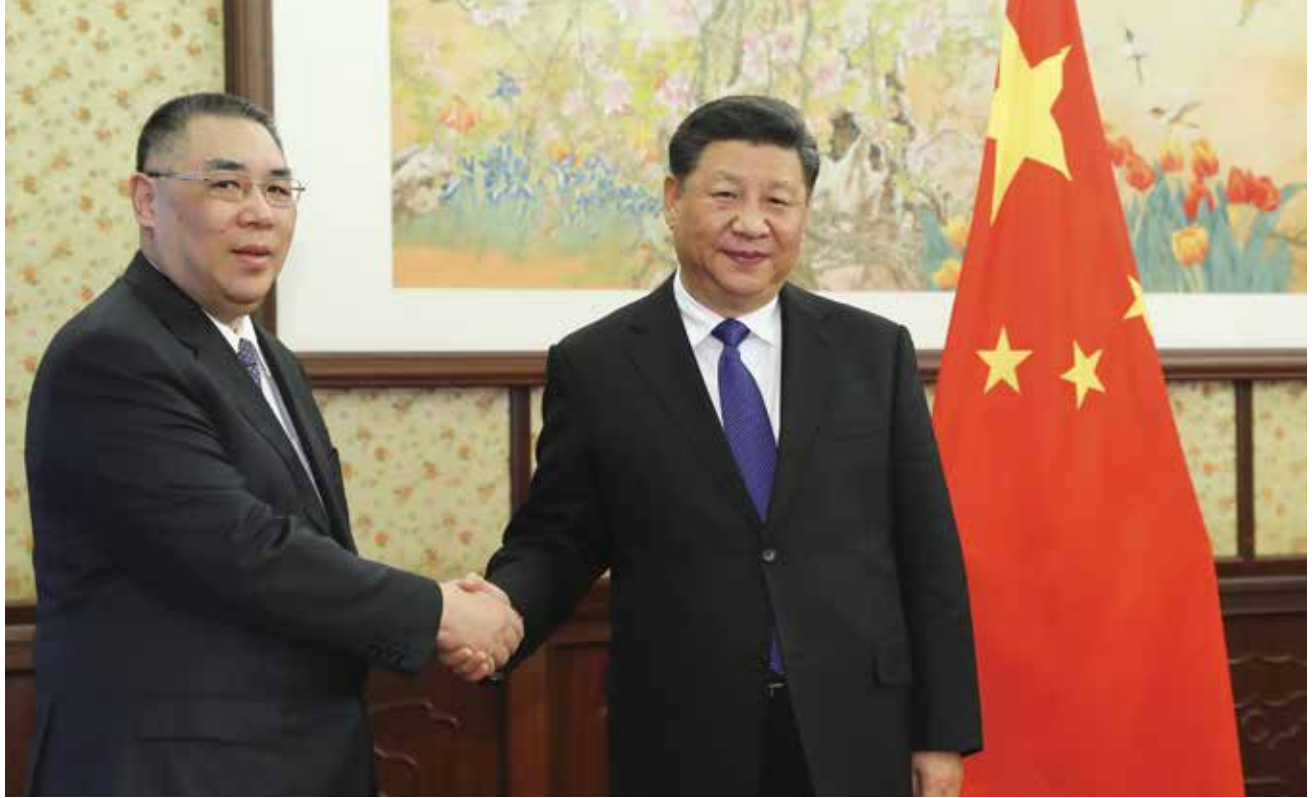
With the newly signed arrangement moving into the implementation phase, observers are optimistic about the Macao government and private sector furthering the city’s active participation in the BRI as a way to promote economic diversification and international competitiveness, improving the economic wellbeing of its population. ●

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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Meeting between Macao government and NDRC in Beijing





President Xi Jinping (right) and Chief Executive of Macao Chui Sai On (left)

President Xi praises Macao's role in national initiatives

Text Christian Ritter Photos Xinhua/Government Information Bureau

President Xi Jinping, during a December 2018 meeting with Chief Executive Chui Sai On in Beijing, said that over the past year, the Macao government has improved the institutions and mechanisms for safeguarding national security and proactively taken part in the development of the GBA and in the BRI.

The president also said that the Macao government promoted the proper diversification of the local economy and improved the livelihood of the residents. He believes that the residents of Macao will seize the opportunities, expand the space of development, and foster new drivers of growth by integrating Macao's own development into the development of China.

Xi recalled that, over the past year, the Macao government, under Chui's leadership, has faithfully fulfilled its duties, been prudent and steady in its work style, and implemented the "one country, two systems" policy and the Macao Basic Law.

"The central government fully endorses the work by Chui and the MSAR government," Xi said.

New deal strengthens role in the BRI

Ten days prior to the meeting with President Xi, the Macao government signed an agreement with the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) aimed at giving full play to Macao's strengths in serving the BRI, and generating fresh competitive advantages for the city and its economy.

Chief Executive Chui and NDRC Chairman He Lifeng signed the deal in Beijing, after which the two sides held the first joint conference to coordinate works under the new agreement.

Under the document signed, Macao is to become as a major transport hub and important logistics centre of the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road.

The arrangement is aimed at complementing Macao's strategic roles as a world centre of tourism and leisure, and as a commercial and trade cooperation service platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries (collectively known as the Centre and Platform policies). These roles complement the overall development of the BRI.

High-level forums and international-level exhibitions themed on topics relating to the BRI will be held in Macao. The arrangement also seeks to help develop Macao's role as a base for multicultural exchanges and cooperation with the goal of further promoting Chinese culture.

Macao will receive backing from the central government to develop as an incubator for cultivating talents proficient both in Chinese and Portuguese.

The Macao government officials outlined the progress of work relating to the city's contribution to the BRI during the conference, where several ideas and policies designed to advance such an effort were proposed.

According to the agreement, the NDRC and other central authorities will remain in close touch with the Macao government in order to implement policies outlined in the arrangement and to support Macao's participation in, and contribution to, the BRI.

Speaking after the signing, Chief Executive Chui said that the agreement paved a clear path for Macao's contribution to the BRI and provided new impetus for Macao's economic development.

Chui pledged that the local government would spare no effort in advancing cooperation with Guangdong and Fujian provinces, concerning joint contributions to the BRI, while also encouraging further involvement from Portuguese-speaking countries regarding the Chinese initiative.

China

Zhaoqing given new lease of life by Greater Bay Area

Text Mark O'Neill Photos Eric Tam





Inclusion in the GBA offers Zhaoqing the chance to develop more rapidly, partnering with its richer neighbours to offer complementary products and services.

For the city of Zhaoqing, inclusion in the Greater Bay Area (GBA) Initiative promises the opportunity to catch up with other cities in Guangdong that developed faster during the reform area.

Located in the central-western part of Guangdong province, most of Zhaoqing sits north of the Xijiang River, nestled between plains and mountains. It has the largest land area of any city in the GBA, coming in just under 15,000 sq km, with a population of 4.12 million. With a GDP of CNY220 billion (US\$31.93 billion) in 2017, it accounted for only 2.45 per cent of the province's GDP.

Zhaoqing is, along with Jiangmen, the least developed of the 11 GBA cities. While both cities boast a per capita GDP above the national average in China, they fall well below that of Shenzhen and Guangzhou, as well as the unofficial threshold for developed countries. The two SARs, by comparison, have per capita GDPs well above many developed countries.

Although manufacturing is a staple for Zhaoqing, primary industry – agriculture, forestry, and fisheries – account for 14.8 per cent of its GDP, more than any other GBA city. Conversely, the service sector makes up a far smaller per cent of the GDP than other GBA cities, at 38.3 per cent.

Inclusion in the GBA offers Zhaoqing the chance to develop more rapidly, partnering with its richer neighbours to offer complementary products and services. Each city in the GBA belongs to a cluster of two to three cities centred around a stronger 'core' city to encourage stability and growth. Zhaoqing, along with Foshan, is clustered around Guangzhou, which boasts a GDP nearly nine times that of Zhaoqing, at CNY1.95 trillion (US\$283 billion).

Seven Star Crags



Natural strengths

Zhaoqing not only has the largest land area within the GBA, its soil is less contaminated by industrial pollution. It can meet the demand of middle-class GBA residents for high-quality and specialty foods. These residents also want new leisure activities, like weekends away, scenic tours, and second homes. It has spectacular scenery. Dinghu Mountain, located in the south-eastern part of Zhaoqing, was the first nature reserve in China and is listed by UNESCO as an international biosphere reserve. With its natural beauty and property prices among the lowest of GBA cities, Zhaoqing is well positioned to meet these needs.

The mountains of Zhaoqing also hold considerable mineral

wealth. It is the most important gold producer in the province, with mines concentrated in Gaoyao district, and Huaiji and Fengkai counties. Its non-metallic mines include limestones for flux and gypsum, granite for overcoating and construction, porcelain clay, ink-stone, mineral and geothermal water. It leads the nation in production of ink-stone, a unique ornamental stone.

Zhaoqing also boasts a well-development transport system, with eight external ports. Its New Port is one of the 28 most important inland ports in China. It has three national expressways, plus three more in the pipeline, and two high-speed railways, with an intercity railway connecting it directly with Foshan and Guangzhou.

Looking to the future

Zhaoqing has six key traditional industries: textiles and garments, food and beverages, furniture, building materials, metal products, and home appliances. In total, these six industries contributed 33 per cent of the city's value-added industrial output in 2017.

The city's 13th Five Year Plan (2016–2020) designated five industries as priorities for future development: new materials industries, high-end new-type electronic information industries, biomedicines, advanced equipment manufacturing, and energy-saving and eco-friendly industries.

It is developing three industrial clusters worth over CNY100 billion (US\$14.51 billion) that specialise in the areas of the advanced equipment manufacturing, focusing on new energy vehicles, as well as environmental protection equipment and intelligent equipment. Each of these clusters will eventually produce goods worth hundreds of billions of yuan.

The city is also looking to promote cloud computing, Big Data, and industrial robotics in order to boost the smart capabilities of its manufacturing sector and to improve its overall technology.

In agriculture, Zhaoqing's Huaiji county is one of Guangdong's primary grain production bases. The 13th Five-Year plan calls for adoption of the "internet + agriculture" production and operational mode, harnessing new technologies to modernise farming. Capabilities range from collection and analysis of data on things like crop yields and weather conditions, to e-commerce and the development of more specialised farm products for consumers in the Pearl River Delta.



Economic performance

In January 2018, in his annual report on the city's economy, Mayor Fan Zhongjie said that Zhaoqing's GDP in 2017 was CNY220 billion (US\$31.93 billion), an increase of 5.2 per cent over the year before, with an average per capita GDP of CNY53,674 (US\$7,790). He said that industrial added-value, fixed asset investment and retail spending rose by 4.9, 9, and 10.6 per cent year-on-year respectively.

He reported that the 366 Industrial Development Project was proceeding smoothly, with an increase in the proportion of GDP of the three priority industries: new energy vehicles, modern equipment manufacturing, and environmental protection and energy saving.

Traditional industries accounted for one-third of the increase in industrial added-value in 2017. Production of furniture rose and of construction materials, 6.1 and 17.5 per cent respectively, while textile and garment production fell 18.5 per cent.

Retail sales rose 10.6 per cent to CNY80.99 billion (US\$11.75 billion). Exports fell 28 per cent to US\$22.23 billion and imports fell 9 per cent to US\$13.57 billion. Contracted foreign investment fell 80.2 per cent to US\$267 million and actual foreign investment fell 51.1 per cent to US\$181 million. The number of visitors rose 2.4 per cent to 519,400. The average disposable income of the city's residents in 2017 was CNY22,360 (US\$3,245), an increase of 8.7 per cent.

From Ancient to Modern Silk Road

When the West first encountered China, Zhaoqing served as the hub of the famed Silk Road. The county of Fengkai, part of Zhaoqing, was

the earliest contact point for the Maritime Silk Road during the Western Han dynasty (206BC-9AD). Several hundred and up to 1,000 years ago, the county of Huaiji, also in Zhaoqing, was an important trading point on the Maritime Silk Road.

The first European-style map in Chinese originated from the city, published by a Jesuit priest named Matteo Ricci in 1584. The map aroused enormous interest among the residents who learned for the first time of countries that they had never heard before. Two years earlier, in 1582, an agreement signed in Zhaoqing established the Portuguese trading centre of Macao; Ricci was living in Macao at the time.

Zhaoqing served as the seat of the provincial governorship of Guangxi and Guangdong, a position it held for nearly 200 years beginning in the 16th century. During this period, it was the centre of south China, largely due to the inland water navigation system that linked Zhaoqing at the Xijiang to waterways in Guangxi and the north and downstream to Guangzhou and the Pearl River Delta (PRD) region. Its importance in trade stemmed from its prosperous agrarian and craft economies that had for thousands of years specialised in stationery, textiles and handicrafts, and later in sugar; these were commodities sold to the rest of the country as well as for export. Its local population density had been higher than that in the Guangzhou area for centuries.

Its military strategic location – at the junction of the PRD plains and the Dinghu Mountain of the Dayunwu Mountain Range – also allowed it to lead the local government to face the challenges of pirates and the newly arrived European maritime powers.





When the centre of power shifted to Guangzhou in the late Qing dynasty (1644–1911), the city went into decline.

Passed over by manufacturing boom

With the growth of trade in Macao, which linked Guangzhou and the PRD to the intercontinental and trans-Pacific Ocean trade routes, the export economy of production and services in Guangzhou prospered at the expense of Zhaoqing. Over the following centuries, Guangzhou expanded into a world metropolis; it is the centre of the PRD and connected by railways, sea, and air to a much larger hinterland than the regional economy.

Meanwhile, Zhaoqing was relegated into a provincial town lying idle on the outskirts of Guangzhou. The Xijiang River and its tributaries were unable to help Zhaoqing to modernise and industrialise.

The export-oriented industrialisation drive of the PRD over the last three decades centred on the relocation of industrial processing manufacturing from Hong Kong and beyond, using an army of migrant peasant workers from all over China. The export nature of the industrialisation concentrated manufacturing in areas bordering Hong Kong; this made Shenzhen, Dongguan, and Guangzhou the 'world factory' for labour-intensive products.

There was no significant industrial spillover to peripheral Zhaoqing. In recent years, when industrial processing has seen cost inflation and depressing external demand and many foreign-invested firms in Dongguan, there was no chance for less competitive firms to relocate to



Seven Star Crag Scenic Area

Zhaoqing. Its local cost structure and policy regime were not attractive enough to compete with overseas low-cost production centres like Vietnam, Indonesia and, more recently, Myanmar and Bangladesh. The miracle of the export-oriented industrial processing manufacturing never quite reached Zhaoqing.

Beginning in 2003, Zhaoqing tried its own industrialisation; it developed indigenous heavy industry to replace the industrial processing dominated by foreign investors. Guangzhou did the same with some success, benefitting from greater human and capital resources than Zhaoqing.

The push for industrialisation turned out to be a mixed blessing for Zhaoqing. Heavy industry replaced light industry as the engine of growth of the local economy; but it was achieved by excessive investment – the ratio of fixed asset investment to GDP has reached over 50 per cent since 2003, with individual counties at over 90 per cent in some years.

Remaking its economic future

The development of the GBA marks a new economic era in the region, one that promises Zhaoqing many new opportunities. It has been designated as the major supply base of agricultural products for the GBA, capitalising on its plentiful cultivatable land. Urban residents in the GBA have become affluent enough to become more concerned with food safety and freshness, making them an ideal market for organic and locally grown food products.

Another opportunity is leisure and holidays. Where Macao promises glitz and glamour, Zhaoqing provides a more relaxed getaway with its lower-density development and natural beauty, especially in the mountains surrounding the city. Perfect for weekends away in accommodations or a second home, both high priorities for the burgeoning middle class in the GBA.

It is developing the Qixingyan-Dinghu tourism and leisure area as a centre of tourism in the GBA, and

a national leisure and tourist resort. Zhaoqing has a good ecological environment, large space for development and rich tourism resources. Only a fraction of its total land area – just 5 per cent – has been developed. Its mountainous area includes four counties – Fengkai, Deqing, Guangning, and Huaiji – that cover 72.1 per cent of the city's land area but have only around half of its population.

