

Macao 澳門



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Macao Chief Executive Chui Sai On and
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Where Legends Begin

Portuguese president's visit to China bolsters Forum Macao and trilateral cooperation

Text Paulo Figueiredo Photos Xinhua News Agency, GettyImages and Lusa News Agency



With bilateral trade reaching over US\$6 billion last year, a yearly increase of 7.4 per cent, China and Portugal are important strategic partners with bright prospects ahead.

The emphasis of the role of Forum Macao was underscored as one of the main topics during the official visit of Portuguese President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa to China, which concluded on 1 May in Macao.

"The objective is to give more power to Forum Macao, something that was obviously sensed by all parties, especially by [Chinese] President Xi Jinping's delegation," said Rebelo de Sousa in Beijing during the first leg of his six-day visit to China.

The Portuguese president also underlined the willingness of the Chinese government to focus on the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP), adding that one of the possible routes "can and should be Forum Macao."

Rebelo de Sousa attended China's Second Belt and Road Forum, held 25-27 April, along with leaders from 36 other countries and delegates from more than 150 countries. He spoke about human rights and climate change in the third working session on the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and participated in two other working sessions; he did not attend the opening.

While in Beijing, Rebelo de Sousa hosted top executives from some of the largest Chinese companies investing in Portugal at the residence of the Portuguese ambassador. Guests included Lei Mingshan (China Three Gorges), Wang Qunbin (Fosun International Limited), Xin Baoan (State Grid Corporation of China), Qu Qiuping (Haitong International Securities Group), Li Yong Cheng (Beijing

Enterprises Water Group), Pansy Ho (STDM Investimentos Imobiliários/Estoril Sol), Patrick Yu (COFCO), Liu Liange (Bank of China), Guo Chuntai (Tianjin EV Energies Co) and Guan Qing (CSCEC), among others.

While he praised those in attendance for investing in Portugal during a difficult economic period, the Portuguese president also challenged them to invest more in the "real economy," especially in new companies and business areas. They responded well, he later told reporters, freely discussing ideas for future investment, including some in manufacturing and industry.

Rebelo de Sousa also said that the senior Chinese business leaders were "unanimous" in describing their experience in Portugal as "very positive," and expressed interest in maintaining their presence in the country while also extending it to third countries in partnership with Portugal.

After dinner, the Portuguese president strolled back to his hotel, taking the opportunity to visit some bookstores along the way.

He hosted a second dinner the next day, gathering representatives from the biggest Portuguese exporters to the Chinese market at the Portuguese Embassy. There, Rebelo de Sousa stressed the importance of having Portuguese companies in China and thanked those in attendance for their efforts on that front.

The Portuguese president concluded his time in Beijing on 29 April, meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Li Keqiang together with their respective delegations.



Portuguese President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Chinese First Lady Peng Liyuan



Chinese President Xi Jinping and Portuguese President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa



Portuguese president visits the Great Wall of China

The meeting saw a number of bilateral agreements signed, most notably a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Portugal and China for the Establishment of a Strategic Dialogue, which replaces the previous Strategic Partnership established in 2005.

Under the new memorandum, Portugal and China will hold regular political consultations on bilateral and international policy issues and increase contacts between government authorities, with mutual visits once a year, alternating between China and Portugal, at the foreign minister level.

Other agreements signed in Beijing include a framework on

trade cooperation in third-country markets, signed by the Portuguese Agency for Investment and Foreign Trade (AICEP) and China Export and Credit Insurance Corporation (Sinosure), and a protocol with the Confucius Institute on cooperation for teaching Mandarin in Portuguese secondary schools.

Following a visit to Shanghai, where he met with the local Portuguese community, and then in Macao, Rebelo de Sousa highlighted the importance of language, citing strengthening of such exchanges as being among the main results of his visit.

“It is most important to focus on education – the Portuguese language, Portuguese culture, Mandarin and its teaching in

Portuguese schools, and cultural exchange – because this has medium and long-term effects on many generations, more than the many important steps taken in economic and financial matters,” he explained.

Rebel de Sousa lauded the “concrete steps” made in this “strategic area,” saying that for him, “it is not possible to separate Portugal from the Portuguese language ... Portugal has a language fundamental for its projection in the world.”

In 1999, only three mainland institutions offered degrees in Portuguese. By the end of this year, he said, 48 Chinese universities will be teaching Portuguese.

Chief Executive Chui Sai On
and Portuguese President
Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa



Return to Macao after three decades

Text Mariana César de Sá Photos Cheong Kamka and Lusa News Agency

At the tail end of his state visit to China to attend the Second Belt and Road Forum, Portuguese President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa made time for a brief, roughly day-long stop in Macao before making the trip back home. The last time he visited the city was three decades ago.

During his whirlwind trip, the president met with both local and Portuguese authorities and spoke to members of the community. At a welcoming ceremony held at the official residence of the Portuguese consul-general, Rebelo de Sousa pointed out that, until 1999, Macao was regarded as a Chinese territory under Portuguese administration, not as a Portuguese colony. “Macao is different,” he remarked. “It has always been different from Portugal.”

He described this difference as a result of “a mix of cultures, civilisations, religions, and people” in the city. The president said that “the friendship and brotherhood that has united the Portuguese and the Chinese for the past 500 years started precisely in Macao,” and has been fortified through Macao over the years.

The president said that, although many things have changed over the last five centuries, including government and political systems, these changes haven’t affected the relationship because what really matters are “the links between people.”

Rebelo de Sousa also highlighted the importance of the Portuguese community, language, and culture. This can be seen in the teaching and learning of the Portuguese

language, he said, noting that nowadays, “there are many more people learning Portuguese in Macao than half a century ago.”

The president is looking forward to the further deepening of cooperation between Portugal and Macao in a wide range of areas such as Portuguese language teaching, trade, investments, tourism, science and technology, and higher education.

Enriching education from the ground up

“I was very happy when I heard the Chief Executive [Chui Sai On] announce that the Macao government will support a new branch of the Macau Portuguese School [EPM]. It is an old ambition of all the people involved,” the

Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa at Macau Portuguese School



president remarked. The school had been under some pressure to expand as it began reaching full capacity over the last few years.

Slated to start this year, the long-awaited expansion represents a “great gift” from the Macao government led by Chief Executive Chui and will be located on one of the land plots of the new landfills.

Chui said in an official statement that he “[believes] that this will not only be a way to consolidate the development of Portuguese language and culture, but also a way to express the preliminary consensus [reached] on the plan to be followed in future.”

The president said that although many things have changed over the last five centuries ... what really matters are “the links between people.”

A brief visit to EPM was also on the president’s itinerary for Macao. At the school, pupils gave various performances to welcome the president, such as dancing, singing, and a play. Rebelo de Sousa then delivered a speech and presented an award to the winning team of a football competition.

The football team captain, surnamed Leong, told The Macao Post Daily that “it was a rare opportunity for him to meet the Portuguese president and have a valuable experience.”

Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa walks through the historic centre of Macao



A walk through old Macao

After the school visit, Rebelo de Sousa continued with his round of visits in the city.

During a walking tour through the Historic Centre of Macao where he visited the Holy House of Mercy and strolled from Largo do Senado to the Ruins of St Paul’s with Secretary of Social Affairs and Culture Alexis Tam Chon Weng, Rebelo de Sousa tried some Macao-style egg tarts and Chinese tea and greeted fellow passersby.

The president noted that the celebrations of the 20th anniversary at the end of the year “could be a good reason” to return, as it is a significant occasion at which both the People’s Republic of China and Portugal should naturally be represented officially at the highest level, “the same way as it was 20 years ago [during the handover].”

Rebelo de Sousa also visited the building of the Portuguese Consulate General which houses IPOR (Instituto Português do Oriente), where he took in a Shan Shui Chinese painting exhibition called “Eternal Lotus” and met the artist, Ieong Tai Meng.

On a political level

During this short visit, Macao Chief Executive Chui Sai On thanked the Portuguese president for Portugal’s support of and participation in the Belt and Road Initiative, adding that he was confident that Portugal would become the European pivot of said initiative.

He also vowed that Macao would actively assist companies from the Portuguese-speaking world in selling their products and services in the Greater Bay Area, another major initiative rolled out by Beijing last year.

At the end of the trip, Rebelo de Sousa crossed the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge en route to the Hong Kong International Airport where he took a flight home.

The Portuguese president described his whirlwind visit to Macao simply, calling it “unforgettable.” ●

Macao and Portugal: a long history of cooperation

Text Paulo Figueiredo Photos Government Information Bureau and Lusa News Agency



Chief Executive Chui Sai On with Portuguese President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa in Lisbon

Making his third and last official visit to Portugal, Macao Chief Executive Chui Sai On cemented his city's role as a vital platform connecting China to the Portuguese-speaking world.

The landmark tour came in the wake of recent visits by the Chinese and Portuguese presidents to each other's countries, and with an eye toward the future of bilateral ties, their reach in the Greater Bay Area, and the 20th anniversary of the SAR this December.

Over the Chief Executive Chui Sai On's seven-day trip, 12-18 May, Chui met with Portuguese leaders in Lisbon, strengthening existing bonds in a number of areas, and was received in Porto as an honorary citizen.

On 13 May, Chui met with Portuguese President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, recently returned from an official visit to China that concluded in Macao, at Belém Palace in Lisbon.

Rebelo de Sousa characterised the relationship between China and Portugal, and between Macao and Portugal, as experiencing an "excellent period," adding that he was glad to see that President Xi Jinping "highly values" Macao's role in connecting China and the world's Portuguese-speaking countries (PSC).

He emphasised that China is actively enhancing communication and cooperation with the PSC, promoting the development of the Portuguese language to the benefit of all PSC, not just Portugal. The Portuguese president underlined the significance of Macao's efforts to preserve, strengthen and develop the Portuguese culture and language.

Sustainable development of the Portuguese language in Macao, he said, will enhance its links and cooperation in the fields of culture,

society, economy, trade, science, technology, and tourism with the PSC.

Chui spoke to the "close friendship and historic ties" between Macao and Portugal, citing the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and Greater Bay Area (GBA) as opening up new opportunities for future cooperation.

Later that night at a photo exhibition entitled "The Successful Practice of the 'One Country, Two Systems' Principle in Macao," Chui stressed that as a key BRI city,

Macao has a good "foundation and potential for cooperation" with Portugal, reiterating that Macao and Portugal should "jointly grab" the BRI development opportunities.

The title of the exhibition, held in conjunction with a reception to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the MSAR, echoed statements made by the Chief Executive in the runup to his Portuguese tour. There he cited the concept of 'Macao people administering Macao' and the high degree of autonomy enjoyed by the SAR as the basis of this success.

Around 230 people attended the reception, including members of Chui's delegation, senior Portuguese government officials, representatives of Portugal's parliament, judiciary, Lisbon City Hall, educational institutions, and the media.

Building a gateway

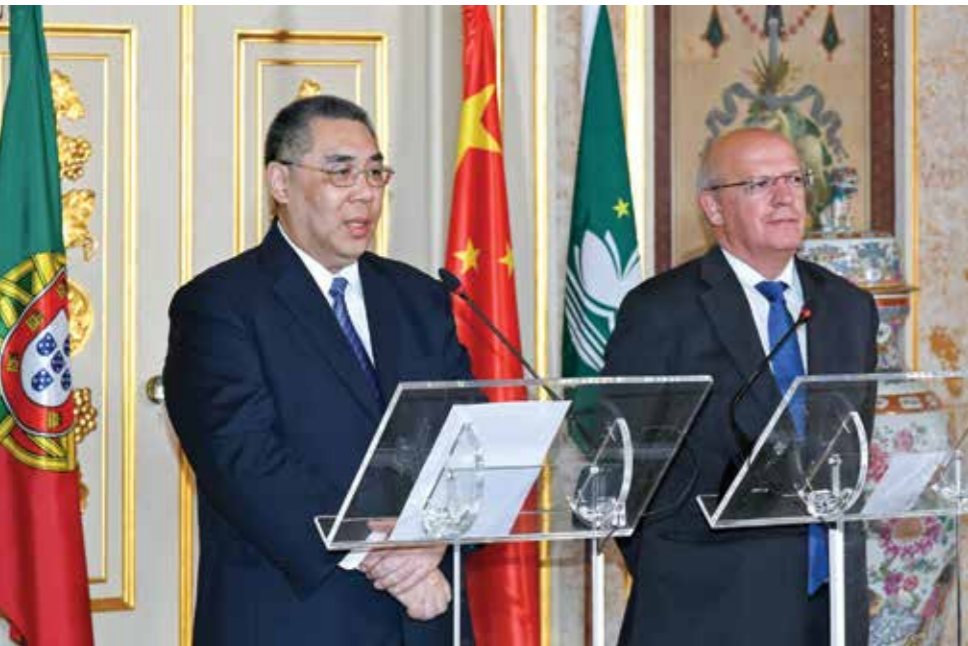
In a meeting with Portuguese Prime Minister António Costa the following day, 14 May, the two sides agreed to step up economic cooperation, "boosting mutual investment" to contribute to the "sustainable development" of their economies.

Chui cited support from Portugal as enhancing Macao's efforts to create a base for training in the Portuguese language and tourism, particularly in relation to the BRI and GBA. Macao, he said, "possesses a complete system for the teaching of Portuguese, which serves as a base for the Portuguese language training in Asian regions."

Tourism stands to benefit substantially from the visit. Agreements signed between Portugal's Secretary of State for Tourism Ana Mendes Godinho



Chief Executive Chui Sai On with the Prime Minister of the Portuguese Republic António Luís Santos da Costa



Chief Executive Chui Sai On and Minister of Foreign Affairs Augusto Santos Silva at the sixth meeting of the Macao-Portugal Joint Committee

and Macao’s Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Alexis Tam Chon Weng aim to promote the joint development of training actions and dual-graduation programmes, as well as encouraging the reciprocal participation in workshops, seminars, conferences, meetings, colloquia, research, and other projects of common interest.

According to both sides, the programmes enabled by these agreements, together with other in the fields of education and training, may be open to students from the broader GBA, a region home to nearly 70 million people.

On the day of the signing, Godinho told Lusa News Agency that this agreement will lead to the creation of a Macao Institute for Tourism Studies (IFT) hub in Estoril, west of Lisbon. The hub will offer “human resources training in the area of tourism, mainly Asian human resources, and will have a space for training and articulation and development of internships

here in Portugal as well, namely with Portuguese hotels.” This agreement, she added, will work “as a gateway to the Asian market.”

Common language, common purpose

At the sixth meeting of the Macao-Portugal Joint Committee, co-chaired by the Chief Executive and Portuguese Minister for Foreign Affairs Augusto Santos Silva, discussion centred on economic relations between the two parties (with the relations between China, Portugal and the Portuguese-speaking countries in view) and relations in the areas of language, culture and education, considering Macao as a platform for disseminating the Portuguese language across Asia.

The meeting culminated with the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on the automatic reciprocal recognition of diplomas and academic degrees,

along with a bilateral agreement on the surrender of fugitive offenders.

At the end of the Joint Committee, Chui told the press that trade last year between China and PSC reached US\$147.3 billion, 13 times more than in 2003, when Forum Macao was established. Chui also said the Macao government would support Portuguese youth entrepreneurship projects involving Macao and other cities in the GBA.

Especially highlighted by Chui during the visit was the work of Portugal’s state with young entrepreneurs, with Macao aiming to reinforce the exchange in this area.

Speaking at a reception attended by the Portuguese Minister of Internal Administration Eduardo Cabrita, Chui praised the contribution of the Portuguese community and businessmen in the development of the territory, citing their joint efforts and the success of ‘one country, two systems’ in leading to “rapid economic growth” and “a continuous improvement of the well-being of the population.”

