

Macao 澳門



**LOCAL
RACERS
MAKE
MACAO
PROUD**

**Current gaming
operators granted
10-year concessions**

**Meet the master
behind Chen-style
tai chi in Macao**



CONGRATULATIONS ON

THE 23RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF

THE MACAO SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION



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COVER IMAGE

Homegrown driver Wing Chung 'Andy' Chang wins the 2022 Formula 4 Macao Grand Prix beating Hong Kong's Gerrard Xie and two-time champion Charles Leong Hon Chio.
Photo by Xinhua News Agency

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on the 23rd Anniversary of
the Establishment of Macao SAR

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永利
Wynn



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19th-century Macao was a heady destination for the international elite; a place where Chinese silks met French Champagne and Cantonese opera met Mozart.

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General Secretary Xi Jinping emphasised that the people of Macao administer Macao under the "One Country, Two Systems" policy

(Below) Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng reaffirmed his government's commitment to seizing the opportunities arising from national development progress

'High degree of autonomy' reaffirmed at CPC's 20th National Congress

General Secretary Xi Jinping described the policy as "a great innovation of socialism" and key to both prosperity and stability in Macao and Hong Kong.

Text **Christian Ritter**
Photos **Xinhua News Agency**

The "One Country, Two Systems" policy was reaffirmed and praised at the Communist National Party of China (CPC) 20th National Congress in October. General Secretary Xi Jinping promised that Macao and Hong Kong's "high degree of autonomy" would continue in parallel with the central

government's "overall jurisdiction" of the special administrative regions, during his speech at Beijing's Great Hall of the People.

Xi called the policy "a great innovation of socialism with Chinese characteristics." He said it had ensured prosperity and stability for Hong Kong and Macao after their return to the motherland on 1 July 1997 and 20 December 1999, respectively.

"This policy must be adhered to over the long term ... fully, faithfully, and resolutely [by the central government] under which the people of Hong Kong administer Hong Kong and the people of Macao administer Macao," he emphasised.

Xi's remarks were a welcome confidence booster for the two Special Administrative Regions (SARs) which share the same constitutional setup but are starkly different politically, economically, societally.

The high-degree-of-autonomy principle is expressly enshrined in the basic laws of Hong Kong and Macao, which also state that both SARs are inalienable parts of the People's Republic of China. This first principle has been generally known in Hong Kong and Macao for over two decades. The legal concept of "overall jurisdiction" entered the public sphere in 2014, when the State Council issued a white paper reminding people that the central government holds the right to maintain overall jurisdiction over Hong Kong.

Central government pledges to support Macao's economy

Xi said the central government will support growth in Macao and Hong Kong's economies. He pledged to improve their people's lives, resolving deep-seated socio-economic issues, and promote both long-term prosperity and stability.

"[We] will inspire more people in Hong Kong and Macao to love both the country and their own regions, be more patriotic, and forge a broader united front at home and abroad in support of the 'One Country, Two Systems' policy," he said.

In a statement distributed by the Government Information Bureau, Macao Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng said Xi's speech pointed to a clear way forward for "One Country, Two Systems" principle and boosted morale for Macao people.

"With the successful conclusion of the 20th CPC National Congress, the country ushered in enhanced development prospects, which would provide Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR) with a greater number of prime development opportunities," the statement read.

Ho said that his government would firmly adhere to the central government's overall jurisdiction, and uphold the principle of "patriots governing Macao".

He reaffirmed that his government would "proactively seize opportunities arising from national development progress" and accelerate Macao's integration into national development plans.

Ho said these efforts "would advance the MSAR's contributions to the successful implementation of the 'One Country, Two Systems' principle with Macao characteristics, as well as to the development of a modern socialist country and to the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation." ●





Macao stood still and in silence out of respect for Jiang Zemin

Former Chinese president Jiang Zemin's state funeral was an opportunity for the city's residents to pay tribute to the man who presided over their 'return to the motherland'.

Text **Gonçalo César de Sá**

Life in the city paused on the morning of 6 December, when people in Macao expressed their condolences and respect for the passing of former president Jiang Zemin. Residents from all walks of life stood in silence at 10 am, during Jiang's state funeral in Beijing. The city's national and regional flags had been flying at half-mast since 2 December.

Jiang was 96 when he passed away due to leukemia and multiple organ failure on 30 November, in Shanghai where he was cremated. Jiang served as the General Secretary of the Communist Party of China between 1989 and 2002, and was President of the People's Republic of China from 1993 until his retirement in 2003.

The Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR)

set up a memorial station at its headquarters, where people in Macao could mourn Jiang. The ceremony was also broadcasted live across television and radio channels by public broadcaster TDM.

During the broadcasted ceremony, Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng, principal officials of the local government, members of the Executive Council, lawmakers and representatives of the Judiciary stood to observe three minutes of silence to mark their respect for the former president. All government vehicles and vessels honked their horns for the same three minutes, a move followed by many private cars and motorcycles in the city.

In the streets, people could be observed standing in silence – while others gathered in restaurants and shops to watch the funeral proceedings on televisions.

(Opposite page) The memorial service for former President Jiang Zemin was held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing

Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng, principal officials of the local government, members of the Executive Council, lawmakers and representatives of the Judiciary stood to observe three minutes of silence to mark their respect for the former president





All entertainment and celebratory events were suspended during the funeral. Around 40,000 students and teachers in Macao observed a three-minute silent tribute.

Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng expressed deep condolences for the passing of Jiang and extended sincere condolences to the former president's family, in an official statement on behalf of the government of the MSAR and himself.

Ho described Jiang as "an outstanding leader enjoying high prestige acknowledged by the whole Communist Party of China (CPC), a great Marxist, great proletarian revolutionary, statesman, military strategist and diplomat, a long-tested communist fighter, and an outstanding leader of the great cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and ... the core of the Party's third generation of central collective leadership and the principal founder of the Theory of Three Represents."

He highlighted how concerned Jiang was about Macao's development and the lives of its residents, noting that the former president visited Macao twice during his tenure. In December 1999, Jiang attended ceremonies marking Macao's return to Chinese sovereignty, the establishment of the MSAR, and the swearing-in of its first government. Ho described this time as an "important historical moment" that left Macao's people with an "indelible memory".

Jiang's second visit to the city was in December 2000, to mark the first anniversary of Macao's 'return to the motherland'. Ho recalled Jiang attending many activities and making friendly contact with locals whom, he said, will always remember the former president's voice and smile.

"Now that he has passed away, we are truly saddened," said Ho. "We will always remember him and miss his contributions to the country and the people."

Two months before the Ceremony of the Transfer of Government of Macao to the People's Republic of China in December 1999, Jiang Zemin visited Portugal to meet with then-late President Jorge Sampaio.



At the transfer ceremony in 1999, Jiang declared Macao had "entered a brand-new era in its development". "Beginning from this moment, the friendship between the Chinese and Portuguese peoples and the amicable cooperation between China and Portugal will develop from a new starting point."

On behalf of the Central Government and the people of all nationalities in China, Jiang extended "cordial greetings and good wishes to the Macao compatriots who are returning to the embrace of the motherland."

"The Chinese Government has, in accordance with the great concept of 'One Country, Two Systems' initiated by Deng Xiaoping, successfully resolved the questions of Hong Kong and Macao," he said.

"This marks significant progress made by the Chinese people in the course of accomplishing the great task of national reunification."

"After the return of Macao, the Chinese Government will unswervingly implement the policies of 'One Country, Two Systems', 'Macao people administering Macao' and a high degree of autonomy ... Macao residents, irrespective of race or belief, will all be masters of this land, enjoying, as equals, the rights and freedoms guaranteed by law."

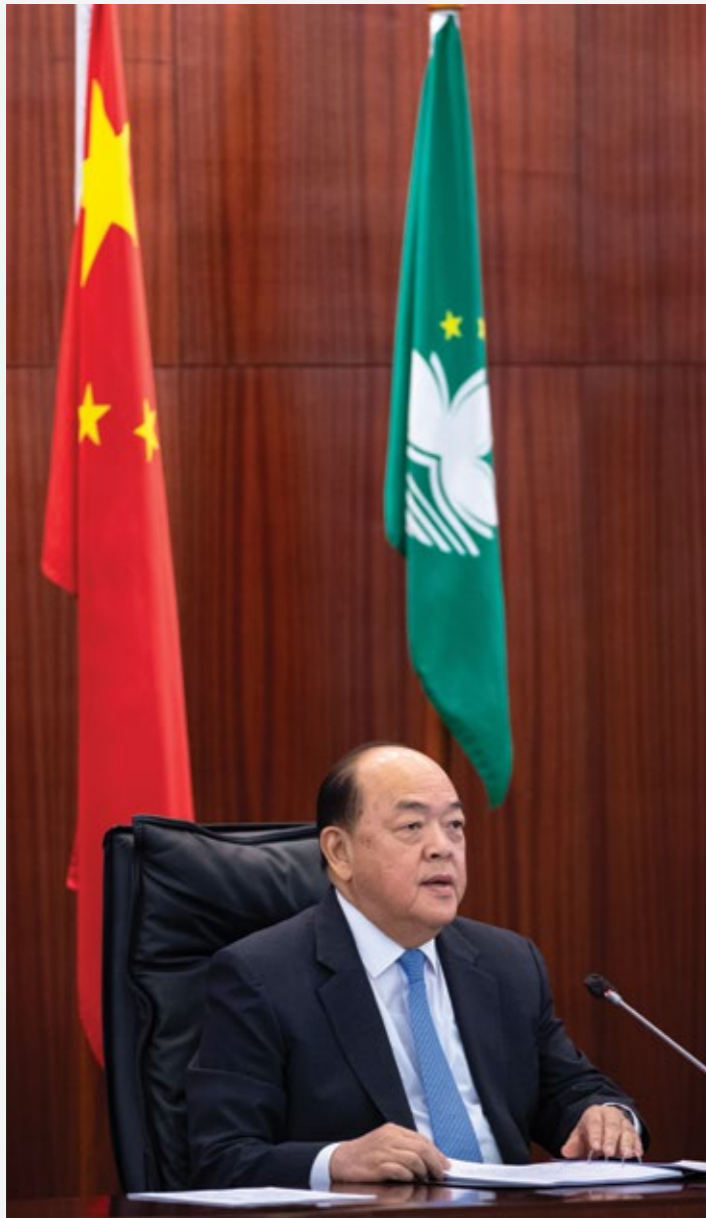
The former president ended his 1999 speech with the hope "that the countries and regions with investment and trade interests in Macao will continue to work for the stability and development of Macao." ●

China and Macao flags flew at half-mast

(Opposite page) Residents from all walks of life stood in silence at 10 am, during Jiang's state funeral in Beijing

The 2023 Policy Address: Economic recovery and diversification

Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng expresses optimism for a smoother year ahead, with tourism and the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone at the heart of Macao's bounce back.



Photos **Xinhua News Agency**

The Macao government will focus on boosting the economy, fostering economic diversification, relieving livelihood hardships, preventing and controlling Covid-19 and promoting the city's steady overall development in 2023.

The guarantees were given by Chief Executive, Ho Iat Seng during the Policy Address for the Fiscal Year 2023 – entitled "Making Progress Jointly while Ensuring Stability".

Ho Iat Seng said that in the coming year, the government will be committed to seven major fronts:

1. Expediting economic recovery and boosting adequate economic diversification

Based on the prerequisite that Covid-19 is under control, the government will effectively provide its assistance regarding policies linked to resumption of application for electronic travel permits by mainland residents wishing to visit Macao, and for the resumption of package tour groups from the mainland to Macao. Such steps would be in a bid to revitalise the tourism sector. The government will also enhance publicity for promoting Macao as a safe travel destination, and open up new source markets domestically and abroad regarding inbound tourism.

The government will increase various investments in public infrastructure with the aim of stimulating domestic demand and revitalising the economy. The preliminary 2023 budgeted amount under the heading Investments and Development Expenses of the Administration is MOP 22.3 billion.

Regarding support for the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, the chief executive said that the government will continue to help them grasp the opportunities arising from the development of the non-gaming business sector.

The government will enrich Macao's function as "One Centre" for integrated tourism and leisure, while facilitating the development of a modern financial services; high technology; and conferences and exhibitions, commerce and trade, and culture and sports.

The government also aims gradually to increase the non-gaming sector's contribution to Macao's gross domestic product to about 60 per cent in future.

2. Enhancing infrastructure construction and jointly build a liveable, smart city

The government will commence detailed urban planning for Outer Harbour Area-1, Outer Harbour Area-2, and Northern District-1. It is expected that the link connecting Hengqin Checkpoint to the University of Macau will be completed by the second half of 2023, along with the Barra terminal of the Light Rapid Transit (LRT) system. The government will expedite the construction of the Seac Pai Van Line, the Hengqin Line, and the East Line of the LRT, and press ahead with the completion of the Central Testing Building of the Islands Medical Complex.

Ho Iat Seng also said that the government will work towards ensuring implementation of the carbon peak and carbon neutrality policies set by the central government, by requesting the city's bus operators to phase out the "Euro IV"-standard public buses.

The government will strive to complete documents regarding maritime zoning and planning of maritime areas, as well as work on legislation regarding the uses of maritime areas.

3. Measures to benefit people's well-being and improve social well-being and livelihoods

The government will continue implementing various welfare measures and temporary incentives on tax, as implemented during 2022, to ensure no reduction in resources for education, healthcare, livelihoods, and social welfare.

Ho Iat Seng said that the government will safeguard the prioritising of employment for local citizens by continuing the Subsidised Training Scheme and the online job matching platform; and will flexibly adjust the number of non-resident workers in Macao, in response to market conditions.

The government among other initiatives will facilitate the construction of the Venceslau de Morais and New Urban Zone Area A public housing projects; launch a new round of applications for the Home-Ownership Scheme Housing; complete the research on the Avenida Wai Long sandwich-class housing scheme and the related legal system; complete the project to construct a housing complex for the elderly; and allocate, via public tender, suitable land for private buildings.

The government will also improve the quality of medical services; improve services for the elderly and support policy matters relating to women and children.

The chief executive also told deputies in the Legislative Assembly that the government will gradually promote a market-orientated development of the tertiary education sector, and improve the infrastructure for non-tertiary education. The government will formulate plans to build an aggregate of eight schools and one education centre in New Urban Zone Area A.