The city will be greatly helped by its excellent transport network of inter-provincial high-speed railways and expressways. The city is only 70 minutes from Guangzhou. It has major highways connecting to neighbouring Foshan and Jiangmen, as well as the city section of the Pan-Pearl River Delta Highway. High-speed railways run north to Guiyang, capital of Guizhou province, and west to Nanning, capital of the Guangxi region.

This wealth of land links will facilitate the arrival of visitors and tourists, as well as the delivery of Zhaoqing products to markets elsewhere. ●

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Macao government to spend US\$2.33 billion on subsidies in 2019

Text **Christian Ritter** Infographics **Fernando Chan**



In his 2019 Policy Address – themed “Seizing Opportunities for Balanced Development” – Chief Executive Chui Sai On announced that his government will spend MOP18.75 billion (US\$2.33 billion) on subsidies, an increase of 45 per cent from the 2018 budget.

The total budget for the year, according to the 2019 General Integrated Budget of Public Expenditure, amounts to MOP122.38 billion (US\$15.21 billion) with subsidies accounting for about 15.3 per cent of the total.

Speaking to the legislature’s hemicycle, Chief Executive Chui emphasised that it is Macao’s duty to protect the nation’s sovereignty,

security and development interests, as well as the “grand mission to promote Macao’s lasting stability and prosperity.”

The 61-year-old Chief Executive, whose second and constitutionally final consecutive five-year term ends in December this year, delivered the policy address seated next to Legislative Assembly (AL) President Ho Iat Seng.

Many of the targeted subsidies benefit the most vulnerable in Macao – the elderly, people with disabilities, and disadvantaged families – while more broad-based subsidies go to all permanent and non-permanent residents.

Residents’ wealth-sharing cash handouts were increased by 11 per cent from MOP9,000 (US\$1,118) to MOP10,000 (US\$1,243) for permanent and from MOP5,400 (US\$671) to MOP6,000 (US\$746) for non-permanent residents.

This marks the first increase in the cash handout since 2014. Chui cited the MOP40-billion (US\$4.97 billion) surplus last year, describing the increases as a means of sharing the fruits of economic development with the public.

Subsidies to seniors and new parents were raised by 5.2 per cent, with senior residents’ pensions increasing from MOP3,450 (US\$429) to MOP3,630 (US\$451) a month and the government’s birth allowance increased to MOP5,260 (US\$654). Both parents are entitled to apply at the same time.

Other subsidies continue unchanged, including those for electricity bills, tap water tariffs, and bus fare concessions. The old-age allowance will stay at MOP9,000 (US\$1,118) per year and healthcare vouchers, available to permanent residents only, will remain at MOP600 (US\$75) per person for 2019.



Government subsidies

MOP18.75 billion

US\$2.33 billion

2019



Total budget for the year

MOP122.38 billion

US\$15.21 billion



Wealth-sharing cash handouts for permanent residents

MOP10,000

US\$1,243

Wealth-sharing cash handouts for non-permanent residents

MOP6,000

US\$746



Senior residents’ pensions

MOP3,630/month

US\$451/month

Old-age allowance

MOP9,000

US\$1,118



Government’s birth allowance

MOP5,260

US\$654



Electricity bills, tap water tariffs, and bus fare concessions subsidies unchanged

Incentives to work, build, innovate

The Chief Executive also announced the continuation of a string of tax allowances and incentives, as well as four new ones targeted toward facilitating specific goals, including the development of the Greater Bay Area (GBA).

To encourage innovation, enterprises will enjoy a triple reduction in profit for the first MOP3 million (US\$372,825) of joint venture R&D expenditure, and a double reduction in profit tax for additional expenditure, subject to a ceiling of MOP15 million (US\$1.86 million).

Waivers of profit tax on investment income from local bonds issued by the mainland authorities and state-owned enterprises (SOEs), and exemption from stamp duty for issuing and acquiring the respective bonds aim to promote the development of specialised financial services in the city. As does a profit tax waiver regarding local enterprises’ income received or generated in Portuguese-speaking countries.

An increase in the basic allowance for personal income tax for seniors and people with disabilities, up to MOP198,000 (US\$24,606), seeks to encourage employment among these groups.

To increase supply in the real estate leasing market, the property tax rate for leased properties will drop to 8 per cent (non-leased properties remain at 6 per cent). Chui also announced a raft of measures on the public housing front, including the construction of 28,000 flats in four phases in the Zone A land reclamation area near the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB) and 10,000 flats spread across three sites in Macao and Taipa.

Local focus on national initiatives

Chief Executive Chui reiterated Macao's commitment to proactive participation in the nation's GBA project and Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Chui told lawmakers that the recently opened HZMB and the broader GBA development concept will be a boom to Macao's position as a world centre for tourism and leisure, citing examples including the launch of multi-destination travel initiatives by the tourism authorities in the 11 GBA cities.

Chui highlighted four areas of possible GBA cooperation: innovation and entrepreneurship of young people; mutual recognition of professional qualifications by the three GBA jurisdictions (mainland, Hong Kong, and Macao); development of healthcare industries; and the extension of local residents' medical welfare rights to the other two GBA jurisdictions.

The government, he said, was studying the feasibility of setting up a medical insurance scheme for Macao residents living in other GBA cities and also looking into other welfare benefits that could be arranged for Macao residents living there.

Chui noted that both the local and Guangdong governments were pleased with the impact of their CNY20 billion (US\$2.91 billion) cooperation development fund. He vowed his government would further promote the development of the Guangdong-Macao Cooperation Traditional Chinese Medicine Science and Technology Park in Hengqin, as well as the establishment of a traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) museum and the promotion of the various aspects of TCM.

He also underlined Macao's solid finances, pointing out that the government's financial reserves



Permanent residents healthcare vouchers

MOP600
US\$75



Enterprises

Triple reduction in profit for the first MOP3 million (US\$372,825) of joint venture R&D expenditure.

Double reduction in profit tax for additional expenditure, subject to a ceiling of MOP15 million (US\$1.86 million)

Basic allowance for personal income tax for seniors and people with disabilities up to MOP198,000. (US\$24,606).



Real estate leasing market

Property tax rate for leased properties will drop to 8 per cent (non-leased properties remain at 6 per cent)



Public housing front

Construction of 28,000 flats in four phases in the Zone A land reclamation and 10,000 flats spread across three sites in Macao and Taipa



Macao and Guangdong governments cooperation development fund

CNY20 billion
US\$2.91 billion



Macao's financial reserves

MOP554.9 billion
US\$80.72 billion

The recently opened HZMB and the broader GBA development concept will be a boom to Macao's position as a world centre for tourism and leisure.

stand at MOP554.9 billion (US\$80.72 billion), up nearly MOP50 billion over 2017.

To better withstand the sort of adverse conditions associated with uncertainty, in May 2018 his government adopted a "defensive investment strategy" concerning its fiscal reserves by reducing in its portfolio the proportion of investment in stocks to 17 per cent, from 20 per cent previously. He said the government would continue to focus its investment strategy on bonds with strong credit ratings and yielding high interest rates.

Joint progress

This year marks important milestones for both Macao and the mainland, Chui noted, with the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China and 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Macao Special Administrative Region.

Chui pledged that Macao will proactively contribute to the realisation of the Chinese Dream of National Rejuvenation and be an engaged participant in the nation's New Era.

He stressed that the better the mainland's situation is, the better Macao's situation will be as well, underlining the mainland's important role as Macao's "backup." ●

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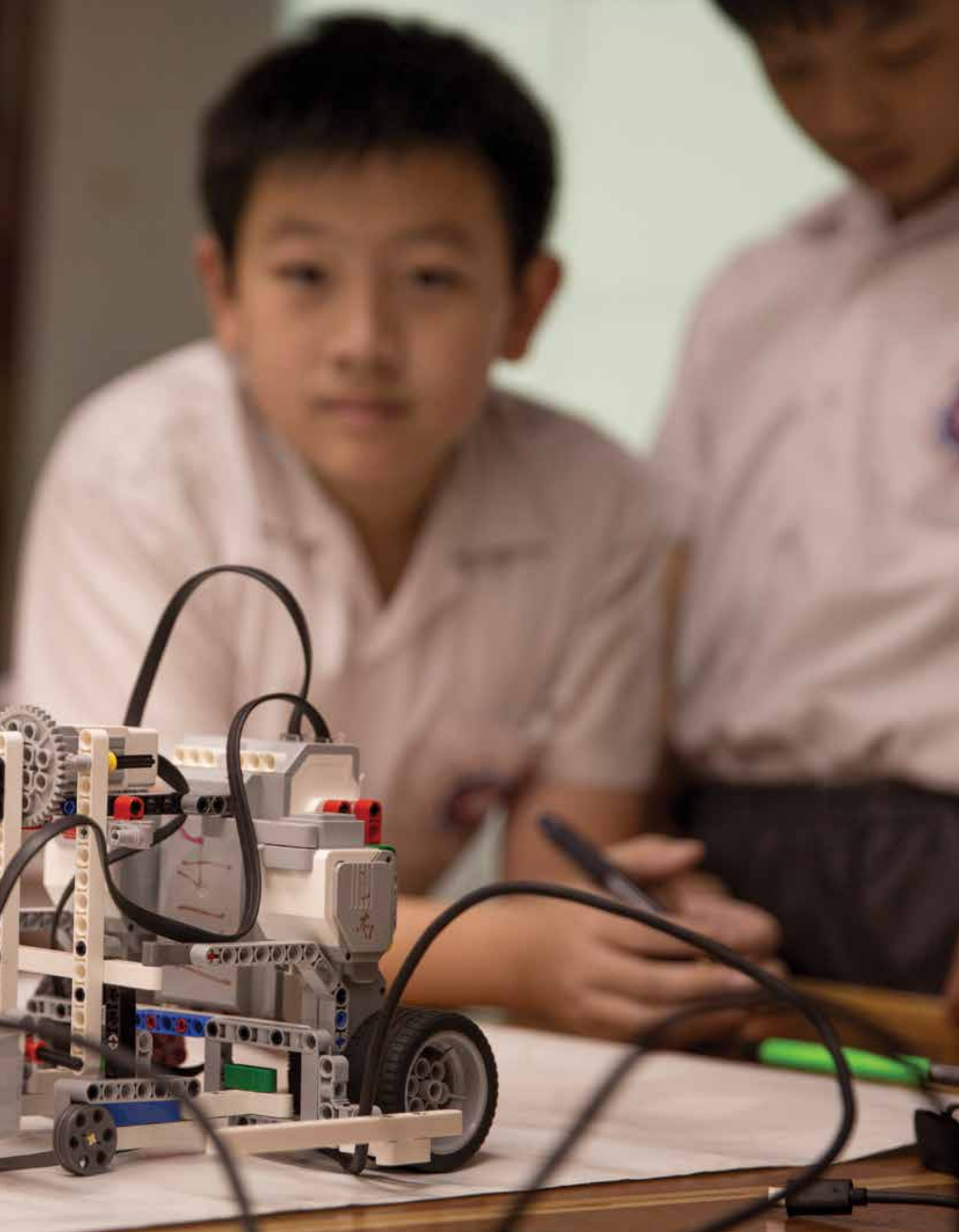
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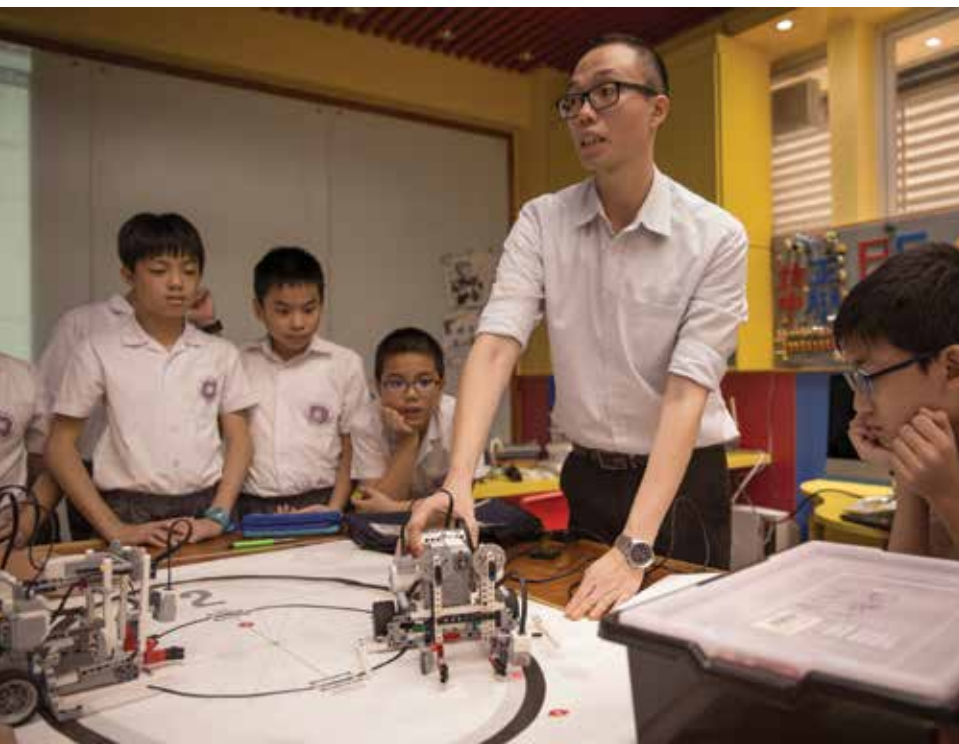


Honing talents through the STEM path

Text Cathy Lai Photos António Sanmarful

Macao's Pui Ching Middle School finds new ways to promote talent diversity and creates new educational trends among local schools.





The LEGO Education Laboratory

A visionary take

Arguably originating in the US, STEM education dates back to the mid 90s when entities such as National Research Council assisted educators in the country to develop curriculum in STEM fields by establishing standards and guidelines. It gradually became a leading trend in the field of education after a number of conducive measures such as the Educate to Innovate initiative, launched by the then President Barack Obama in 2009, which provided billions in additional federal funding for STEM education programs across the country.

In China, STEM education has also gained prominence in recent years due to the country's rapid technological advancement. In 2015, Premier Li Keqiang visited the Chaihuo Makerspace in Shenzhen – one of the first collaborative work spaces in China that provides high-tech electronic equipment such as 3D printers and laser cutters. Two months later, 'makerspace' debuted in the central government's annual work report, being regarded as an important platform for promoting critical skills in the fields of STEM. Meanwhile, the government's Made in China 2025 strategy published in May of that year laid out a plan to promote innovation-led economic growth, and to change China's focus from low-cost manufacturing to innovation, creativity, and design.

The LEGO Education Laboratory is one of the most vibrant learning spaces at the Pui Ching Middle School in Macao. There, you will find colourful LEGO models, lab tables and a group of curious students, all around 12 years old, surrounding their teacher as he explains algebraic equations about distance and speed with robotic cars.

You may wonder, is this too complicated for students at this age? Yet from the eagerness they expressed while answering questions, the effect of an interactive learning environment is clear: there is no limit to a young mind if the teaching is engaging and motivating.

In a few years' time, these students may develop a clearer vision for their future. Should they decide to pursue a path of technology, they will join their senior schoolmates in the

fabrication laboratory, or Fablab – an upgraded version of the LEGO Lab – to build robotic machines, develop applications, and prepare for major tech competitions in the city and beyond.

Despite its long history, having fled the war in Guangzhou to settle in Macao in 1938, the Pui Ching Middle School strives to stand at the forefront of innovation through a holistic approach to education. Students of Pui Ching stand out in different areas and frequent the podiums of local and overseas contests in sports, literature, and science.

But in 2012, Pui Ching found a new avenue to further promote diverse talent among its students: STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math). When it was introduced to the school's academic program, STEM had yet to become a buzzword of education in Macao and even across China.



A turbulent origin

Pui Ching College originated in Guangzhou in 1889, the first modern school established by Chinese Christians. In its early decades of operation, the school weathered a financial crisis only to come under assault in the Second Sino-Japanese war.

Following the Mukden Incident in 1931, the school became a local force of resistance against the Japanese invasion. Its teachers and students organised rounds of campaigns to promote patriotism and raise funds – the school even provided a free education to refugee children.

However, as military conflicts between China and Japan intensified, Pui Ching College was forced to relocate to Macao in 1938 in order to maintain the quality of teaching. It rented parts of Lou Lim Ieoc Garden to host classes.