According to the Chief Executive, the MSAR government attaches “great value to cooperation relations” with Portugal, which is underlined by the reciprocal visits, agreements and cooperation projects that have been boosted since 2011, and which demonstrate the “good results” of this partnership.

“Since the establishment of the SAR 20 years ago, the government has given high importance to the social role of the Portuguese community, in respect and in the protection of their language, culture, religion, and customs,” he remarked. Chui praised the Portuguese community of Macao, especially Macao nationals, for boosting the role of communication and exchange of cultures, which has contributed to “the development of the city and historical progress.”

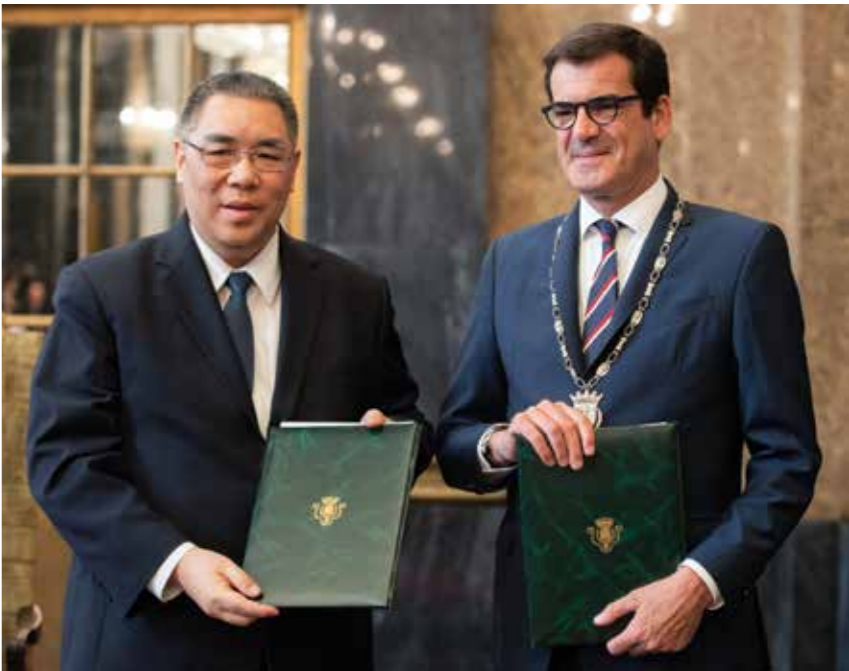
“The growing integration of the territory in China,” he added, should not be feared by the Portuguese people, and the community “must have even greater confidence in the prospects of Macao’s development.”

Rolling out the red carpet

The visit ended 17 May in Porto as the City Hall, overlooking Avenida dos Aliados and the river Douro, rolled out the red carpet and a marching band to welcome the Chief Executive.

In a packed auditorium, Chui received the keys to the city from Mayor Rui Moreira, making him an honorary citizen – an honour, Chui said, he shared with the entirety of the people of Macao. The two dignitaries also signed a MoU on cooperation between the two cities.

Thus concluded Chief Executive Chui Sai On’s third official visit to Portugal – and his last. After two consecutive in office, his mandate will end at the end of the year and his successor will be inaugurated on 20 December, the 20th anniversary of the MSAR. ●



Chief Executive Chui Sai On receives keys to Porto from Mayor Rui Moreira

Macao delegation meets students in Lisbon



DESENHOS DA RENASCENÇA ITALIANA
do British Museum

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2011

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大英博物館館藏

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ITALIAN RENAISSANCE DRAWINGS
from the British Museum

Raphael (1483–1520), Hercules and the Centaur, 1506. © Trustees of the British Museum
The presentation of this exhibition is a collaboration between the British Museum and the Cultural Affairs Bureau Macao Museum of Art.

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Economy

Leveraging language for a smarter future

Text Helder Beja Photos António Sanmarful



Marcus Im Sio Kei, president of Macao Polytechnic Institute

Marcus Im Sio Kei is the new president of the Macao Polytechnic Institute. Six months after succeeding Lei Heong Lok, Im has a clear goal: to solve all “communication problems” between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries.

When Marcus Im Sio Kei was appointed as the new president of Macao Polytechnic Institute (MPI) last year, it came as no surprise. After completing his computer science studies – bachelor’s, master’s and PhD degrees – at the University of London, he returned to Macao and had been with MPI for almost 20 years, in different positions. He became vice-president in 2016, groomed to succeed Lei Heong Lok upon his retirement in 2018.

Now, after half a year at the helm of MPI, Im speaks about MPI’s biggest challenges and opportunities. Ranging from developing its own postgraduate programmes to contributing to the Greater Bay Area and the Belt and Road Initiative, he sees a future for MPI centred on its greatest strength: Portuguese language teaching and research, powered by a team of qualified teachers and artificial intelligence.

How has it been since you took over as president of MPI?

It’s been challenging. First, in less than a year’s time, I have had to develop the postgraduate division of MPI because, according to the new Higher Education Law, MPI should be able to offer its own master’s and PhD programmes. Secondly, the charter of MPI has to be changed in order to fulfil the



requirements of the new law. We will have an MPI Council, for example, to oversee the development of the institute.

Also, the outline development plan of the Greater Bay Area [GBA] has just been released so we need to establish plans and strategy. What I know is that MPI’s strength is in Portuguese language teaching and research. MPI can serve as a hub between the GBA and the Portuguese-speaking countries, along with the Belt and Road Initiative, working to solve communication problems in these two big areas. We have a lot to do. It’s a great challenge, but also a good opportunity for MPI.

MPI recently signed an agreement with the University of Coimbra for a postgraduate programme that is going to be taught in Macao. Is your plan to develop postgraduate studies through these types of agreements, or will MPI develop its own programmes too?

I think there are two paths for MPI. By collaborating with our old and good partners in joint teaching and research, we’ll be able to achieve our common goals. That’s why we still have those collaborative postgraduate programmes, such as the one with the University of Coimbra; we’re not going to just do it on our own.

But for other areas, especially our stronger areas, we want to establish our own programmes. It’s also a way of helping students from the GBA: for collaborative programmes here in Macao, we are not allowed to take these students but for our own MPI programmes, we will be able to bring them to Macao to study and do research.

So MPI is looking to attract more students from the Greater Bay Area?

Yes, and more students from the Portuguese-speaking countries.

What role can MPI play in the GBA and Belt and Road [BRI]? How do you position yourself in regard to this?

I think we will play quite an important role. First, we'll be able to attract students and researchers from the Belt and Road areas and countries. They will be able to come to Macao to study and do research, and conversely, we'll be able to send Macao and mainland Chinese students there to work with them.

Also, here at MPI, Portuguese language is our strong area and we're going to make good use of it by solving problems between these two huge areas. When we talk about collaboration for cultural and economic development, as well as academic exchange, the first thing we have to tackle is communication. If there's a language problem, it will bring thousands of problems. The teaching and research of Portuguese language is very important, so that more and more people are able to speak both languages in the near future.

We're also developing a system to solve communication problems through artificial intelligence [AI]. We've developed the biggest database of Portuguese and Chinese, and now people can make good use of our system for translating with a much higher level of accuracy. A lot of government departments in Macao have already adopted this system.

We're working on voice recognition as well. In the near future, you'll be able to speak and translate between Portuguese and Chinese with your mobile phone. I think we have the strongest Portuguese language laboratory in the world, so I believe MPI will play an important role.

Do you think that AI is key for making MPI the most qualified institution in Macao to be the hub for Portuguese language teaching?

We have the strongest laboratory in machine translation. It's true that there are other institutions with teams teaching Portuguese language in Macao, but our team is the biggest in the world with more than 60 academic staff. I'm very confident that we're the strongest in that area.

During the past years, MPI developed a large number of agreements with universities in mainland China, regarding the teaching

of Portuguese, with Professor Carlos André playing a key role. How has that project developed since he went back to Portugal?

It's continuing through our Centre for Portuguese Teaching and Research. We have a new head there and some strong professors who are still making progress on that area. Also, Professor André returns to MPI from time to time, to work as an external examiner; he's still giving us advice and guidance.

With how many universities are you cooperating currently?

We have more than 30 partners in mainland China.

“

We have the strongest laboratory in machine translation ... Our team ... [has] more than 60 academic staff.

Marcus Im Sio Kei

Tell me a bit more about this AI project for translation. What is the ultimate goal?

We have two different approaches. One is to build a tool for the general public to use. But we have also developed systems customised for particular professional areas, because some areas have their own language – for example, the legal system, science, and engineering.

How many students are studying Portuguese courses at MPI?

Currently, we have over 600 students studying Portuguese language related courses at MPI.

Do you think MPI can also play a role in helping Portuguese-speaking students to learn Chinese?

I'm proud to say that over the past few years – with the support of the Macao government – we've developed a number of projects. We offer a bachelor's degree programme in International Chinese Language Education – most of the students are from the Portuguese-speaking countries – and four years ago,

we developed another programme in Sino-Lusophone Trade Relations. Through these programmes, we have around 150 students from Portugal, Cabo Verde, Brazil, Angola, Timor-Leste, etc, and I hope this number will grow.

For post-graduate levels, we've already submitted our plan to the government for master's and PhD programmes, so they can come to study here. We also have a very strong link with the EU. Through this collaboration, we do short courses from time to time.

You have been with the MPI for almost 20 years and have witnessed firsthand the changes in the educational system in that period. How do you perceive them?

We've seen a very rapid development in the area of higher education, and nowadays, we have a much better system than before. A good example is the change of the Higher Education Law, giving more flexibility to the institutions in Macao – we'll be able to do a lot more things. Today, the government also invests a huge amount compared to 20 years ago. ●



Guangdong-Macao park takes traditional Chinese medicine global

Text Mark O'Neill Photos Courtesy of GMTCM Park and Shutterstock

With TCM becoming more recognised worldwide as a medicine and not simply as a health supplement, GMTCM tells Macao Magazine how they are further promoting it worldwide.

A traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) park in Hengqin is making great strides in spreading related knowledge and products around the world, particularly in Portuguese-speaking countries (PSC), helping to diversify the economy of Macao.

Covering an area of 500,000 square metres in a hi-tech zone of Hengqin New Area – with plans to expand to over 900,000 square metres – the Guangdong-Macao Traditional Chinese Medicine Technology Industrial Park (GMTCM Park) officially launched on 19 April 2011 in the Hengqin New Area. It became the first project implemented in the Guangdong-Macao Cooperation

Industrial Park following an agreement signed that year between the governments of Guangdong province and Macao.

Seven months later, in November 2011, a joint investment firm bearing the same name as the park was established by Macau Investment and Development Ltd and Zhuhai Da Heng Qing Investment Co Ltd to oversee the construction, operations, functioning, and management of the park.

As of March 2019, 117 companies had registered in the park, including 29 from Macao. They cover areas such as traditional Chinese medicine, healthcare products,

medical equipment, and health services. Among them are Kangmei Pharmaceutical, Yiling Pharmaceutical, and other key leading enterprises from the TCM comprehensive health sector.

Of these registered Macao enterprises, 12 are newly set up TCM firms and 10 are newly established by Macao's traditional TCM enterprises. The park has become an important platform for supporting Macao enterprises engaged in the TCM sector and other health and pharmaceutical sectors, especially growing enterprises. It's expected to develop into a new cluster of health and pharmaceutical sectors in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA). A total of 13 well-known companies have signed cooperation agreements or agreements to settle in the park, including State Key Laboratories in Peking University Department of Natural Medicines, the Quality Research Centre in Chinese Medicine of University of Macau, the Guangdong Provincial Hospital of Traditional Chinese Medicine, the Chengdu University of Traditional Chinese Medicine, and Increase (Hengqin) Medicine Research Institution.

To cultivate the next generation of industry leaders and professionals, GMTCM Park has constructed the International Exchange Base for Youth TCM Practitioners to serve as a platform for learning and exchange in the GBA. The base is recruiting industrial experts, as well as representatives from associations and enterprises, to build a team of professional supervisors and provide guidance.

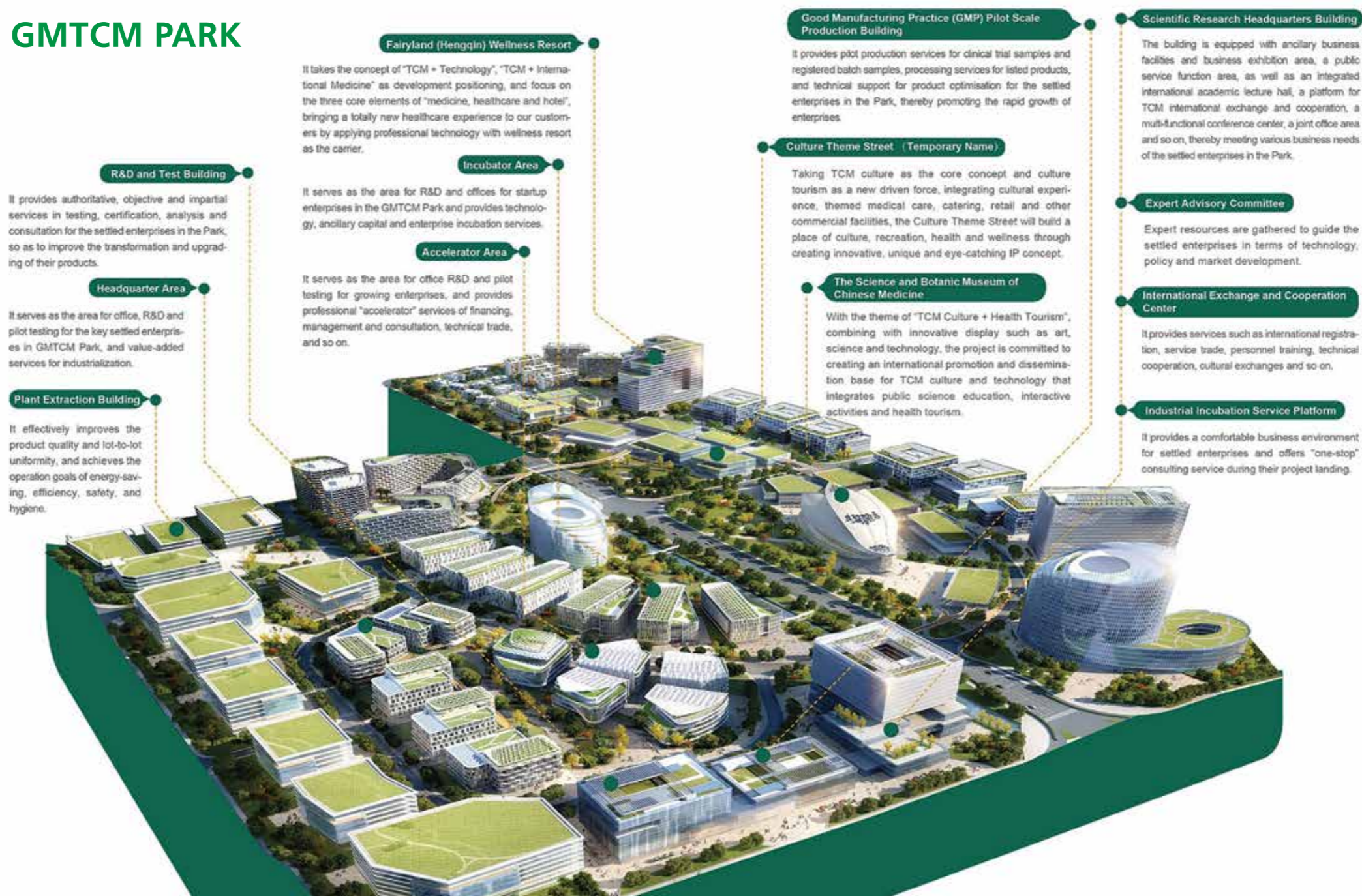
An incubation area, boasting rentable area of about 100,000 square metres with capacity to accommodate 300-400 enterprises, was completed in September

2018. Occupying approximately 128,000 square metres, the incubation area encompasses three sections – incubator, accelerator, and independent headquarters – geared toward serving the needs of enterprises at each stage in their evolution.