4. Furthering public administration reform to continuously improve governance capacity

The government will step up efforts regarding public administration reform. This includes clarifying public departments' areas of competence and their obligations, and optimising the distribution of functions. They will also review and perform any necessary re-organisation of public administration structure, while also intensifying e-governance development.

Additionally, it has plans to start issuing in the fourth quarter of 2023 next-generation Macao identity cards.

The chief executive mentioned increased efforts to coordinate the promotion of legislative work, and to strengthen regional and international legal and judicial cooperation, while maintaining judicial independence.

5. Unswervingly safeguarding national security and maintaining social stability

The government will further strengthen the sense of a holistic view of national security, while staying highly vigilant in terms of safeguarding the sovereignty, safety, and development interests of the nation, and firmly preventing any attempts by external forces to intervene in Macao's internal affairs.

The government will continue the publicity and education work regarding the Constitution of the People's Republic of China, the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR), and the Law on Safeguarding National Security, with an aim to strengthen patriotic forces.

Also in 2023, government will strengthen the use of technology to police and enhance cyber security monitoring; promote civil protection reform and implement the new version of the Civil Protection Master Plan.



Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng and President of the Legislative Assembly Kou Hoi In at the 2023 Policy Address

6. Firmly advancing the development of Hengqin, better integrate Macao into national development

The year 2023 will be of great importance in terms of realisation of the first phase of construction development of the Cooperation Zone.

The MSAR government will work closely with the Guangdong government to press ahead with advancement of the integration, in the Cooperation Zone, of legal systems and mechanisms. The two sides will complete in stages the comprehensive legislative work for the Cooperation Zone.

In addition to ties with Hengqin, Macao will assist in deepening the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

7. Persevering in Covid-19 prevention and control, and building a robust disease-prevention system

Ho Iat Seng said that government consolidated its experience in dealing with epidemic situations during the "18 June" outbreak. The government will enhance the city's epidemic prevention and control capabilities; optimise the infectious disease prevention and control facilities; perfect regional joint prevention and control; and continue strengthening the epidemic prevention system. The Public Health Specialist Building is expected to be inaugurated in 2023, to provide strong support for the prevention and control of infectious disease.

In 2023, the government will continue to increase the Covid-19 vaccination rate, especially for the elderly and children. Macao will continue to ensure normalisation of epidemic prevention and control on three major fronts, namely the city's boundaries, in medical institutions, and within the community.

"The motherland was always the backbone for Macao, introducing various preferential policies and measures to support Macao's development", he added.

Ho Iat Seng also said that the government would spare no effort in seizing opportunities arising from the country's development and persist in accelerating adequate economic diversification.

"Macao will proactively take part in the country's new phase of development; pragmatically promote advances in the Cooperation Zone and give better play to Macao's role in the country's development" said the chief executive. ●



Lei Heong leong

Macao's six current gaming operators granted new concessions

The new concessions will run for ten years, and urge operators to diversify their offerings – in line with the city's goal of becoming a World Centre for Tourism and Leisure.

Text Christian Ritter and Gonçalo César de Sá

All six of Macao's current gaming operators have been granted a provisional 10-year gaming concession, the local government announced in late November. Under the terms of the new concessions, all operators must take steps to develop non-gaming activities – such as sports, culture, health and tourism – and to protect the city's residential labour force.

MGM Grand Paradise, Galaxy Casino, Venetian Macau, Melco Resorts (Macao), Wynn Resorts (Macao) and SJM Resorts will continue to operate over the next decade. A seventh bid,

made by Malaysian operator Genting was rejected.

The announcement was made in an executive order signed by Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng, gazetted on 26 November. Three of the local government's five policy secretaries – Secretary for Administration and Justice André Cheong Weng Chon, Secretary for Economy and Finance Lei Wei Nong and Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Elsie Ao Ieong U – held a press conference on the same day.

Each concessionaire's bid for a new licence was rigorously graded, while the exact scorings were not made public, Cheong revealed that

non-gaming activities proposed by bidders received the highest weighting in the evaluation of the tender proposals. He also said that attracting the international market was a big factor in the tender, something all gaming operators incorporated into their plans.

During the bidding process, which kicked off on 29 July, Macao's gaming operators were offered tax incentives to attract international tourists. Foreign tourists have generally been barred from entering Macao since early 2020, due to the government's Covid-19 control and prevention measures. Mainland Chinese, Hongkongers and Taiwanese accounted for about 90 per cent of Macao's visitor arrivals even before Macao confirmed its first Covid-19 cases in January 2020.

Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Elsie Ao Ieong U said that for the tender, bidders needed to present concrete proposals on 11 different business development aspects their operations would include – such as promoting sports and other non-gaming

activities, and improving Macao's international image as a World Centre of Tourism and Leisure. The latter is a specific aim the Central People's Government has for Macao.

Cheong said that details between the concessionaires and the government will be worked out before the end of December. The casinos will be handed to the government in December, which will return them to concessionaires in time for operations to commence on 1 January 2023. Unlike conventional business licences, Macao's gaming concessions grant the government considerable leeway over how the city's casinos are run.

Together, the six operators are expected to invest MOP 100 billion into Macao's economy over the next decade – a significant financial gain for the city. All bidders were required to propose detailed action plans, such as annual investments they would put into the local market.

"We want to attract international tourists and business," said Cheong.

"It's not healthy to depend on a single industry, we need to diversify and broaden our appeal to international markets."

Cheong hinted the government was optimistic that the pandemic would end soon, allowing the six gaming operators to return to "normality". "Of course, we are still facing Covid-19 measures, but the pandemic will eventually be over," he said.

Cheong said that satellite casinos may reopen their doors early next year, depending on negotiations with the concessionaires, Junket operations may also restart, but would be more strictly controlled in future.

"Macao's satellite casinos and gaming junkets were not forbidden by Macao's amended gaming law," he confirmed.

So-called 'satellite casinos' are run by third parties in cooperation with a gaming concessionaire. Junkets assist concessionaires in their gaming business. ●

The committee for gaming concessions public tender holds a press conference at the Government Headquarters

(Opposite page) Macao's famous Cotai strip is a destination for entertainment, fine dining and much more





Ng Chi Yui

Current and future LRT lines			
Lines	Operational	Length	Stations
Taipa	2019	9.3 Km	11
Barra	2023	3.4 Km	2
Seac Pai Van	2024	1.6 Km	2
Hengqin	2024	2.2 Km	2
East Line	2028	7.7 Km	6



Courtesy of Public Works Bureau

New LRT East Line set to be running in 2028

Plans are shaping up for Macao's East Line, which requires a significant portion to be built underwater. The new metro, starting near the Gongbei Border Gate, will be a boon for commuters and tourists from the mainland.

Text **Gonçalo César de Sá**

Tenders are now open for parts of the Light Rail Transit (LRT) East Line. A few days before the official gazette announcement, published in October, Public Works Bureau Director Lam Wai Hou announced that the much anticipated new track was set to be completed in 2028. It will make for a swift 15-minute journey between the Gongbei Border Gate – which is mainlanders' primary

point of entry into Macao – and the Cotai Strip in Taipa. Around 23,000 people make that commute daily, which currently can take up to an hour in heavily congested traffic.

Engineering firms interested in constructing either the 2.9-kilometre northern segment or 4.8-kilometre southern segment of the East Line have until 15 February 2023 to submit proposals to the government.

While no budget has been estimated, applicants must pay MOP

120-130 million to be considered for the tender and their work must be completed within four years of a contract being signed.

The successful firm's biggest challenge will be a 3.1-kilometre-long underwater tunnel, according to engineers contacted by *Macao* magazine. Building it will require a thorough understanding of the sea's movements and tides, the seabed, and suitable construction materials. The 900-metre tunnel currently being built for the new LRT connecting Cotai to Hengqin could serve as a model for the East Line, the engineers suggested.

The new track will include six underground stations, three of them in the

future Zone A residential area. Covering 138 hectares of reclaimed land near the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, Zone A will be home to at least 100,000 residents after completion, also slated for 2028.

Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng recently announced that the central government will lease land in Zhuhai to the Macao government, allowing for future extension of the East Line all the way to the Qingmao checkpoint in Ilha Verde. This will allow the East Line's first station to be built closer to the Gongbei Border Gate – shortening the walking distance between station and checkpoint by 65 metres.

(Inset) The Barra Station and line, scheduled for completion in 2023, will connect the existing Taipa Line to the Macao peninsula



Xinhua News Agency

Workers test the Zhenxing High-Speed Train tunnel boring machine

(Opposite page) The two segments of the East Line converge in Zone A, a reclaimed residential area expected to house at least 100,000 people

Three other LRT lines are currently under construction in Macao: the Seac Pai Van Line, the Hengqin Line and the Barra Line, which will connect the existing Taipa Line to the Macao peninsula.

Macao's government has implied a northern line may also be on the cards, running the length of Macao peninsula to connect Barra (in the southwest of the peninsula) with the Gongbei Border Gate (in the north).

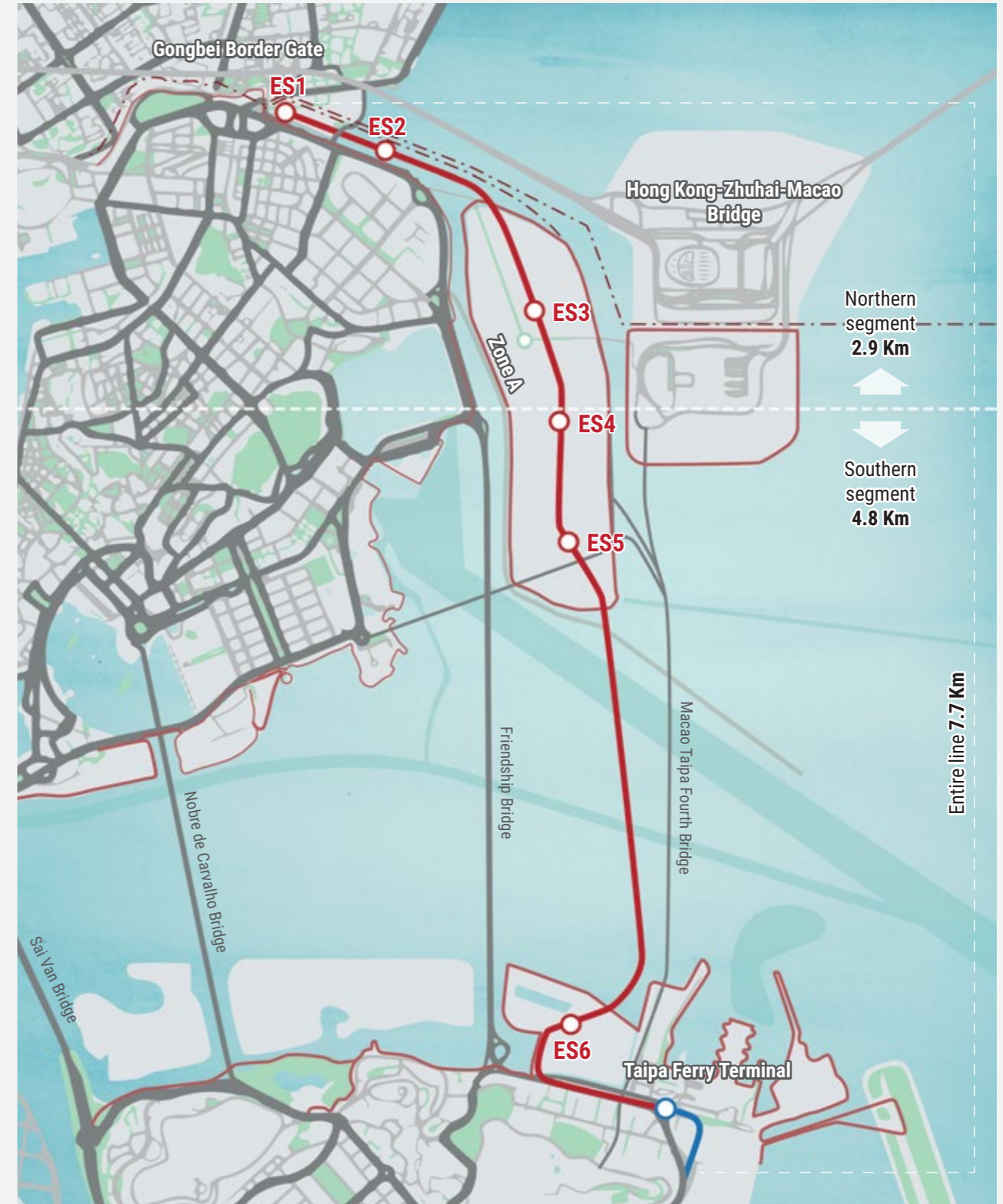
The Taipa Line, Macao's first LRT line, has been in operation since December 2019. Construction of the 9.3-kilometre-long, 11-station line took seven years, something officials hope to avoid with the East Line by splitting the construction between two tenders, which may also keep costs down.

Initially, the LRT transported around 33,000 passengers per day. Then the Covid-19 pandemic hit Macao in January 2020 and by 2021, that figure had

dropped to more like 2,000. Ridership is expected to increase to around 137,000 passengers per day in 2028, as the completion of the East Line brings Macao's LRT to 24 kilometres and 16 stations.

MTR (Macao), a subsidiary of Hong Kong's major public transport network MTR, currently runs Macao's LRT system while Mitsubishi handles the signals, communication systems, power supply facilities, track construction, platform doors, fare charge machines and most importantly the carriages running on the LRT.

Macao is set to see massive improvements in its infrastructure system over the next few years and the expansion of the LRT system will alleviate congestion across the city's roads and make for an easier place to navigate both for locals and tourists. ●



Local NGO gives Macao's youth a voice at UN's 27th climate conference

Macao's first Local Conference of Youth was a wake up call for many, and offered bold solutions to "protect our only home and future."

Text **Amanda Saxton**

Macao's youth had a voice at the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27), thanks to local NGO Genervision House. Genervision House organised Macao's first Local Conference of Youth (LCOY) to take place via Zoom in October, with the aim of empowering young people to combat climate change. The two-day virtual event was part of a broader United Nations (UN) initiative taking place in cities around the world, each culminating in a "collective climate change position statement".

"Most of us have never thought about how we can cope with climate change and contribute ourselves," said Genervision House co-founder Christy Un, in her opening speech on day one of the LCOY. "We need more people to pay attention to this issue, to find better solutions."