In 1950, Pui Ching College was renamed as Macau Pui Ching Middle School with Lei Yim Leng as the principal. Two years later, sponsored by Chong Chi Kwong and Ho Yin, a prominent Chinese philanthropist in Macao, the school purchased the mansion of Lou Lim Ieoc Garden and parts of the garden to build a permanent campus.

Today, the dynamic and spacious campus of Pui Ching Middle School is a far cry from its humble beginning at the historic garden. Whilst maintaining a Christian influence, the school now comprises kindergarten, primary school and secondary school, and accommodates an average of 3,000 students and 300 staff.



Since then, the momentum of STEM education has grown stronger than ever, as cities, communities, and schools at all levels respond with various endeavours. In 2017, Shenzhen, one of China's leading technology hubs, inaugurated the Greater Bay Area Innovation and Science Youth Education Base (粵港澳大灣區青少年創新科學教育基地). Aiming to recruit more than a hundred schools in the regions, the education base seeks to promote the quality and integration of STEM education within the region.

Back in Macao, Pui Ching's response to the tech trend actually began a few years earlier, when STEM education was introduced to the curriculum of its Form 1 and 2 students as an elective

subject in 2012. The programme was later extended to Primary 5 and 6, from which students will acquire fundamental knowledge and hands-on skills related to programming, information and design technology.

"This is for meeting the needs of students with different strengths and interests," explained Kou Kam Fai, principal of Pui Ching Middle School since 2006. Such difference, according to Kou, can be observed in students who have just reached Primary 1: "Some students score well on exams while others perform better at cooperation or creativity." As the programme allows students to work together on tech projects, the visionary educator believes that their ability to create, cooperate, and solve problems will be greatly enhanced.

The LEGO Education Lab at Pui Ching, launched in 2016, now serves as the major STEM teaching space for students from Primary 5 to Form 1. Through combining mathematics, science and design skill, the students learn to build simple robots with LEGO kits. It is also the first experiment base established within the campus of basic education institutions in Macao and Hong Kong.

Vice Principal Chan Keng Lim is the driving force behind the STEM programme. He believes that through making their own robots, students will develop critical thinking habits that drive them to ask questions and look for answers. "We hope that they can have the mind of a scientist and the creativity of an artist," he said.

Chinese Cultural Arts Gallery

"A lot of people think that the strength of Pui Ching lies in science and mathematics, but I think we are equally strong in history and culture," said Vice Principal Chan Keng Lim. With strength in both areas, Pui Ching is determined to integrate science into Chinese culture.

For example, since 2017, students of Pui Ching have been collecting spring water around the Greater Bay Area. After confirming that the water supply is suitable for drinking at its Chinese Cultural Arts Gallery, the students will pair the samples with different kinds of tea in order to determine the best combination. The school is aiming to publish a thesis on this study.

Meanwhile, the school is also developing a lion-dance robot. Through programming, the robot can be instructed by mobile apps to perform different moves. "It will be a dancing lion that never feels tired," smiled Chan.



The programme has become a popular subject, which today sees applications from more than 150 students at each level, making up 60 per cent of the students from the entire level. However, just as every opportunity needs to be actualised by hard work, so does an enticing programme require a fair amount of effort to get into. For those who want to embark on a STEM path at Pui Ching, they will need to go through interviews, write short essays, demonstrate DIY skills and, inevitably, to experience success or failure (if declined).

“We think it is important for them to go through such an experience at an early age – to fight for something they desire,” Chan explained. “This will help them know more about themselves, and be better prepared for the future.”

An unlimited journey

As the students advance to Form 3 at Pui Ching, they will be required to choose between three main streams – science, arts, or art-science stream – a common practice in most of Macao’s secondary schools. However, for those who have developed a strong passion for STEM, their journey doesn’t end there.

Starting from Form 3, STEM education is streamlined into the art-science stream (uniquely created by Pui Ching to combine subjects from both the science and arts fields in one stream). Experiment and tech projects are conducted at the Fablab, where students will be exposed to hands-on engineering experience from operating high-tech equipment, through to designing and building complex, medium-sized robots with metal.

Launched in 2015, the Fablab of Pui Ching is also the first makerspace in Macao and Hong Kong. The lab offers a range of sophisticated machines for 3D-printing, laser cutting, circuit production, and CNC and precision milling. It is now a member of the international Fab Lab community, a network of around 1,000 fab labs in more than 40 countries, managed by the Center for Bits and Atoms of MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) in the US.

Underwater Robotics Team



The way Form 6 student Lam Ian long found her passion for engineering may resonate with a lot of engineer buffs: “I remember I dismantled a lot of toys when I was a child. I wanted to understand how they worked, and how to repair them when they ceased to function.”

When Lam got to secondary school, she found a perfect place for herself in the Underwater Robotics Team. Comprising 30 students from different levels of secondary school, the team specialises in marine robot development.

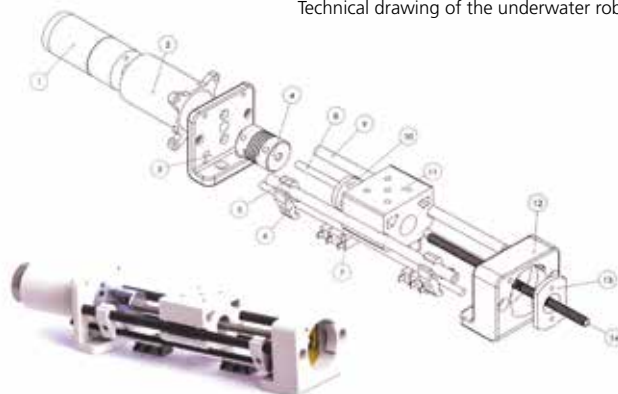
One of the major projects is the underwater robot. Equipped with four cameras and LED lights, it has a changeable floating system and an arm that can be mounted with different tools.

“This is for joining the annual MATE [Marine Advanced Technology Education] International ROV competition. We keep optimising the robot in accordance with the mission assigned by the competition,” Lam explained. “This time, our goal is to make sure that the robot is able to collect samples in the water and assist with underwater repair work.”

Meanwhile, the team is also developing an autonomous boat to assist in disaster relief, inspired by the typhoons that strike Macao in summer. “The boat is smaller and faster than the normal one controlled by human,” Li Hei from Form 3 explained. “Equipped with facing scanning system, it will cruise around the flooded area looking for survivors and send signals back to the station whenever a survivor is detected.”

The primary model of the boat is completed and has been submitted to Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (Intel ISEF) for evaluation.

Technical drawing of the underwater robot





Now that Pui Ching has become a leading power in a certain field, we feel committed to bolstering progress in the region.

Chan Keng Lim

The Fablab is also an important base for many Pui Ching students to prepare for local and international tech competitions. Wong, currently a Form 6 student, is a two-time contestant on FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC), an annual international event designed for students from around the world to compete in teams by designing, building, and programming a robot.

The competition last year took her team to Australia, where they made it to the Final 8. Before that, Wong and her team had devoted many evenings to ready their robot for multiple challenges, such as projecting and moving objects.

“It was an eye-opening experience, being able to compete outside Macao and meet a lot of outstanding young people,” she reflected. “I’ve also made a lot of good friends throughout the process. We shared the same passion, and spent hours together learning new things and building our robots. This is truly unforgettable.”



Fablab



A regional leader

In August 2018, Pui Ching was honoured with the first prize in state-level teaching achievement award by the Chinese Society of Education. It was the first school in Macao SAR to receive the prestigious award, and the only school to be awarded for STEM education in the entire country.

Chan believes that this is largely attributed to the school's relentless effort in promoting STEM education in Macao and beyond. "Now that Pui Ching has become a leading power in a certain field," he said, "we feel committed to bolstering progress in the region."

As an example, Chan referred to one of Pui Ching's biggest accomplishment in robot development: underwater robots. "With years of experience in building [these robots], we are keen on sharing our skill with other local schools and have hosted multiple workshops for their students to attend throughout the years."

This included the World Robot Olympiad (WRO) workshop which took place at Pui Ching in June 2018. The WRO is an annual global robotics competition for young people, and the workshop aimed to prepare Macao students for the 2018 competition held in November in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The two-day workshop in June was attended by more than 100 students and teachers from 22 local schools. Chan described it as a fruitful exchange of knowledge between the students of Pui Ching and the other schools.

Meanwhile, the school has been proactive in organising educational exchanges across the region. Since September 2012, it has received more than 4,000 guests from



Principal Kou Kam Fai (left) and Vice Principal Chan Keng Lim (right)

200 organisations across mainland China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan. The visitors included officials from Ministry of Education, Beijing Municipal Commission of Education, and other central government agencies.

The Greater Bay Area (GBA) Initiative also motivated Pui Ching to build stronger connection with education institutions in the member cities. In collaboration with the Association for Promotion of Science and Technology of Macao, Shenzhen Institutes of Advanced Technology and Maker Institute, CAS, Pui Ching reached out to a number of schools within the GBA in 2017 and invited them to visit its labs and STEM classes. In the same year, it was appointed as a 'pilot school' of the GBA Innovation and Science Youth Education Base, alongside with 13 other schools in Hong Kong and mainland China. Since then, Pui Ching has been an active participant of the seminars, exchanges, and competitions organised by the education base.

It has also conducted numerous exchanges of visits with other schools within the GBA.

According to Chan, the achievement made by Pui Ching in STEM education has often left the visiting guests in wonder. "They keep asking, how did we do this?" he smiled, noting how they commended the school's willingness to break new ground. "The STEM programme, together with other extra-curriculum activities, enable our students to devote more than 10 hours each week to focus on creative projects. This is a great way to motivate them to learn," Chan pointed out.

But to Kou and Chan, there is a bigger ambition behind the STEM initiative: "We hope that the STEM programme is a solution to lift the hidden talents that have been obstructed by the traditional system, where only students making high marks in exams are considered outstanding," Chan explained. "It is our aim to be a leading institution in the entire country to promote educational reform." ●

Astronomical and Meteorological Association

On 16 September 2018, as the citizens of Macao waited anxiously for the passing of Typhoon Mangkhut – one of the most powerful storms to hit the region in decades – the core members of Pui Ching's Astronomical and Meteorological Association had an important duty to fulfil: they had been monitoring the movement of Mangkhut since six in the morning. The No 10 signal was hoisted for nine hours, the longest period since 1968.

A year earlier, the Astronomical and Meteorological Association had launched a website, together with a Facebook page, to provide updated meteorological information to Macao citizens. The association gets particularly busy when bad weather strikes, but on normal days, they continue to research on credible meteorological websites and share useful information on their own page. It may easily take them two hours to prepare for the publication of one single post.

That hard work has paid off: the efficient broadcasting of the latest developments with Typhoon Mangkhut earned them numerous 'likes' and page shares, along with compliments such as "I can't believe this is done by secondary school students!" and "This is so professional! Good job to the dedicated students!"

The association also saw a rapid increase of membership applications from students since the typhoon. To promote interest in meteorology and astronomy, the association also works with Macao Science Center and local universities to organise a range of outreach activities such as seminars and star observations for its members.



Installed on the rooftop, the weather station of Pui Ching collects weather data such as wind speed, wind direction, humidity, and the amount of precipitation

2018 Golden Lotus award winner

Photos Cheong Kam Ka and Government Information Bureau



Chief Executive Chui Sai On (left) presented the Golden Lotus Award to Chan Meng Kam (right)



Macao businessman Chan Meng Kam, a former lawmaker and current Executive Council member, was awarded the Golden Lotus, the highest award given this year.

Chan is widely seen as the de facto leader of Macao's Fujianese community, which accounts for about one-fifth of the city's population. Born in Jinjiang, Fujian Province, in 1962, Chan immigrated to Macao in the early 1980s.

Today, he holds a number of political and social positions in both mainland China and Macao. Chan chairs the private City University of Macau and he is a member of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.

He is also vice chairman of Macao Region China Council for the Promotion of Peaceful National Reunification, deputy director of the Committee for Promotion of Fujian-Taiwan Economic Cooperation, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Goddess A-Ma Foundation of Macao, and a trustee of the Macao Foundation.

In his professional life, Chan serves as president of Golden Dragon Group Co Ltd and Huan Yu Group Holding Company Limited, dedicated to the tourism sector.

Over the years, Chan has been linked to charitable causes and made many donations to both mainland China and Macao for education,

public health, social welfare, and disaster and poverty relief.

Awarded the Gold Medal from the Fujian government for his charitable contribution in 2004, Chan also received the China Charity Award from the Ministry of Civil Affairs and China Charity Federation the following year. In 2008, he received the World Outstanding Chinese Award from United World Chinese Association. The Macao government also recognised him in 2008, awarding Chan the Order of Merit in Benevolence.

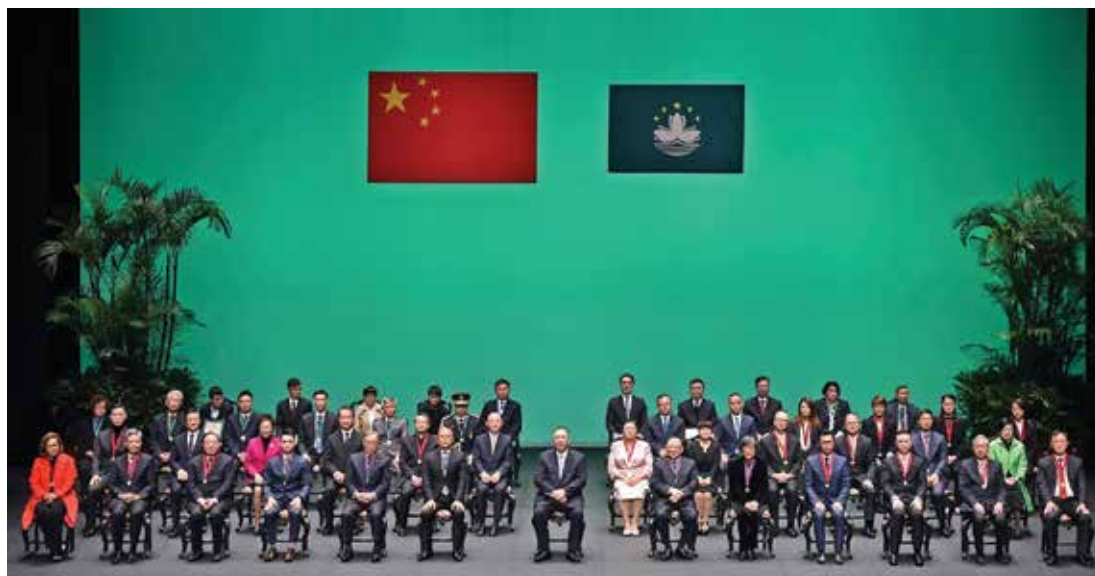
Chan received the Golden Lotus in a ceremony headed by Chief Executive Chui Sai On in January 2019. Four other Macao residents were awarded the Silver Lotus decoration: businessmen Davis Fong Chi Keong and Ho Hao Tong, former lawmaker Kwan Tsui Hang, and wushu practitioner Huang Junhua.

Macao's 2018 honours list also included the head of the local Roman-Catholic diocese, Bishop Stephen Lee Bun Sang; the city's best-selling Chinese-language daily, Macao Daily; and the former Portuguese consul-general in Macao, Vitor Sereno.

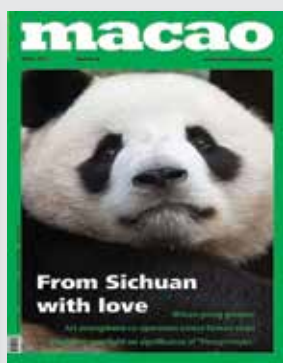
Macao's top honour, the Grand Lotus decoration, was not awarded in 2018.

The 2018 honours list comprised 46 people and entities, with 41 medals and certificates of merit awarded in addition to the 5 decorations. ●

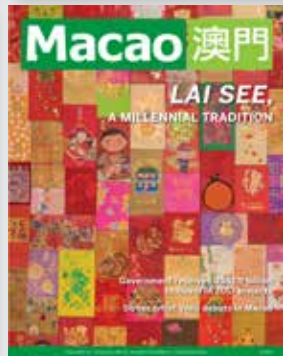
The 2018 honours







Macao to the world.





Economy

Macau Oasis and “Happy Sports China Plan”

Text Jamie Ha Photos António Sanmarful and courtesy of Macau Oasis

Partnering with Dao Pureland, an e-sports company based in Qingdao, Macau Oasis aims to transform local parks into innovative destinations that draw the community outdoors for fun and healthy activities.