The incubator section offers 'one-stop' services such as technical support and fund

As of March 2019, 117 companies had registered in the park, including 29 from Macao.

GMTCM PARK



matching, available to small and medium-sized start-ups. The accelerator section provides professional investment, financing, management consultation and technical trading services to growing businesses. In the independent headquarters section, industrialised 'value-added' services such as administration,

R&D, and pilot-scale production are available to major enterprises.

Lu Hong, president and CEO of GMTCM Park, asserted that the park "plays an important part in the diversification of Macao's economy" and has seen "some success in internationalising TCM."

One of its main successes is in Mozambique.

TCM takes off in Mozambique

During an official visit to Macao in December 2018, João Leopoldo da Costa, vice minister of Health for Mozambique, met with Economy and Finance Secretary Leong Vai Tac to discuss matters relating to African nation. The two exchanged ideas on the potential for deepening cooperation between Mozambique and GMTCM Park.

Da Costa, who visited the park, thanked Macao for its contribution to the development of the health sector in his country. He highlighted the impact of GMTCM Park, in particular, for its work in TCM education and training in Mozambique in recent years.

"I expect both parties to provide more training courses on special TCM therapies, improve the professionalism of trainees, and strengthen mutual cooperation on the research and development of pharmaceuticals, education and training, diagnosis and treatment, and the quality of medical care," he said.

Leong said that Mozambique could serve as a platform and a point of entry for TCM businesses in the GBA to have a "soft landing" in Africa. "On the basis of current cooperation with Mozambique, Macao could develop Mozambique into a base in Africa for TCM development and TCM practitioners' training," he asserted.

One example of that cooperation: a 75-day training course on TCM held in the capital city, Maputo, back in September 2017. There, local doctors learned TCM techniques, including the use of needles to stimulate nerves, massage, and cupping.

At the end of the first training session, General Inspector for the Ministry of Health Martinho Dgedge announced that

acupuncture would be introduced into main provincial hospitals in the country's central and northern regions in 2018. Currently, 27 public hospitals in the country are using TCM.

An official of the Mozambique Health Ministry said that they have employed TCM doctors from China, South Korea and Vietnam, who were helping to train local doctors. "This training is most effective, especially in areas that are short of medical resources," he said.

Xie Yi, vice-president of GMTCM Park, also focused on the importance training in proliferating this form of medicine.

Lu Hong, president and CEO of GMTCM Park, as well as advisor to the Office of the Secretary for Economy and Finance, led a team to Mozambique in July 2018. In addition to agreeing to strengthen Sino-Mozambican cooperation in traditional medicine, the team attended a number of events celebrating the fruits of their collaboration thus far.

At a ceremony unveiling a plaque marking the Preparatory Office for the TCM Centre of Mozambique in Maputo, a future platform for promotion, transmission and training of TCM,

the team also marked the end of two training courses in TCM. They also held an opening ceremony for the Mozambique Training Course on Acupuncture of TCM (Elementary). Macao's entry into Mozambique's health sector may be relatively recent, but China began sending doctors to the country back in 1976. Since then, it has sent a total of 250 doctors there and the number is increasing; a new dormitory was completed in 2018. During this 40-plus year period, they have treated more than 1.5 million patients.

Lu said that some TCM products have already been registered by the Pharmaceutical Department of the Mozambique Health Ministry. "On this basis, we will, within this year [2019], accelerate our efforts in the countries that border Mozambique and other PSC, such as Cabo Verde, Angola, and Guinea-Bissau."

She said that, while they have much work to do in the European market, "TCM is accepted there as health supplements. This is a very good base." The next step is to work with regulators in Europe to obtain approval for TCM as medicines, she said. ●

Traditional Chinese Medicine capsules



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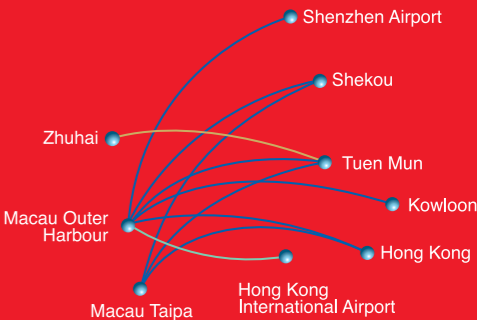


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MITE 2019: The annual signature event for the tourism industry continues boosting diversification

Text Cláudia Aranda Photos António Sanmarful

The 7th MITE, held 26–28 April, turned its focus toward boosting a two-way tourism platform, aiming to attract visitors to Macao while also providing opportunities for other countries and regions to promote their products and services.

The 7th Macao International Travel (Industry) Expo – known simply as ‘MITE’ or ‘the Expo’ – marked “the largest Travel Expo ever,” said Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) Director Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes, speaking on the sidelines of the event.

Organised by MGTO and coordinated by the Macau Travel Agency Association, with the support of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the People’s Republic of China, the three-day event drew 33,944 visitors and hosted the signing of 34 cooperation agreements between enterprises from tourism and related sectors.

The Expo occupied 22,000 square metres of the Venetian Macao, double that of last year, and boasted 835 booths run by 452 tour operators, tourism-related entities, and enterprises from 54 countries and regions. “One hall was becoming a little bit too stressful in terms of space and the corridors too narrow,” remarked Senna Fernandes, noting that the extra space also enabled various exhibitors to set up larger

booths and to expand highlighted pavilions.

The cost increased as well, coming in at MOP23 million (US\$2.85 million), an increase of MOP7 million (US\$866,075) over the previous year. The Macao government covered MOP15.6 million (US\$1.93 million) with the remaining money coming from sponsors and expo revenue.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Senna Fernandes pointed out that the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong–Hong Kong–Macao Greater Bay Area “clearly indicates support for Macao in developing an array of internationally impactful MICE brands.” Therefore, “the Expo will keep moving towards becoming Macao’s annual international travel fair brand, endeavouring to widen tourism cooperation across sectors, fields and regions, to deliver more far-reaching impact internationally.”

One day for trade, two for the public

For MITE 2019, organisers wanted to go beyond the B2B (Business-to-Business) and B2C (Business-to-Consumer) patterns, to facilitate information accessibility and

cooperation within the world tourism industry, and to provide a chance for Macao tourism enterprises and tourism-related personnel to exhibit their products.

Therefore, this year’s edition adopted a two-way tourism platform, the MGTO director explained. For the first time, the opening day was dedicated exclusively to trade and industry professionals, while the remaining two days were open to the public. This reorganisation did result in a slight decrease in total visitor numbers – MITE 2018 welcomed over 40,000 visitors – although the daily average did increase.

This year’s Expo also aimed to spotlight Macao’s role in two major initiatives, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and Guangdong–Hong Kong–Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA), as well as its One Centre, One Platform development orientation.

The event hosted 74 exhibitors from the 11 cities comprising the GBA and 35 exhibitors from countries and regions along the BRI, while there were 8 tourism bodies from the Portuguese-speaking countries and 32 from mainland provinces or municipalities. A total of 63 local exhibitors also joined the



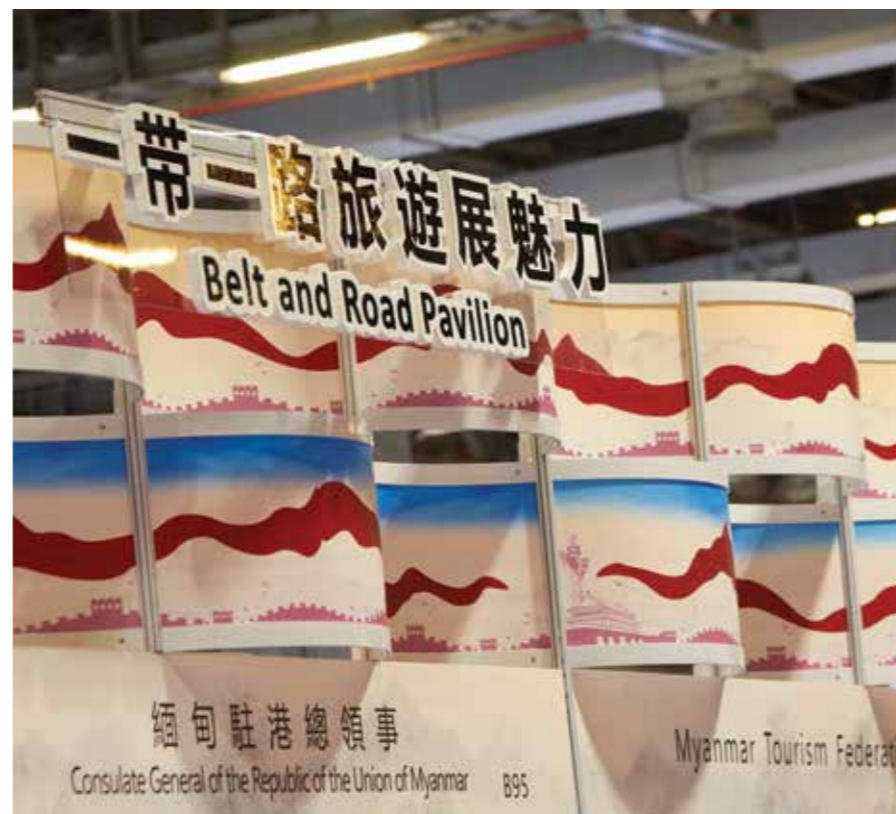
Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes, Director of Macao Government Tourism Office

event, including travel agencies, airlines, hotels, food souvenirs, cultural and creative businesses and telecommunication companies, among others.

Macao is focused on diversifying its offerings and attracting more visitors from new markets, an effort that may be furthered by the BRI linking China with numerous countries and regions.

In this regard, the MGTO director also announced new inroads in the South East context: “In July, we go to Singapore for promotion, but this time more dedicated towards travel trade,” she said, adding that, “for some time, we have not done anything in Singapore, so I think it’s time to go back and do something there and, besides that, we are continuing to do our promotions in other traditional markets.”

Additionally, said Senna Fernandes, the first quarter of this year saw Korea overtake Taiwan to become the third largest market for Macao. “It’s a very special development that we hope to perpetuate in the future,” she said.



MGTO is also “studying the potential” of Northern Europe, particularly the Scandinavian countries. “Obviously these are niche markets, but there are a lot of different ways of looking at the European context and we are really looking into how we can address and work more in the European market; there are a number of different things we are looking at,” she explained.

The Macao Association for the Promotion of Exchange between Asia-Pacific and Latin America (MAPEAL) set up a Latin American Pavilion this year, which featured Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela as participating countries.

MGTO is also “studying the potential” of Northern Europe, particularly the Scandinavian countries. While this promotion is welcome, the market is not “an immediate priority”... mainly due to access.

While this promotion of Latin America is welcome, the market is not “an immediate priority” for the Macao government, mainly due to access. Senna Fernandes pointed to the lack of flights connecting the two regions, noting that the few that do exist are through Hong Kong.

“That’s why I think, for us, it’s interesting to get to know them to start with, but we do not expect to do big things there at this point,” she explained.

Historical strength, future promise

In recognition of this year of dual celebrations – 2019 marks both the 20th anniversary of the handover and 70th anniversary of the founding of the People’s Republic of China – MITE organisers decided to illustrate Macao’s advantages and what the city has to offer with seven key highlights.



One such was a pavilion exhibiting the development of Macao's tourism industry over the last two decades, 1999-2019, with seven chapters. Through multimedia ranging from writings, images and videos to statistical tables and more, the pavilion presented a comprehensive overview of significant events and milestones of Macao's tourism industry.

Three other highlighted pavilions focused on the major goals driving Macao government policy more broadly: the BRI, GBA, and Sino-Lusophone exchange.

An approximately 1,000-square-metre Belt and Road Pavilion – nearly 5 per cent of the total area – focused on fostering tourism partnerships under the BRI and brought together about 130 tourism entities and enterprises from some 35 countries along the Belt and Road for the opportunity to explore and deepen cooperation on

diversified tourism products.

In order to develop multi-destination itineraries in the GBA, a Greater Bay Pavilion was set up to provide the latest tourism information about multi-destination travel in the region and establish new zones, including Zhongshan Street, Guangzhou Street and Zhuhai Street, for sales of respective cultural and tourism products.

During MITE, MGTO arranged industry delegations from Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore, Philippines, Portugal, US and Taiwan to pay multi-destination familiarisation visits to Macao and other GBA member cities, including Guangzhou, Zhaoqing, Jiangmen, and Hong Kong.

The China and Portuguese-speaking countries pavilion was aimed at deepening cultural and tourism exchange between the two entities by presenting products from Portuguese-speaking

countries (PSC) and Chinese tea art performance and so forth. MGTO and the Permanent Secretariat of the Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries (Forum Macao) jointly organised a promotional session for PSC tourism products to introduce tourist spots, resources and products in Portugal, Angola, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Timor-Leste, Mozambique and São Tomé and Príncipe, with the goal of strengthening tourism cooperation and exchange among various destinations.

The final three highlights focused on cultural tourism, with special attention paid to gastronomy, and an innovative new system to improve business matching at the annual signature event.

The Cultural and Creative Pavilion aimed to strengthen interaction and integration of culture and tourism, offering a

variety of cultural and creative experiences for Expo visitors, featuring 16 parent-and-child or teenager workshops under 12 cultural and creative themes. Expediting the development of cultural tourism is part of Macao's goals under the Outline Development Plan, a move that would allow the city to diversify and increase sustainability via culture and the creative industries.

One such industry is gastronomy, and the budding UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy turned the spotlight on this field with an educational session entitled The Great Green Food Journey. It was part of the campaign launched in January by MGTO and National Geographic at the 2019 Macao International Gastronomy Forum.

For four months, National Geographic produced and disseminated stories in video and

articles format, aiming to locate, support, and promote sustainable practices in the food and beverage sector in Macao, as part of the initiatives carried out by MGTO.

Among the invited chefs at the educational session were Anthony Sousa Tam (Root), Alex Gaspar (Sands Cotai Central), Hans Lee Rasmussen (IFT Educational Restaurant), Pun Man Kuai (Herbal Treasures in Studio City) and Leong Kin Meng (Sum Yuen Vegetarian in Pou Tai Temple), together with the business development director of Wong Chi Kei Noodles, Fei Wong.

The guest speakers, who also featured in the series of videos and various other materials produced as part of the campaign conducted by MGTO and National Geographic, shared about their green practices, vision on Macao's gastronomic sustainability and its role in the future development of the tourism industry in the city.

Some of their environmentally friendly practices already include earth-to-table approach, by using rooftop gardens and aquaponics systems to grow their own ingredients and maximising ingredient usage to minimise food waste, in addition to the top-notch presentation and creativity of their dishes.

Finally, the 2019 MITE saw the inauguration of a pre-scheduled appointment system that enables precise matching and business appointments scheduled between exhibitors and buyers in advance, leading to more effective outcomes. More than 7,000 business matching sessions connected 318 hosted buyers and 154 industry buyers with exhibitors this year. ●



MGTO and National
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*The Great Green Food
Journey: Macao*



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Kirill Gerstein and Macao Orchestra

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Lu Jia

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Culture

Renaissance treasures in Macao for the first time

Text Mark O'Neill Photos António Sanmarful

Drawing by Michelangelo of a male figure, made in
preparation for an angel in the fresco of the Last Judgement
on the altar wall of the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican

The exhibition explores some of the themes that characterise Renaissance art (14th to 17th centuries) from the human form to movement, light and shade and costume.