Un painted a gloomy picture of climate-forward thinking in Macao today. She said responsible production and consumption were "regressing", and highlighted damage wrought by 2017's Typhoon Hato – which killed 16 people in the Greater Bay Area – as an example of what extreme weather looks like for the city. For anyone

Image courtesy of Genervision House



tempted to write Hato off as an outlier, Un pointed out that three out of the seven Signal No. 10 typhoons hitting Macao since 1968 have occurred within the past five years. Rising global temperatures, a hallmark of climate change, are known to make extreme weather events like typhoons more frequent.

Almost 200 people attended the LCOY, just under half of them university students. Nineteen per cent of attendees were secondary school students, and the rest were working professionals. The event featured 11 speakers

with backgrounds in law, climate activism, business and academia. They addressed topics ranging from plastic waste, to corporate responsibility, to carbon neutrality. There was general consensus that the city could do more to minimise the effects of climate change, especially when compared with the mainland and other middle-to-high income parts of the world.

Raising awareness around what climate change means for Macao was a major theme, as was how individuals, corporations and the government can step up. One

of the speakers, teaching director in geography for Sacred Heart Canossian College Danny Lu, spoke of his students' disconnect from the climate: most "just find themselves happy to get a typhoon holiday," he said. Un said tiny Macao tended to be "a passive city when facing climate change", relying on bigger players to dictate its future. "We should regard Macao as a city that contributes to rather than just participates in the system," said a third.

Fifty-eight of the conference's participants co-wrote their collective climate change position statement on day two of the LCOY. Genervision House then submitted this statement to the COP27 negotiations, which drew more than 100 world leaders to Egypt in late November. It allowed the youth of Macao's unique perspective to be heard alongside views from all over the world.

The position statement was broken down into five sections: action for climate empowerment; climate adaptation; climate change, cities and health; renewable energy; and green industry. Each offered concrete solutions for perceived problems.

The first section noted that while "there is rich biodiversity in Macao with relatively easy access", many locals were detached from or oblivious to it. Improving people's connection to Macao's natural environment could inspire changes in their behaviour, the report proposed. By making them more aware of how rising temperatures and pollution impact native floral and fauna, for example.

The statement urged Macao's government to "promote

environmentally friendly behaviour through education and financial incentives". Funding clubs that facilitate nature-based activities and collaborate with schools was one action suggested. Others included subsidising public transport, introducing policies that encourage recycling, and creating a "one-stop-shop platform for climate information" that published regular progress reports on Macao's efforts towards combating climate change.

In terms of measures the city could take to prepare for increasingly extreme weather, the statement called for nature-based solutions (NBSs) to be incorporated into Macao's existing disaster prevention plans. Mangroves are an example of an NBS for tidal flood control (they also absorb carbon and boost biodiversity). The so-called 'sponge city' model – a Chinese invention – is an NBS for flooding due to rainfall, where excess water is captured, contained, and repurposed through the likes of permeable pavements and underground storage tanks.

The statement said more academic research needs to go into which climate adaptation measures were best suited to Macao, including how people could live both comfortably and sustainably with more extreme temperatures. It noted that buildings constructed without consideration for the climate emit excessive carbon through inefficient heating and cooling. Developing and enforcing green building standards was one way to future-proof the city, according to the statement.

Along with incentivising greener construction, the statement proposed developing the city's 'brownfields' (abandoned tracts of land) into public greenspaces that would act as carbon sinks. It also wanted to make

Macao more pedestrian and bike-friendly, as cars are a major source of carbon emissions.

The statement acknowledged that China Southern Power Grid (which supplies the bulk of Macao's electricity) already uses 50 per cent renewable energy. It also praised the government for running bus stop signs off solar power, but urged it to expand its use of locally generated solar power. The statement suggested making rooftop solar panels mandatory for new builds.

Its final part linked the greening of industries to the broadening of Macao's job market (a local government goal). Currently, the statement said, the public's understanding of what being a green business means is limited. "Many incorrectly think that it is just a traditional industry that has a direct connection to the sale of eco-friendly products and the provision of clean energy," it read. A more accurate definition is that a business is green if it strives to minimise its negative impact on the environment. If more industries in Macao took that approach, there would be more job opportunities in fields such as waste management, environmental science, renewable energy, landscape architecture and sustainability.

The collective statement – edited by Genervision House – was unequivocal in its urgency. "It is clear that the older generations have failed to protect the planet, and the youth will have to pay with their futures," it read. "As the largest generation of youth in history and leaders of tomorrow, we have to scale up our efforts to protect our only home and our future." ●



Owl Man co-founders Daniel McAulay and Rebecca Fellini pose alongside their custom-made copper still, nicknamed 'Stuart'

FOOD AND DRINK

Owl Man: Infusing the spirit of Macao

The founders of Macao's first homegrown gin label, Owl Man, see the city as an ideal place to make this botanically-infused spirit. And they added local flavour.

Text **Miguel Luigi Enriquez**
Photos **António Sanmarful**

The UK has Gordon's, Japan has Roku, and Germany has Monkey 47. Now, however, you can order your Tom Collins or classic G&T with gin that's been made right here in Macao. Enter Owl Man, a craft distillery that bottled its first batch of commercial gin in October.

Owl Man's husband and wife co-founders Daniel McAulay and Rebeca Fellini, both long-time Macao residents, believe they've captured the city's own botanically-infused spirit in a bottle.

McAulay hails from New Zealand, a country known for its world-class craft distilleries and breweries. These are independent businesses combining traditional techniques with creativity to make small, high-value batches of spirits and beer. McAulay, however, is a pilot by trade, who moved to Macao in 2010 to work for a local airline. "I don't come from a distilling background at all," he admits. "But I am from New Zealand, which is a very do-it-yourself country."

In 2014, missing the craft beer of home, McAulay brewed his own in Macao. He tried out various flavours and varieties and grateful friends approved of his efforts. But McAulay wasn't thinking about founding an alcohol brand; his brewing was just a hobby.

That changed in 2019, along with what he was making. McAulay felt ready for a new challenge: spirits. He says he decided on gin because it was easier to make than whiskey, and is his Brazilian-born wife's favourite spirit. Fellini is Owl Man's head distiller, making the latter point especially important.

Also important was the fact that the mainland grows some of the world's highest quality botanicals – plants valued for their therapeutic properties, flavours, and smell. These are an integral part of gin. “We have access to some of the best-quality stuff for a fraction of the price,” says McAulay, who sensed a commercial opportunity.

Macao's own history of using medicinal herbs from around the world also seemed auspicious. McAulay sees the city as a natural home for a gin distillery. And thinks it's about time Macao had its own gin label.

Deciding what to call his label took some thought. McAulay and Fellini eventually settled on Owl Man, which sounds like the anglicised pronunciation of the Mandarin word for Macao: 澳門 or aomen.

GIN'S MEDICINAL HISTORY

Gin's earliest form likely dates back to the 11th century, when Benedictine monks in southern Italy preserved juniper berries – the spirit's defining ingredient – in alcohol distilled from wheat or barley. According to Difford's Guide, considered the authoritative publication on cocktails, the monks likely used juniper berries' medicinal properties to soothe the likes of gallstones and kidney problems.

By the 1800s, gin had migrated to what was then the British Indian Empire where it helped cure a different ailment: malaria. Though in this case, quinine – a bitter medicine made from the bark of cinchona trees – was the actual cure. To mask quinine's unpalatable taste, people mixed it with carbonated water, sugar, lime juice and gin. The original gin and tonic. Tiny quantities of quinine give today's tonic water its slightly bitter taste and account for its name; a 'tonic' is a health-giving liquid.

Gin's popularity has waxed and waned over the centuries. Its classic form has long been a sought-after base for cocktails, but the past decade has seen a rise in innovative takes on the spirit. It's currently incredibly trendy. There's pink gin, infused with the likes of raspberries and rhubarb. Clear gin flavoured with apple and nutmeg. And gins that look and taste familiar, but are made with special techniques and unexpected botanicals. The options are endless for artisanal makers like McAulay and Fellini.

REFINING THE RECIPE

Owl Man describes its debut gin as celebrating Macao's history as an international crossroads, through melding locally and globally sourced botanicals. The crucial juniper berries are from Hungary. Two distinctive roots come from the highest mountains of Gansu province, in the mainland. Angelica root is simultaneously sweet, bitter and earthy; liquorice root tastes light and fresh, and not like confectionary liquorice at all. From Guinea-Bissau come grains of paradise, a minty

pepper with hints of lavender. Then cardamom, rose, grapefruit, and dried tangerine peel add layers of complexity. And Macao's very own lotus flower is in there too.

While this sounds like a rambunctious party of flavours, the resulting spirit is understated and nuanced. In the two years McAulay and Fellini spent perfecting their recipe, they experimented with hundreds of botanical combinations – including “a couple of really strange ones,” according to McAulay.

He promises his gin works well for the home mixologist. “It can be hard to find a nice tonic in Macao, so you're pretty much stuck with what's in the fridge,” McAulay says. “We've designed [Owl Man] so you can get yourself any tonic, pour it in, and you'll have yourself a really good gin and tonic.”

For those who prefer the spirit neat, you can expect a zesty citrus aroma followed by a burst of juniper. Hints of woodiness from the angelica and liquorice roots make their way through, and the experience ends with a second dose of citrus.

(Opposite page) Grains of paradise and dried tangerine peel add to the gin's complex yet understated flavour profile

Developed with home mixologists in mind, Owl Man gin is the perfect complement to any tonic



**WHERE OWL MAN'S MADE,
AND WHERE TO FIND IT**

Owl Man gin is made in Pac On, in a 1,000-square-foot space within an industrial building. The hero of operations is, of course, a copper still. It's custom-made, highly efficient, and dubbed 'Stuart' after the one-eyed Minion. McAulay says that Owl Man's gin distillery is one of only about 10 in the world that can switch between the traditional maceration process, and a faster method using vapour infusion.

McAulay and Fellini make their double-distilled gin using a highly concentrated neutral alcohol made from cassava. The first distillation infuses it with juniper and select botanicals by maceration, a process similar to steeping a tea bag in hot water. More botanicals are added, before the brew is distilled a second time via vapour infusion, which ensures a delicate, aromatic result.

Scan the QR code below to learn more about Owl Man's mission:



(Insets, left to right) Daniel McAulay first began brewing spirits in 2019; Rebeca Fellini, McAulay's wife and co-founder, also serves as head distiller

The iconic Ruins of St Paul's on the label is yet another example of Owl Man's hometown pride



“

If Macao became the city with 'that good gin', that would be an awesome dream.

– Daniel McAulay

The young business plans to sell its 500ml bottles at local supermarkets and bars. McAulay says Owl Man Gin will be “more expensive than a bottle of Bombay Sapphire but cheaper than Monkey 47”; somewhere between MOP 300 and 400. Smaller bottles – 100ml and 50ml – will be available in hotel minibars and for travellers to buy as souvenirs from Macao. Owl Man has signed an agreement with one of Macao's integrated resorts and has several special projects in the works. One is a custom blend created exclusively for the Grand Coloane Resort: Quarantine Survivor Gin.

McAulay says he's planning a 'staycation' somewhere in Macao for the thrill of seeing local liquor in a hotel room's minibar. “I don't see this as my contribution to Macao, but I see it as something that Macao should have,” he explains. “Scotland has scotch and America has bourbon. If Macao became the city with 'that good gin', that would be an awesome dream.” ●



Q&A

Janet McNab on AustCham: networking, Australia Day and moustaches

The Australian-born, long-time Asia resident is in charge of two Marriott hotels in Macao, one of them the city's largest. At the same time, she is getting Macao's newest Chamber of Commerce up and running. It's all in a day's work for Janet McNab.

Text Ed Peters

A high-flying career has taken Italian-Australian hotelier Janet McNab to some of Asia's most glamorous destinations, including Bali, Phuket and Kuala Lumpur. She's been based in Macao since 2015, holding senior positions at the Sheraton Grand Macao and The St. Regis Macao. She's currently the multi-property vice-president for both. McNab is also very involved with the Australian Chamber of Commerce (AustCham) and took over as chair of its board of directors last March. Describing herself as a "tenacious super driver", McNab takes *Macao* magazine through her plans for AustCham and its role in the city.

What is AustCham, and how did you first get involved?

The Australian Chamber (AustCham) exists to promote economic, commercial, business and person-to-person connections between Australia

and Macao. We officially launched in January 2019 but unfortunately the Covid-19 pandemic hit Macao soon after, which led to a lot of our plans being delayed.

Whenever I move countries or cities for a new job, I always get involved with local chambers. It's a great way to learn about the city but also a way I can give back. On a personal note, I am happy to give my time to AustCham and I am especially happy if it's raising money for good causes.

How does being the youngest chamber in Macao play to your advantage?

Our goal at AustCham is to differentiate ourselves from other chambers with an innovative approach. Because we are new, we are more open to trying new things – and there is a certain fresh energy within the board. We also don't have much of a 'history', so we haven't had time to get stuck in our ways.

Luisa Bragança, Eddie McDougall, Keith Buckley, Janet McNab, Christiana Leong, Patrick Liu and Renee Chisolm (from left to right) pose for a photo at the International Women's Day event held at The St. Regis Macao on 8 March 2022

What types of events does AustCham host, and who attends?

We kick off the year with Australia Day, which celebrates Australia's official national day on 26 January. This year's event included a barbecue, live music and a lucky draw at the Grand Hyatt Hotel. It drew almost 200 people, including Macao Government Tourism Office Director Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes.

Earlier this year, on 8 March, we co-organised a joint luncheon with the British Chamber of Commerce for International Women's Day, featuring inspirational speakers. We raised about MOP 130,000 for the Sisters of the Good Shepherd [a non-governmental, organisation in Macao that provides women and girls who have been victims of domestic

violence for example, with support] and almost 200 people attended the lunch.

Throughout the year, we try to line up an informative range of guest speakers – not only for Australians, but for anyone in Macao. We cover how to do business in Australia, and other topics. Obviously the pandemic has been topical, and tourism is topical, as is what the gaming concessionaires have to deliver here. It's a little bit of everything, and everyone around the table has input. Our September speaker was Michelle Garnaut, the dynamic Australian lady who started the restaurant M on the Bund in Shanghai.

The bulk of attendees are local SMEs [small-to-medium sized enterprises], expatriates who have set up their own SMEs here as residents, and then the bigger corporations.