With the evolution of technology, it's become natural for us to turn to our devices for entertainment. Children as young as three years old are beginning to use electronic toys that are both enjoyable and educational. But all this time with our eyes fixated on screens can take away from the time we could spend doing more active exercises to improve both our mind and physical body.

By leveraging our love of electronic games and blending them with physical activity, the Happy Sports China Plan aims to get people of all ages outside and fully engaged. Oscar Chan, founder and director of Macau Oasis, aims

to put the Plan into action in Macao, transforming local public parks into modern and innovative destinations that draw the community outdoors for fun activities – and a little friendly competition.

“Right now, the public park is a place for people to hangout; there's not much to do there. Instead, people resort to cafes for meal dates or gyms for exercise. We want to make the parks more attractive to the community, so they desire to spend quality time there,” Chan said.

These new smart parks will be fundamentally different from the parks we have come to know nowadays. The goal is to make

each park a “mini-attraction,” a destination to draw the community's interest as they work to unravel the underlying story within the games.

“It's like taking video games and making them into reality, where the community can simultaneously be physically and mentally active,” Chan said. Each game provides an adventure for children to improve their educational levels, get active, and form friendships. Multiple players can enjoy each station together rather than play separately on their own.

While this type of innovative recreation and modern construction may be new to the city, Macau Oasis



The 3D rendering of Happy Sports China Plan's innovative parks

has been working alongside DAO Pureland, an e-sports company based in Qingdao, for the last decade to promote such parks in mainland China. Their efforts ramped up with the Happy Sports China Plan. Officially launched in 2014, the Plan is the brainchild of DAO Pureland, aimed at building a people-oriented, environmentally friendly sports system that promotes play and learning while building community.

Since the launch, Macau Oasis and DAO Pureland have completed 50 park projects in 30 cities across the mainland that continue to draw people of all ages.

New games, more fun

Chan represented Macau Oasis at the 2018 Macao International Trade and Investment Fair, introducing visitors to one of the many interactive playground games that will be installed in the

new smart parks, called Memo. With upbeat music and LED lights to illuminate the senses, players must chase around to tap on the correct colour showing on each podium throughout the circular playing field in order to win. Taken to the next educational level, numbers replace colours as players compete to correctly solve equations and tap the corresponding podium first.

Players can choose what level or type of game they want to play, making each game appropriate for a variety of ages. Developing a range of different types of games and flexibility within each game is key to the Plan, which aims to engage all members of the community in active play. Chan has found that even middle-aged adults still love the parks already installed in the mainland.

For the parks in Macao, Chan plans to focus on football with training games that only require

a space around 100–150 sq metres in size. The football game, Sutu, features an electronic goal comprised of 16 luminous panels that enable players to hone their skills and compete against friends – or players around the world.

“If one person is playing at the Sutu football goal in Macao, they can challenge their friend in, let’s say, Shanghai or Chengdu,” Chan explained. Using the WeChat application, the prevalence of Sutu football walls means Macao players can compete just easily against people in places like mainland China or Germany as they do against their neighbourhood friends. The app already hosts a tournament for players around the world to record their scores and compete for prize money.

Macau Oasis has many ideas regarding the football games. Angry Birds, for example, has been an entertaining theme for many, where footballs replace the titular cartoon



birds and players have to hit specific panels to score. Using bright lights and sound effects gives players the same type of sensory feedback many of the young generation have grown used to with their devices.

Along with Sutu, the Macao community will soon get to experience two other software interactive games: Sona and Memo. Chan stressed that “players don’t have to be really enthusiastic about football or sports, they can still enjoy the games simply because it challenges them.”

Macau Oasis and DAO Pureland have been working in close connection with Dutch sport and game equipment supplier Yalp for 10 years. Yalp is responsible for both the hardware and software used in games throughout the smart parks to make them interactive. While most of their interactive equipment is concentrated in Europe and Asia, new locations are popping up in



SUTU

It is an Interactive Soccer Wall, containing impact-sensitive panels which measure and react to ball impact. Vivid LED lights and audio speakers give players feedback and encouragement on their performance.

The soccer wall is perfect as a low-barrier entertainment device for public area or commercial locations. It is also for professional soccer training at the elite levels.

SONA

It is an interactive Dance & Play Arch. More specifically; it is an audio-guided playset, especially designed for outdoor. Games are played by motion. It has a motion detection camera on top, which registers the movement of the children on the playing floor underneath.

As perhaps the most versatile and inclusive interactive playset, over a 100 have been placed in schools, the public areas, recreational facilities and even senior homes.



MEMO

Although primarily an exciting and fun playset that gives kids (and adults) plenty of physical exercise, it also contains an educative dimension. The balanced mix between being fun and physically challenging is achieved through sporty games.





Oscar Chan, founder and director of Macau Oasis

the US, Australia and New Zealand. Sona, Sutu and Memo being the most popular interactives – more than 500 worldwide – means more opportunities for Macao players to connect and compete internationally.

Another strong contributor of the technology, software, and database used is the well-known China company, Huawei. With the ability to collect data and record the usage of the parks, in six months, Macau Oasis will be launching a device called the Elderly Angel Guard for people aged 65 and over. The device will monitor people's movements and reward them for meeting exercise goals. It will also be able to alert the database if anything dangerous has occurred on the park grounds.

Investing in the future

Macau Oasis kick-started the Happy Sports China Plan in Macao by directly investing around CNY2–3 million (US\$293,000–440,000). Since all of the park projects will require the approval and support of the Macao government, they will equally split the costs with Macau Oasis.

Currently, Macau Oasis is working with Macau Tower to update existing parks in the surrounding area. Already one of the most popular tourist attractions in the city, Macau Tower hopes to draw more visitors with an innovative and interactive park.

The Macao government has also expressed their goal to transform the existing playground and park area within the Camões Garden

as well. If all goes as planned, they expect to have this project completed in 2019, meaning one of the two Macao parks will become the first interactive park to be completed in the Greater Bay Area.

Macau Oasis aims to have 2–3 main locations of these new parks in the city, each covering around 5,000 sq metres while the rest will be smaller “pocket parks” of around 100 sq metres. “At the moment, we predict to have 30–40 pocket parks,” Chan said, increasing access for communities throughout the city.

Not only will the parks be used for active play, Macau Oasis plans to host social events around once a week for anyone to come and experience. Chan believes this will be a great way to draw attention to the parks and build interest.

Looking towards the future, Chan sees the parks becoming the heart of developing communities, drawing in new residents, connecting neighbours, and driving economic growth as business follows.

“In total, we aim to have around CNY20 million [US\$2.93 million] invested into making a park first. Once the community – especially the kids with their parents – come to spend more time there, it becomes a key selling point for real estate growth,” Chan explained. He believes that the Happy Sports China Plan has the potential to be a great marketing scheme to draw attention to the more secluded or vacant areas in the city.

With two children of his own, Chan has experienced first-hand the minimal amount of entertainment available to children at the outdated parks around Macao. He is dedicated to changing that, creating a more progressive community for present and future generations. ●

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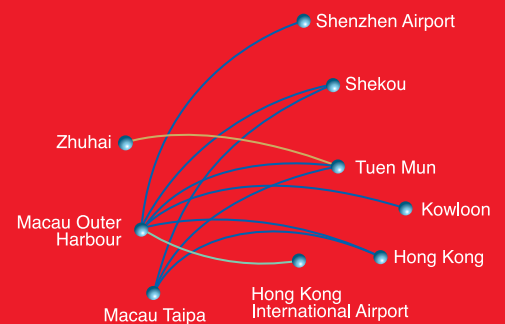
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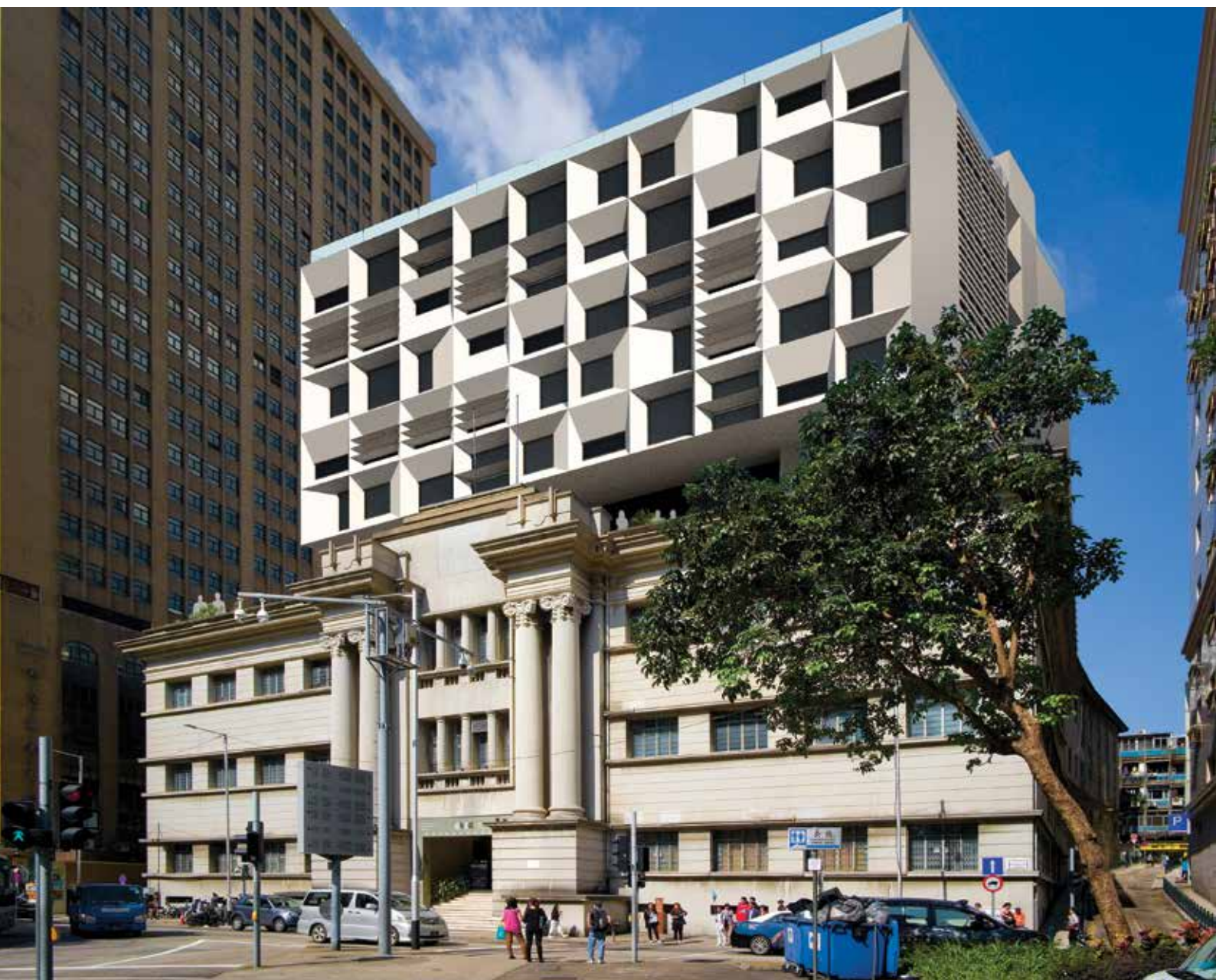
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Culture

Central library of Macao

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

Sketches and 3D rendering **Courtesy of MAA Marreiros Architectural Atelier Limited**



The 3D rendering of Macao's new Central Library

Carlos Marreiros' architecture firm has been selected to design the new Macao Central Library. "It's an important project and also a pleasure to contribute with such a building to my hometown."

"I have always imagined Paradise as a kind of library," wrote Argentine poet Jorge Luis Borges in his "Poem of the Gifts." Designing such a paradise, with all of the particularities and functions of a library, is no small task. Local architect Carlos Marreiros, a confessed lover of books and literature himself, is taking up the challenge in 2019. He leads the team that will design the new Macao Central Library during this year, an 11-storey building meant to change Macao's cultural landscape and bring new life into the city centre.

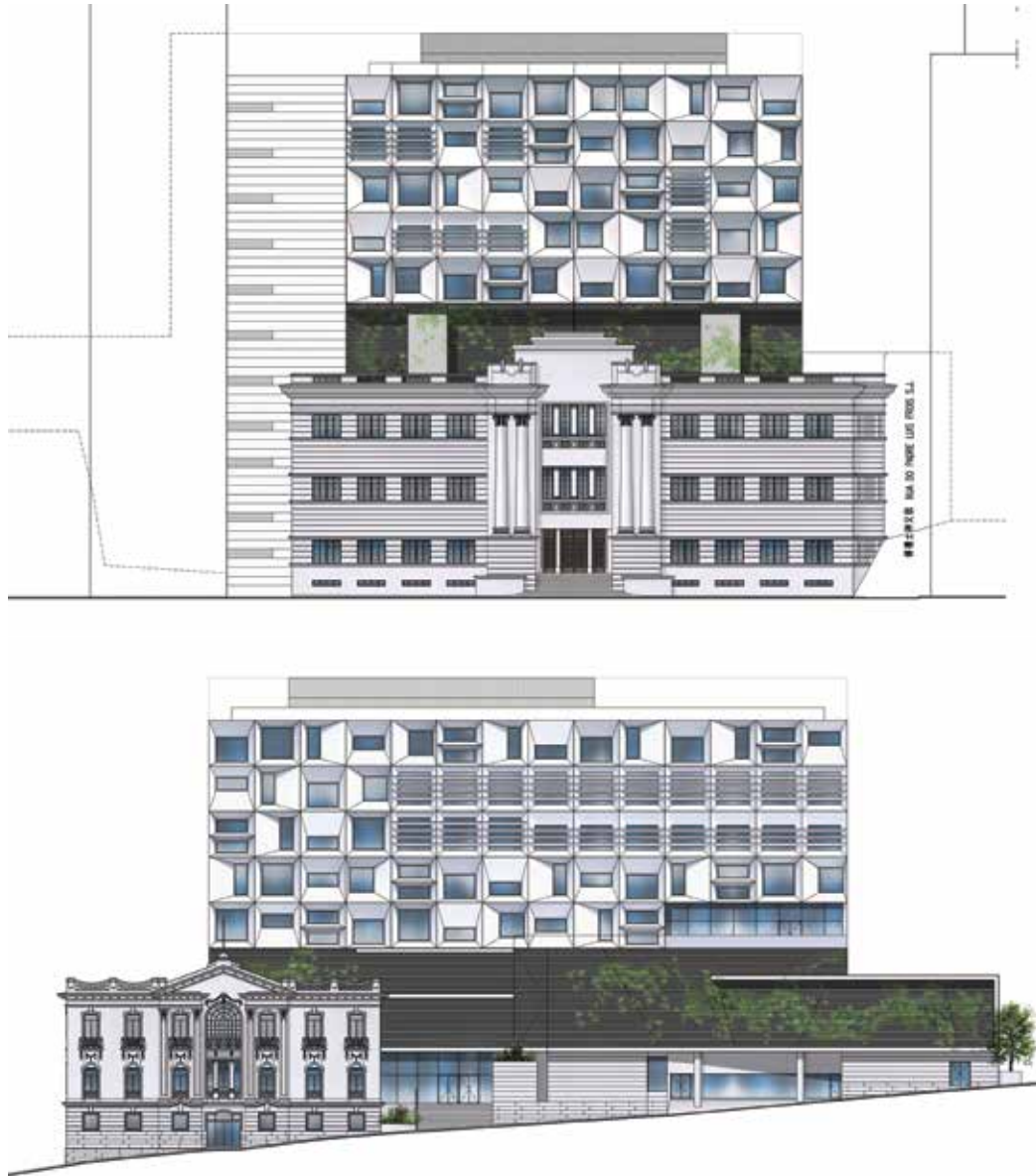
Macao's new Central Library will be formed by the current Old Court Building, the former Judiciary Police headquarters, and a brand new structure that will bring all three pieces together and rise to a maximum of 45.8 metres. Marreiros' architecture firm, MAA Marreiros Architectural Atelier Limited, won among nine bids accepted by the Macao government, presenting a cost of MOP18.68 million (US\$2.3 million) and a design period of 268 days.

"We had three main aspects to take into account here: the characteristics of the lot, the urban context, and the pre-existent heritage building," said Marreiros, sitting in his offices in the São Lázaro district.