Thanks to a collaboration between the British Museum and the Macao Museum of Art, the people of Macao have their first chance to see rare drawings from the Italian Renaissance, including some by three of the world's most famous artists: Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, and Raphael.

This handpicked collection of 52 drawings by 42 different masters from 1470 to 1580, on loan from the British Museum (BM), offers a rare glimpse into the artistic process underpinning one of the most transformational periods in art history. Opened 11 April, the exhibition runs to 30 June.

"Drawings were intended as private working studies for the use of the artist and his assistants in the studio," said Sarah Vowles, the exhibition curator from the BM. "They were not meant to be circulated among those outside this circle, and it is this very fact which makes them so intriguing, as they offer an insight into the thoughts and decision-making process of their creators."

She said that it is a miracle that these delicate pieces had survived more than 500 years. "They have been preserved in portfolios, in drawers and albums with no light. That tells us about the care and love of their collectors."

Drawing by Michelangelo of the Annunciation



Caricatures by Leonardo da Vinci

Among the collection is a drawing of a male figure, made by Michelangelo in preparation for an angel in the *Last Judgement*, a sprawling fresco adorning the altar wall of the Vatican's Sistine Chapel. "He had to get everything right in advance, because fresco is a challenging technique. Since it must be painted onto wet plaster, which dries very quickly, the artist only has one chance."

Next to it are two caricatures by Leonardo da Vinci, among the earliest works of this kind. "These eccentric works have always been very popular with visitors and collectors," commented Vowles.

Then there is a drawing by Michelangelo of the Annunciation, the moment when the archangel Gabriel tells Mary she is to give birth to the Son of God. "Michelangelo was an intensely spiritual man and here he tries to show the psychology of Mary as she is given this astonishing news," Vowles explained. "You can see how he combines the majesty and dignity of her figure with vulnerability and surprise. It is a remarkably intimate conception of the scene."

Global reach

Founded in 1753, the British Museum was the first institution to be established as a public museum and it remains one of the great museums of the world. With the exception of the two World Wars, it has remained in operation and free to the public since opening in 1759. The collection boasts eight million pieces, ranging from rock tools used by our ancestors in Africa around 1.8 million years ago to contemporary art works, and it continues to actively collect.

While some countries in Africa and Asia have called for the return of objects held in the collections of major European museums, Vowles contends that the BM is committed to researching and establishing the circumstances in which its objects were acquired.

She also points to touring exhibitions like the one at the Macao Museum of Art (MAM), as well as the museum's training, outreach, events and community programmes, as examples of their effort to share the vast BM collection with the world (only about one per cent of the pieces are on display at any one time).



Drawing by Perino del Vaga

“We allow visitors from across the world to encounter their own cultures within the context of the whole history of the world,” Vowles said. Six million people visit the museum each year, and many more access the collection through “the most detailed online database of any museum.”

Last October, the BM opened a shop at the Ping An Financial Centre in Shenzhen. It is committed to sharing its extensive collection and, in 2018, loaned 4,700 objects to other museums in Britain and overseas – more than any other museum, Vowles noted.

About 18 months ago, MAM

approached the BM about the possibility of collaborating to present this exhibition of drawings. “The exhibition went to Suzhou Museum in 2015,” she said. “We added three more drawings especially for Macao, including the drawing for the *Last Judgement*.” The BM has around 50,000 drawings, dating from the 14th century up through the present day.

With one of the best collections of Italian Renaissance drawings in the world, choosing which to include was a challenge. Vowles and her colleagues decided to focus on introducing Chinese visitors to

some of the great names of Western art history. “But we had to make a careful selection of our drawings. Due to the fragility of these works, they can only be exhibited for a total of 12 months every 10 years.”

Organised into six themes – the Human Figure, Movement, Light, Costume and Drapery, the Natural World, and Storytelling – the selected pieces allow visitors to follow the training of a young Renaissance artist, and to understand the primacy of drawing in the artistic processes of the time. “You can see how the artists develop their skills through this increasing complexity.”

Vowles believes this exhibition will have particular resonance with Chinese audiences: “[They] have a great affinity with works on paper, due to their rich artistic heritage which includes paintings on paper scrolls and beautiful calligraphy.”

Recapturing reality

The Renaissance saw a revolution in art. “Before the Renaissance, almost all art was religious,” said Vowles. “Yet, during the 15th and 16th centuries, artists and scholars begin to engage passionately with relics of the classical world. Wealthy connoisseurs assembled collections

“*Before the Renaissance, almost all art was religious. Yet, during the 15th and 16th centuries, artists and scholars begin to engage passionately with relics of the classical world.*”

Sarah Vowles

of Roman statues, which were often made available for study, and we see increased popularity of classical mythological subjects in art.

“There was also an important technical shift. From the beginning of the 15th century, new technologies led to the establishment of a paper-making industry in Italy, based on techniques originally imported from China. From the 1460s, with the introduction of the printing press from Germany, there was increased demand for a more plentiful and cheaper supply of paper. Thanks to the greater availability of paper, drawing



Sarah Vowles (left) and Margarida Saraiva (right)

became an increasingly common and central aspect of a young artist's training – and, crucially, more drawings could be preserved.”

By studying through drawing, artists learned to render light and shade to create relief, the convincing fall of drapery, and the accurate structure of the human body. “For Leonardo da Vinci, especially, drawings were an absolutely essential tool with which to understand the workings of the human body and countless aspects of nature – from the beating of a bird's wing to the flow of water,” she said.

Renaissance artists created for the first time the illusion of three-dimensional space on two-dimensional materials. The development of linear perspective in the Early Renaissance allowed for more naturalistic and engaging images, while the Mannerist style of the High Renaissance turned the same techniques

toward creating artificial extremes.

In his introduction to the exhibition, British Museum Director Hartwig Fischer described how “the exhibition underlines how the perfection of the finished work, whether in paint or some other medium, depended on many hours of preparation in the artist's studio through making drawing after drawing.”

Hartwig offered up a Titian piece as an example. The black and white chalk study on blue paper “allows us to share the moment when the Venetian master found the angle of the head, and the distribution of light, that expresses the fervent joy of one of the saints watching the figure of the Virgin Mary carried to heaven on a cloud above his head,” Fischer said.

Other drawings included in the exhibition demonstrate the blossoming of subject matter in this period, particularly from Titian's fellow

Mannerist painters. A drawing by Giulio Romano depicts an ostrich, an extremely rare bird in Europe at that time; he likely saw it in the menagerie of his patron, the Duke of Mantua. It exemplifies the thirst for knowledge, and the fascination of exotic cultures, that characterised this intellectually fertile period.

Another drawing shows a mulberry tree, from which farmers pick leaves to feed their silkworms. Silk Road traders had brought silk fabrics from China since antiquity, but in the 15th century, Florence developed its own important centre of silk production.

“Taddeo Zuccaro painted this scene of silk manufacture in the dressing room of Cardinal Farnese, one of the great Renaissance patrons. This is a preparatory study for that painting. As the Cardinal got dressed in his expensive robes, he could be reminded of how these valuable fabrics came to be produced,” Vowles said.

In Italy at that time, she explained, there were strict rules governing who could wear which kinds of fabrics and what colours; they signified the status of the wearer. Cardinals such as Farnese dressed in crimson and scarlet; very wealthy laymen in Venice wore black, which was the most expensive of all pigments.



Drawing of an ostrich
by Giulio Romano



The exhibition also features a rare drawing of a female nude by Rosso Fiorentino. The customs of the Renaissance prevented respectable women from posing in the nude. “In Italy, artists might have to resort to hiring a prostitute to model nude. However, this could be expensive and, since most figures were ultimately clothed, painters often used male models to pose for female figures, later adapting them in the paintings – with various degrees of success,” said Vowles.

These drawings, while commonly produced at the time, only survived to the present day because they were donated to friends or patrons and kept in studios as works of reference. By the 16th century, connoisseurs began to collect drawings for their beauty or for aesthetic reasons.

Modern take on old masters

Students from the Creative Industries Faculty of the University of Saint Joseph embraced the transitory nature of most

preparatory drawings in their homages to the three most famous artists on display: Raphael, Michelangelo, and Leonardo da Vinci.

Rather than paper, the sculptures are fashioned out of one of the most common materials of this era: plastic. After the exhibition, the pieces will be melted down and re-used.

Margarida Saraiva, resident curator of MAM, explained that they “wanted to involve the students in the process. This is an important moment, with the museum celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. It is rare for us to have works by some of the most famous artists in the world.”

This year also marks the 500th anniversary of the passing of Leonardo; the exhibition opened in April to mark his birthday, on 15 April.

Visitors can browse the exhibition on their own or take advantage of guided tours with Saraiva, hands-on tours to the 3D printing section, drawing workshops, courses, and special activities for children, the blind and visually impaired. ●

Raphael, Michelangelo, and Leonardo da Vinci sculptures created by students



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19:30 中國 vs 泰國 CHINA vs TAILÂNDIA CHINA vs THAILAND	19:30 中國 vs 比利時 CHINA vs BELGICA CHINA vs BELGIUM	19:30 中國 vs 韓國 CHINA vs COREIA CHINA vs KOREA

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The sacred SAR

Text **Matt Fleming** Photos **António Sanmarful, António Leong and Eduardo Martins**

Could Macao become a destination for religious tourism? The city’s hallowed past may prove an important cog in its future development.

It’s Saturday evening. Complimentary shuttle buses thrust wide-eyed patrons into a skyline of neon grandeur – preambles to the glitz and glamour of a seemingly endless array of entertainment complexes. Taxis take visitors to brightly lit hotels, while Chinese, Portuguese and Western restaurants are packed to the rafters, and there’s an overall sense of excitement in the air. Welcome to Macao’s tourism industry – fresh, amped up, and buzzing.

Yet, this is not Macao’s sole tourism offering. In fact, culturally, it could be argued that it’s not even its most important. Far from the bustling crowds of the entertainment resorts that promise the possibility of good fortune in the future, there’s a myriad of glimpses into the SAR’s rich religious past – and some spiritual travellers, from across the globe, visit Macao for exactly this reason. Be it for the Catholic relics, the Buddhist temples or the Jesuit statues – the city, with its plethora of sacred attractions, is a place of reverence for visitors to enjoy the aesthetic and historically fascinating fruits of religion’s long presence. Yet if it isn’t already, can Macao become a destination for religious tourism?

Chapel of Our Lady of Penha

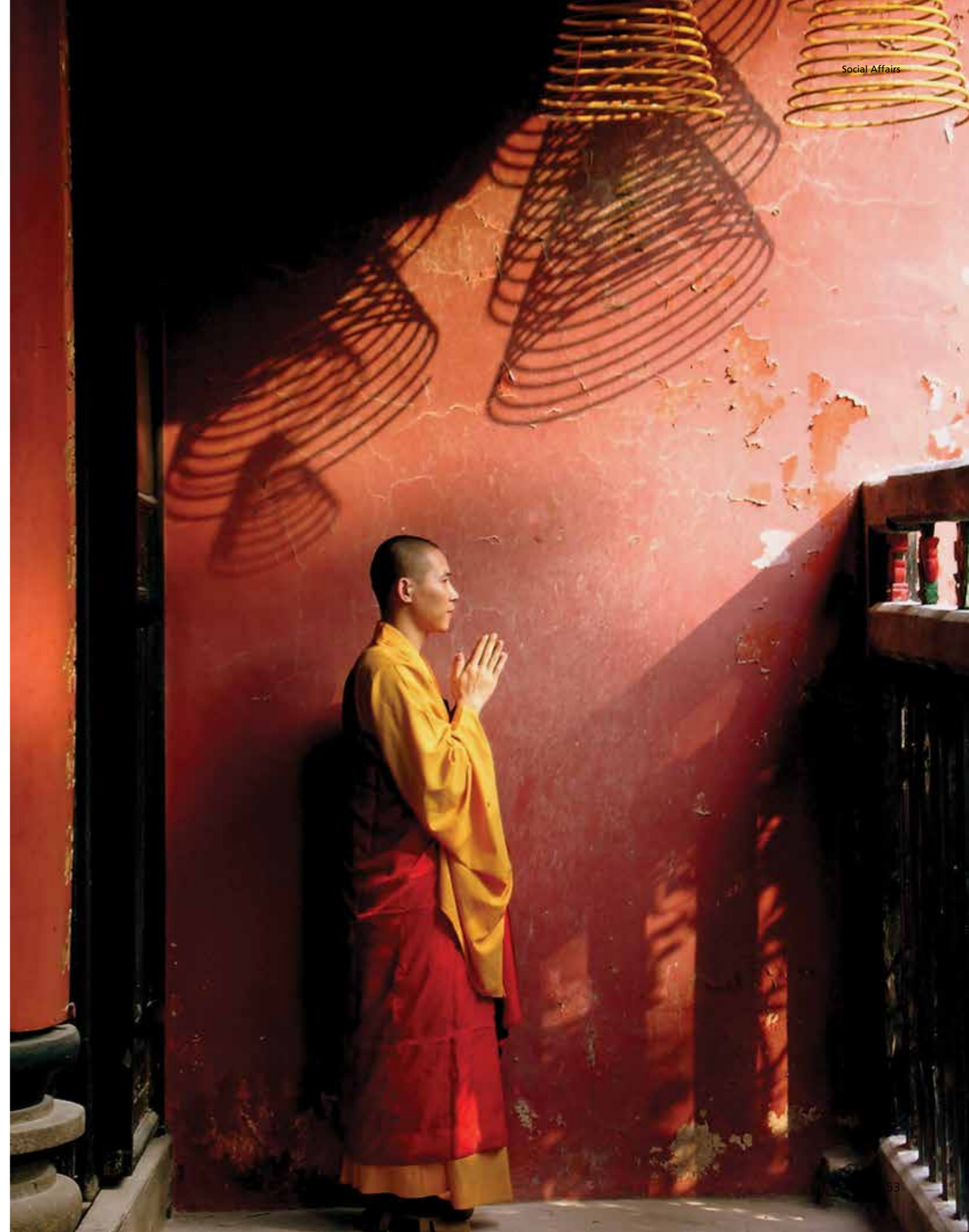
A precious heritage

The Historic Centre of Macao is a UNESCO World Heritage site – the old-world architecture, cobbled streets and dynamic meeting of cultures serve to juxtapose the rampant consumerism of its famous entertainment resorts. The cultural heart of this city is a confluence of religious influence dating back to the 16th century, when Catholic missionaries came to study at St Paul's College, the first higher-education institution founded by Jesuits serving the Portuguese empire. They imposed revelation on a Buddhist, Taoist, and folk religion-denominated populace and thus began the SAR's multi-coloured, multi-cultural religious history.

Nowadays, Macao is perhaps more globally known for its bright lights than its religious enlightenment. And more attention than ever is being focused on the future of its tourism industry from an economic, cultural and spiritual standpoint, with the city attracting more visitors than ever last December with over 3.5 million people arriving – the most in one month on record. The first quarter of 2019 saw 10.36 million visitors, a 21.1 per cent increase year-on-year, with numbers estimated to top 38 million tourists by the end of this year, which would also be the biggest on record. With the completion of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge last year, the influx will only continue to increase – as many as 40 million in the year 2025, according to the SAR's tourism authorities.

Macao has a wealth of religious history and is a city full of believers today. It is home to more than 660,000 people, with around 80 per cent practicing Chinese folk religions or Buddhism as of 2016. The same survey found about 30,000 Roman Catholics – most hailing from the Philippines or Portugal – and more than 8,000 Protestants, with smaller groups of Baha'is and Muslims.