All images on this page courtesy of AustCham Macau

Can you tell us about 'Movember' and how you brought it to Macao?

Movember is, essentially, people sponsoring men to grow moustaches (the more outlandish the better) during November – hence 'Movember'. At the end of the month that money gets donated to charities supporting men's health initiatives, such as testicular cancer research. Movember is all about raising awareness on issues around men's wellbeing, both mental or physical. The concept of 'Movember' started in Australia, appropriately enough.

AustCham ran a number of Movember events this year. For example, Dr Brian Tomlinson [an internal medicine specialist and professor at Macau University of Science and Technology] spoke at an AustCham lunch, addressing a lot of men's health issues.

We also hosted a trivia night at the end of November, bringing together more than 120 people at the China Rouge club. All money raised went to the Associação de Reabilitação de Toxicod dependentes de Macau



(ARTM), which has a specific section for men's health. Next year we hope to get more men growing moustaches for the cause.

I thought the trivia night was a fantastic way to finish off our inaugural Movember campaign. Doing something for the first time is always hard, but it was really successful. One of the surprises was how competitive people were – it doesn't matter how old you are, people's competitive natures always come through in these types of quizzes. Quizzes never date!

The award for best-dressed team went to "The Rosie's" for their portrayal of the famous Rosie the Riveter in the iconic "We Can Do It" poster

(Top) The Movember Trivia Night judges worked quickly to score the evening's 120 participants during the evening's six rounds



Courtesy of AustCham Macau and BritCham Macao



António Sanmarful

Why should people become AustCham members?

Friendship is the first thing: we've got a nice distribution of people at AustCham. Just in our board, for example, we've got a couple of gentlemen from concessionaires, we've got hoteliers, we've got winemakers, we've got a medical expert, an IT expert, and finance guys.

AustCham provides opportunities for people to get together and network. To sit down and chat face-to-face, which despite the advent of

technology is more relevant than ever. Plus Macao is small; we offer a chance to listen and learn and do things of a diverse nature. There are many discounts too, but ultimately it's the opportunity to connect with people.

What big plans do you have for AustCham in the years ahead?

I think there is an opportunity to build an alumni association for Macao people and residents who've studied at Australian universities. It could encourage Macao people to study in Australia, and even Australians to study in Macao. Through it, we can help grow the talent pool in Macao and support the government in its bid to diversify the economy.

How has working in Asia for so many years influenced you as a person?

Leaving Australia and working away from home for as long as I have, the key thing is learning to embrace globalisation. Every destination teaches you something new. I have become more patient but also, I have become culturally sensitive. It is a privilege to have had this experience.

What do you love about living in Macao, and what do you miss about Australia?

I love my job here, the food and the people - although I can hands down say I miss the weather in Australia, and my family of course. ●



The House of Macao Literature is now open

Opening Hours: 10:00-18:00. Last admission no later than 17:30. Closed on Monday. Open on public holidays.



SPORTS

Macao's Andy Chang wins the 2022 Grand Prix Formula 4 race

Macao's beloved Grand Prix is almost back its old self, with foreign drivers and motorbikes returning after a two-year hiatus.





Text **Gonçalo César de Sá**

Andy Chang after the victory in the F4 race

(Opposite page) Andy Chang driving to victory

The 2022 Macau Grand Prix (MGP) signalled the city's roaring return to international car racing, albeit with Formula 4 cars rather than the pre-pandemic Formula 3. After two years of strict Covid-19 restrictions, foreign drivers were allowed back into Macao to compete in the 69th MGP – after completing seven days of quarantine. The finals took place in the sun, over the second to last weekend of November. Event organisers said about 76,000 people – mostly locals – attended.

Homegrown driver Wing Chung 'Andy' Chang beat Hong Kong's 16-year-old entrant Gerrard Xie and two-time champion Charles Leong

Hon Chio to win the main event: the 2022 Formula 4 MGP. "Everything was perfect," the 26-year-old said of his victory. Chang drove a French-made Mygale SARL M14-F4 and averaged 148.6 kmph over his 12 laps of the 6.12 kilometre-Guia Circuit.

Macao driver Filipe de Souza, 46, made history as the first local to win the Macau Guia Race, avoiding a nasty crash that damaged four of his competitors' cars in the final lap. "During the race, I was a little worried as a safety car had been dispatched many times to disrupt my rhythm and with the car behind getting closer to me," Souza said afterwards.

“

Everything was perfect.

– Wing Chung 'Andy' Chang

The drivers competed in six races, named for their concessionaire sponsors: the Sands China Formula 4 Macau Grand Prix, the Galaxy Entertainment Macau GT Cup, the Wynn Macau Guia Race, the MGM Macau Touring Car Cup, the Melco Greater Bay Area GT Cup and SJM Macau Roadsport Challenge.

The 54th Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix also took place over the weekend, back from a two-year hiatus. Finnish rider Erno Juhani Kostamo took the championship, his third attempt, riding a BMW S1000RR. The 31-year-old was the first non-British person to win since 1997.

German driver Maro Engel won the Macau GT Cup in a Mercedes-AMG GT3 EVO, representing the Hong Kong-based Craft-Bamboo Racing team. "It was a fantastic win," the 37-year-old said. "We'd come close, we'd had lots of success, but we were missing a big win, so I'm really glad to deliver this big win today for Craft-Bamboo Racing and for Mercedes AMG." It was Engel's 8th time competing in the MGP and his third Macau GT Cup victory.





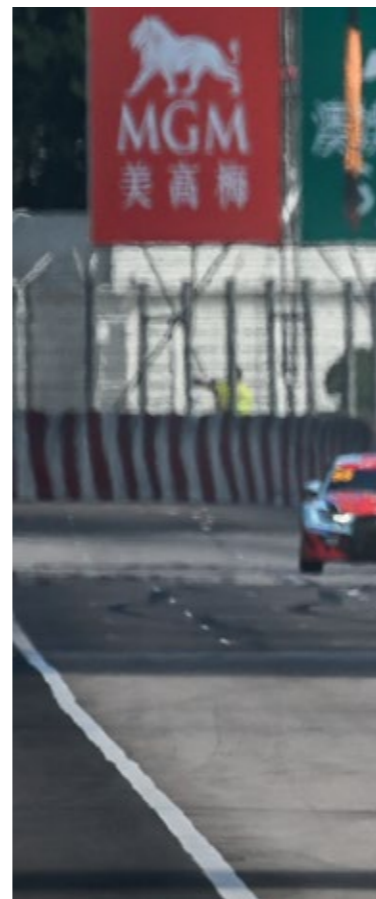
The 35-year-old Swiss-Italian-French driver Edoardo Mortara finished behind him, representing Audi Sport Asia Team Absolute. Hong Kong-based Alexandre Imperatori, a 34-year-old from Switzerland, came third in a Porsche 911 GT3 R for Toro Racing.

MACAU GRAND PRIX: WHERE WORLD FAMOUS DRIVERS BEGIN

The first MGP, held in 1954, was meant to be a motorised treasure hunt organised by three resident car fanatics. But it quickly morphed into a sports car race inspired by Monaco's famous Grand Prix. The race proved popular enough to draw

contestants year after year and in 1966, was won by the professional Belgian driver Mauro Bianchi in an Alpine A220. Bianchi's win put the race on the map, and attracted more professional entrants in years to come. The motorcycle race was introduced in 1967.

Over the '70s and '80s, the illustrious Dutch-Indonesian business mogul Teddy Yip turned the MGP into one of the world's best known motor racing events. It became a Formula 3 fixture in 1983 and has since attracted top drivers from around the globe - becoming a stepping stone to Formula 2 championships and Formula 1 championships.



Finland's Erno Kostamo (no. 38) back to Macao to win the 54th Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix

(Left) Macao driver Filipe de Souza wins Macau Guia race

(Opposite page) Around 76,000 spectators in the Macau Grand Prix



German Maro Engel (no. 77) wins Macau GT Cup

Many famous Formula 1 racers have competed in the MGP. Its first ever Formula 3 race was won by a young Ayrton Senna, a Brazilian driver who went on to become a Formula 1 champion. In 1990, the legendary German driver Michael Schumacher battled Finnish racing hero Mika Häkkinen in Macao. Their cars touched as Häkkinen attempted to overtake Schumacher, who swerved to prevent his rival from getting ahead. The German ended up winning – minus his rear wing.

Other notable MGP winners include Formula 1 drivers David Coulthard (British), Ralf Schumacher (German), and Takuma Sato (Japanese).

The last time an MGP winner won a Formula 1 race was in 1995. However, three drivers who competed in the MGP during the 2010s have gone on to win Formula 1 races: Valtteri Bottas (Finnish) in 2011, Max Verstappen (Belgian-Dutch) in 2014, and Charles Leclerc (Monégasque) in 2015. ●

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE 23RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MACAO SAR



SPORTS

How Master Lei brought Chen-style tai chi to Macao

For four decades, Master Lei Man Iam has championed the Chen school of tai chi, which he himself introduced to Macao in the late 1980s. Today, it's one of the most enduring martial arts in the city – bringing strength and serenity to people of all ages.



Text **Vivianna Cheong**
Photos **Lei Heong Ieong**

(Below) In 1954, Wu-style tai chi master Wu Kung-i battled Chan Hak Fu, Macao's master of white crane quan, inspiring Lei Man Iam to pursue martial arts

It's tempting to write tai chi off as a healthy hobby for the elderly, who are undoubtedly its most visible practitioners. You see them in public parks, perfectly poised. Their posture is upright, their faces serene. Their hands move like slow-motion doves, sometimes wielding swords or sabres. But this ancient martial art is more than a way to stave off arthritis. Unlike its more combative cousin Shaolin kung fu, tai chi is considered an internal martial arts form prioritising a meditative synchronisation of mind, body and spirit. Practitioners are urged to focus on their *qi*, or energy flow.

A Taoist monk named Zhang San Feng is widely believed to have formalised its practice in the 13th century, though tai chi's roots date even further back. Different styles have evolved over time and there are currently five recognised schools of tai chi: Chen, Yang, Wu, Hao and Sun, each named after its founder. While their moves and forms differ, their basic philosophy is the same: balancing *yin* and *yang*. The schools share an emphasis on controlled breathing and movement, and yielding to and redirecting incoming blows, rather than meeting attacks with opposing force.

Tai chi was taught behind closed doors for centuries, and didn't start spreading throughout China until the early 20th century. Masters from the north – where tai chi was more widely practised – started moving south and influencing *nanquan* martial artists, whose practice involved short-range hitting with fists. As martial

arts clubs began organising more demonstrations and combats, tai chi's popularity in China's south increased. Wu-style's founder's grandson, Wu Kung-i, even relocated the Wu school's headquarters to Hong Kong.

A consequential battle took place in January, 1954: Wu-style tai chi master Wu Kung-i versus Chan Hak Fu, Macao's master of white crane quan (a fist-fighting technique that imitates a bird's pecking beak and flapping wings). The combat took place in a special ring built atop Macao's Estoril Swimming Pool and drew intense media attention. Among the many excited onlookers was a 9-year-old boy named Lei Man Iam. Decades later, he'd become the president of the Association of Martial Arts Masters of Macau and a champion of Chen-style tai chi, which at that time did not exist in Macao.



COMING UP IN THE GOLDEN ERA

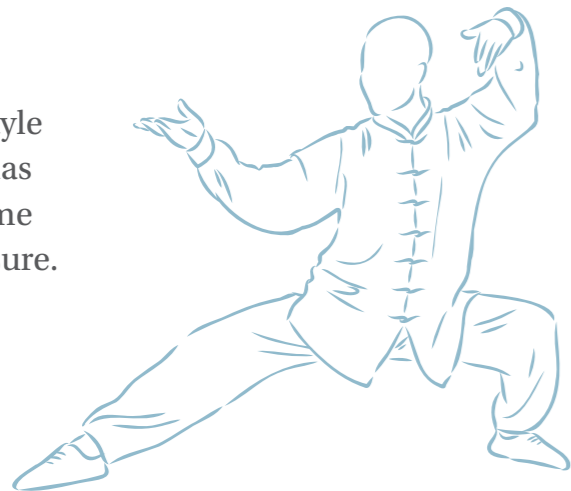
Lei was first exposed to martial arts through his grandfather, a vegetable farmer from northern Macao, who taught him some basic kung fu moves for self-defence. When his school began offering free kung fu classes, an eager Lei signed up immediately. “My first martial arts teacher called his style of kung fu ‘Choy Li Fut’ [a martial arts style combining skills from southern and northern traditions],” remembers Lei. “He didn’t say much about its history, and we never dared to ask. We practised what we were told, such as fist work, footwork, weapon usage and combat skills. It was very practical.”

After a few years, 14-year-old Lei was selected to be his teacher’s assistant. Two years later, in 1962, he started taking advanced Choy Li Fut lessons with a local master named Man Chong Kong. Master Man explained the practice’s theory, history and stylistic contexts, and Lei quickly excelled under his guidance. But opportunities to test out his talents were few and far between. The annual National Day celebration was the only time Macao’s martial artists got a chance to display their prowess.

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Chen-style tai chi has taught me composure.

– Lei Man lam



Lei became a Choy Li Fut teacher himself in 1964. Then came Bruce Lee: the American-Hong Kong martial arts maestro made traditional Chinese styles of defence (wushu in Chinese) cool around the world through TV and film productions like *The Green Hornet* (1967), *The Big Boss* (1971) and *Fists of Fury* (1972). Macao was not immune, and Lei remembers wannabe Bruce Lees queuing up outside his door to learn Choy Li Fut in the early 1970s.

In the midst of this golden era for martial arts, a senior master advised Lei to switch his speciality to tai chi. Lei – in his late 20s at the time – recalls feeling surprised, because meditative tai chi is very different from “powerful and fast” Choy Li Fut. “Back then, the most common tai chi practices were usually Yang and Wu-styles, which were very slow,” he says. “The master said I might not be able to keep up the intense and high-speed practice [of Choy Li Fut] when I get old, so tai chi would be a great alternative to sustain my martial arts career.”

CHEN-STYLE TAI CHI ENTERS MACAO

Lei did not take up tai chi there and then because its slowness somehow made it seem like a lesser option. But in 1979, two transformational experiences convinced him tai chi was in fact his calling. That March, Lei was part of a martial arts exchange programme in Foshan, Guangdong province, where he met tai chi master Lei Hui Quan. The pair began secret training sessions. Why secret? To spare Lei’s ego: “If I failed, it wouldn’t be embarrassing,” he admits wryly.