"As you know, the land there is quite sloppy, rocky, and it moves from Praia Grande Avenue – the main entrance of the Old Court Building – to Rua Central, where we can find the former building of the Judiciary Police," he continued. The lot is 3,524 square metres with a plot ratio of 6:4, a "low occupation usage of the land," according to Marreiros.

The architect sees it as a big responsibility to intervene in such a big lot, right in the heart of Macao. "The challenge was to build something which is clearly contemporary, simple, that metaphorically resembles book shelves and drawers of file archives – the organisation of knowledge through compartments – so you can share it with the people using this building," he explained. "That was the idea for the facade."

The striking facade recalls medieval structures – narrow interior apertures expanding out, deepened by the thick facade – as well as the modern architectural lines of famed Brutalist Le Corbusier's Chapel of Notre Dame du Haut in Ronchamp, France. "The constraints of developing this project with the pre-existent building are very specific," Marreiros stressed.



Front facades

“I know many libraries, and have visited several, but I have no knowledge of a library that was built from a pre-existent building like this,” he remarked.

Blending old and new

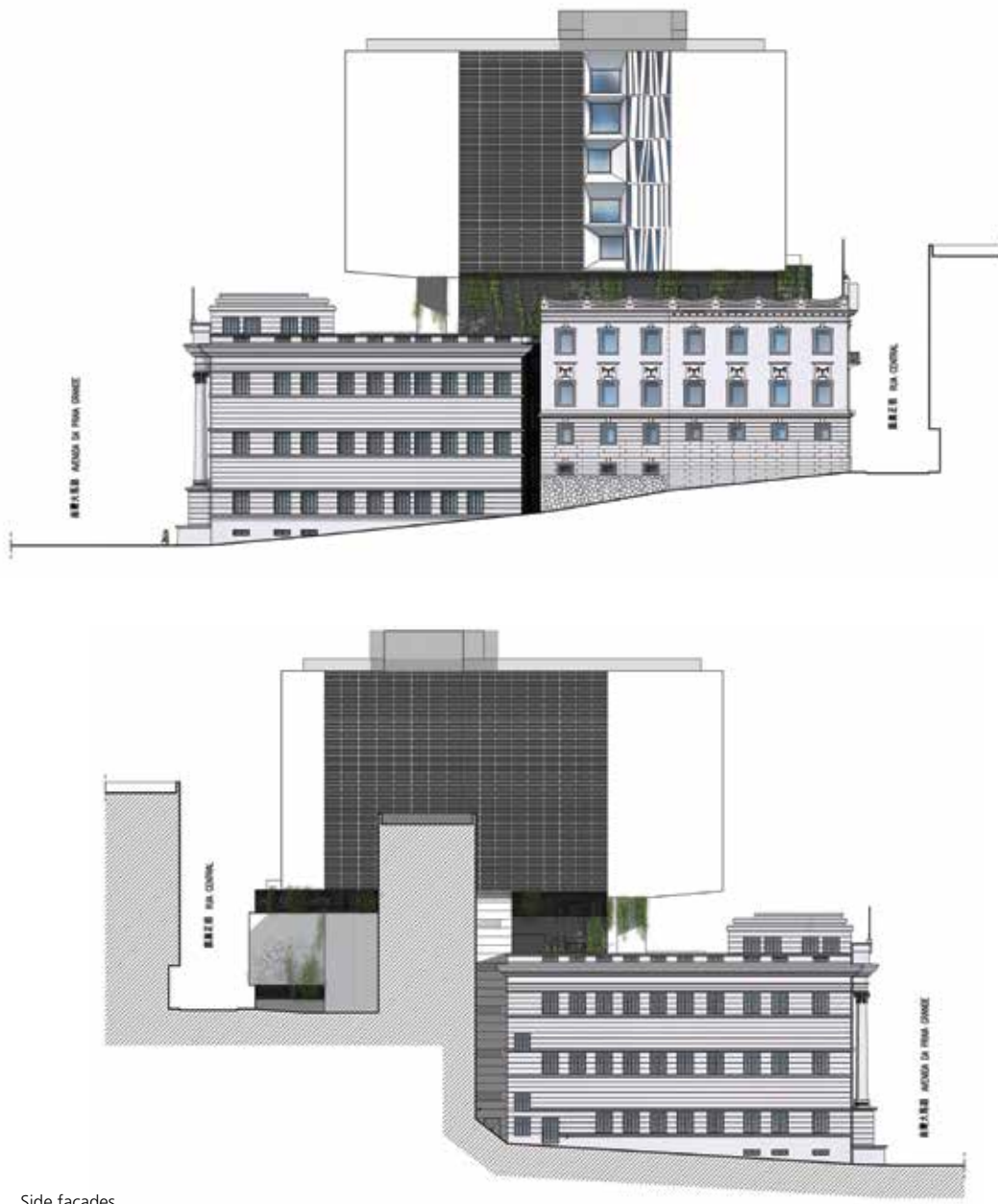
Carlos Marreiros had one thing very clear from the beginning: “We wanted to do a very simple building.

Sometimes architecture should be more joyful, colourful – speak a little bit loudly to be noted – but there are times when you don’t need architecture to speak so loudly; it can be contained.”

Marreiros and his team steered away from added colours and LED lights in favour of developing a more nuanced visual interest. “Our idea is to have something quite

white, with dramatic shades and shapes, sculpted by the sun during the day and with simple lights in the evening.”

The Old Court Building is “too interesting,” an element Marreiros would rather complement than compete with. Besides, he said, “in that area, all the surrounding buildings are high rises, so I wanted something serene, tranquil, that has



Side facades

its own charm to attract people.”

The architect intends to work with geometric shapes and light colours, very much in line with his Brutalist inspiration. Some elements, such as distinctive horizontal lines, appear in the existing buildings and the new construction, and two large columns will be erected to support the new structure. “These six

new floors won’t touch the Old Court Building,” Marreiros noted, “we’ll build them with a technique called cantilever, projecting and sustaining the new building.”

Touring the different floors of the architectural project while checking his pile of papers on the table, Marreiros kept pointing out different elements: rooftop gardens, photovoltaic panels, escalators in

dramatic positions to give a sense of movement and, in the middle of it all, a large atrium that will serve as the “new heart” of the building.

While the old Judiciary Police building is expected to be demolished, the winning project for the new Central Library “can protect around 80 per cent of the pre-existent Old Court Building,” according to Marreiros, though he



Carlos Marreiros

believes that some elements may not be worth keeping. “The staircases, for example, are amazing. But the tiles on the floor are not good enough. The facade is in Shanghai Plaster, a material used a lot because it resembled granite, and was cheaper and very fashionable, and they’re great.”

How much will go? “We’ll see. For some things, I think we can do better.”

The goal is to blend old elements and new to produce a relevant “cultural and educational building” that serves its purpose

as a public good. “I hope we can deliver a good project for the pride of local people, and also an equipment in the sense that you can train young generations for free thinking, civic education, and good habits of reading.”

A multifunctional library

Visitors will be able to do much more than just reading inside the walls of the new Central Library. In addition to the already announced Judiciary Police Museum, the project features recreational and cultural

facilities, a cafeteria and snack bar – there’s even the possibility of having a restaurant. “We’ve positioned it in the terrace roof of the existent building, to use the roof as an extension of the restaurant, an esplanade,” said Marreiros.

The building is designed with seating for around 2,000 people. There are 1,120 seats in the reading areas and some more specialised rooms for research, plus another 800 seats in different recreational spaces – a small theatre for 300 people and rooms for interactive activities, exhibitions, and more.

“This equipment, in this part of the city, is and will be very important because as far as I know, we don’t have a large, significant space for festivals, exhibitions, talks and so on. Without this, the city centre would lose a bit of its spirit. Theoretically, we could have almost 2,000 people inside if all the seats are used, but then you’ll have people moving around, so it will be more than that. We will further study the circulation around and inside the building,” he added.

Part of the library’s circulation of people will run for 24 hours a day, with a part, accessing from Rua Central, that will always be open. “We haven’t studied it,” he admitted, but statistics gathered from the Patane Library showed “that the reading habits of the local population are good, even during the evening.” With that in mind, the government included a demand for “a 24-hour area, easy for surveillance and without having much staff” in bids for the project.

Regular business hours will feature a much larger staff at the new library: “They expect to have 120 to 130 workers – this ratio is quite interesting, having one staff for every 16 users.” Marreiros hopes they adopt a “very informal” management style for areas used

by kids and young adults, citing the Centre Pompidou in Paris as a good example.

He also applauded that building's architects, Renzo Piano and Richard Rogers, for their take on Brutalist design. "They showed all the services as part of the architecture speech: they didn't hide the aircon boxes, they didn't hide the ventilation, the cabling and so on; they've used them, they gave them a new importance, and most of the beauty of that building is precisely the services."

Their approach, while challenging to some, resulted in an iconic piece of 20th-century architecture that nonetheless conveys to visitors "the idea of informality, like a train station. This was in the 70s," Marreiros reflected.

"I went several times to Paris to see the evolution of that building, it was one of my passions."

Books and architecture are two passions Marreiros is now able to combine in this library project. For 268 days, a team of 40 to 60 people – plus external experts for some specific matters – will be working on deepening the design studies. "This is only a preliminary study, now we'll detail a lot," he added. If all goes according to schedule, the public tender for construction could be launched by 2020.

During the long and complex building process, the architect hopes that the Old Court Building can keep being used by local artists groups, as it is now, something he believes to be possible if the construction works are planned

phase by phase. In the future, Marreiros would like to see the Central Library still being used by local theatre troupes and other artistic groups. "I think that concentrating different art forms and activities at the library is very good," he said.

Working with a team that is 100 per cent local makes Carlos Marreiros "proud" and that is something he can't stress enough. That and the pleasure of conceiving such a landmark as the new Macao Central Library. "Sometimes you may do a very large building, but not a very interesting one. Everything about this one is very interesting – it's an important project and also a pleasure to contribute with such a building to my hometown." ●



South Korean film *Clean Up* wins at Macao film festival

Text Cathy Lai Photos Courtesy of IFFAM

第三屆澳門國際
3rd International Film Festival





South Korea's *Clean Up*, from writer-director Kwon Man-ki, took the top prize at the 3rd International Film Festival & Awards Macao (IFFAM) held in December at the Macao Cultural Centre.

A graduation project of Korean Academy of Film Arts student Kwon Man-ki, *Clean Up* centres on two characters, and the emotional fallout when circumstances bring them together 12 years after she kidnapped him as a child.

Jury members lauded *Clean Up* as a powerful, visceral film which is "symbolic and naturalistic at the same time...The director unfolds a psychological drama with simmering intensity, humanising the criminal without condoning her heinous crime in any way."

The festival screened 54 films this year, including 11 films competing for nine awards in the Competition section: *School's Out*, *The Guilty*, *The Good Girls*, *Àga*, *Scarborough*, *Suburban Birds*, *White Blood*, *All Good*, *Jesus*, *The Man Who Feels No Pain*, and *Clean Up*.

A dazzling event

The IFFAM Awards Ceremony, staged at the Macao Cultural Centre on 14 December, brought together around 800 guests and industry professionals from around the world. Award-winning actor Aaron Kwok dazzled as one of the event's Talent Ambassadors, along with renowned Indian film director Shekhar Kapur and Chinese writer-director Xue Xiaolu as IFFAM Ambassadors. Famed Hong Kong emcees Bob Lam and Astrid Chan played host for the evening.

Internationally acclaimed directors and acting talent rubbed elbows with Macao government officials and socialites such as Alexis Tam Chon Weng, secretary for Social Affairs and Culture; Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes, director of Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) and president of the IFFAM Organizing Committee; and two of the executive vice presidents of the IFFAM Organizing Committee, Alvin Chau and Mok Ian Ian, who also serves as head of the Cultural Affairs Bureau.





Not content to merely celebrate existing films, the week-long festival, 8-14 December, actively facilitated future projects. Senna Fernandes, speaking at the Awards Ceremony, touted their achievements: 400 individual Project Meetings aligned production teams with investors in face-to-face dialogues, while the new Work-in-Progress Presentations opened doors for filmmakers in search of partnership opportunities for projects close to completion. “We are eager to see the film festival bring bright opportunities for filmmakers in Macao and from around the world,” she enthused.

Celebrating Chinese film work

This year saw the unveiling of a new competition section for Chinese-language films, New Chinese Cinema, which pitted six films against each other: *Dear Ex*, *Baby*, *Xiao Mei*, *Up the Mountain*, *Fly by Night*, and *The Pluto Moment*. Zhang Yang’s *Up the Mountain*, a rumination on the push and pull of change in China with stunning composition and colours, took home the award for Best New Chinese-language Film of the Year.

Chinese film director Chen Kaige, who first garnered international fame with his critically-acclaimed masterpiece *Yellow Earth* (1984), accepted the Spirit of Cinema Achievement Award from Secretary Tam. His film *Farewell My Concubine* (1993) made Chen the first Chinese director to receive the highest prize at the Cannes Film Festival, the Palme d’Or, and earned him two Academy Award nominations.

Chen also served as the chair for the Official Programme Jury, alongside Hong Kong director-producer-writer Mabel Cheung, Australian producer-director Paul Currie, Indian actress Tillotama Shome, and Bosnian director Danis Tanović.

To support local film production, IFFAM partnered with Local View Power (LVP) to show 14 films by Macao filmmakers in public screening sessions during the film festival this year. Lei Cheok Mei took the Jury Prize for Best Film for *The Melancholy of Gods*, a deeply personal exploration of depression in the territory, while *Halfway* by Ng Ka Lon received Special Mention at IFFAM. LVP Jury member Shekhar

Kapur commended all of the films as “heartfelt” and “moving” portraits of “real things, real life and real experiences.”

More accolades were also presented at the Awards Ceremony to commend outstanding films and filmmakers. The NETPAC Award went to *Suburban Birds* while the Asian Blockbuster Film 2018 went to the film *Crazy Rich Asians*, the highest grossing romantic comedy in a decade. For the second year in a row, IFFAM partnered with Variety to spotlight young talent in the continent with the Asian Stars: Up Next Award, recognising five actors and actresses: Anne Curtis (Philippines), Iqbaal Ramadhan (Indonesia), Zaira Wasim (India), Xana Tang (New Zealand), and Ryan Zheng Kai (China).

A cinematic backdrop

Another star attraction of the film festival was Academy Award-winning actor Nicolas Cage. Named Talent Ambassador this year alongside Aaron Kwok, Cage reviewed his decades-long career and major contributions to cinema – from critically acclaimed turns in *Leaving Las Vegas* (1995) and



Adaptation (2002) to Hollywood blockbusters like *The Rock* (1996) and the *National Treasure* series – during the one-hour class moderated by Mike Goodridge, artistic director of IFFAM and former Protagonist Pictures CEO.

On the sideline of the master class, Cage spoke to local media outlet Macau Daily Times about the cinematic potential of Macao, with a promise to return for filming projects. “It’s the wonderful confluence of the Chinese and Portuguese cultures that makes for the perfect place to shoot a film. The combination of the architecture, the food, and the people is fantastic. I would not hesitate to come back,” he commended.