Although many of Macao's significant religious fixtures and relics are denominationally Catholic, they undoubtedly hold a broader appeal as aesthetic and spiritual fixtures that would appeal to both secular and non-secular crowds. This could also be said for religious events in the city, such as the Procession of the Passion of Our





Ruins of St Paul's

Lord, the God Jesus, Easter and the Procession of Our Lady of Fátima. Each is recognised as a public holiday, situating Macao uniquely in all of China as the only city to observe such concessions.

This is a huge boon to religious participation – even in a periphery sense – for residents and tourists. Francisco Vizeu Pinheiro, architect and Associate Professor at the Faculty of Creative Industries at

Macao's University of St Joseph, said: "Some come because it is a tradition. Others because of the Asian environment of traditions that were born in Europe, particularly in Portugal and Spain and Italy after the Catholic Reformation, as an answer to the Protestant Reformation. For Catholics, this reaction is manifest in the baroque movement with exuberant architecture, sculpture, and painting."

A spiritually unique city

A place's value for religious tourism is only as good as the richness of its history and what remains to observe this history as a living construct. Thankfully, Macao's is one of the most unique in this part of the world. While the city's Portuguese past is well known, the ancient A-Ma Temple stands as a testament to its Taoist



A-Ma Temple

roots. Built in 1488, it is dedicated to Matsu, the goddess of fishermen and seafarers. Legend tells that when the first Portuguese sailors landed near the temple and asked the name of the place, locals replied "A-Ma-Gau," meaning 'bay of the goddess A-Ma', leading to the Portuguese naming it Macao.

St Paul's College would soon cast its secular influence not just over Macao, but the entire continent as it became the Catholic epicentre of Asia. Macao's most famous attraction's origin is one that had far-reaching consequences that led the city becoming what it is today with Portuguese missionaries, merchants, and explorers – the first Westerners to reach the Far East – landing in Macao with the goal of creating a base from which to proselytise.

The adjacent Church of St Paul's – then one of the largest in

Asia – was first laid down in 1580 and, after suffering fire damage, was subsequently rebuilt between 1602 and 1637 by Japanese craftsmen who had taken refuge in Macao after suffering persecution in their homeland. Although it was almost completely razed during a fire in 1835, the iconic ivory-coloured stone facade survives to this day.

The ruins stand as one of the city's most enduring attractions among a litany of significant historical and religious fixtures. Such is the exquisite nature of the detail in this facade it offers a challenging landmark for tourists to dissect. During the 66-step ascent to the ruins – a pilgrimage in itself – St Paul's, for some tourists and locals, represents a history of enlightenment and a landmark that signposts Macao's rapid development from then on.

10 must-explore religious sites in Macao

Ruins of St Paul's Cathedral

Macao's most famous landmark. Iconic and humbling in its beauty.

A-Ma Temple

Macao's namesake temple and one of the oldest religious sites in the city, dating back to 1488.

Chapel of our Lady Guia

A chapel, fortress, and lighthouse all in one. Beautifully quaint and offering sweeping views.

St Francis Xavier Church

One of the best examples of baroque architecture in the city.

Chapel of Our Lady of Penha

One of the most picturesque spots in all of Macao.

St Dominic's Church

Houses the Treasure of Sacred Art Museum which presides over an incredible selection of historical and religious artefacts.

St Lawrence's Church

One of the finest examples of neoclassical architecture in all of China.

Lin Fung Temple

This ancient and beautiful place of Buddhist worship has stood since 1592.

Pou Tai Monastery

The largest and one of the most beautiful temples in all of Coloane and Taipa.

Puji Temple

This 400-year-old place of worship contains a litany of beautiful statues.



With regards to religious tourism, A-Ma Temple and St Paul's are wondrous constructs that serve to inform historical – and spiritual – context. However, they are far from all Macao has to offer. Loi Chi Pang, director of Macao Museum, says: "The ruins of St Paul's and A-Ma temple are of course the most popular tourist sites for first-time visitors. But it's highly recommended that tourists wander along the Macao Historical Centre, which was added to the World Heritage List. They can also find many interesting religious sites such as Kun Iam Temple, Protestant Cemetery, St Joseph's Seminary and Church, and St Dominic's Church."

Neoclassical attractions

Some of the best examples of neoclassical architecture in all of Asia can be found in Macao: 16th-century St Lawrence's Church; the Holy House of Mercy's arcade, which was added to the centuries-old building in 1905; and St Joseph's Seminary and Church, whose elegant, grandiose baroque architecture accents the more simplistic stylings of the neoclassical seminary. One of the most popular tourist attractions in the city, Guia Chapel, which rubs shoulders with tourist attraction Guia Lighthouse, boasts beautiful frescoes which incorporate both Western and Chinese influences – a duality that is rare for any building originating in the 17th century.

Spiritual tourists also make pilgrimages to the St Joseph's Seminary and Church, where some of the most important relics in Asian Christianity are housed. The crowning jewel in this collection is a bone from the arm of St Francis Xavier, the patron saint of missionaries and one of the founders of the Jesuit order. His work in India would see him become deeply admired due to his ability to work alongside the poor with respect and humility. He would go on to work in Japan, overseeing the translation of many significant religious texts before eventually dying of fever on the island of Shangchuan off the coast of Guangdong. His body was later moved to Goa, India.

St Francis Xavier is one of the most important religious figures in all of Asia and his bone in Macao has significance for many. Before being moved to St Joseph's, the relic was kept at the Chapel of St Francis Xavier, a beautiful baroque fixture that housed the bones of Christians and priests from Japan until they were moved to the Museum of Sacred Art and Crypt at the Ruins of St Paul's.

Bone from the arm of St Francis Xavier



Father Luís Sequeira, a Jesuit priest in Macao, noted that there are “a great number of churches in this little territory” which are “old and beautiful buildings.”

“From its beginning in 1557, Macao’s population deeply identified with the Christian faith and was even given the official name of ‘City of the Name of God’. Since those days, no city in Asia or land of Taoism, Buddhism or Shintoism has such an abundant manifestation of Latin and Mediterranean Catholic churches.”

Spiritual tourists also make pilgrimages to the St Joseph’s Seminary and Church, where some of most important relics in Asian Christianity are housed. The crowning jewel in this collection is a bone from the arm of St Francis Xavier.

More than churches

Catholic and Portuguese influence are obvious in Macao and its religious sites – but it’s far from the whole story. Such is the city’s potential for religious tourism, it offers insight into a pantheon of religious and folk history. There are more than 40 temples across the SAR, including Lin Fung Temple, which was built in 1592, its ornate facade framing a courtyard of writhing dragons. Then there is the temple of Shi Gandang, one of only two in the world, and Tou Tei Temple, a network of temples with shrines to a number of gods and goddesses.

Some of Macao’s most popular events bear a religious foundation while broadly offering a flavour of local culture – and they are inclusionary, affording tourists an opportunity to get involved. The city’s famous feasts range from the demure and serene, like Shi Gandang, a celebration for the family-orientated god Tou Tei that sees

Macao filled with the smell of barbecues and sound of firecrackers to the more raucous Feast of the Drunken Dragon, boasting lion dancing and plenty of eating and drinking.

“Many religious events and festivals are still persevering in Macao,” said Loi. “One and a half centuries ago, an artist from Danzig – Eduard Hildebrandt – made a painting in front of A-Ma Temple: a Cantonese opera performed inside the shelter of bamboo. You can still enjoy this unique event at the same location nowadays. Also, you can attend the Procession of Our Lady of Fátima on the streets in May every year.”

The benefits of religious tourism

Tourism is a significant contributor to economic growth and development with more than a billion people make international trips every year, and religious tourism is one of the fastest growing travel segments. According to the UNWTO (UN World Tourism Organisation), tourists take 600 million national and international religious trips per year. While major religious destinations – Mecca in Saudi Arabia, the Wailing Wall in Israel, etc – account for roughly half that number, less well-known sites and gatherings are increasing in popularity.

Unlike some destinations, which restrict entry or participation, the religious relics, buildings, and events in Macao are all there for tourists to see, enjoy and discover. With so much to offer, it can be argued the city is already a religious tourism destination. But is it worth leveraging these assets and increasing the SAR’s marketing as such a destination?

Edmond Eh, professor at the University of St Joseph’s Faculty of Religious Studies, believes it is. Noting that Macao is “growing steadily as a tourist destination,” with more than 35 million visitor arrivals in 2018, primarily from mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and South Korea, he argued that an increase in religious tourism would “greatly enhance Macao as a destination for cultural purposes.”

“It would also help to attract people who do not visit for leisure or economic reasons,” Eh said, “and provide an additional reason for people to extend their visit in Macao – and even to re-visit Macao.”



Feast of the Drunken Dragon



Procession of the Passion of Our Lord, the God Jesus

“Macao has a bright future as a destination for religious tourism,” he continued. “The majority of the squares and buildings found in its Historic Centre are associated with significant religious meaning. The city is able to promote greater historical and cultural understanding for the Chinese people. The public celebration of festivals from different religious traditions so closely with each other provide Macao with tremendous potential. The city is in a unique position to bear witness to the values of religious diversity and harmony in the world.”

Father Sequeira focuses more on the religion aspect of religious tourism: “Although it is a source of attraction for many people and a source of income for Macao, in terms of the experience of faith, it is only a first step. The churches, the processions, the statues, and the paintings are simply the beginning. However, Church in Macao is preparing tourist guides for many people coming from the mainland so they can use them in preparation for knowing and believing in God.”

Loi looks beyond the Church to the diversity of religions represented in Macao. Religious conflicts occur in nations all over the world, he noted, “yet Macao is a very good example of religious harmony, where peoples of various races or religions live on harmonious terms. Here in Macao, such a small city, people respect each other. This is why Macao is so attractive as a great destination for religious tourism in the world.” ●

A-Ma Goddess Statue



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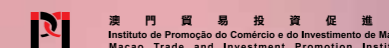
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Making a scene with BEATS AND RIFFS

Text Cathy Lai Photos António Sanmarful



Scamper performing at the Saint Paul School

Local Macao bands spoke of the challenges they faced, and the perseverance that keep them moving forward amid the city's fledgling music scene.

Inside the student hall of the Saint Paul School, the atmosphere heated up amid upbeat drums and guitar riffs. As Angus Chao, vocalist of local rock band Scamper, invited everyone to stand up and let loose, students started waving their hands in the air, singing along with the chant.

The four-person band appeared as part of the School Music Ambassadors, one of several outreach activities that recruited local bands to perform and promote original music among local students. The activity was a warm up for this year's HUSH!! Full Music festival, which took place between 28 April and 1 May. Organised by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), the annual event has become a major platform for local rock bands since its inception in 2005.

"The students are very excited to see the local bands," said Karen Lai, Music Department head of the school. "They understand that it's not easy to thrive in such a small city as Macao, and they are especially appreciative of the original music they produce."

Echoing Lai's remark, Jun Mak, Scamper's guitarist, observed that public perception towards rock music, which was often seen as incongruent within Chinese

society, has changed a lot over the past decade. "The schools value young people with different musical talents, and parents have become more open-minded; they give their children freedom to explore different interests," he said.

Despite a late start, the band scene in Macao is definitely taking shape. A quick internet search will lead you to some of the most familiar names to local music fans, such as Black Sheep, Blademark, Evade, Forget the G, and Catalyser. Meanwhile, more and more new bands have been forming in recent years, striving to make their music heard.

However, in a highly commercial city like Macao, the environment does not offer support those who follow an artistic path. With rising rent and all forms of financial pressure taking their toll, artists and musicians remain cautiously optimistic about the future of Macao's creative scene. In the wake of the biggest rock festival in the city, we spoke to local bands about the challenges they face and the efforts they've made to push forward.

Finding a way home

Active since 2005, Scamper has made frequent appearances at major musical events in the city, from the annual HUSH!! Full Music festival, through to opening for Linkin Park's Macao show in 2009. The band has gained broader visibility in recent years, performing at music festivals in different parts of Asia, such as Thailand, Taiwan, and mainland China.

Catalyser's band members from left to right: Daniel Loi (guitarist), Agostinho Jesus (bassist), Jason Chang (producer), Ana Lam (drummer), Eugene Lei (keyboardist), Iron Ian (vocalist)



In 2016, the band had their first China tour, taking the stage of big and small live houses across 18 cities. "I think we have made a name in mainland China; people [there] have started to recognise us and want to see us. Now, we are trying to develop the market in Macao," said Chao.

You may wonder why the Macao rock band has to find its way back to where they are from. Mak cited the local's mentality as a major reason: "Macao people have been following overseas music scenes for a very long time, from Hong Kong to Korea. But when it comes to local music, [although recognition is growing] it is still not substantial enough to make them want to pay attention to local productions," he explained.

This lack of enthusiasm among local audiences imposes challenges, especially on fledgling bands and less affluent music show organisers. Catalyser, a six-person band formed in 2012 that represented the city at the ABU TV Song Festival in 2017, is no stranger to such a dilemma.

"There are only a few private band shows hosted in Macao each year. To make matters worse, not many Macao people are willing to pay money to watch local bands. Therefore, these private shows often have limited budget and can only offer the bands nominal payment," explained Agostinho Jesus, Catalyser's bassist.

According to Catalyser, performance opportunities usually come in the form of celebratory events hosted by associations

and universities. However, they don't earn enough to cover all of the incurred expenses, including renting a practice room and buying musical instruments. Very often, band members have to rely on their full-time jobs to sustain their passion, finding it almost impossible to turn their passion into a full-blown career. "If we could devote more time and energy into the band, our production and performance would definitely be better," said Jesus.

Every penny counts

Their struggles did not go unnoticed. Efforts have been made by the government to help local musicians financially, such as the Subsidy Programme for the

Scamper's band members from left to right: Edmond Lei (bassist), Angus Chao (vocalist), Joel Alves (drummer), Jun Mak (guitarist)



Production of Original Song Albums launched by the IC in 2014.

Offering a maximum subsidy of MOP150,000 (US\$18,572), the programme grants financial aid to eight music producers each year. In the span of one year, the recipients have to produce an album featuring a minimum of eight new songs.

Both Catalyser and Scamper have taken advantage of the programme and received the full subsidy. The former released *Reflection* in 2016, whereas the latter invested the money in their upcoming album *The world can't be locked*, scheduled to release in June this year.

According to Catalyser, the subsidy covered most of the production cost of its album, from renting a studio, through to recording the music and printing the album. “As a band, we could already save some on cost because we’re able to get everything done by ourselves – from song and lyric writing to even designing the album cover,” said Jason Chang, the band’s producer.

As for Scamper, the subsidy allowed them to record their music at studios with better equipment. “We tried to do our best with what we have at hand,” said Chao. “[Having an album] is the first step for further development; if someone appreciates it and wants to invest on us, then we can produce something on a larger scale.”

Another funding programme that musicians and artists can pursue is the Creative Industries Fund, which provides financial aid to creative endeavours in the form of subsidies or interest-free loans. Scamper applied for the fund in 2017 and successfully received a subsidy of MOP697,782 (US\$86,396), with a funding period spanning 23 months. “It’s certainly a big boost, especially for our China tour, as we needed to

spend money on everything, from transportation and accommodation, through to promotion.”

Catalyser hasn’t decided to apply for the fund yet. “We are not full-time musicians. It may not be reasonable for us [to receive such a large subsidy],” Jesus admitted.

“The money should be granted to the people that truly know Macao’s music scene and genuinely want to improve it. Otherwise, it will just benefit the businessmen who do not know how to organise a good music event or develop local talents,” he warned.

“*The schools value young people with different musical talents, and parents have become more open-minded; they give their children freedom to explore different interests.*”

Jun Mak

Taking a systematic approach

Jun Mak and Joel Alves, guitarist and drummer of Scamper respectively, may hold the answer to further developing the music scene in Macao. The two believe that it requires a good environment to learn, a platform to connect, and a chance to shine.