Then, in May, Lei joined the first National Wushu Observation Conference. Held in Nanning, Guangxi province, the conference allowed martial artists of various styles to demonstrate their skills and interact with each other. It opened Lei’s eyes to dozens of martial arts he’d never even heard of. “I felt like a frog at the bottom of a well,” he recalls. It was his first



time witnessing the more vigorous Chen-style of tai chi, which at the conference was performed by an 80-year-old woman with a sabre. He remembers her “exhibiting immense power”. That elderly woman and other Chen-style tai chi masters he met at the conference cured him of his stereotype.

After those trips, Lei spent a decade seeking tutelage from Chen-style tai chi masters, alongside teaching and practising Choy Li Fut. One master was Chen Xiaowang from Chen Village, where the school originated. He was the 19th generation of his family involved in martial arts. Another was Chen-style grandmaster Feng Zhiqiang, who strongly influenced the way Lei now teaches students himself. “I was so excited to get trained by Master Feng,” he says. “We [Lei and his peers] always talked about his greatness.”

In 1982, Lei dropped Choy Li Fut to fully concentrate on practising and teaching tai chi. He performed Chen-style tai chi competitively for the first time in 1987, at the inaugural Macau Wushu Championships, and won gold. He ended up winning it again and again, over seven successive years.



But Macao’s tai chi community were still wary of the Chen way, claiming it had more in common with Choy Li Fut than the softer Yang and Wu schools they were familiar with. Lei took their criticism on the chin: “Chen-style tai chi has taught me composure. I believed I could prove myself if I keep doing my best,” he says. That perseverance paid off. Today, the Chen-style is as popular in Macao as Yang and Wu. When the Macao government began offering free tai chi classes in the early 1990s, all three schools were taught.

Despite his early reluctance, Chen-style tai chi has become a lifelong passion for Lei Man lam

Practising in public spaces gives tai chi more visibility in the city

(Opposite page) Frederico So values the mindfulness he's learned through six years of tai chi practice; Carolina Rego found health benefits, healing old injuries from practising other martial arts

MARTIAL ARTS IN MACAO TODAY

According to Lei, the number of people practising tai chi in Macao is neither increasing or decreasing. But that's not the case for other martial arts. Lei says their popularity is dwindling, and that instructors can no longer make a living through teaching alone. One reason for this could be lack of awareness, Lei suggests. There are so many different styles that it's hard to unify martial arts and market them to a targeted audience. Another reason is that it's mainly teenagers who take up the sport, and they tend to lose interest and/or run out of time once they start university or jobs. Tai chi's all-ages accessibility as well as its visibility, being practised in public parks, surely help account for its enduring popularity.

Today, a revered martial arts master in his late 70s, Lei starts his day before

dawn with two hours of Chen-style tai chi practice at home. He continues to teach in one-on-one and group classes. While Lei's earliest tai chi students were retired people and housewives, he says the discipline is increasingly popular with a younger crowd: "There was surely a misunderstanding of tai chi. People assumed it was for old men, but in fact it suits everybody." Lei stopped counting students after his 10,000th.

His lessons typically last over two hours. He'll start with a warm-up: running, stretching, and *zhan zhuang* (which means 'standing like a tree'). Then senior students guide beginners in standard sets of tai chi movements that they've learned in previous lessons. All together, they repeat a whole set of specifically Chen-style tai chi movements several times for Lei's review. He circulates the class, offering advice for improvements.



CHEN-STYLE TAI CHI: POWERFUL, ELEGANT AND CALMING

One of Lei's students is Frederico So, a middle-aged civil servant. So was intrigued by the swords and sabres one of his colleagues carried to work each morning after her tai chi classes with Lei. He was already familiar with martial arts, having worshipped Bruce Lee and dabbled in wing chun as a youth. Inspired by his colleague's passion, So decided to sign up with Lei – though not without some scepticism. "At first I considered tai chi as for the elderly, something I could pick up when I am old," So says. His first class had him hooked, however: "It was strenuous, requiring much more energy than I had expected." 'Silk-reeling' is a favourite Chen-style movement of So's, its name derived from the twisting and spiralling movements a silkworm larva makes as it wraps itself into its cocoon. "This is coupling strength and gentleness, and I've fallen in love with that," says So. But most useful of all, his six years of tai chi have taught him the benefits of mindfulness. "Through Master Lei's tai chi, I've learned how to relax. It has influenced my view of life."

So has become a Chen-style tai chi evangelist and readily spreads the word among friends. One friend ended up encouraging her daughter, 22-year-old Carolina Rego, to take up the martial art form for its health benefits. Rego, a law student who already had some experience with Japanese *jōdō* (a staff-wielding martial art), first took Lei's class in 2021. She says it has helped heal injuries sustained through her previous martial arts practice.

"You may think of elderly women sweeping their hands when it comes to tai chi. But it actually has power and speed and elegance," Rego enthuses. "It also brings me calmness. I used to be quick-tempered, but now I feel composed every day." After one year of Chen-style tai chi practice, Rego earned third place in the junior women's session of the Macao Tai Chi and Weapon Championships, held by the Wushu General Association of Macau.





A more experienced older student of Lei's is 70-year-old Connie Zhang, who says an "accidental encounter" led her to the Chen school in 2016. She was drawn to tai chi through her interest in traditional Chinese culture, decided to take lessons at the Macao Polytechnic University Seniors Academy, and picked Lei's class at random. "I have been active in sports since childhood, and as I am getting old I thought tai chi would be a good alternative," Zhang says.

The practice has changed Zhang's life: "Tai chi is a deep school of knowledge," she says. "I've learned to be composed when probing life problems. Especially at my age, when we

come across many life problems, being composed surely helps."

Lei says he's proud of his role in making the "gentle strength" more accessible to Macao people. For more than four decades, he has championed the Chen school of his sport and earned recognition both locally and globally. "Tai chi brings many health benefits, from managing the symptoms of chronic diseases, to helping heal old injuries, to improving mental health - I can see it in my students," he says.

"I feel grateful and delighted to spread the word of Chen-style tai chi. It didn't exist in Macao, but now many people are intrigued and involved... it amazes me." ●

(Opposite page) Known for its slow, elegant movements, tai chi also has power and speed

Lei Man lam has taught Chen-style tai chi to thousands of students over his decades' long career

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Tai chi brings many health benefits, from managing the symptoms of chronic diseases, to helping heal old injuries, to improving mental health.

- Lei Man lam

Scan the QR code below to watch the video:



SOCIAL AFFAIRS

The next fashion frontier

In June, Fong Chon Kit and Fiona Sam launched 404absent, Macao's first digital fashion brand and proof of concept for a whole new way to create clothes. Now, they hope to use the metaverse to disrupt the fashion scene and introduce Macao to a world of new opportunities.

Text **Craig Sauers**
Photos **Lei Heong Ieong**

Fong Chon Kit and Fiona Sam know that, sooner or later, we will be living in parallel worlds. In fact, they are trying to accelerate that future.

In June this year, the two launched 404absent, Macao's first digital fashion brand. Then, at the 2022 Macao Fashion Festival in October, they gave a glimpse of what digital fashion can be.

As models powered down the catwalk wearing a future-friendly collection of clothes in colour gradients of black, white and steely blues, 3D models moved on a screen behind them, dressed up in digital versions of the same looks.

For buyers, both the physical and digital looks had real applications. Each outfit came with a corresponding non-fungible token (NFT) – a one-of-a-kind digital item recorded in a blockchain. (A blockchain essentially is a digital public record, and so anything recorded in it cannot be copied or substituted with something else. In other words, whoever purchases an NFT owns it exclusively – like owning an original

Van Gogh painting). Those who bought the NFTs gained exclusive access to purchase the real-world items, and those who bought the real-world items could also purchase the NFT. 404absent generates 30 NFTs for every look they conceptualise.

In fusing the physical realm with the metaverse – the interactive digital space where people work, play, create, meet others and shop – 404absent introduced Macao to a world in which “404 not found errors will no longer exist”, according to Fong, alluding to their brand name. It's the first step toward a future free of clunky web errors like the one 404absent refers to – a time when the digital world and real world will be equal, complementary parts of our lives. “The metaverse and the real world are like our virtual clothing [and real clothing]. There's no difference between the two,” he adds. “It's one-to-one.”

As Macao wakes up to this new reality, Fong and Sam say incredible opportunities await fashion designers, shoppers and even the city itself.

FASHION BREAKS INTO THE METAVERSE

Digital fashion – or meta fashion – may be a relatively new concept to Macao, but it has existed long enough for some of the world’s biggest brands to have already embraced it.

In March this year, the first-ever Metaverse Fashion Week saw Tommy Hilfiger, Balenciaga, Roberto Cavalli and others hold runway shows, pop-up events and talks in Decentraland, one of the leading virtual worlds competing for the time and attention of the metaverse-curious.

Other brands like Dolce & Gabbana and fast-fashion powerhouse Zara entered the metaverse with digital clothing drops and surprise gift boxes. Purchased with cryptocurrency, the boxes offer digital and physical rewards alike, including exclusive access to live events in the real world and the metaverse.

404absent sees even greater potential for digital fashion beyond NFTs, online releases and surprise gift boxes, though, and it circles back to sustainability. “In the real world, Zara and Uniqlo and other fast-fashion brands that mass-produce clothing spend lots of money on fabrics, make new clothing every season and [pollute the environment],” says Fong.

“With meta fashion, the procedures are digitalised. You don’t need initial samples anymore. That means less material waste and no more [landfilling] old stocks,” he adds. And while the technology powering the metaverse has created unquantified energy demands – one 2019 study revealed that the energy needed to train just one AI model can amount to nearly five times the lifetime emissions of an average car – he still argues that “it’s more eco-friendly”.

That’s because working online enables designers to create more personalised, true-to-size items essentially on demand.

“All the digital items can be made into real, one-to-one versions. Customers can just choose the clothes they like [from our collections] in the virtual world, and we produce them,” Fong explains.

SEPARATING MACAO FROM THE PACK

While Sam and Fong emphasise the eco-friendly nature of digital fashion, they realise it also offers opportunities beyond sustainability. With buy-in from the government, Sam believes digitalisation might allow Macao fashion-makers to distinguish themselves from a crowded global market.

“The Macao government is really pushing the metaverse. This is a great chance for the fashion industry to communicate with the government,



Fiona Sam believes that digitalisation might allow Macao fashion designers to stand out in the global market

Fong Chin Kit and Sam are collaborating with other local designers to produce 3D samples



to voice what we need and how they can support us,” she explains. “Collectively, we can make meta fashion a unique thing in Macao. When people talk about Macao, they will associate it with outstanding meta fashion.”

Digital fashion could be an important area for Macao’s economic growth, too. In a recent survey on metaverse fashion trends conducted by gaming platform Roblox, 40 per cent of Gen Z consumers said self-expression is more important to them in the digital world than the physical world. Three in four said they would spend money on digital fashion, and one in four had already spent between MOP 160-810 on a single virtual item.

The challenge, however, will be reaching these consumers.

Macao has a relatively minor fashion scene – “There are quite a lot of outstanding local fashion designers, but the market here is small,” Fong explains – and few homegrown brands have embraced the metaverse. Fong believes 404absent is still the city’s only digital fashion brand.

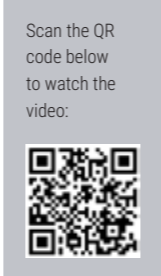
“Meta fashion is a very new thing for Macao people,” Sam acknowledges. “How do we introduce our target customers to the concept and encourage them to embrace it? It’s not easy at all.”

RIISING TO THE OCCASION

Few in Macao may be as equipped to lead a paradigm shift than Sam and Fong, however. Both studied fashion in university – Fong at Asia University in Taiwan and Sam at the International Fashion Academy (IFA) in Shanghai.

Prior to launching 404absent, both also worked in industry support at the Macau Productivity and Technology Transfer Center (CPTTM), a non-profit born out of a public-private partnership that promotes the use of technology to enhance business.

In their roles, they worked at the nexus of fashion and technology. Fong even designed virtual clothes and brought them to life in the physical world. Not only do they have hands-on experience, they also have the connections with brands and government agencies to position Macao to capitalise on the metaverse’s many possibilities.



In October, 404absent showcased their latest collection at the Macao Fashion Festival with digital models walking alongside their real-world counterparts

“We’ve introduced digital fashion to the city’s fashion industry through the Macau Fashion Design Industry Association,” says Sam, “and we’ve helped other designers and brands produce digital fashion.”

Those include Macao label Sara Lolo. Fong and Sam collaborated with the local women’s fashion brand to produce 3D clothing samples. These digital renderings will soon become clothes worn on the runway. “We helped them make two sets of virtual clothes and samples. They turned those into wearable clothes and took them to the fashion show at Expo Shanghai in November,” says Fong.

Meanwhile, they continue to engage with local brands to spread their message and mission. Digital fashion, they say, can cut costs and reduce a brand’s burden on the environment. “Some international brands such as Hugo Boss are already using [3D design technology] to make all their initial

samples,” Fong says of the widening impact of digital technology on fashion.

Soon, brands like 404absent might change the way consumers shop, too. By mid-2023, they hope to launch an augmented reality (AR) tool to pair with their collections, “like an AR filter on your phone – an AR filter autofit,” says Sam.

“If you’ve bought NFTs or meta clothes, they can be projected onto a real person,” allowing shoppers to see how an outfit might look in real life.

And they hope to use virtual reality (VR) technology to make their fashion more accessible to customers overseas. “Using VR, we want to hold a fashion show [in the metaverse] so people can watch it online instead of having to fly across the world,” she says.

Whether you want to buy NFT fashion items or take advantage of technology to shop more sustainably, brands like 404absent will likely have a hand in the future of your fashion shopping. If Fong and Sam’s visions come to fruition, you might always turn to the metaverse for new looks – and you’ll be able to match your avatar’s outfits with the clothes you wear in Macao. ●

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SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Woodwork in the Covid era: how a modern-day carpenter found his calling

Dave Wan is the third-generation carpenter behind Zawood and Wood Fighter. In the course of tweaking his business during the pandemic, he's found a way to enhance modern lives through a traditional craft.