Kwok shared his own plans for future shoots with local media during an interview session at the Awards Ceremony. The long-time amateur motor racer touted the great potential for Macao as a setting for high-speed action, revealing that, a few years ago, he even drew up a storyboard for his own movie with a scene shot in Macao. “It is an action scene – a racing scene, because Macao is so beautiful, especially at night,” he said. ●

Winners of IFFAM

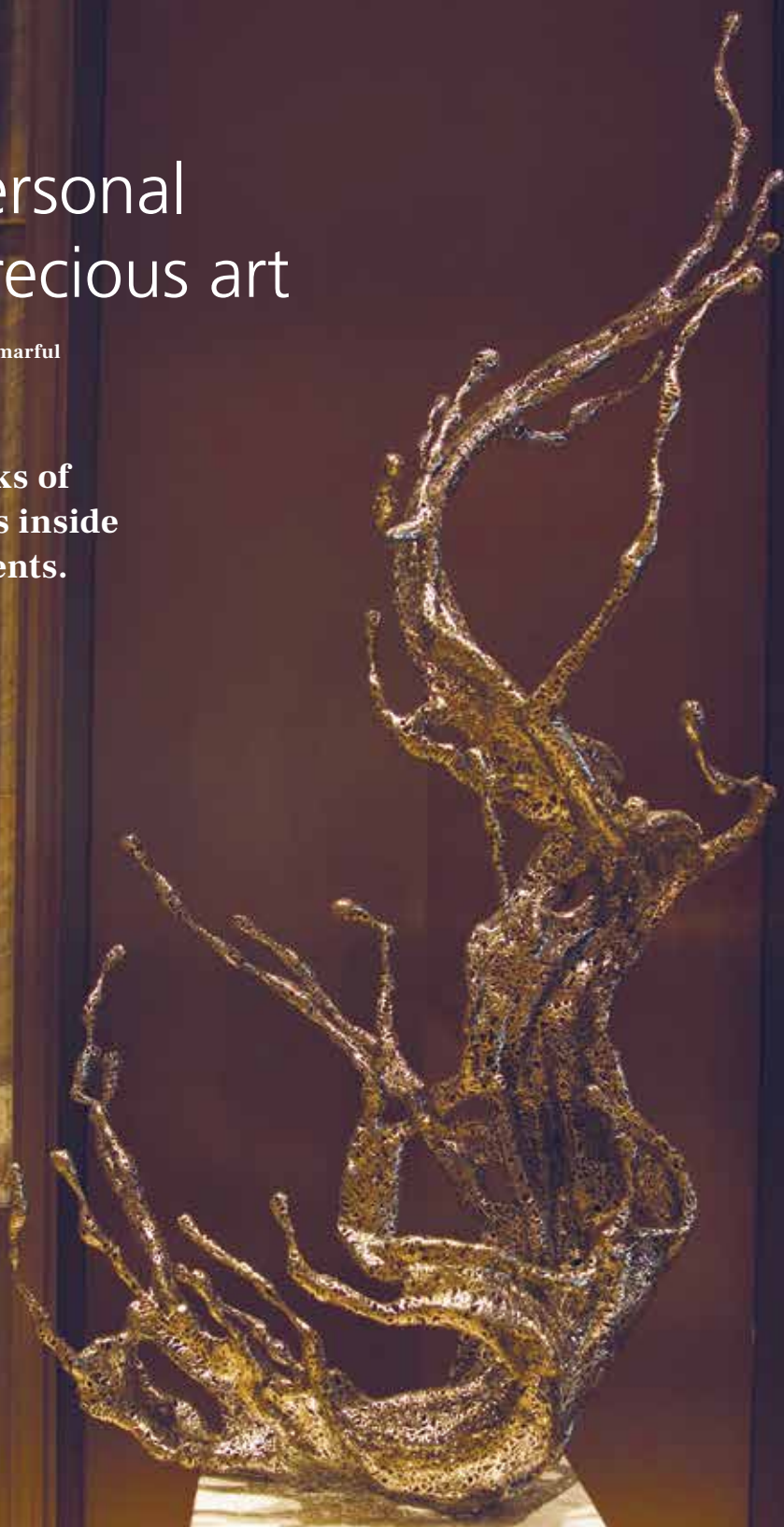
- ▶ **Best Film:** *Clean Up* (presented by IFFAM Jury President Chen Kaige)
- ▶ **Best Director:** Gustav Möller, *The Guilty* (presented by Jury member for Local View Power, Phillip Noyce, and IFFAM Ambassador Shekhar Kapur)
- ▶ **Best Actor:** Jakob Cedergrén, *The Guilty* (presented by IFFAM Jury member Tillotama Shome)
- ▶ **Best Actress:** Aenne Schwarz, *All Good* (presented by Talent Ambassador Aaron Kwok)
- ▶ **Best Technical Contribution:** Kaloyan Bozhilov, cinematographer of *Ága* (presented by leading actor and actress of *Aruna & Her Palate*, Oka Antara and Dian Sastrowardoyo)
- ▶ **Best Screenplay:** Barnaby Southcombe, screenwriter of *Scarborough* (presented by IFFAM Ambassador Xue Xiao Lu)
- ▶ **Best New Young Actor/Actress:** Abhimanyu Dassani, *The Man Who Feels No Pain* (presented by IFFAM Jury member Mabel Cheung and film director Cheang Pou Soi)
- ▶ **Best New Chinese-language Film of the Year:** *Up the Mountain* (presented by Jury members for New Chinese Cinema, Stephanie Bunbury, Nick James, and Shu Kei)
- ▶ **Jury Prize:** *White Blood* (presented by IFFAM Jury member Danis Tanović and Artistic Director of IFFAM Mike Goodridge)
- ▶ **Special Mention:** *Jesus* (presented by IFFAM Jury member Paul Currie)
- ▶ **Macao Audience Choice Award:** *The Good Girls* (presented by Director of Galaxy Entertainment Group Philip Cheng, Vice President of Communication and Content Marketing of Sands China Ltd Jeffrey Jiang, and Senior Vice President of Business Development of MGM Brian Fiddis)



Up close and personal with Macao's precious art

Text **Andrea Lo and Jamie Ha** Photos **António Sanmarful**

Take a long look at rare works of art and contemporary pieces inside Macao's gaming establishments.



Water in Dripping, Zheng Lu

Macao's hotels and gaming operators are well known for providing an abundance of restaurants and entertainment facilities, yet you might be surprised to find that some of them also showcase historical art pieces and contemporary works of art.

The best part? These displays aren't designed to be admired from afar. Much of the artwork inside hotels is placed in locations with high foot traffic, and most lack the glass enclosures commonly found in museums – so it's well worth slowing down to take a closer look.

MGM Cotai: immerse yourself

Opened this year, MGM Cotai boasts an art collection numbering more than 300 pieces – from paintings and sculptures by contemporary artists in Asia, to a series of antique carpets that date back to the Qing dynasty (1644–1911) in China.

Among the works, the Chairman's Collection comprises over 40 contemporary art pieces selected by MGM chairpersons Pansy Ho and Jim Murren, who worked with renowned Hong Kong gallerist Calvin Hui. Organised around the theme "A World Linked Through Art," there's an emphasis on the connection between East and West, as well as between people and places.

"We've always embraced arts and culture as a very important part of our company," said Cristina Kuok, director of Arts and Cultural Development at MGM. The hotel's sister property, MGM Macau, has a dedicated art space, she noted, and with the opening of MGM Cotai, the team decided to take a new approach: "There's a story... [behind] why the art is put there, or why the artist has created that piece of art," she explained.

In the main lobby, guests will find *Water in Dripping*, a pair of steel sculptures by Beijing artist Zheng Lu. Challenging the notion

of sculptures being "solid and grounded," Lu's hollow sculptures are inspired by the movement of water and appear in the shape of gravity-defying waves.

Around the corner, the large-scale collage *Eight Views of Macau* dominates one wall. The brainchild of Chinese artist Xue Song, this piece features eight of the city's landmarks, such as the Ruins of St Paul's and the Kun Iam statue. It's created entirely from printed materials about each of the sights, like newspaper clippings, which were burned before being applied to the canvas.

In the Lion Lobby, *Journey to the Great West* by Taiwanese artist Hung Yi was inspired by the legendary 16th-century Chinese novel, *Journey to the West*. The four characters of the novel are brought to life as baked enamel statues with a modern approach. A fifth statue depicting a camel completes the piece: it pays tribute to the backdrop of the story, which takes place across a desert.

Eight Views of Macau, Xue Song





The four characters (top) and the camel (bottom) of *Journey to the Great West*, Hung Yi



Kuok noted there isn't necessarily a "rigid system" behind where pieces are positioned: it depends on the style and purpose of the location and the art itself.

The 28-piece imperial carpets collection is displayed in the Emerald Lobby. These historic carpets, once used at the pavilions of the Forbidden City, feature intricate designs and motifs that have symbolic meanings – think dragons and phoenixes.

Made using silk, gold, silver or copper threads, they were created by the imperial workshops of Beijing and Xinjiang, which were established under the reign of Kangxi (1661-1722) and responsible for manufacturing furniture for the imperial court.

There's also interactive digital art installed at the Spectacle, a large space near the main lobby. Twenty-five LED screens display ever-changing images of Asia – its nature, art, music, languages, and cultures – and digital art from around the world, but that's not all: "Depending on the movement of the people, the camera actually picks up on that and translates [them] into a mosaic or kaleidoscope effect on the screens," Kuok explained.

MGM Cotai offers guided art tours, which are "about the aesthetics as well as providing context."

"It's not just about the artist or the art," she said. "It's also [about] explaining the whole aesthetics of the artwork, [how it] blends into the particular location, and the story behind it."



Dragons and leaves, Imperial carpet from Qing Dynasty

Wynn Palace: a modern take on chinoiserie

From a rare collection of 18th-century vases from the Qing dynasty to a giant three-ton sculpture by American artist Jeff Koons, historic pieces and contemporary art are found in the midst of Wynn Palace's fine-dining restaurants and designer boutiques.

It's part of an effort to ensure that the pieces are not placed at a formidable distance. "The philosophy about art at Wynn Palace has always been that it is meant to be shared with everybody," explained Roger Thomas, executive vice president of design for Wynn Design and Development. "This is why all art pieces are not protected in special glass containers at the resort."

The collection was acquired over six years and at a cost of US\$125 million. Of the 14 pieces on display, the majority appear in the hotel's public spaces, while others are in garden villas and penthouses.

There are different inspirations behind the curation, but first and foremost, there's a desire to "honour Chinese culture," said Thomas. "Wynn Palace is designed to showcase a 21st-century reinvention of chinoiserie, the great artistic encounter between East and West in the 17th and 18th centuries."

Take the Buccleuch vases, a set of Qing-dynasty antiques that date back to c 1750. They once belonged to – and are named after – notable 19th-century Scottish art collector, Elizabeth Montagu, Duchess of Buccleuch.



Tulips, Jeff Koons



The Buccleuch Vases



“

The philosophy about art at Wynn Palace has always been that it is meant to be shared with everybody.

Roger Thomas

Made with porcelain, the vases feature Buddhist and Taoist designs. What stands out about the quartet of vases is not only their historical value, however. They sit on mounts that are believed to have been created by a French artist as a later addition, making them truly one of a kind.

Then there's *The Harvesting of Pineapples*, a whimsical piece created c 1775 by master weavers at Beauvais, a prominent tapestry workshop in France. The story goes that the tapestry was created by master weavers as a reimagining of the Chinese royal court, after hearing tales of it from French monks who visited. It forms part of The Story of the Emperor of China series, which features scenes that depict life during the reigns of Shunzhi (1644–61) and Kangxi (1661–1722). Located within Wing Lei Palace restaurant, guests can observe the piece at close range.

Alongside the chinoiserie theme, said Thomas, art is placed “in the context of a magical escape into a vivid and colourful floral wonderland.” This is evident in Jeff Koons's *Tulips*, positioned by one of the entrances. Created between 1995 and 2004 as part of the Celebration series, it depicts massive tulips rendered in shining, colourful stainless steel. The series focuses on bringing grown-ups back to simpler times – to allow them to “experience the wide-eyed wonderment of childhood and feel small again.”

A more tongue-in-cheek creation is the Fake Antique series by contemporary Chinese artist Liao Yibai, from 2013. Comprising nine pieces, the collection mimics cultural treasures from the imperial dynasties of China with modern, often humorous, details. The intention? To mock the thriving fake antiques market in China while nodding to the artistry of the forgers.

The Harvesting of Pineapples, French tapestry, 1775

Grand Lisboa: fine art meets bling

An impressive line-up of art and jewellery are exhibited at the Grand Lisboa's lobby – the majority borrowed from owner Stanley Ho's personal collection.

The Art of Taichi, a pair of copper sculptures by Taiwanese artist Ju Ming, were inspired by the Chinese martial art practice. Ju practices tai chi, and he's known for a series of works that depict it. There's a "spiritual aspect" to his works, according to the Ju Ming Museum in Taiwan, and his vision as an artist aligns with the spirit of the martial art, where there's a "respect for the existing structures of nature."

Arguably the most valuable items on display: the *Star of Stanley Ho*, a 218.08-carat diamond, the largest of its kind



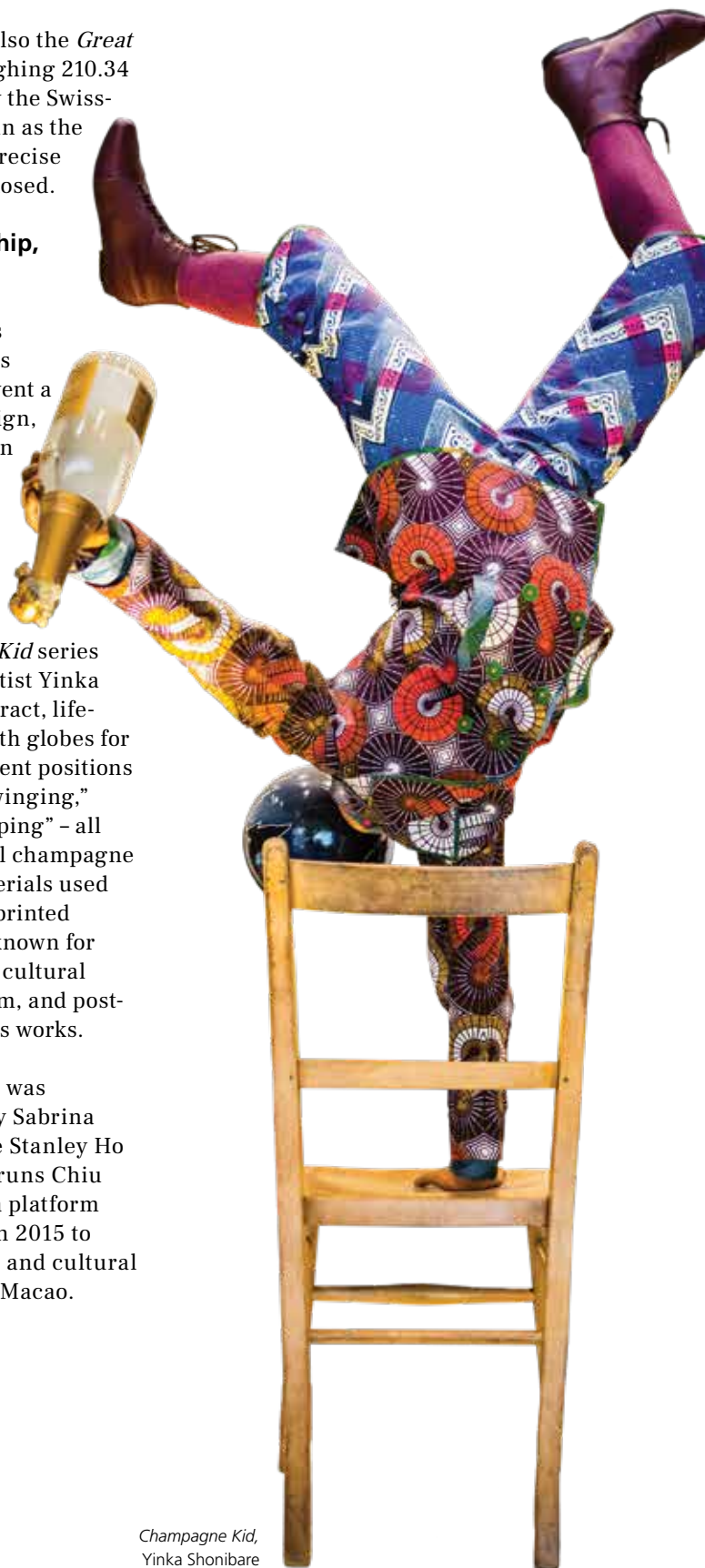
in the world. There's also the *Great Fortune Emerald*, weighing 210.34 carats and certified by the Swiss-based gem lab Gübelin as the world's rarest. Their precise value remains undisclosed.

Regency Art Hotel: hip, contemporary art

Formerly known as the Regency Hotel, this establishment underwent a rebranding and redesign, emerging in 2016 as an art-oriented property with a contemporary vibe.

Three eye-catching pieces sit in its lobby, all from the *2013 Champagne Kid* series by British-Nigerian artist Yinka Shonibare. These abstract, life-sized mannequins with globes for heads appear in different positions attached to chairs: "swinging," "balancing" and "stepping" – all while holding a Cristal champagne bottle. One of the materials used is Dutch wax African printed textiles; the artist is known for exploring themes of cultural identity, colonialism, and post-colonialism in his works.