And they are keen to make an effort. In February 2018, they opened Redwood Arts and Education with two other local musicians. The diverse learning space aims to provide a range of music classes such as drums,

guitars, piano and singing, as well as some leather and painting workshops.

“We’d been teaching music before, and believed that with our experience and network, we would be able to create a good environment for those who are passionate about teaching or learning,” said Alves.

According to the duo, Redwood has drawn a wide range of learners, from students at different grades, through to housewives, firemen, doctors, and retired people. “They want to realise an unfulfilled childhood dream,” said Alves.



oral test; Performance Arts Awards require candidates to perform five selected songs and improvise for 8-16 empty bars.

The certificates granted by RSL are especially useful for students who want to further their music career, Mak noted, as they are recognised by music schools and universities worldwide. “It’s like IELTS [an international standardised test of English language proficiency] in music learning,” he added.

As instructors at Redwood, Alves and Mak believe that the collaboration with RSL makes the teaching of rock music all the more systematic. “In the past, we only learned the music given by our teachers randomly. But now, we can follow the standard syllabus created by RSL and help our students improve their skills step by step,” Alves explained.

Redwood’s founders from left to right: Ivan Souza de Wing, Jun Mak, Joel Alves, Sophia Tong

Drum lessons at Redwood



One thing that makes Redwood special is that it has become an exam venue of RockschooL Ltd (RSL), an internationally acclaimed music qualification provider based in Britain. Established in 1991, the organisation delivers graded exams in over 40 countries across six continents, covering modern music genres such as rock, punk, blues, pop, funk, jazz, and metal.

Each year, the RSL examiners visit Redwood two times to host exams for around 30 students in two formats: RockschooL Graded Music Exams require candidates to play three songs and undertake an

“Moreover, when people know that there are graded exams for learning drums, for instance, they will find it more professional and attractive.”

At the other end, the Redwood founders are trying very hard to create performance opportunities for their students by reaching out to government departments, companies, and educational institutions. The most recent one happened on the Cultural Promotion Day hosted by the IC in April, where the young members of Redwood’s percussion band impressed audiences by performing with water buckets.

“By delivering more performances, we believe we can change how Macao people view local music, and at the same time, prove to young musicians that it is possible to grow your career in Macao,” said Mak.

A more diverse future

As local musicians look forward to a wider variety of performance platforms, they continue to enjoy HUSH!! Full Music festival, which ran for 18 hours over a span of three days at Hac Sa Beach this year.

The latest edition of the music festival featured a diverse line up of rock, pop, and electronic musicians from Macao as well as Hong Kong, Japan, and Europe that included Jun Kung, RubberBand, and Scandal.

To Catalyser and Scamper, the HUSH!! festival has become a familiar stage, and they’ve seen how it has evolved – from relocating to Hac Sa Beach, through to expanding from one day to three and adding two more stages alongside the main stage to allow more bands to participate in the event.

“The event has matured a lot in recent years. Of course, we still cannot compare it to the big festivals in other cities, but I think



HUSH!! Full Music festival

we have all done our best here,” said Chao. “Macao’s music industry had a late start, but we can always improve ourselves by learning from experience.”

This may remind Scamper, and many other emerging bands in the city, of their own development path. “Even for Macao musicians, there is also a lot of room for improvement, in terms of equipment and creativity. After all, we are still at the entry steps [towards becoming top-level music professionals].”

Looking ahead, the band is planning a second China tour, where they will take the chance to promote their new album; however, Macao will always be the place where they want to take root. “We believe that it will be easier for us to gain recognition among Macao people after we have earned more fame outside,” said Chao.

As for Catalyser, playing music

will continue to be a passion to follow and a vehicle for self-expression. “Although we all have our own challenge to overcome,” their Facebook page says, “music will continue to be a ‘catalyser’ that motivates us to move forward on our journey.”

With limited budget, the band has shifted its focus to the digital market, releasing new songs and building a fan base through social media. “In this information era, going digital is the dominant trend,” said Jesus.

When asked about their advice to young aspiring musicians, he said, “Just give everything a try when you are young. And at the same time, try to diversify your skills and knowledge – whether or not is related to music. These will give you more leverage to explore a different direction if one doesn’t work out.” ●

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History

Open doors for all

Text João Guedes Photos António Sanmarful

This year marks the 450th anniversary of the founding of Santa Casa da Misericórdia, the city's oldest institute that offers social services to members of Macao's society.

Afonso de Albuquerque, the great strategist of Portuguese expansion in the Far East, made it clear that Malacca was the final frontier for the crown he served. Anyone wanting to venture beyond that point could count on their own forces and ambitions, but not the caravels or the protection of Portuguese arms.

The stance taken by the grand admiral of the Indies helps explain some situations otherwise hard to understand nowadays. For example, the first Portuguese navigators to reach the shores of China actually arrived in junks bought or leased from Chinese merchants in the ports of Southeast Asia, not Portuguese vessels.

Macao's Santa Casa da Misericórdia (Holy House of Mercy) was founded in 1569, more than a decade before a formal government, the Leal Senado, was established in 1583. The Jesuits (Society of Jesus) built Monte Fort and ensured that it was garrisoned with artillery and highly competent gunners, to judge from one shot by Father Jerónimo Ró (a doctor of mathematics who eventually served in the Beijing astronomical observatory), a direct hit against a force of Dutch invaders who fled the field in panic, never to return.

But the truth was just that: long before Macao became a national concern of the Portuguese Crown (which only appointed the first governor, Francisco de Mascarenhas in 1623), it was primarily a private initiative of merchants and the Jesuits.

For the far-ranging companions of St Ignatius of Loyola, Macao served as a base from which Japan and China could be won over to the Catholic faith. Safely ensconced in the Pearl River estuary, it was also a refuge and ideal location for trade, religious propagation and other operations in the delta region and the vast China Sea beyond, with its roving population of fugitive adventurers and pirates so well portrayed by Fernão Mendes Pinto in his 16th-century chronicle *Peregrinação* (Pilgrimage).

It describes, for example, the Japanese smugglers who visited the annual fair in Canton (now Guangzhou) to trade silver, silk and spices, disguising themselves as Portuguese so the Chinese authorities wouldn't realise who they were. That provides a possible explanation for some of the exotic countenances featured on Japan's famous nanban screens. Indeed, the Middle Kingdom

and the Land of the Rising Sun had broken off relations, and the Portuguese sought to benefit from the quarrel.

The profits were worth every effort, though it must be stated that the prevailing Wild West atmosphere was also marked by sudden reversals of fortune. That had happened to the early 16th-century trading community in Ningbo – the Liampó described by Mendes Pinto – which quickly achieved heights of grandeur but then paid a terrible price for its various abuses.

In just five hours, it was razed to the ground by imperial troops who rendered the harbour unusable and spared none of the nearly 300 Portuguese and allied families who lived there.

Similar incidents occurred elsewhere along the Chinese coast, auguring a black future for the Portuguese presence in these Oriental seas. One result was a plethora of destitute widows and orphans, a major concern for the Jesuits, who were otherwise more interested in organising and consolidating their continually imperilled presence in the Far East. They did not want to run the risk of establishing formal settlements that might similarly be swept from the map due to the all too frequent sins of pride, ostentation, and ignorance associated with the search for instant profits.

Revered caretaker, organiser

The aged and elegant building of Santa Casa da Misericórdia stands today in Macao's main square, housing an institution that still pursues its original mission of protecting the poor and destitute. The reputation of this venerable institution is only rivalled by that its founder, the Jesuit bishop Dom Belchior Carneiro Leitão, who was tasked with overseeing the new Chinese diocese in the early years of its existence.

Carneiro is a major figure in the history of the Catholic Church in China, and not just for shepherding souls. Indeed, he shaped the political, administrative, social and religious structure of Macao so indelibly that even today his mark is felt, despite numerous social, urban, and political transformations over the last four and a half centuries.

Only a bare outline of this prelate's life can be sketched as an in-depth study by a biographer has yet to appear, despite numerous citations over the course of history.

It is a known fact that he was born in 1516 in Coimbra, Portugal, and that after completing his

education he became the first rector of the Jesuit college in Évora.

In 1555, Pope Julius III named him titular bishop of Nicaea (in modern-day Turkey) and coadjutor of Ethiopia; unable to travel there, he went instead to Macao to take charge of the nascent diocese of China and Japan. On the way, he stopped in Southeast Asia, informing its titular bishop that Malacca would no longer have ecclesiastical jurisdiction over the rest of 'extreme Asia'.

When he arrived in the new Portuguese city at the mouth of the Pearl River in 1568, Carneiro wasted no time. A year later, he had gathered enough money and commitment to establish China's first Western-style hospital. Originally known as Santa Casa da Misericórdia, it eventually became St Raphael's Hospital before closing in 1974 (the building now houses the Portuguese Consulate).

At the same time as he was setting up the hospital, the bishop established a leprosarium in the neighbourhood now known as São Lázaro (St Lazarus). Leprosy was then an endemic illness; more than just killing its victims, it condemned them to abject poverty and social exclusion for the rest of their lives, making no distinctions for class or ethnic group.

The hospital, which began as a small dispensary that attended to all comers, was called I Yan Miu (Temple of Cures) by the Chinese. Much later, in the early 19th century, it would implement the first smallpox vaccination programmes in China.

Once Santa Casa's inherent tasks of caring for people who were ill, poor, destitute or needy (as well as widows and matters involving the deceased and the absent) were consolidated, Carneiro began to pressure the citizens to organise themselves politically.

He insisted that a government was indispensable for guaranteeing order and social cohesion in the face of anarchy and chaos. The memory of Liampó was still fresh

in mind; he claimed it had been caused by the lack of a government to check base instincts and prevent the kind of behaviour that inevitably leads to disaster.

The citizens accordingly established a form of government resembling the systems then used in Italian republics; others claimed similarities with the "cities of the Kingdom and of the State of India." This question has yet to be given sufficient academic attention.



D. BELCHIOR CARNEIRO
賈尼勞主教
1516 1583
PRIMEIRO BISPO DE MACAU
FUNDADOR DA SANTA CASA
DA MISERICÓRDIA DE MACAU
澳門首任主教
澳門仁慈堂創始人
THE FIRST BISHOP OF MACAU
FOUNDER OF THE HOLY HOUSE
OF MERCY OF MACAU



São Lázaro neighbourhood then (top)
and in 2019 (bottom)



The Leal Senado was thus headed by two ordinary judges and three councillors elected by the most influential residents. For the next 45 years, Macao would be governed by the council of the Leal Senado, which would also represent Portugal before China.

Dom Belchior Carneiro Leitão died in Macao on 19 August 1583, following an asthma attack that the best physicians from St Paul's College were unable to alleviate. He was 67 years old. The facts of his life outlined above are a matter of historical record; however, his crucial role in the territory's early days is based more on tradition than academic rigour.

That tradition is indisputable: in the following centuries, a reliquary made of precious wood containing the skull and bones of Carneiro was placed on a table before each meeting of the confraternity of Santa Casa.

That ritual, which fell out of use in the 20th century, demonstrates how far his memory was revered. Whether he actually accomplished everything attributed to him is an open question. Indeed, his activities began

to be questioned soon after the arrival of his successor in the diocese, Dom Leonardo de Sá, who was an apostolic inquisitor committed to purifying the faith of China's Christians by fire if necessary, with no toleration for heterodoxy of any kind in religious matters.

When he arrived, many of Macao's Portuguese residents were New Christians (converts or descendants of converts from Islam or Judaism in recent times). There were also Jews who practiced their faith openly, protected by the Jesuits, who counted numerous converts among their own members and sought to prevent any expansion of the Inquisition to Macao. They were able to resist, because the Society of Jesus was beyond diocesan control, solely and directly obeying the Pope. That helps explain the exalted role that tradition attributes to Carneiro, as opposed to the reservations of recorded history. Given the many lacunas, only new studies can shed light on the life of one of the most brilliant Portuguese Jesuits, an outstanding figure in the history of Macao.

Changing role in a changing city

Internal bickering about the question of rites would occupy the Macao Church in its early years, pitting those who defended acculturation (the Jesuits) against those who rejected any deviations from orthodox Catholicism (the Dominicans).

The controversy eventually led to the expulsion of the Company of Jesus and a failure of the Jesuits' plan for China. But the power and prestige of Santa Casa da Misericórdia, the Holy House of Mercy, remained solidly intact.

Their close association with the Leal Senado meant the two were often confused; at times, the leaders of one institution headed the other as well. That circumstance was decisive for consolidating the financial structure of Santa Casa, to the point that it became a major banking institution of high repute in not just Macao but also the Philippines, Siam (now Thailand) and points beyond, with its fame even reaching the major financial centres of India.

That vigour eventually transformed the institution into a veritable bank which lent and managed fortunes, due to its role defending the assets of the deceased and absent. During a time marked by difficult and slow communication between Lisbon and the empire's various capitals, Santa Casa thus became a faithful depositary of the inheritances of those who died in Macao without descendants, or those lost at sea.

Shipwrecks were frequent and each vessel that disappeared left dozens of family members without support, mainly women and children whose assets were managed by Santa Casa. There were also voluntary donations; perhaps the most famous was from Marta da Silva Van Mierop, a figure whose full-length oil portrait still occupies a prominent place in the main hall of Santa Casa.

The institution eventually began financing the fleet owners who launched the major maritime trading ventures. That naturally led Santa Casa to expand its interests to insurance activity, with the consequent creation of the Casa de Seguros de Macau (House of Insurance of Macao) in 1797.

But the high expectations generated by that company were actually the result of a

An everlasting commitment

The Holy House of Mercy has continued its work caring for the needy in part by shifting to a modern, outreaching approach. This May, the institution became a first-time host of the International Congress of the Houses of Mercy, welcoming representatives of the Houses of Mercy in South America, Africa, and Europe to the city to explore issues of social welfare and medical policies.

The Macao institution is the last remaining Holy House of Mercy in Asia, with those in Japan, Korea, and Thailand closing down due to financial and political issues. Macao's Holy House of Mercy currently boasts 350 active members and provides a wide range of charitable services through its non-profit facilities such as the Creche, a day-care centre for children; Our Lady of Mercy Home for the Elderly; and the Rehabilitation Centre for the Blind.

Promoting cultural industries is another area where it contributes, offering space in its old Albergue of the Macau Holy House of Mercy to local arts and cultural associations. Originally a sanctuary for elderly women, the 100-year-old Portuguese building has become a popular venue for exhibitions, workshops, and cultural events.

Its operating budget of more than MOP70 million (US\$8.63 million) comes from multiple sources, including rental income, substantial corporate contributions and government subsidies, which account for about 25 per cent.



Marta da Silva Van Mierop

financial bubble, to use today's wording. It soon went bankrupt and its funds, like ships in a storm, were also lost, giving rise to the legend of the 'Calcutta millions' that writer and journalist José Campos e Sousa describes in one of his books, printed in 1936.

Over the course of the 19th century, Santa Casa gradually became involved in dubious ventures; its virtual disappearance from the marketplace would end the focus on financial matters. The crisis was aggravated by political changes resulting from Portugal's Liberal Revolution of 1820.

The Crown began playing a more active role in Portugal's social protection and health sector and Macao was naturally affected. From the period of Governor Ferreira do Amaral (1846-49), the Leal Senado was transformed into a government secretariat and the local business elites were distanced from power and lost interest in Santa Casa, which then had to struggle with an increasing lack of brothers. That situation lasted until 1905, when the local government granted itself the right to name the director, who would be

aided by three assistants elected by the confreres.

Santa Casa was nevertheless able to 'keep in step' with the times, maintaining its care-related activities, particularly during the War of the Pacific (1879-1883), when Macao was forced to deal with a veritable flood of refugees that doubled the population.