Text Sara Santos Silva
Photos Lei Heong leong

Wan at his Zawood shop
in Macao, located across
the Sacred Heart College's
Chinese section

When Dave Wan took over his father's woodworking business 10 years ago, his knowledge of the craft was far from deep. Wan, now 46, was a web designer by trade. While he'd helped out in the workshop as a kid, in exchange for "store-bought toys" instead of the hastily carved ones he'd usually make do with, carpentry hadn't seemed like the career path for him.

Wan's grandfather was the first carpenter in the family, building small fishing boats. Wan's father took up carpentry too, but he specialised in traditional wooden construction materials. Both men worked in the city of Zhongshan, in Guangdong province, where Wan was born.

In the late 1970s, job prospects in Zhongshan were grim. Wan's dad – like many other mainlanders at that time – left his hometown to start a new life in nearby Macao, where there were more opportunities. He arrived in the city alone and spent a few years getting settled. Wan was 10 when he moved across the border.



After noticing Zawood's customers were interested in woodworking, Wan established Wood Fighter in 2018

Wan's father reckoned his best chance for success in Macao was to start another carpentry business there, which he did in the early 1980s. Weng Hong Wood Workshop, as the business was named, initially focused on construction materials. Over time, however, Wan's dad transitioned into made-to-order furniture pieces such as dining tables and sideboards.

Carpentry was a competitive industry back then, but Wan recalls high enough demand to keep everyone busy. His dad eventually purchased his own premises, in a small alleyway next to the Sacred Heart Canossian College. As his dad worked to meet furniture orders, Wan went off to university, graduated, launched a career in web design and got married.

When Wan's father retired in 2011, Wan felt sad to see the little carpentry business his dad had built from the ground up – the legacy of two generations – come to an end. While the workshop was closed, Wan's father was reluctant to sell its building or even rent it out. The lifeless space made Wan reconsider his future: should he quit his stable, decade-long career in web design to make furniture for a living?

By 2012, Wan was feeling drained by long days at the computer spent coding. The idea of a more artisanal job appealed more and more, and carpentry fit that bill perfectly. Even though he was inexperienced in woodwork, he could count on his father for guidance. Wan decided to become a third-generation carpenter after all, much to his dad's satisfaction.

ADAPTING A TRADITIONAL BUSINESS TO THE MODERN WORLD

Wan's digital skills proved more applicable to his new line of work than he'd initially suspected, especially when it came to modernising the business. First, he rebranded Weng Hong to Zawood (宅木), which means 'the wood from home'. He then set about developing Zawood's online presence. Having a website and social media pages let Wan reach potential customers beyond Macao's borders. They could scroll through existing furniture designs – Zawood's style is modern, yet visibly inspired by the natural world – and order customised items if nothing quite suited.

Wan became a skilled enough carpenter to produce furniture himself, but is more focused on the management and design sides of the business. One of his tasks is making 3D renders of his made-to-order pieces, to send customers for their approval. Pre-pandemic, once a design was finalised the piece was either crafted at Zawood by Wan's staff carpenter or by a partner carpenter in Zhongshan. Then it'd be shipped off to the mainland or to Hong Kong.

Zawood was doing well before Covid-19's arrival in early 2020, but struggled in its wake. The business's strong digital presence meant a large portion of its sales were already being made online; disruptions and rising costs in shipping were the major problem. As was the economic hardship hitting Wan's customers.

(Opposite page) Wood Fighter's woodworking workshops became a huge success – Wan now holds an average of 15 per month

Zawood's high quality, bespoke style of furniture – made out of solid ash or elm from the mainland – was a luxury people could no longer afford. They turned instead to cheaper options made from plywood. It didn't help that Macao's first IKEA opened at about the same time as the pandemic began, offering its famously affordable furniture designed for easy assembly at home.

"Our furniture sales plummeted to less than half," Wan recalls. To save the business, he realised he'd have to change tack. Fortunately, Wan had already developed a side-hustle teaching basic carpentry skills after noticing his customers' interest in how their furniture was made. To sate their curiosity, Wood Fighter has been running workshops since 2018.

Before the pandemic, Wood Fighter accounted for about 20 per cent of Zawood's income (premium furniture sales made up the bulk). Now, however, the workshops are the business's biggest earner. Social media is propelling Wood Fighter's popularity; Wan keeps the brand's Facebook and Instagram profiles updated with photos of engrossed-looking rookie woodworkers sanding, sawing and glueing. He holds an average of 15 workshops a month for groups of around 8 students.

WOOD FIGHTERS UNITE

Nowadays, a team of two carpenters and one salesperson assist Wan in Zawood, while he focuses on Wood Fighter. Wan conceptualises each workshop: he decides what will be created, plots out step-by-step instructions, and selects the right techniques to teach attendees. Nature, music and simple everyday objects are Wan's main sources of inspiration for

what gets made. He's a fan of the old adage, "One man's trash is another man's treasure," too. Most of the Wood Fighter creations are made out of cast aside pine wine boxes, which are easy to come by in Macao.

"It's great because we get to repurpose something that would otherwise end up in a landfill, plus we don't have to pay for it and the quality of these wine boxes is high," says Wan. "It's pine wood that has been treated so we know there's no risk of it having wood bugs."

Conveniently, Wan loves to teach, something he discovered through parenthood (his two children are aged 9 and 7). His students learn how to make the likes of wooden lampshades and kung fu stools. They've also made traditional African musical instruments called *kalimba* (also called a 'thumb piano') and *asalato* (a handheld drum), leaning on a personal passion on Wan's – world music. Wan says the most popular Wood Fighter project has been a carved Game Boy, a replica of the 1980s smash-hit handheld gaming console.

As Wood Fighter's fan-base has expanded, schools and institutions have started reaching out to Wan to organise workshops for their students. Among others, he has collaborated with The International School of Macao, Yuet Wah College and University of Saint Joseph, teaching their pupils new, practical skills.

While most Wood Fighter workshops are held over a single session, Wan developed a more in-depth course for a group of design students from the University of Saint Joseph. They took control of the project, from brainstorming ideas, to learning about tools and how to use them safely, to actually creating the pieces. Wan says he loved the experience and hopes one day to teach woodworking as an academic discipline.





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Many of us have jobs that require us to use our brains only, not our hands, so we don't get to create something that is palpable.

– Dave Wan

Recently, Wan joined forces with the Sin Meng Charity Association, a local humanitarian organisation dedicated to helping disadvantaged groups in Macao. Through this partnership, Wan teaches volunteers how to make furniture for elderly folk living alone. Sin Meng first assesses what type of furniture would be most useful (mostly storage cabinets, as it turns out). Then small groups of volunteers each craft one piece of furniture under Wan's guidance. Pine wine boxes are also used for this purpose.

For Wan, it's easy to understand why his woodworking workshops have become so popular with people. He says they get to experience the same sensation he did when he quit web design. "Many of us have jobs that require us to use our brains only, not our hands, so we don't get to create something that is palpable," he explains. "I think what makes the woodworking experience so appealing is that when people create a piece, their brains and hands are in sync, and that allows them to enjoy a moment of relaxation." Wan also believes that, since wood is a natural product, Wood Fighter is a way to "experience a sensorial connection with nature" – another challenge in a modern, screen-based world. ●

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Macao **ABROAD**

What makes a person good? Cintia Nunes has an answer

Social innovation and impact advocate Cintia Nunes is dedicated to making the world a better place. This is the story of how she found her own definition of what that really means.

Text **Cathy Lai**
Photos **Karma Lo**

Cintia Nunes found the answer to a life-long question in turning her business acumen toward social enterprises

Macao-born Cintia Nunes was three years old when her dad first posed an important question: What makes you happy? As a child in the '90s, Nunes's replies typically involved "friends" and "playing". When she'd ask her father the same question, his answer went deeper: "Being a good person, so when I leave the world, I can leave with a smile and the people around me will miss me," she remembers him saying.

As Nunes grew up, her own definition of happiness edged closer to that of her dad. She began to view his answer as a sort of North Star, along with another question he'd often ask: What makes a person good?

ANSWERS AND ECONOMICS

Nunes was seven when her family migrated from Macao to the UK. She'd return every summer to see family, and fondly recalls Sunday visits to St Lazarus' Church. The first few years in her new home, Northampton, were challenging due to language barriers. "It wasn't easy for me because I love talking a lot," she says, laughing.

But by the time Nunes reached secondary school, her English was fluent. Nunes was a good all-round student: social, sporty and academic. Being an all-rounder made it hard to decide what to study at university, however. At that stage in life, Nunes lacked direction. She settled on economics because it was a broad subject, applicable to many careers.

Nunes thrived at University College London (UCL), making friends from around the world. She enjoyed her lessons, but found some of economics' assumptions a little problematic.

"Economics assumes that humans are rational, and the ultimate goal of the decisions they make is to maximise profit," Nunes says. "However, I know we also care about our family, friends and loved ones, as much as or even more than making money." Given humans are clearly motivated by things other than financial gain, she wondered, was making as much money as possible always the most rational decision? And what is the relationship between being good and being rational?



Image courtesy of Cintia Nunes

Fabrica X showcases many of the sustainable techstyle and agri-food brands and innovations supported by The Mills Fabrica

(Opposite page) Sustainable fashion has been a big part of Nunes's social enterprise work

Enlightenment arrived in the form of a book, *Creating a World Without Poverty: Social Business and the Future of Capitalism*, by Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus. Yunus, a Bangladesh-born economist and social entrepreneur, founded the Grameen Bank, which provides collateral-free microfinancing to help fight poverty and develop communities. He defines social businesses as companies aiming to maximise both profits and societal wellbeing by investing profits in worthy causes.

Yunus believes these companies are the future of capitalism – an idea that Nunes found exciting and inspiring.

“I felt like the world became much bigger after reading this book,” Nunes says. “It got me thinking about the possibility of embedding purpose and social impact into business, and inspired me to pursue this path.” It also led her on a life-changing journey to Bangladesh some years later, where she met Yunus and other business leaders achieving their goals for profit and social impact in parallel.

A CORPORATE START

Nevertheless, after graduating university in 2010, Nunes got a job at consumer goods giant Procter & Gamble – a traditional corporation. Nunes first worked as a consumer & market insight intern at P&G's Geneva branch for four months. In July 2011, she officially joined the company as a senior consumer and market insights manager at its Hong Kong branch, a location she chose to be closer to her parents who had returned to Macao. She did well there, climbing the corporate ladder rapidly.

Four years later, Yunus was back on her radar. Nunes got the opportunity to attend a week-long social business summit hosted by the man himself in Bangladesh. Nunes visited several social businesses run by Yunus, including factories with the policy of hiring underprivileged workers to make mosquito nets and sanitary pads. “This engagement was extremely powerful to me,” Nunes says. “I saw how one [project] can benefit so many people. For the first time, I felt a strong sense of purpose and I realised how work can be connected with happiness.”

When she got the chance to speak with Yunus directly, she asked him a question: If you can do one thing to change the world, what will you do?

His answer surprised her. “Professor Yunus said he hoped to have a chance to ask every child in the world, ‘What do you want the world to be?’” Nunes remembers. “He believes that if a child can be asked the same question regularly, this child will grow up to be a more caring person, because he will think more about how everything he does will impact the world and the people around him.”

What Yunus had said aligned almost perfectly with the way Nunes's father had raised her, through his repeated queries into her views on happiness and goodness. She left Bangladesh feeling inspired. Since then, decisions around

Nunes's career and relationships have been shaped by an amalgamation of the two men's unconventionally dispatched advice.

WALKING THE TALK

Three years later, Nunes quit her job at P&G. Although she had been promoted to senior brand manager in the same year, she felt like it was now or never to apply her well-honed business skills to social enterprises.

Nunes began working at Grana, a Hong Kong-based sustainable fashion company. She started off as the executive assistant to the CEO, in 2017, but was soon promoted to Hong Kong market lead. Two years later, Nunes accepted a role at Dream Impact, a Hong Kong company offering affordable coworking spaces to social enterprises and impact ventures. As chief of strategy and growth, Nunes helped transform Dream Impact into a community of over 80 organisations focused on education, poverty alleviation, and inclusion.

These days, Nunes is a director at The Mills Fabrica, an innovation accelerator in Hong Kong. Her team manages an investment fund that supports textile technology (dubbed “techstyle” – an intersection of technology and lifestyle) and agri-food start-ups striving to make their respective industries more sustainable.

“I have knowledge and experience in formulating business models, strategy, marketing, research and consumer insights, which allows me to provide better support and advice for the growth of these startups,” Nunes says. “We fund initiatives like natural dye that doesn't contain pollutants, or consumes less water.”

Nunes finally feels like she's on the right track: “Once these projects are implemented [on an industrial level], they will have a huge impact on the environment and society.”

Looking ahead, Nunes hopes to nurture future generations of purpose-led leaders. She also wants to introduce more sustainability led innovations into corporations. Nunes's dad isn't alive to see her achievements having died about a decade ago, but now in her early 30s, Nunes remains incredibly grateful for his influence in her life. She feels like she's finally figured out the answer to what makes her a good person, and this is what makes her happy.

“Being a good person is, in short, compassion,” she explains. “To have enough empathy to feel the needs of the environment, communities, society and individuals. Then you need to develop the right mindset, experience and connections to allocate resources in a meaningful way – and thereby help solve the complex challenges they face.” ●



GREATER BAY AREA

Macao's 'new neighbourhood' in the mainland

The Macao government's mega residential complex in Hengqin is edging closer to completion. All of its apartments are reserved for Macao residents, perfect for those eyeing opportunities in the Greater Bay Area.



Text **Gilbert Humphrey**
Renderings courtesy of
Macao Urban Renewal Limited

With completion just around the corner, the Macao New Neighbourhood promises residents a slice of Macao in Hengqin

While there are already Macao people living in Hengqin, the local government's residential development on Zhuhai's largest island – dubbed 'Macao New Neighbourhood' (MNN) – will make its residents feel like they're still in Macao. It's set to be ready mid-2023.

Commuting between Macao and Zhuhai has been routine in the city since the local gaming and hospitality industry began developing in the early 2000s. Many employees working in this sector travel across from the mainland for work every day. They are mainlanders, but also Macao locals who've moved to Zhuhai for its more affordable housing. Students cross the border, too, to attend Macao's schools and universities. Tourists also visit from the mainland, though fewer than before the pandemic.