The hotel's transformation was spearheaded by Sabrina Ho, a scion of the Stanley Ho family. She also runs Chiu Yeng Culture, a platform she founded in 2015 to promote arts and cultural exchange in Macao.



The Art of Taichi,
Ju Ming

Champagne Kid,
Yinka Shonibare



Venetian's armillary sphere

The Venetian: Return of the Renaissance

Mega-resort Venetian Macao is famously inspired by the City of Water. Gondoliers ferry visitors down San Luca canal, flanked on both sides by shops designed to mimic the architecture of Venice. The theme continues indoors, with opulent Venetian-style interiors and recreations of famed Renaissance-era art.

But just because they're replicas doesn't mean they're boring: a huge, golden armillary sphere sits atop the lobby fountain in a nod to their prominence during the Italian Renaissance (Galileo was said to have owned a large collection). The history of these devices, however, dates back much further – and much closer to home: some of the first

armillary spheres were developed in China in the fourth century BC.

Primarily used to measure sea water levels and star positions, they were also used to decide the best time of the day to conduct certain activities – like gambling!

City of Dreams: Morpheus by Zaha Hadid

With the grand opening this past June, Morpheus is officially the world's first free-form, exoskeleton, high-rise architectural development. Designed by Zaha Hadid Architects, it is a true representation of 'innovation meets luxury'. The hotel lobby itself leaves guests captivated, resembling the inside of a giant kaleidoscope. As much



Good Intentions, KAWS

as the exterior leaves visitors in awe, it's what's inside that makes it a paramount destination for art lovers within the City of Dreams.

Visitors are free to roam around Morpheus to enjoy the themed exhibition "Art of the City", a collection of contemporary work by international artists. Eight of the eighteen art installations for this exhibition are located specifically within Morpheus' parameters. Each piece is integrated smoothly into the luxurious décor and shopping stores; giving the hotel a fun and quirky taste, with extra pops of colour.

To highlight just a few, starting off introducing *Good Intentions* by the New York based artist KAWS. Many of KAWS works are influenced by popular culture in society, all of which are toy-like figures that combine the characteristics of Mickey Mouse, a clown, and a skull. This particular installation at the Morpheus comprises two figures acting as companions, sharing a human relationship representing that of a parent and child. However, unlike the other pieces, this one is specially located on the 23rd floor of Morpheus.

Closer to the northwest entrance is the *200 Litofairhour* by Charles Pétillon. It is a grand cluster large of fabric spheres in a wavy-like formation, mimicing the looks of clouds floating 3.5 to 6 metres in the air. The most unique part of this installation is the title, based off the fact that 200 litres of air per hour is required to sustain; representing our own vital need to for oxygen as humans.

Along with these bold installations, Shinji Ohmaki created *Echos of Infinity* which was inspired by Da Vinci's Tree of

Life. Overtaking the walls are vibrantly colored plants filled with flowers and fruits to represent an abundance of imagination and diversity. The forest-like walls lead visitors into an infinite realm of fantasy, to bring back the youth, and represent the diverse personalities of each individual.

As a way of making this art exhibition even more exciting and interactive, visitors can follow along the *Game of Thrills* map to navigate the property and seek out these installations so as to not miss a single one. Endless forms of entertainment and prize-winning promotions allow guest of all ages to enjoy their stay around the City of Dreams.

In with the new

Hotels and gaming operators are not alone in their efforts to promote fine arts and culture. Today, the arts scene in Macao continues to go from strength to strength.

2018 saw the launch of Photo Macau, which bills itself as Asia's newest international art fair dedicated to art photography and new media art. It is not the first international arts festival to take place in the city: in 2013, international visual art fair Art MO was established, and 2017 saw the launch of the Women Artists International Biennial of Macao, already the largest event of its kind in the world.

These are exciting developments alongside the city's art mainstays, like the Macau Museum of Art, which has been open since 1999. Last year, local art association Art for All Society (AFA) – the non-profit responsible for Macao Art Garden, a building dedicated to artistic pursuits and exhibitions – celebrated its 10th anniversary, renewing its dedication to enhancing the development of contemporary art in Macao, facilitating local art creation, and assisting the government with the development of local cultural undertakings. With art on the rise in so many arenas, the city's dedication to diversification and expanding the creative arts has a promising future. ●



Art at the Morpheus Hotel

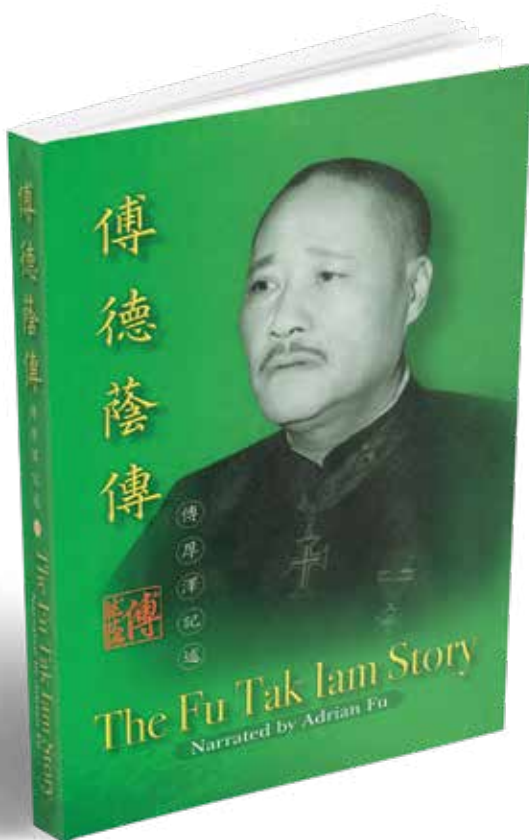
History

Grandson of Macao gambling mogul publishes biography

Text Mark O'Neill Photos António Sanmarful and courtesy of Adrian Fu

Adrian Fu depicted the story of Fu Tak Iam, his grandfather and Macao's former gambling mogul, in a vivid bilingual biography.

The biography of Fu Tak Iam



In January 2019, Adrian Fu published a biography of his grandfather, Fu Tak Iam, whose company held the gambling franchise in Macao between 1937 and 1961, and who laid the foundation for his family's business empire today.

"This book took three years to write," said Fu in an interview in Hong Kong, where he lives. "My father died 13 years ago and I saw the many documents Grandfather left behind about his life. I learnt much I did not know."

"He spoke little and did not like to socialise. But each week he wrote letters, to his children, grandson, and business associates." Fu had four wives, eight sons and seven daughters; Adrian's father was the eldest son.

These letters proved a treasure trove of information about Fu's life, family, and businesses. Adrian hired two mainland professors to study them and conduct supplementary research in Macao, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and the mainland.

"The book is being published by our Fu Tak Iam Foundation with 2,000 copies in English and Chinese in the first printing," he said. Adrian has registered his second foundation in Macao and plans to turn two houses here into a memorial for his grandfather, available for use by the foundation and other local NGOs. Such a move will require approval by the Macao government.



The first casino in Macao (1937)

Cutting wood to Casino City

The story of Fu Tak Iam's rise from rags to riches is the stuff of Hollywood films. Born in 1895 to a poor farming family in a village in Nanhai county, Foshan in Guangdong province, Fu had little formal schooling. He was eight years old when drought forced his father to leave the village for Hong Kong where he worked in a metal shop. Fu himself began working at an early age, first collecting and selling firewood to help support his family.

He made the journey to Hong Kong in 1908, just 14 years old, to help his father in the shop. Three years later, he took a job as a stoker in the boiler room of a British vessel, working a route between Hong Kong, Macao, Guangzhou, and

ports in the Pearl River Delta.

"It was exhausting and dangerous work," said Adrian. Fu used the two and a half years he spent with the company learning about mechanical engineering, but even then, gambling had already caught his fancy. He often spent his spare time wandering the streets and gambling when he could. One day, Fu was gambling in Central (Hong Kong) and got arrested after getting into a fight. "His father was very anxious about him."

Sentenced to 10 months in prison, Fu made best use of the time in jail and learned much about gambling from the other inmates.

After leaving prison, Fu moved to cities in Guangdong and Guangxi and went into business: opium, gambling and firearms, all profitable sectors. He returned to

Hong Kong flush with cash from his many ventures. While horse racing was the only legal form of gambling there, local governments in China turned a blind eye.

Fu met Huo Zhi-ting, president of the Guangdong Bank and founder of the Hong Nin Savings Bank of Hong Kong, in the early 1930s. Despite Fu losing out on his bid for the gambling franchise in Macao to Huo's consortium, the two became friends. Huo admired Fu's management of gambling and agreed to fund a large casino in Shenzhen aimed at punters from Hong Kong. Huo had the support of Chen Jitang, a warlord powerful in Guangdong.

There Fu built the largest casino in China, involving an investment of 10 million yuan. It attracted many gamblers from Hong Kong, just as

intended, and badly affected the casinos of Macao. But in 1937, after Japan launched its all-out war on China, the Nationalist government banned gambling on the mainland. The Shenzhen casino was forced to close, resulting in heavy losses for its investors.

Winning Macao franchise

Fu returned to Macao just in time to make a second attempt at the franchise in the city. He partnered with Kou Ho-neng, who had made a fortune from a chain of pawnshops, to form the Tai Heng company. Their bid of 1.8 million patacas a year won in 1937; they promised three casinos, the largest in the newly renamed Hotel Central in downtown Macao.

Tai Heng would hold the gambling monopoly for the next 24 years. Their bid turned out to be an excellent investment, especially during World War II, when Macao was the only city in East Asia not under Japanese military occupation.

Thousands of wealthy people from Hong Kong, the mainland, and overseas took refuge there to escape the war. Japanese business people, officials, and military officers were also frequent visitors to the Hotel Central, patronising its bars and restaurants and the other casinos. There was little alternative entertainment. Fu used the profits to invest in passenger ships, the Number 16 pier, and trading.

After the fall of Hong Kong in December 1941, thousands of refugees flooded into the city, joining those from the mainland. The city struggled to cope, its population ballooning to around 700,000, more than four times what it was before the war.

Food, medicine, and shelter were in short supply, leaving hundreds to die of starvation on the streets.

“During World War II, Grandfather

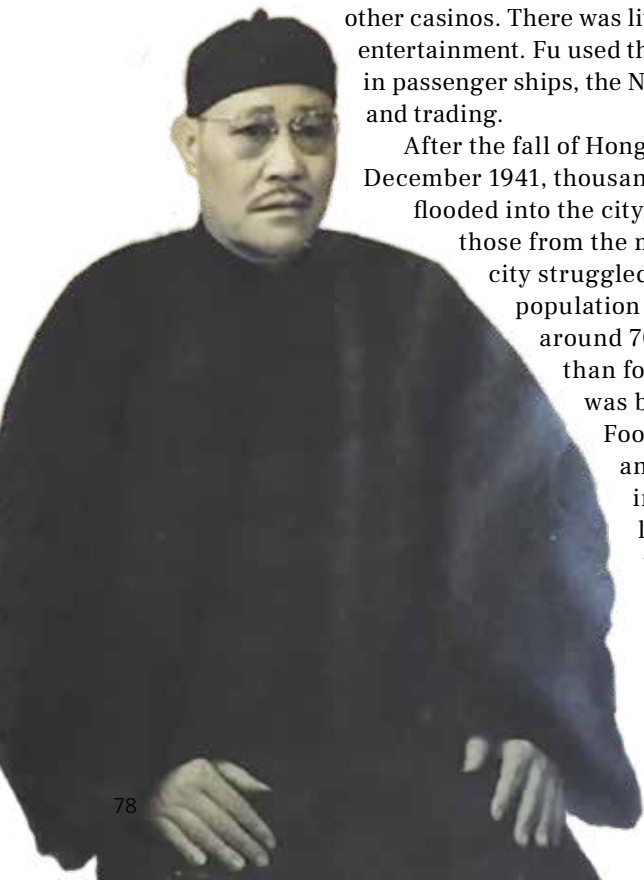


Hotel Central

did everything,” said Adrian. “He gave money to buy rice for the refugees. He also had a rice mill to provide a staple diet for them.

“He did not sleep at night. He stayed up until all the cash from the casinos had been collected and safely stored. He would sleep at four or five in the morning and get up at midday. He did not drink but smoked opium every day. He believed it was good for his health.”

Fu kept the Japanese officials at a distance, dealing with them indirectly through representatives. While technically unoccupied, Macao was hardly free from Japanese interference during the war.



Ministério do Interior
 Direcção-Geral de Administração Política e Civil
 1.ª Repartição

Círculo 11 — B.º 0-9/21

Francisco Higino Craveiro Lopes, Presidente da República Portuguesa:

Faço saber que, por decreto de 7 de Novembro último, publicado, por extracto, no "Diário do Governo" n.º 271, 2.ª série, de 21 do mesmo mês, foi concedida, nos termos do artigo 19.º do Código Civil, alterado pelo Decreto n.º 19126, de 16 de Dezembro de 1930, a nacionalidade portuguesa, por naturalização, a Fu Tak Tam, natural da China, domiciliado na cidade de Macau, podendo, assim, gozar os direitos e prerrogativas inerentes, depois de registada esta carta em conformidade com o disposto no artigo 375.º do Código do Registo Civil e no artigo 114.º da Lei n.º 2049, de 6 de Agosto de 1951.

De harmonia com o preceituado nos parágrafos 1.º e 2.º do artigo 262.º deste código, aditados pelo Decreto-Lei n.º 37702, de 30 de Dezembro de 1949, e com a redacção que ao primeiro foi dada pelo Decreto-Lei n.º 39923, de 23 de Novembro de 1954, passará o mesmo indivíduo a usar o nome de José Fu.

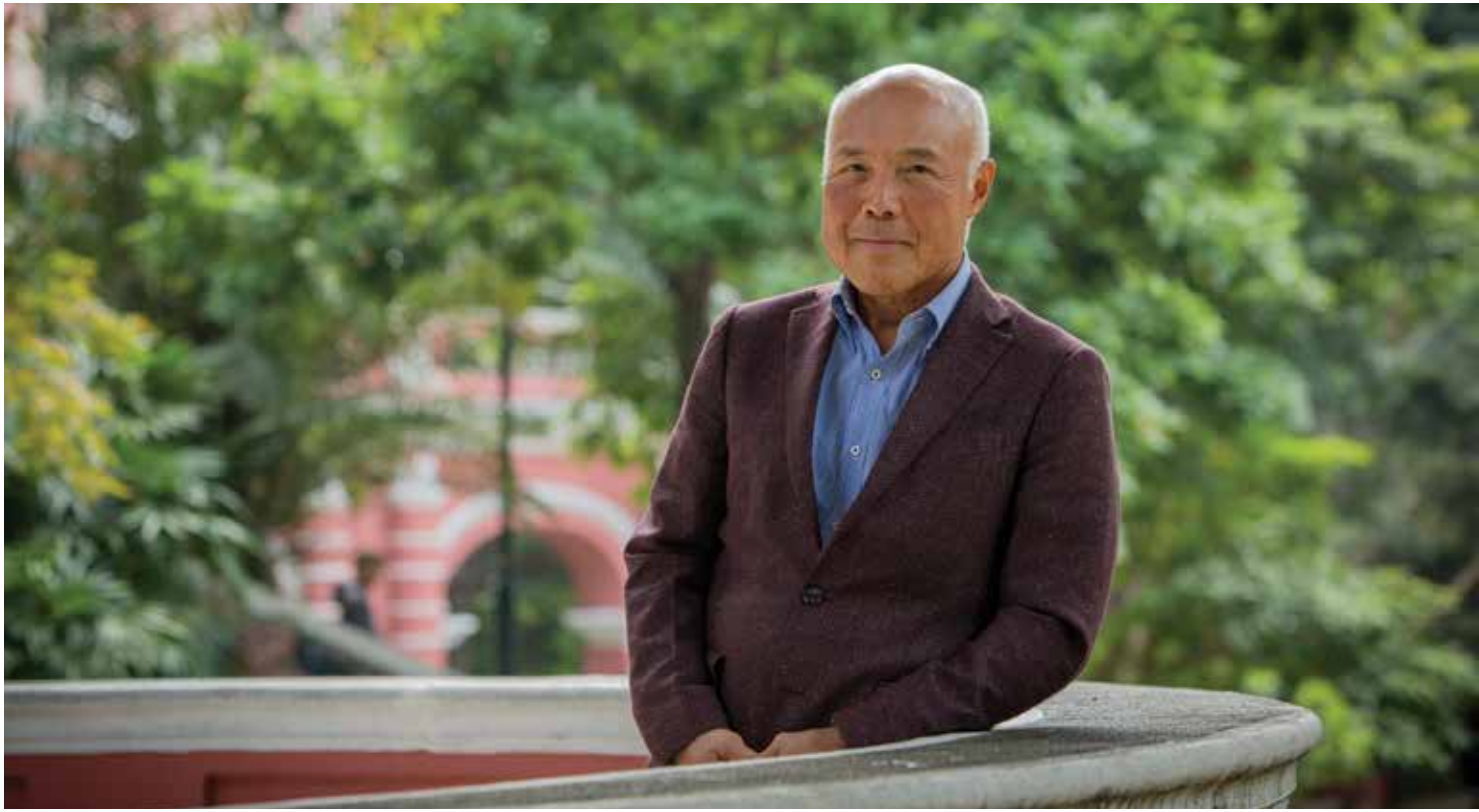
Pelo que se ordena às autoridades e mais pessoas a quem o conhecimento da presente carta pertencer a cumpram e guardem tão inteiramente como nela se contém, depois de autenticado com o selo branco deste Ministério.