The social support provided by the institution was only possible because, unlike all the other Catholic confraternities, it never limited its activity to mutual aid between members. Rather the contrary: from the very beginning, it was always open to all those in need. Santa Casa de Misericórdia, ever mindful of its Catholic and Portuguese underpinnings, remains an intrinsic landmark of Macao. In 2005, the building became part of the Historic Centre of Macao, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Modern relic

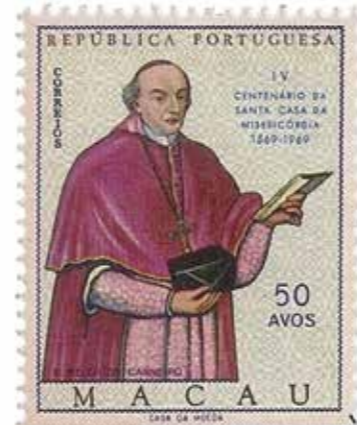
This year marks the 450th anniversary of Santa Casa da Misericórdia's founding, and although the institution has undergone multiple evolutions in

its long history, its guiding mission remains the same: compassionate care and charity responsive to the issues of the time, be it leprosy or shipwrecks or the challenges facing Macao people today.

Challenges like child and elder care, but opportunities as well – provided people have the support that they need. Santa Casa plans to offer that support and help to Macao residents looking to participate in the Greater Bay Area development, and to extend its social services via the Belt and Road Initiative.

It serves a cohesive role as well, bringing together Macao's Portuguese residents, especially the Macanese, and helping to promote cultural exchanges and maintain Portuguese-Chinese friendship. This cross-cultural bridging, along with its welcoming of all people, regardless of race or religion, continues to contribute to the harmonious development of the city.

As leaders from the government and Santa Casa itself gathered to celebrate the 450th anniversary on 15 May, they were unanimous in their praise for the past – and in their hopes for the future of Macao's oldest social welfare and charity institution. ●



Santa Casa da Misericórdia de Macao's 400th year anniversary commemorative stamp (1969)



MACAU
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First Chinese Bishop marked shift in Macao diocese

Text **Mark O'Neill** Photos **Diocese de Macau, Government Information Bureau and O Clarim**

Domingos Lam led the diocese in Macao for 15 years from 1988 to 2003.

More than four centuries after its establishment, the Macao diocese consecrated its first Chinese Catholic bishop, Domingos Lam Ka Tseung, in 1988. His appointment came just one year after the signing of the Sino-Portuguese Joint Declaration, which established the process and conditions for the future transfer of Macao to China. Lam would go on to lead the diocese for 15 years, including during the 1999 transition from Portuguese to Chinese administration, before his retirement in 2003. He passed away in July 2009.

“He was the man of the situation,” Father Luís Sequeira, a resident of Macao since 1976 and formerly the superior of the Jesuits here, said in an interview. Although Lam never lived or studied in Portugal, he spoke fluent Portuguese as well as Chinese, enabling him to mix with both communities in the city. “He was intelligent, had great social relations, and was accepted in political circles ... He accepted deeply the identity of Macao.”

During his period in office, Lam increased the number of prayer centres and parochial halls, strengthening the network of parishes, and supervised the growth of cultural institutions to increase the church’s influence

in the city. The Portuguese government recognised his work on four occasions and in 2002, his last full year in office, the Macao government awarded Lam the Honourable Medal of Golden Lotus Flower for his personal achievements and contributions to society.

But there was not a single local ordination for the priesthood during his 15-year tenure, forcing the diocese to rely on foreign priests to fill the void.

Priest, educator, journalist

Born on 9 April 1928 in Hong Kong, Lam moved with his family to Macao when he was four years old. He attended Bosco primary school before seeking higher education at St Joseph’s Seminary. He graduated with a bachelor’s in Philosophy and Theology in 1953 and was ordained later that year.

Lam spent much of the next decade serving in various capacities in Macao. He taught at the seminary and St Joseph’s Secondary School, where he was also the principal. During the same period, he was editor of the *Aurora Monthly* in Macao. Then in 1959, he became principal of *Escola Dom João Paulino* and a parish priest at the Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Church in Taipa. It was during this period that Lam mastered Portuguese.

In 1962, Lam left the city for Singapore where he was a priest at the local St Joseph Church and editor of the English-language *Rally Monthly*. Four times he was put in charge of the Singapore diocese’s finances. After more than a decade abroad, Lam returned to Macao in 1973.

A colonial mindset

The Diocese of Macao, established on 23 January 1576, was the first Catholic diocese in the Far East. It was initially responsible for evangelisation of a vast area – including China, Japan, Korea, Cambodia, Siam (Thailand), Tonkin and Cochinchina (north and south Vietnam) – with a total population of around 500 million.

Over the next four centuries, the Macao diocese was active in religion, education, charity, and social services. It established the Holy House of Mercy, the St Raphael Hospital (now the Portuguese Consulate) and the St Lazarus Leprosarium, as well as 60 schools and education centres that now serve 40,000 students. Today, the diocese boasts six parishes and three sub-parishes, nearly 20



churches, 30,000 believers, and 350 priests and nuns.

Portuguese bishops led the diocese throughout this long history, despite an increasing number of Chinese adherents and the approaching handover to China. Portugal, prior to its 1974 revolution, was a conservative country that ran its colonies with very limited representation by local people. According to Sequeira, before 1974, an African priest could become a bishop only if he was exceptional. “That was the mentality. It was only after the revolution that Angola and Mozambique had local bishops. The evolution came slowly.”

Groomed to lead

Lam’s ascent to the top position in the diocese began a few years after his return to Macao in 1973. He became Rector of St Joseph’s Seminary, where he served for the next three years.

Meanwhile, another Portuguese priest took over as Bishop of Macao: Arquimínio Rodrigues da Costa, a native of the Azores who had come to Macao in 1938, was consecrated in the cathedral on 25 March 1976. The new bishop looked at his flock – one-third Chinese and two-thirds Portuguese and Macanese – and realised that the time had come for a change.

To ensure this, da Costa began grooming the person he believed best suited to be his successor, and the diocese’s first Chinese bishop: Domingos Lam. In 1976, the Pope appointed Lam as the Vicar General at the Bishop’s Office in Macao, a position he held for the next 11 years. Appointed Coadjutor Bishop in 1987, Lam quickly went on to succeed da Costa, becoming the 22nd Bishop of Macao on 6 October 1988.

According to Father Sequeira, during the transition, the bishop had to be Chinese: “The church needed a Chinese with a sense of two cultures. Lam was sharp with a good sense of administration. He was well acquainted with the Portuguese and Chinese sides. He had good relations with the governor. He was very balanced and respectful.”



Bishop Domingos Lam Coat of Arms

In the years leading up to the handover, many Catholics – Portuguese, Macanese, and Chinese – left Macao. Unsure of the church’s future in the city, they went to Portugal, the US, Canada, Australia and other countries, taking their families with them. Their numbers have since been replaced in the churches in part by Filipinos who have come to work in Macao in the casinos, hotels, shops and restaurants, and by new migrants from the mainland.

Lam not only led the diocese through this transitional period, he represented the Catholic community in the political process as the only religious representative invited to contribute to drafting the Basic Law of Macao. He was a voting member of the Macao Basic Law Drafting Committee from 1988 to 1993. Of the 90 members of the Macao Basic Law Consultative Committee, more than 20 were Catholics.

It was not an easy assignment. The Vatican had, and still has, no relations with the Chinese central government, because of disagreements over the appointment of bishops, the treatment of the ‘underground’ church, and other issues. Fortunately, these conflicts did not exist in Macao, making negotiations much simpler.

The central government promised that, after the handover, the Catholic church in Macao would be able to operate as before, including management of its schools, social centres, and other institutions.

According to Sequeira, Bishop Lam meticulously prepared for the handover, which was set for midnight on 20 December 1999. He held a Thanksgiving Mass the day before, and a Mass of blessings on the day of, inviting the new Chief Executive, Edmund Ho, as well as the most prominent Portuguese officials. Ho, himself not a Catholic, entered the Mass to widespread applause. “It was a fine gesture.”

Sequeira said that Ho and Lam shared a sense of balance in understanding Macao, the harmony of the Portuguese and Chinese elements. “There was never tension.” That balanced approach would prove useful after the transition as well.

Legacy of leadership

In his history of the diocese, Bishop Lam summarised his own time in office thusly:

“After my inauguration, I received great support from different congregations and the government. I went in for large-scale construction, renovated and built schools, seminary, churches, the bishop’s office, the Convention



Bishop Lam receiving the Golden Lotus Medal from then Chief Executive Edmund Ho Hau Wah (2002)

Centre in Coloane and premises for social services, for the continuation of evangelisation in Macao.”

In addition to the existing six church districts, Lam built three more, to meet the growth of Macao. His emphasis on infrastructure also included the building of meeting centres and museums inside churches, to make Macao a meeting place for the Asian church and develop it as a destination for religious tourism. Moreover, Lam played the role of a bridge, enabling the church in Macao to have good relations with the Chinese government and serve Catholics in the mainland.

He lent his support to the establishment of the first Chinese-language Catholic newspaper in the city, the Macau Observer. Lam, with his own history writing and editing for publications, likely recognised the value of such a newspaper in a city where

Chinese-speakers made up a growing portion of the Catholic community and the overwhelming majority of the secular society.

Sequeira described Lam as “exuberant, extroverted, a little too expansive. He liked talking and meeting people. He was very sensitive to those in need. He gave a lot without talking – families, students and priests.”

Yet Lam’s weakness, according to Sequeira, lay in the “pastoral dimension,” citing his inadequate work with young people, the schools, and families. There have been no new priests ordained in Macao since 1992, which means that the average age of the local priests has been increasing every year.

“There are not enough local priests,” Sequeira said. “The religious orders have come to Macao to help in the parishes. Younger priests are working as missionaries. They must speak

Cantonese, even Mandarin. They have come from Europe and Latin America, Timor-Leste, and South Korea. There are Philippine priests to help the Filipino community.”

Lam served as Bishop until 30 June 2003 and as Bishop Emeritus after his retirement.

Moving on

Lam’s term as Bishop of Macao ended just two months after his 75th birthday; canon law requires that bishops request retirement when they reach that age. Speaking to UCA News, an independent Catholic news agency covering Asia, Lam explained that the aging of local priests and lack of new priesthood candidates was the biggest problem facing his successor, Bishop José Lai Hung Seng (now Bishop Emeritus).

“The reserve of Macao’s native priests is almost used up and the new bishop cannot solve this problem on his own,” reflected Lam. “Macao’s society and economy offer the Church a stable environment for development. The new bishop will be well appreciated if he can generate priesthood vocations, but the local Church will wither away if he cannot.”

Lam continued to live in Macao after his retirement, serving as an advisor to a number of civil associations in the city.

He fell ill in March 2009 and was diagnosed with terminal stomach cancer. Domingos Lam Ka Tseung died on 27 July, surrounded by members of his family and many members of the religious community; he was 81 years old. Four days later, on 31 July, a funeral Mass was held at the Cathedral of the Nativity of Our Lady. He was buried at São Miguel Arcanjo cemetery. ●

Tradition

Tradition and community with Macanese Chá Gordo

Text Juliana Loh Photos António Sanmarful

Once a feast that brought everyone together, today *Chá Gordo* is a rare tradition that should be preserved.



With its rich history as the point where East meets West, it's no surprise that Macao is home to one of the world's first fusion cuisines. Macanese cuisine developed over centuries, incorporating a host of influences to create dishes and practices unique to Macao.

The all-day Macanese feast of *Chá Gordo* – 'Fat Tea' in Portuguese – once a common event used to mark religious holidays or events or just because, has become a rare treat in recent decades. It lives on each year as the Macanese community gather in a local Catholic kindergarten to celebrate this cherished tradition with a feast before Easter and Christmas.

The bi-annual event embodies the intoxicating mix of colonial Portuguese culinary legacy and Chinese heritage within the local Macanese community. Apart from a buffet feast of homemade cakes and Macanese staples that range from *lo bak gou* (steamed Chinese turnip cakes) to *laccasa* (rice vermicelli noodles served in a seafood broth), the spread includes intoxicating pots of flavours stewing outside on portable gas stoves.

In the outdoor tents, a cauldron of spicy *feijoada* (black bean stew with beef and pork) is lined up alongside a Goan pork vindaloo (pork marinated in wine-vinegar and garlic). Developed in the former Portuguese colony of Goa, the name 'vindaloo' comes from a garbled pronunciation of the original Portuguese dish, *carne de vinha d'alhos*.

That element of Portuguese influence, whether in recipes or ingredients, and colonial

connections is the common thread running through every dish served at Chá Gordo. The food also ties to the more recent past: in the 1950s, the venue for Chá Gordo shifted from the home to elite country clubs.

The chefs behind the restaurants catering the bi-annual event – Vitória Batista of APOMAC, Aida Jesus of Riquexó, and Manuela Ferreira of Restaurante Litoral – all used to work at one such club, the Macau Club. These grande dames of Macanese cuisine provide the savoury main courses while women from the community contribute an assortment of sweets, from *agar agar* to *bolo menino*, a traditional Macanese sponge cake.

Florita Alves, herself a Macanese chef and Macao Tourism Board representative, has made it her mission to preserve Macanese cuisine at home while also promoting it abroad. Authentic Macanese cuisine, unlike that of many other ethnic communities, can be difficult to find outside of the city. Part of Alves' work entails breaking through that geographical isolation to introduce Macanese cuisine to the wider world.

"For me, the dish *porco balichão tamarindo* [braised tamarind pork] is one of the most representative Macanese dishes with traces of the Portuguese route," Alves said. "Based on the origin of the main ingredients – pork, garlic, wine, bay leaf, tamarind, *balichão*, cane sugar – and the method of preparation, we can conclude its roots and relationship with the vindaloo from Indian cuisine."

Manuela Ferreira



Florita Alves

This method of marinating meat, Alves explained, was how Portuguese sailors preserved 'raw ingredients' for long journeys. Missionaries, however, were the first Portuguese to arrive in Macao, followed by traders and sailors. Some brought their families with them while others married locals, contributing to the integration and fusion of cultures in the city.

A history written in food

Many people misunderstand Macanese cuisine as a simple marriage of Portuguese and Chinese dishes. In fact, it reflects

“*The roots and names of some dishes may be the same, but the ingredients and the way to cook is very different. We believe that Macanese cuisine is the first fusion cuisine in the world.*”

Luís Machado

a multitude of influences, geographical flavours that mark the trade routes and colonial holdings of the Portuguese.

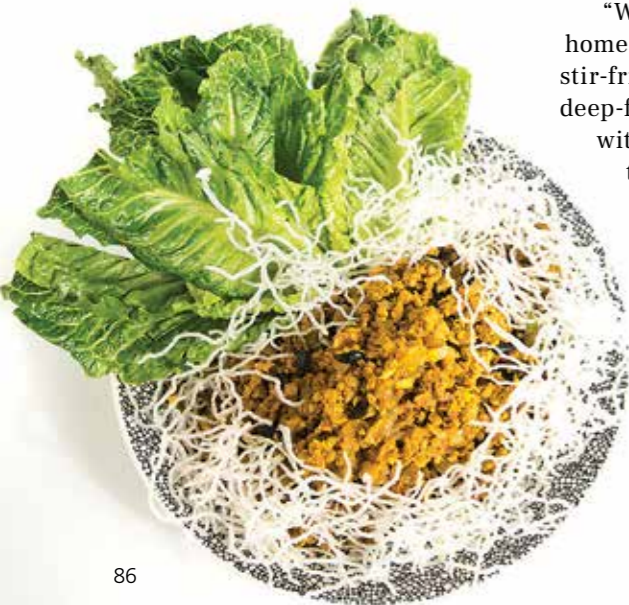
“The roots and names of some dishes may be the same, but the ingredients and the way to cook is very different,” explained Luís Machado, president of the Macanese Gastronomy Association (CGM), which organises the bi-annual Chá Gordo. “We believe that Macanese cuisine is the first fusion cuisine in the world.”