Cross-border travel is expected to increase in the near future, as more opportunities on the mainland arise for people and businesses from Macao. Particularly in the rapidly growing Greater Bay Area (GBA), which consists of Macao, Hong Kong, and nine Guangdong cities including Zhuhai and Shenzhen. The GBA's combined population is over 86 million people and its 56,000-square-kilometre footprint is nearly one-third the size of Guangdong province.

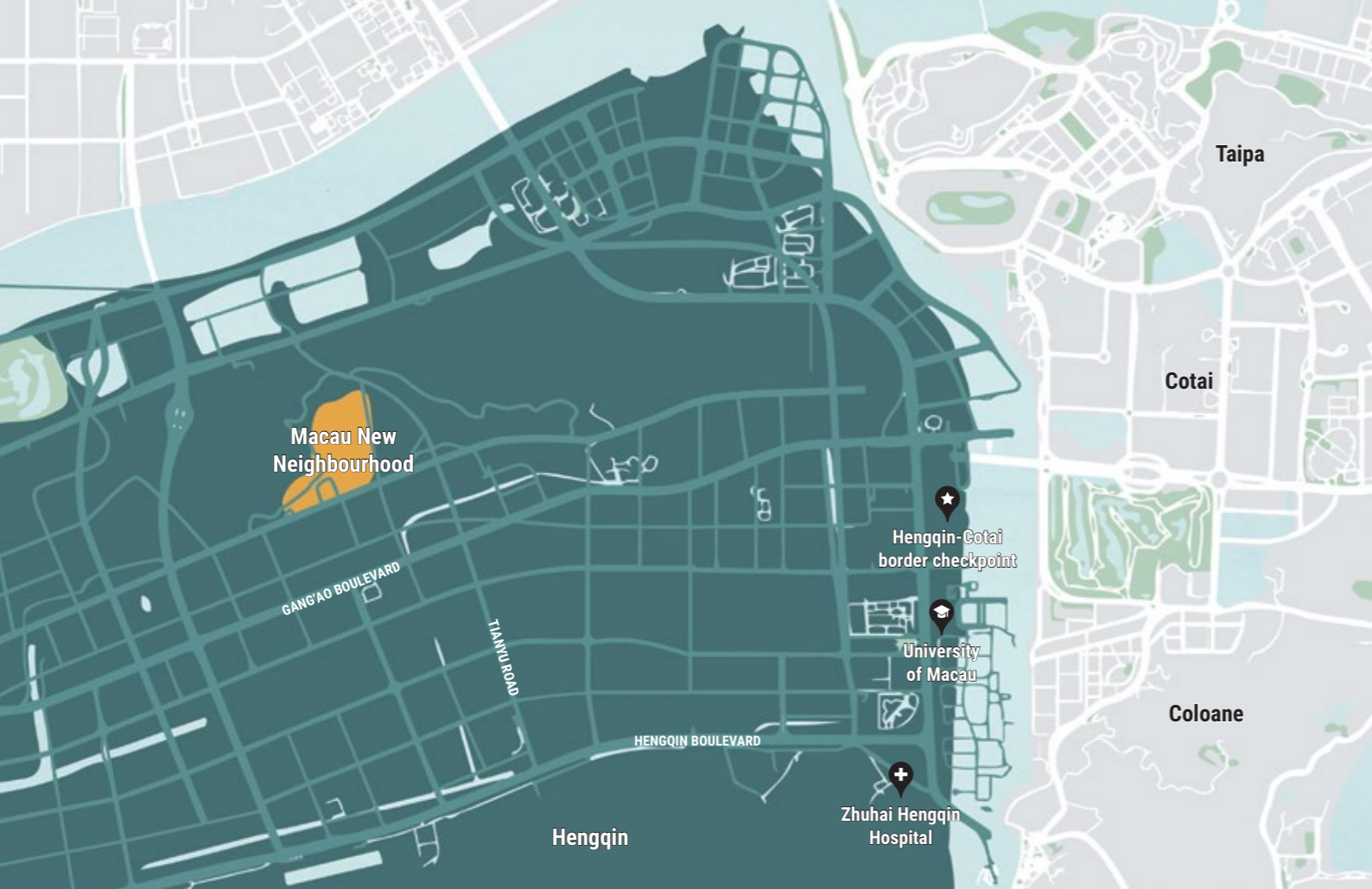
MNN's more than 4,200 apartments are expected to attract Macao residents eyeing opportunities in the GBA. While the project's

developers have expressed confidence that MNN will be an instant hit amongst Macao residents, local real estate agent Black Fong Seng Lok told *Macao* magazine he expects take up to be slow. He predicts it will be more than five years before the ambitious new complex fills with people and businesses.

GBA ON THE RISE

Dubbed China's answer to the US global high-tech and innovation hub Silicon Valley, the GBA has China's highest concentration of Fortune 500 companies (the world's top corporations by revenue, compiled and published annually by *Fortune* magazine). Twenty-five out of 136 Chinese companies listed are located in the area, including three of China's leading technology firms. Telecommunication giant Huawei and multimedia conglomerate Tencent (which operates WeChat and is one of the world's largest video game companies) are both based in Shenzhen, while Gree – the world's largest residential air-conditioner manufacturer – is located in Zhuhai.

In 2021, gross domestic product in the GBA exceeded RMB 12.6 trillion (MOP 13.9 trillion). Central and regional governments have worked together to facilitate a cross-border flow of goods, investments and people within the GBA since its development plan was launched in February 2019.



The neighbourhood's central location means any trip in Hengqin is a short one

(Opposite page) Daily commutes between Macao and Hengqin are already common for many who live, work or attend school in the area

The 106-square-kilometre Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone, covering the entirety of Hengqin island, is part of the plan. The zone was initiated by General Secretary Xi Jinping in December 2019 and aims to diversify Macao's economy. Establishing a financial services platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries and developing new industries for the area – sci-tech research and high-end manufacturing – are two diversification schemes.

MNN is being built in the heart of the cooperation zone, just across the Cotai-Hengqin river. The area is an increasingly popular choice for Macao people wanting to benefit from the GBA's growth. The Hengqin-Macao border checkpoint

is just a few minutes' bus ride from Macao's entertainment district of Cotai; and the Cotai-Hengqin LRT line – set to open in 2024 – will provide direct access to Hengqin which will then connect to the Zhuhai Airport via a speed train.

MACAO'S 'NEW NEIGHBOURHOOD'

Macau Urban Renewal Limited (MUR) has been tasked with MNN's construction, which began in January 2021. MUR is a public company formed by the Macao government, the Macao Industrial and Commercial Development Fund, and the Science and Technology Development Fund.

Covering over 190,000 square metres, the residential complex will boast 27 apartment towers

accommodating up to 15,000 people between them. Around 4,000 units will be available for "eligible Macao ID holders" to purchase, while 200 rental units will be reserved for "qualified professionals", according to MUR's website. MNN will be 80 per cent two-bedroom, 90-square-metre units with the rest being three-bedroom units ranging from 100 to 120 square metres.

Some parts of the project's constructions use prefabrication technique – components are assembled elsewhere before being transported to the construction site for installment – including the use of precast concrete and aluminium moulds as well as 8,000 façade panels, 1,000 staircases and 175,000 autoclaved lightweight concrete panels.

Apartments will be available for purchase in 2023, after MNN's December topping-out ceremony. Topping-out is a tradition in the construction industry, where the final beam is placed atop a building during construction, marking its structural completion.

According to MUR's website, only Macao residents who meet the company's yet-to-be specified criteria can buy MNN apartments. Their apartments can only be resold after five years of ownership, in line with Zhuhai's standard housing regulations, unless owners are willing to pay extra taxes. In Macao, a residential property buyer can generally only resell their property after two years of ownership, though the number of years can be higher for public housing.

MUR has not announced if foreign nationals holding a Macao ID card will be eligible to purchase an apartment at MNN.

Neither MUR nor the Macao government has released information about the cost of developing MNN, or how much apartments will cost. But local real estate agents expect MNN apartments' prices to fall in line with Hengqin's existing housing market: RMB 2.5-2.7 million (MOP 2.8-3 million) for a two-bedroom unit and RMB 3.2-3.5 million (MOP 3.6-3.9 million) for a three-bedroom unit. However, the fact that these are public housing units may make their prices even lower. The Macao government purchased the land being used for MNN from Zhuhai's local government for RMB 5.35 billion (MOP 5.95 billion) in April 2020.

Wei Ming Xie

(Inset) Black Fong Seng Lok; Construction is moving along quickly with all 27 towers expected to be completed by end of year

(Opposite page) Portuguese-style cobblestones give the neighbourhood's commercial areas a familiar Macao flair; The neighbourhood also boasts its own kindergarten and primary school



“Macao people will move there” but not immediately, predicts real estate expert Black Fong Seng Lok, CEO of Shoffize Estate Technology Company Limited, who opened a branch of his real estate company in Hengqin in 2017. He helps clients buy and sell properties throughout Hengqin and the surrounding regions.

“Hengqin’s rapid development over the past few years has brought more people from Macao to invest there, especially in real estate,” the 34-year-old Lok says. He adds that the area’s policies “are very accommodating for setting up a business and for growing new businesses.” As someone who lives in Macao and regularly commutes to Hengqin for work, Fong also appreciates

how easy the authorities have made it to get in and out of the mainland.

According to Fong, there is growing interest among Macao residents to buy MNN apartments. Ultimately, however, their popularity will come down to price and the ongoing Covid-19 situation. Fong believes Macao’s pandemic-afflicted economy is the main reason people will be slow to purchase MNN apartments. Another reason is the fact that they have options. New public residential developments are being built within Macao itself, which Fong says will attract locals – especially if the MNN units prove to be more expensive.

“I predict MNN will only be fully settled with people close to 2029,” he says.

LIKE LIVING IN MACAO, BUT GREENER

MNN will undoubtedly be a convenient place for Macao locals to live, when they are ready. It only takes six minutes to drive from the complex to the Macao-Hengqin border checkpoint. Macao people that work, own a company or flat in Hengqin can apply for a permit to drive into and around Hengqin island in a Macao-only registered vehicle, though they do need a mainland driver’s licence. Vehicles with a dual Guangdong-Macao registration plate can travel beyond Hengqin, but only within Guangdong province.

Some of Macao’s public services, such as public utilities and healthcare, will be easily accessible for Macao people living and/or working in the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone. MNN is being set up so residents don’t need to return to Macao for these services.



At 2,000 square metres, the neighbourhood's largest green area feels even bigger with Xiaohengqin Mountain on two sides

The complex will boast a kindergarten, primary school, and over 3,000 square metres of sporting and play areas – including playgrounds, basketball and badminton courts, a gym and an outdoor swimming pool. There will also be medical and elderly care facilities, community centres, 4,000 parking spaces and 5,000 square metres of commercial space able to accommodate about 60 shops, from retailers to branches of Macao's banks.

MNN has been designed to create a living environment similar to Macao's. Public areas throughout MNN will feature familiar designs, from European-style street lamps and railings to iconic Portuguese-style cobblestone pavements.

With over a third of MNN's total area set to be greenspace, future residents are promised a closer-to-nature lifestyle than they'd experience in many parts of urban Macao. ●



澳門博物館

MACAO

MUSEUM

Museu

de

Macau

地址

澳門博物館前地112號
澳門博物館(大炮台)

Endereço

Praceta do Museu de Macau
n.º 112
(Fortaleza do Monte)

Address

N.º 112 Praceta do
Museu de Macau
(Mount Fortress)

開放時間

上午10時至下午6時
(下午5時30分停止售票)

逢星期一休館

逢公眾假日照常開館

Horário de funcionamento

10h00 – 18h00

(última admissão às 17:30)

Encerrado às segundas-feiras

Aberto aos feriados públicos

Operation Hours

10:00 – 18:00

(Ticket booth closes at 17:30)

Closed on Mondays

Open on public holidays





Text **Ivo Carneiro de Sousa**,
Historian
Centre for Portuguese Studies,
Macao Polytechnic University
(MPU)

Oil painting of 19th-century Macao by
unknown artist

(Below) Watercolour painting of
Théodose de Lagrené



HISTORY

A cosmopolitan past: Trade, travel and indulgence in 19th-century Macao

19th-century Macao was a heady destination for the international elite; a place where Chinese silks met French Champagne, Cantonese opera met Mozart, exotic creatures could be purchased as pets, and the vibrant sim-sungs offered daily music and opium-infused relaxation.

In 1844, on 15 August, an ambassador from France arrived in Macao to advance negotiations for the Treaty of Whampoa. Théodose de Lagrené settled in the city with his wife, two daughters, and almost a hundred diplomats, secretaries, delegates and naval officers. They, in turn, were accompanied by scores of staff, including French cooks and sommeliers.

Just two months later, the treaty was signed by the Qing dynasty of China and the

Kingdom of France – aboard the warship *Archimède*. It ushered French commerce into southern China and secured Macao as France’s distribution hub. While Lagrené set sail back to Paris in January 1846, many from his mission stayed longer. Their three years in what was then a Portuguese-administered city left a substantial library about 19th-century Macao, in the forms of travel books and newspaper articles.

It was one of these articles, written by the Frenchman in charge of Chinese silk exports, that first described Macao as “cosmopolitan”. Isidore Hedde explained that the city was home to thousands of people from “all races on earth”, including the Portuguese, English, Spaniards, Italians, dozens of French missionaries, many Northern Europeans, black Africans, Zoroastrians from India, and people from what are now Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam, Cambodia and Indonesia. Hedde’s “Lettre de Macao” appeared in the then-popular Parisian newspaper *Journal des débats* on 28 July 1845. This paper, incidentally, published 558 articles about Macao between 1816 and 1900 – a volume unparalleled by any other European newspaper at the time.



(Left) Fan-tan in Macao featured in *Le Monde illustré*, no. 1876, 11 March 1893

Oil painting of Praia Grande (1840-1890)

“Cosmopolitan” became a go-to description for Macao throughout the late 19th century. People wrote about the great Chinese bazaar where foreigners could buy anything, from exquisite lacquered furniture to pet monkeys, and noted Macao’s more than two dozen gambling houses. According to memoirists at the time, hundreds of Chinese and dozens of foreigners flocked to these every night to play *fan-tan* (where players cast bets on values of 1 through 4). They described wealthy Europeans’ beautiful villas in Praia Grande Bay, endless musical and poetry soirées, exotic cuisines, and the constant movement of people and boats.