Dada nos Paços do Governo da República, em 27 de Março de 1958.

Francisco Higino Craveiro Lopes
Francisco Higino Craveiro Lopes

Paga, de selos e emolumentos devidos pela referida naturalização, a quantia de duzentos e sessenta escudos, em estampilhas fiscaes, que foram devidamente inutilizadas nesta carta e no processo respectivo.





Adrian Fu

Danger of wealth

Despite being one of the wealthiest men in Macao, Fu did not fear for his safety and usually had only one bodyguard. On 10 February 1948, he went into the Kun Iam Temple, leaving his driver outside. A group of armed men burst in and kidnapped him. They demanded a ransom of nine million Hong Kong dollars.

“They did not beat him up,” said Adrian. “He did not fear the kidnappers. They were people like him. He knew what they were like.”

The family turned to Ho Yin, a highly influential Chinese and colleague of Fu’s, to mediate negotiations for his release. With his help, the two sides agreed to a much-reduced ransom of 900,000 Hong Kong dollars, but when one of Fu’s children brought in the police, the deal fell apart.

Enraged, the kidnappers cut off the top of Fu’s right ear and sent it to his family as a warning. They also reverted to their original ransom demand, prompting the family to reach out to another mediator: the famous Cantonese opera star, Tang Wing Cheung. He got the ransom back down to 900,000 Hong Kong dollars; the family paid and Fu was released. Police eventually arrested a renegade Kuomintang soldier believed to be the ringleader; he was sentenced to 18 years in prison.

While unscathed psychologically, the experience did lead Fu to increase his own security: “From then on he carried a gun and was accompanied by two bodyguards.”

After World War II, Fu diversified his investments in Hong Kong, moving into property, shipping, construction, cinemas,

and trading. He decided that the next generation should not follow him in the casino business; Adrian’s father had no interest in the sector. He was sent to Hong Kong in 1946 to set up an office there, establishing Kwong Hing Investment (KHI) Holdings the following year.

Preserving the family legacy

Fu was a workaholic, with little time for his four wives and 15 children, and little interest in socialising. He spoke little; his main method of communication was letters, which he wrote each week, to his children and employees, mostly with instructions on what to do.

“He was meticulous in his work, with detailed plans. He set up a company and made his sons



The mansion of the Fu family at Avenida da República

the shareholders; his daughters did not go into the business. There was enormous pressure on my father as the oldest son who had to look after and educate his siblings,” Adrian explained. “Grandfather talked little to his children. My father both feared and respected him.”

Adrian was born in 1947. He attended schools in Hong Kong and visited his grandfather in Macao at Chinese New Year and during the school holidays. “He was kind to me. He talked to me and I listened,” Adrian reflected. Fu died in 1960 after a period of declining health; he was 65 years old.

Adrian’s father, Fu Yum Chiu, also established the Tak Kee Shipping & Trading Company in Hong Kong in 1947, diversifying early on into property development. The Furama Hotel

stands as the flagship property development for the company, now part of KHI Holdings Group, which oversaw construction and management of the hotel. Opened in 1973, the property set a new standard for business hotels in Asia and yielded significant returns for investors when KHI exited in 1997.

The company remains family-owned, with Adrian Fu serving as the current chief executive. Under his leadership the company has held to the core values established by his father, emphasising conservatively managed growth and diversification.

Adrian also seeks to perpetuate his family’s legacy through the foundation named for his grandfather. Their work centres on two values: eliminating social injustice and prejudice through education, and improving the

quality of life for those who are deprived. For Adrian, the foundation is “the most meaningful interpretation of my father’s love and respect for my grandfather” as well as “an effective tool to communicate our family history to future generations.”

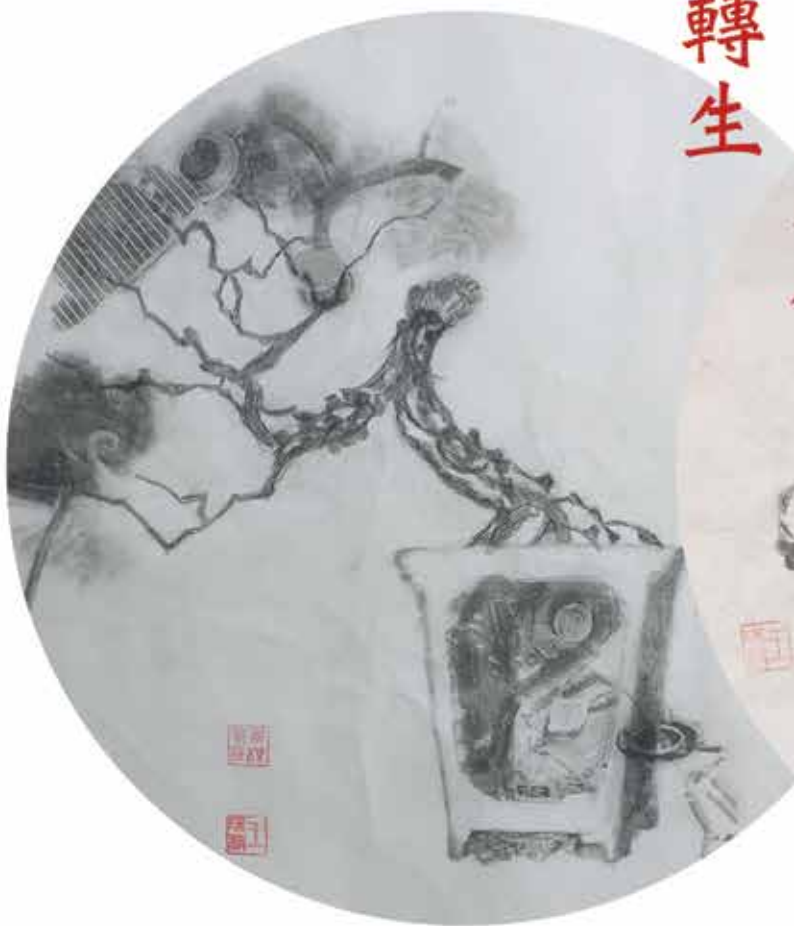
Those in Macao interested in learning more about Fu Tak Iam can visit his former home, located at 28-34 Avenida da Republica and owned by the Fu Tak Yung Foundation, and read two marble tablets about his life housed in two pavilions on the property. Or they might pop over to the pavilion in Chong San Memorial Park on Guia Hill to read the tablet there.

For those looking to dive deeper into the biography of the gambling mogul, they can read the *The Fu Tak Iam Story* (傅德蔭傳), published by his namesake foundation. ●

REINCARNATION

Chinese Paintings with Mixed Media by Allen Wong
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轉生
王瑞麟



10 jan - 09 mar 2019



Zoom

2018 Macao International Parade “Love, Peace, and Cultural Integration”

Text Cathy Lai Photos Eric Tam and Courtesy of Cultural Affairs Bureau

Opening ceremony



Dancers and performers paraded through Macao on 16 December 2018 at the annual Macao International Parade to celebrate the 19th Anniversary of Macao's return to China.

Embracing the theme "Love, Peace, and Cultural Integration", the parade began at the Ruins of St. Paul's and continued down Sai Van Lake Square.

More than 1,700 entertainers participated in the event. 76 groups were from Macao as

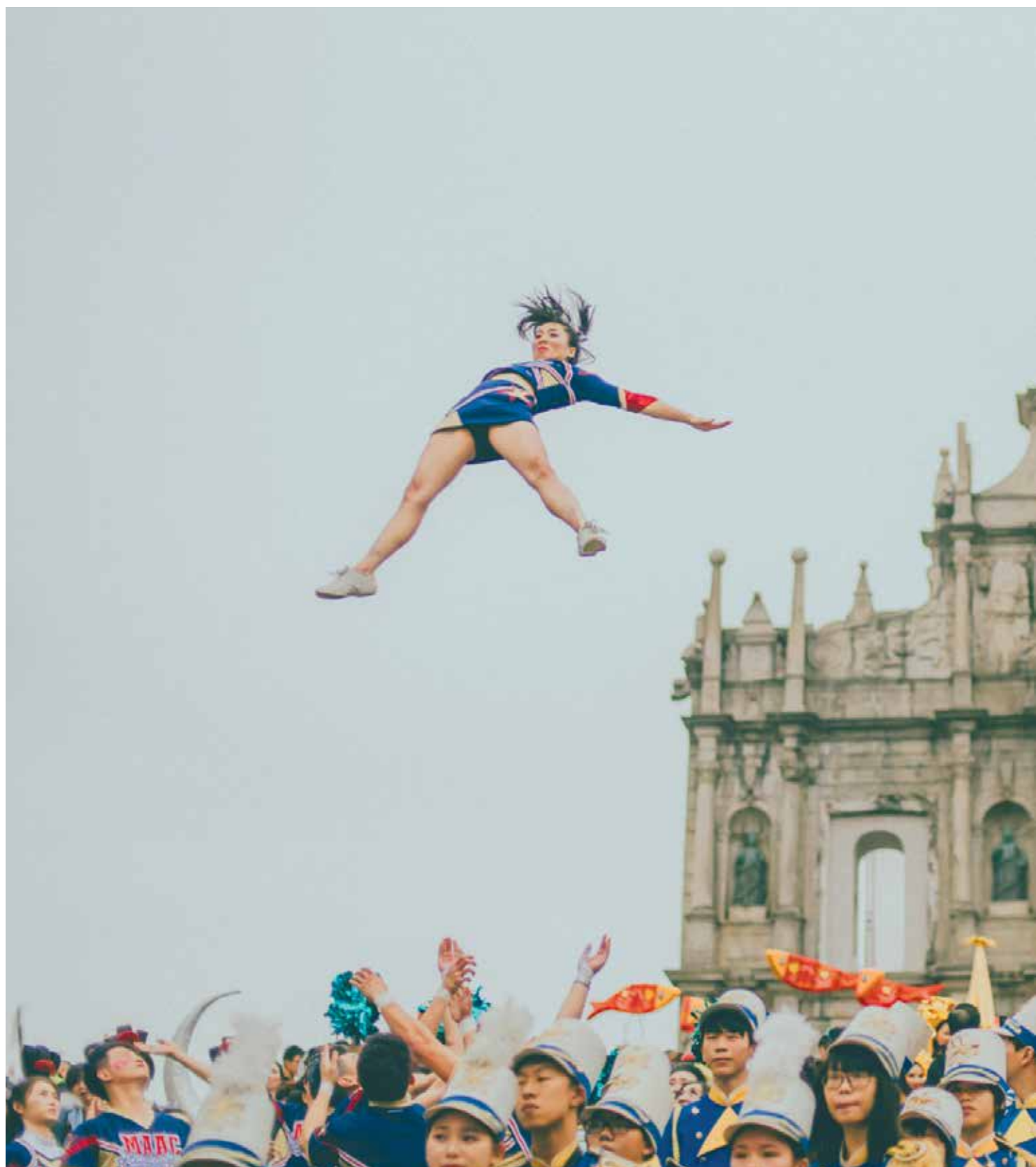
well as Mainland China, Hong Kong, France, Spain, Russia and the Portuguese-speaking countries including Portugal, Brazil, Guinea-Bissau and Mozambique.

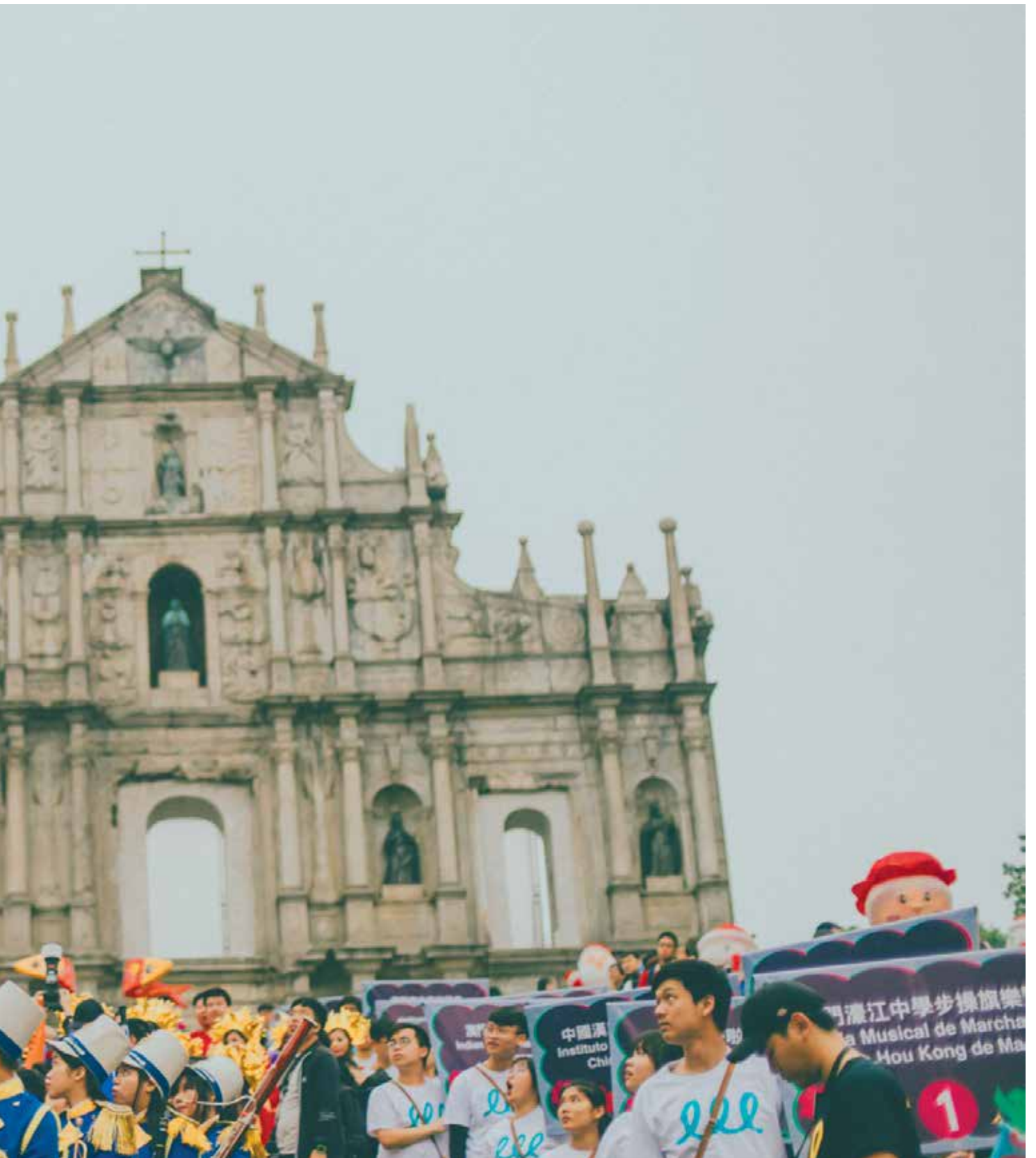
The Parade highlighted the cultural blend between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries and drew over 150,000 people to it. For those who missed the event or would like a second chance to appreciate it, please have a look at our Zoom section!

Closing ceremony











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