It's a kind of 'slow food', an “intense potpourri of flavours that need time to cook, which isn't practical for commercial restaurants



Chef Abraham Conlon and Marina de Senna Fernandes

Minchi from Chef Abraham Conlon and mentor Marina Senna Fernandes



– Macanese cuisine is a very personalised family-style cuisine.”

“We used to say that every home has their own *minchi* – a stir-fried beef and pork mince with deep-fried diced potatoes served with an egg sunny-side up – or their own *Capela*,” Machado remarked. “The recipes never tell you exactly how to cook there is always a secret ingredient in each one and that is never revealed to the public.”

James Beard award-winning chef Abraham Conlon of

Chicago’s Fat Rice, who spent time researching recipes in Macao for his first cookbook, prepared his own *Capela* recipe together with Marina de Senna Fernandes. Conlon described the dish as “the king of all meatloafs, a nod to the name of the dish made in Bundt-like shape and in Portuguese translates to ‘crown.’”

As a descendent of one of Macao’s largest and oldest Macanese families, Fernandes remembers when *Chá Gordo* was a family affair: “When we were growing up, my grandfather used to have an ‘open house’ most afternoons, with concerts in the

house and a *Chá Gordo* feast for people to come over and eat and chit chat. The servants would make plenty of food to go around for whoever popped by.”

As families – and their residences – shrunk in size, preparing such large, time-consuming feasts became increasingly difficult. “Today, the younger generation of Macanese don’t cook their own meals,” Machado said, making the task of perpetuating this largely home-based cuisine all the more difficult.

Efforts to preserve and promote Macanese cuisine got a boost in November 2017 when, after a years-long campaign by the government, Macao was officially designated a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy.

Now the city is looking to institutionalise preservation efforts through initiatives like the development of a multilingual database of Macanese recipes, capturing the many ‘family recipes’ of these centuries-old dishes, some of which have never been written down before. Other projects include specialised culinary training and the creation of a centre for the promotion and support of Macanese gastronomy.

Macanese cuisine is the very heart and identity of Macanese culture. With greater awareness through government initiatives and events like the bi-annual *Chá Gordo*, this unique culinary tradition looks like it will continue to evolve and grow for generations to come. ●



Chá Gordo table replica at the Macao Museum

CAPELA

Catarina Canavarro Ramos

Some in the Macaense community have suggested that the name of this dish came from *capela*, meaning 'chapel' in Portuguese. Traditionally, a thin membrane of fat tissue that envelopes pigs' intestines (mesentery) — *redenho de porco* — coated the upper part of the meatloaf but nowadays this product is not readily available in the market and is replaced by fat meat such as bacon. Probably this coat of fat tissue gave the name of Capela to the dish, which in archaic Portuguese means 'coat' — *capela* or *capa*. It is believed that this typical Macaense dish came from an original recipe from the northern part of Portugal, Beira Litoral, called *Anel de Carne* or *Rolo frio à moda antiga*. Cooking the meatloaf in bain-marie is a typical Cantonese way of preparing the dish. This preserves the moisture in the meat itself.

(Serves 6 to 8 persons)



INGREDIENTS

- ▶ 2 lb pork (with some fat)
- ▶ ¼ lb Edam cheese, grated, divided
- ▶ 8 strips bacon
- ▶ 2 egg whites
- ▶ 4 egg yolks (preferably one of duck)

Ingredients of Group A:

- ▶ 6 black olives, chopped
- ▶ 2 tbsp butter
- ▶ ½ cup shallots, minced
- ▶ 4 cloves garlic, minced
- ▶ ¼ cup linguica or bacon, minced
- ▶ ½ tsp sugar

Ingredients of Group B:

- ▶ ¼ cup mix of pine nuts and almonds, minced
- ▶ ¼ lb overnight bread (crumbled and soaked in water)
- ▶ 4 tbsp breadcrumbs
- ▶ ¼ cup port wine
- ▶ salt and pepper, to taste

METHOD

1. Beat the egg whites until fluffy. Save some egg yolk for coating the meatloaf later, as well some pine nuts and almonds for decoration. Keep also about 1 ounce of grated cheese for the same purpose.
2. Manually chop the pork and 2 strips of bacon, and add to the ingredients of group A.
3. Mix it with the remaining ingredients (group B) and the eggs, yolk and white.
4. Form a ring of about 8 cm with the meat on a plate greased with some butter.
5. Cover the meatloaf with the remaining strips of bacon, sliced in half, the pine nuts, and almond.
6. Cook this dish in a bain-marie, slow cooking, for 8 to 10 minutes, covering it so that the water from the steam does not get into the dish.
7. Let the dish cool down for about 5 minutes, brush the surface of the meatloaf with egg yolk to coat and sprinkle it with additional grated cheese.
8. Cook the meatloaf in a pre-heated oven at 450°F for 15 minutes, then reducing the heat to 250°F, with heat on top, for additional 45 minutes.
9. Serve with salad, rice, or fried potatoes.

Recipe from the book *Macaense Cuisine: Origins and evolution*.

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China

Moving ahead steadily amid competition

Text Ou Nian Le Photos Xianhua News Agency and Shutterstock

With an economic output forecast at RMB150 billion by 2020, today, Qianhai is Shenzhen's innovation and commercial hub.

When Qianhai was officially declared an innovation zone of Shenzhen in 2010, it was a half-barren reclaimed area west of the booming city. Today, this 15 square-kilometre district has been transformed into a commercial hub of Shenzhen. Scores of new high-rise office and residential blocks, most ready for sale and rental soon, have transformed the skyline while bridges and boulevards connect this formerly remote border spot to the city centre and to the rest of the Pearl River Delta.

Much like Hengqin for Macao, Qianhai will serve as a demonstration zone for cooperation between Guangdong and Hong Kong, thanks to the zone's close proximity to the SAR. It targets four major sectors: finance, modern logistics, information and technology services.

Officially known as Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Modern Service Industry Cooperation Zone, it aims to have 150,000 residents and create 650,000 jobs by 2020. Its economic output is also forecast to grow to RMB150 billion (US\$21.98 billion).

Qianhai appears on track to achieve these goals. According to official figures from the zone’s administrative authority, Hong Kong alone accounted for 10,800 companies registered in Qianhai by the end of 2018, with a registered capital of US\$102.15 billion.

Many of these firms are in financial services, including HSBC, Hang Seng Bank, Bank of East Asia, Standard Chartered and China Merchants Bank, which have all set up branches in the zone. In addition, there are insurance firms like Anbang and asset management companies like Franklin Templeton and Value Partners, as well as those in the securities, leasing, and small loan sectors.

Other Hong Kong investors in the zone are Kerry Group, Chow Tai Fook, New World Development, and Wharf Holdings. Internet giants Tencent and Alibaba also have operations there.

Dr Dominic Lam, an economist and China specialist based in Hong Kong and chairman of World Eye Organisation said: “Qianhai is a project approved by President Xi Jinping. The central government considers it a key point of the Belt and Road Initiative. It is attractive for Hong Kong investors in science, education, and economy. Many young people from the mainland want to study in Hong Kong but are unable to; they could attend schools in Qianhai set up by Hong Kong institutions. This will take time.”

Yet Qianhai faces intense competition from neighbouring cities: in the recently announced official blueprint for the Greater Bay Area, almost all have the same, or similar, economic goals as Qianhai.

Some analysts say Qianhai has been slow in developing its most important designated role as a financial hub. “Had Qianhai been willing to allow one major foreign



institution to take charge of its financial sector, greater progress could have been made,” argued Dr Thomas Chan, director of the One Belt One Road Research Institute at Chu Hai College in Hong Kong. Instead, he said, local efforts seem to have centred more on developing the property sector and generating revenue from it.

Dr Witman Hung, principal liaison officer for Hong Kong of the Shenzhen Qianhai Authority, remains upbeat about the future of the zone: “Qianhai has just started to take off. It has now repositioned itself as a ‘core engine’ of the Greater Bay Area. I am certain that Shenzhen and Hong Kong will have greater cooperation via Qianhai.”

A zone of possibilities

Qianhai began its path toward development nine years ago when, in August 2010, the State Council first approved the overall development plan of the zone.

In 2011, the Shenzhen Qianhai Authority was granted administrative power equivalent to that of a city, with authority to approve non-financial projects and streamline the approval procedures to attract more investment to the zone.

In June 2012, the State Council published 22 broad guidelines to support innovation ventures in Qianhai. They covered finance, tax and fiscal matters, the legal system, personnel,



education, healthcare, and telecommunications.

Qianhai has since passed a series of supplementary policies to facilitate the flow of capital, talent, and business to the zone.

In early 2013, new measures were added to further encourage certain sectors in Hong Kong to set up joint ventures, as well as schools and hospitals, in the zone. While Qianhai continues to focus predominantly on drawing investment and interest from nearby Hong Kong, by 2014, that focus had broadened to include Taiwanese, overseas Chinese and others, but especially Macao.

That July, the Qianhai government introduced two

preferential tax incentives: eligible companies registered in Qianhai are subject to a 15 per cent corporate income rate, and eligible professionals employed there are exempt from personal income tax. The zone is one of the few places on the mainland with such favourable tax rates. These concessions aim to encourage certain non-mainland businessmen and professionals to set up companies and work in Qianhai.

In April of this year, Qianhai announced 36 new measured designed specifically to attract young people from Hong Kong and Macao, open to any SAR residents aged 18–45 who are interested in working, interning or launching a new business in the zone.

Qianhai aims to provide 1,000 subsidised internships on an ongoing annual basis, with the amount of subsidy based on the duration of the particular internship. Certain start-ups with core members from the SARs will be eligible for subsidies of as much as RMB50 million (US\$7.33 million); furthermore, companies founded in the two SARs will be awarded up to RMB2 million (US\$293,080) if they are successfully listed in Shanghai, Shenzhen, Hong Kong, London, New York or Tokyo.

Other measures include one-off subsidies, ranging from RMB20,000 (US\$2,931) to RMB50,000 (US\$7,327) depending on academic degrees, for Hong Kong or Macao

professionals working in Qianhai. Low-rent homes and transport allowances will also serve to encourage young SAR professionals to choose Qianhai.

The zone has already attracted some young entrepreneurs. As of 2018, the Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Youth Innovation and Entrepreneur Hub, a prominent start-up incubator in the zone known more simply as E Hub, has helped develop 356 entrepreneurial teams. Some 176 of them came from Hong Kong and Macao.

Building a hub among hubs

In 2013, Qianhai took its first steps toward developing a legal environment conducive to promoting business confidence with the establishment of the Qianhai Anti-Corruption Bureau and introduction of the Shenzhen Court of International Arbitration to the

zone. These, along with the Qianhai Tribunal, also serve to draw Hong Kong closer through collaborative development of international legal services and adaptation of Hong Kong laws into its own legal framework. The zone hopes to become an international commercial dispute resolution centre.

These and other measures are aimed at turning Qianhai into a business-friendly zone, especially for the financial sector. “Qianhai plans to become a regional financial centre through expanding with Hong Kong, one of the major international financial centres in Asia,” said Wang Jinxia, deputy director of the Qianhai-Shekou Administrative Committee.

Qianhai’s sights are set on the offshore renminbi (RMB) business, an area in which Hong Kong is a world leader. “Hong Kong is the world’s largest offshore renminbi market. A lot of money is sunk in

Hong Kong with limited outlet,” said Fang Zhou, research director of the One Country Two Systems Research Institute in Hong Kong. “Qianhai could be a platform for experiments on how to efficiently use such offshore capital.”

Qianhai aims to do exactly that, operating as a cross-border RMB innovation zone in order to expand the scope of RMB financial services. It will support issuance of RMB loans from mainland banking institutions for international projects (Macao is taking a similar, if more focused, role as a full-service RMB clearing centre for Lusophone countries). Meanwhile, Hong Kong banks based in Qianhai will handle RMB loans to onshore mainland entities in the zone. This has opened a new channel for the inflow of RMB funds from abroad.

Currently, about 30 per cent of companies in Qianhai are in financial services. There will

be more in future, with greater cooperation in green finance and financial technology between Hong Kong and Shenzhen. Macao will support this development, as well as related efforts in Guangzhou, while also studying the feasibility of establishing its own green finance platform.

In 2017, HSBC received approval to set up a majority-owned securities joint venture based in Qianhai. Dubbed HSBC Qianhai Securities, it marked the first such approval for a foreign financial institution in China. Its business includes equity and debt underwriting, equity research, and advising on domestic and outbound mergers and acquisitions.

Late 2018 saw the establishment of the Qianhai Mercantile Exchange (QME) in the zone, controlled by Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing. It launched spot trading with alumina (the raw material for



aluminium) and plans to expand to include aluminium ingots and T-bars, as well as copper, by 2020.

Despite these successes, Qianhai still has a long way to go toward becoming a financial centre. Analysts say that, unless Beijing relaxes capital controls and allows greater convertibility of the renminbi, Qianhai or anywhere else on the mainland cannot pursue many of the financial services provided by free-market Hong Kong.

Building up and extending out

Still, Qianhai remains ambitious about its long-term goals. Hung of the Shenzhen Qianhai Authority said in March that the Shenzhen government had approved an expansion of the zone to 70 square kilometres, which would make it the largest free trade zone in South China.

During the annual meeting of the National People's Congress held in Beijing, he announced that he was "working on expanding the application of Hong Kong laws to all of Qianhai." Currently, such laws only apply to business disputes between Hong Kong companies in Qianhai.

"The common law system in Hong Kong is friendlier to business activities," he noted. "A common law system is more flexible than the written laws in the civil law system of the mainland."

Hung also proposed a 'Bay Area card' to facilitate travel of professionals in the Greater Bay Area, including Qianhai. It would apply to business people, scientific researchers, and education professionals – including non-Chinese – who move frequently between the two SARs and Guangdong. For a zone that plans for its working population to outnumber residents by some 500,000 people, such easing of travel restrictions may prove critical to its success.



Infrastructure to improve travel between Qianhai and the rest of the Greater Bay Area is already in the works. In February, zone officials announced plans to construct an intensive transport network, including 18 metro and railway lines to put Qianhai within a 60-minute travel radius of the rest of Shenzhen, as well as Guangzhou, Zhongshan, and Zhuhai.

Three intercity rail lines will link to Hong Kong, including one connecting the two international airports of Shenzhen and Hong Kong, and the extension of the Guangzhou-Dongguan-Shenzhen intercity line linking Qianhai to Hung Shui Kiu in northern Hong Kong. The other three intercity rails will connect Guangzhou, Dongguan, Huizhou, and Zhuhai.

One bridge, linking Shenzhen to Zhongshan, is under construction while a second, to link Shenzhen and Zhuhai, is being planned. The

latter will carry both trains and motor vehicles.

The transport blueprint also includes a checkpoint and a helicopter service station to cover the cities of the Pearl River Delta.

Qianhai has already begun a three-year plan (2018–2020) with an investment of RMB140 billion (US\$20.52 billion) in 219 projects to develop a new city centre. It will include the Qianhai Convention and Exhibition Center, the Shenzhen branch of the National Museum of China and an International Finance Exchange Center, as well as international schools and hospitals.

"As a 'core engine' of the Greater Bay Area," said Wang Chunxin, a senior researcher at the Bank of China (Hong Kong), "Qianhai is integrating the sectors of consumption, production, finance, and manufacturing. The key to its success will be innovation." ●

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