CULTURAL EXCHANGE AND ARTISTIC INSPIRATION

Macao’s cosmopolitanism developed gradually between 1780 and 1850. The British East India Company (1600-1874) and the Dutch Oriental Company opened offices and leased residencies in the 1760s; Sweden, Denmark, the Austrian Netherlands and the Genoese Republic followed suit within the decade. The first French consul arrived in 1784, followed by Spain’s Royal Company of the Philippines, which set up shop on

Rua de Santo António. Behind these national representatives came private entrepreneurs and adventurers. The Dutch distributed the first newspaper published in the Far East, the short-lived *Batavaise Nouvelles*, in Macao from 1744. The Spanish brought over *Del Superior Governo*, the first newspaper published in the Philippines from 1811.

While trade brought people from all over the world to Macao, a steady stream of festivity brought them together. Macao already celebrated traditional Chinese festivals, such as Lunar New Year and the Dragon Boat Festival. Powerful *compradores* (local agents working as intermediaries for foreign traders, who arrived in great ships) added Cantonese theatre and opera to the mix, arranging for troupes to perform along the island-hopping trade route to seasonal Canton trade fairs. Stops included Macao, Lapa island (now the Wanzai peninsula), and Whampoa island (now Pazhou island, part of downtown Guangzhou).

Two French memoirs, written by the naval officer Marie-Jules Dupré and a young diplomat named Charles-Hubert Lavollée, recall one of these spectacles in 1845. A four-hour-long Cantonese opera apparently left its foreign audience (including Englishmen, French, Dutch, Swedes and Italians) thoroughly impressed. Another memoir recalls a show in 1888, held at Macao’s Senado Square, that lured French and English tourists over from Hong Kong especially to see it.



Macao Museum

Meanwhile, the Europeans competed with each other to impress Macao's Portuguese government, mandarins, and Chinese merchants. The English built a library and a natural history museum, and hosted lively snooker tournaments at their headquarters in Praia Grande Bay. The Spanish threw regular flamenco parties. All the Europeans enthusiastically celebrated their respective national days, newly arrived countrymen, their subsequent departures, and any commercial success. In 1823, the Ostend Company (from the Austrian Netherlands) hosted a musical soirée where two German singers performed arias from Mozart's *The Magic Flute*. The Genoese responded in 1825, shipping opera singers over from Milan to perform Rossini's *The Barber of Seville*.

Several well-known European painters also spent time in Macao, finding inspiration in its landscapes and people. The English artist George Chinnery was based here from 1825 until his death in 1852, and befriended the celebrated French painter Auguste Borget, who had a studio at the rich opium and coolies trader Jean-Antoine Durand's large house in Praia Grande Bay. Chinnery also mentored the Anglo-Indian painter William Prinsep, whose father worked for England's East India company. These artists' work helps reveal what Macao in the 1800s looked like.

HEDONISTIC HOMES AND HOLIDAYS

In those days, private parties held by Macao's resident Europeans were known to be decadent. Prosperous Portuguese opium traders, such as Commander Manuel Pereira, Januário Agostinho de Almeida and Francisco José de Paiva, invited high-level officials and visitors to lavish dinner parties and out on hunting expeditions. These convivial occasions could include a servant per guest, along with the finest French cognac and cigars from Manilla. Lavish soirées were also held by Swedish Anders Ljungstedt, an amateur historian and private trader, and by Magdalenus Jacobus Senn van Basel, who represented the



Dutch diplomatic interests in Macao until 1848.

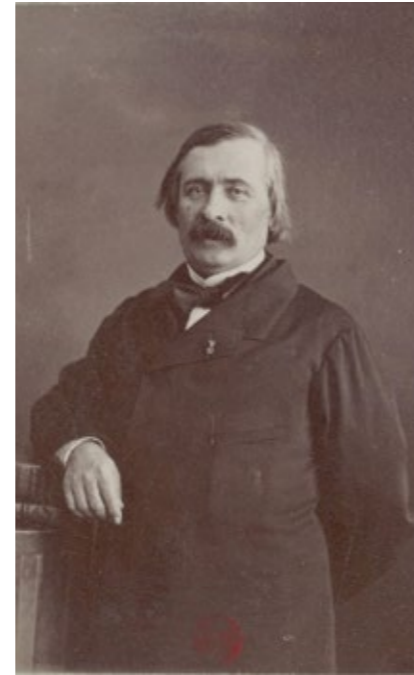
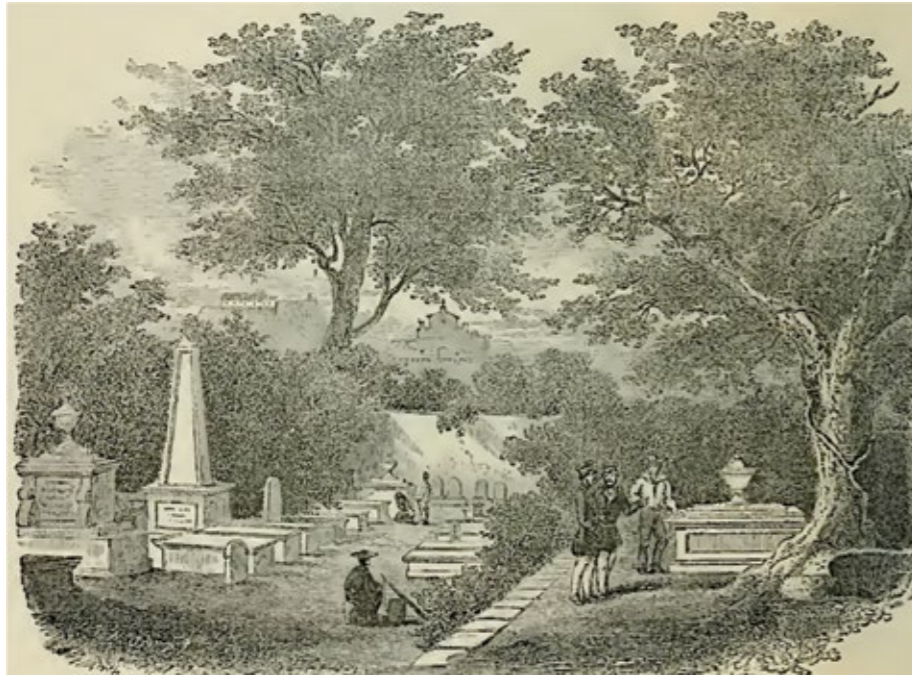
One famously hospitable opium trader (also the honorary consul to Prussia) was the Scotsman Thomas Beale. He owned an enormous aviary filled with hundreds of rare birds, including a flamboyantly coloured bird-of-paradise that was allegedly tame enough to feed from Beale's hand. The Scotsman worked with local Chinese animal peddlers to supply well-heeled foreigners with exotic pets: Siamese cats, Pekingese dogs, and a Sumatran monkey for the wife of Lagrené, the French ambassador. In 1856, the French novelist Léon Gozlan published a book partly inspired by Beale titled *The Man Among the Monkeys; or, Ninety Days in Apeland*.



Painting of B. Dr. Morrison and assistants translating the Bible into Chinese by George Chinnery

(Above) Portrait of Anders Ljungstedt by George Chinnery

(Opposite page, top) Self portrait by artist George Chinnery, circa 1840; (inset) Auguste Borget; painting of A-Ma Temple in the 19th century by Auguste Borget



Drawing of the visit of the US Commodore Matthew Calbraith Perry and Consul Frederik Busch to the Protestant cemetery of Macao in 1854

(Right) Melchior-Honoré Yvan

(Opposite page) View of Macao photographed by Lai Afong in 1870s-1890s

Lagrené's successor, Charles Lefebvre de Bécourt, taught Macao how to celebrate Bastille Day with the finest champagne, French wines and liqueurs; then Lefebvre de Bécourt's successor, Baron Alexandre Forth-Rouen, added fireworks. Not to be outdone by the French, a consul of the United States brought a famous singer over from San Francisco for America's Independence Day celebrations in 1852. She toured Macao's wealthiest homes to much applause and some scandal due to her skimpy dress. That consul, Frederick Busch, explained in his memoirs that diplomats preferred the freedoms of Portuguese Macao to stuffier British Hong Kong.

Britain's occupation of Hong Kong, which began in 1841, was not a direct cause of Macao's eventual decline as an international trade hub – at least, not initially. In fact, the 1849 edition

of the *Manual of China's Export Trade* described the new Hong Kong market as a boon for Macao's businesses. The occupation increased trade, investment, and visitors to the city, as well as expanding job opportunities for people based in Macao, who could hop across to the fast-developing neighbouring island. The *Manual* said foreign traders and wealthy families continued to prefer Macao for its many luxury Chinese goods, including silk and rice paper paintings.

Indeed, Macao became a fashionable holiday destination for Hong Kong-based colonial officials. Back then, it was considered fresher, healthier and more generally pleasant than the British-administered city. There was plenty of gambling (even in those days) and shopping to be had, plus the so-called *sim-sungs* (tea houses with music and opium) at the bazaar.

Macao was also popular with the colonialists in what was then French Indochina. In a 1887 memoir, the city's first French-language tour guide – Claudius Madrolle – was yet another person to describe it as “very cosmopolitan”.

The French doctor accompanying Lagrené's mission in the 1840s, Melchior-Honoré Yvan, wrote that Macao possessed “salons where you can talk or discuss, like in London or Paris, where the women are elegant, and the men are very polite.” Yvan prided himself on befriending the Chinese peasants of Mong Ha as well as highly prosperous Portuguese traders, and his voluminous 1853 travel book recalled Macao as a uniquely transcultural destination. In it, he praises a “very active young lady” – presumably Macanese – who read Homer and Virgil in Latin, and noted that there were plenty of others like her. “Cosmopolitan

women [in Macao] speak several languages and eagerly seek out literary news printed in London, Paris, Lisbon, Madrid, or Calcutta,” Yvan continued. “Does the reader know many French ladies who can boast of such philological knowledge?” Many 19th-century travellers to Macao echoed his sentiments in their own writing.

The people writing about Macao at that time tended to view it from positions of immense wealth and privilege; their observations must be viewed through that lens. But there is no doubt that 19th-century Macao was a hotbed of cosmopolitan decadence. While fallen empires, land reclamation and technological progress are just some reasons why a time-travelling Lagrené or Beale might fail to recognise modern Macao, architectural glimpses of their world remain today and are part of the city's cultural heritage. ●



GREATER BAY AREA

Plenty of firsts at Airshow China, including a homegrown passenger plane

More than 100 types of flying machines were on display in Zhuhai, from brand new commercial planes to the world's biggest amphibious aircraft. There was even a life-sized replica of the Tiangong space station.



Text **Gonçalo César de Sá**
Photos **Xinhua News Agency**

Comac's C919 passenger jet

(Below) Thousands of visitors attended the exhibition

The biggest star of the 14th China International Aviation and Aerospace Exhibition, also known as Airshow China, was the country's first domestically built passenger jet. The C919, built by the Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China (Comac), is set to rival the Boeing 737 and Airbus A320. Other debuts included a number of never-before-seen military aircraft. The airshow was held in Zhuhai from 8-13 November.

The single-aisle, 168-passenger C919 received its 'type certificate' – meaning the plane is officially airworthy – from China's Civil Aviation Administration in September, after 14 years of development. Its price tag is around the US\$99 million (MOP 796 million) mark.

Exhibition flights took place each day of the airshow, showing the C919 off to the public for the first time. China Eastern Airlines will have a C919 in its fleet by the end of 2022, according to Comac. The company secured orders for 300 planes from seven different leasing firms during the airshow, it said.

More than 740 enterprises, from 43 countries and regions (including the US, France, Germany, Italy, Brazil and Saudi Arabia) attended the 2022 airshow – either on-site or virtually. China's ongoing Covid-19 restrictions meant there were fewer visitors and participants than pre-pandemic years. People attending in person were asked to reach Zhuhai three days before the event, which was held at Jinwan airport in Sanzao – 25 kilometres southwest of Macao.



A NEW PLANE FROM BRAZILIAN EMBRAER; AIRBUS TO INCREASE PRESENCE IN CHINA

About 100 different types of planes were on display at Airshow China. The Brazilian aerospace manufacturer Embraer's newest commercial plane, the TechLion E195-E2, was of particular interest. It's a slightly smaller single-aisle aircraft than the C919, able to carry 132 passengers and fly a maximum range of 4,815 kilometres.

Embraer's first E195-E2 began flying in 2019, as part of Brazilian airline Azul's fleet. It competes with the Airbus A220-300. Before the Covid-19 pandemic took hold, there

were 91 Embraer planes operating in China. They carried around 15 million passengers annually, on 460 routes and to 150 destinations.

Chinese airlines operating Embraer aircraft include Tianjin Airlines, Guangxi Beibu Gulf Airlines, Hebei Airlines and Colorful Guizhou Airlines. They fly in Mongolia, too, with Aero Mongolia and Hunnu Airlines.

Between 2004 and 2016, Embraer assembled its Legacy 650 and ERJ-145 in northern China through joint venture company Harbin Embraer Aircraft Industry. The Harbin factory closed due to weak demand for private planes in the country.

Airbus was also at the airshow, and made a big announcement: 40 of its A320neo jets will be joining Xiamen Airlines' fleet. Currently, the airline only flies with Boeings.

BIG REVEALS FOR THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY AIR FORCE

Along with commercial planes, the latest military aircraft and weaponry systems were out in force at Airshow China. This included the J-20 stealth fighter, the Z-20 helicopters, the H-6K bomber and the Y-20 military transport aircraft of the Chinese People's Liberation Army Air Force (PLAAF). Public information reveals that the



Embraer's TechLion E195-E2

(Right) PLAAF's Y-20 military transport aircraft

(Opposite page) PLAAF's J-20 stealth fighters



PLAAF has 150 Chengdu J-20 'Mighty Dragon' jets in service, across six military bases.

The world's largest amphibious aircraft - the Aviation Industry Corporation of China (AVIC) AG600 - was also on display. Designed to fight fires, the AG600 can carry up to 12 tonnes of water. China will build four prototypes of the full-configuration firefighting AG600M aircraft which are expected to enter the market in 2025, according to AVIC.

An important PLAAF exhibit was the new ZR-1500, one of China's most advanced anti-drone defence systems. It features integrated early-warning detection

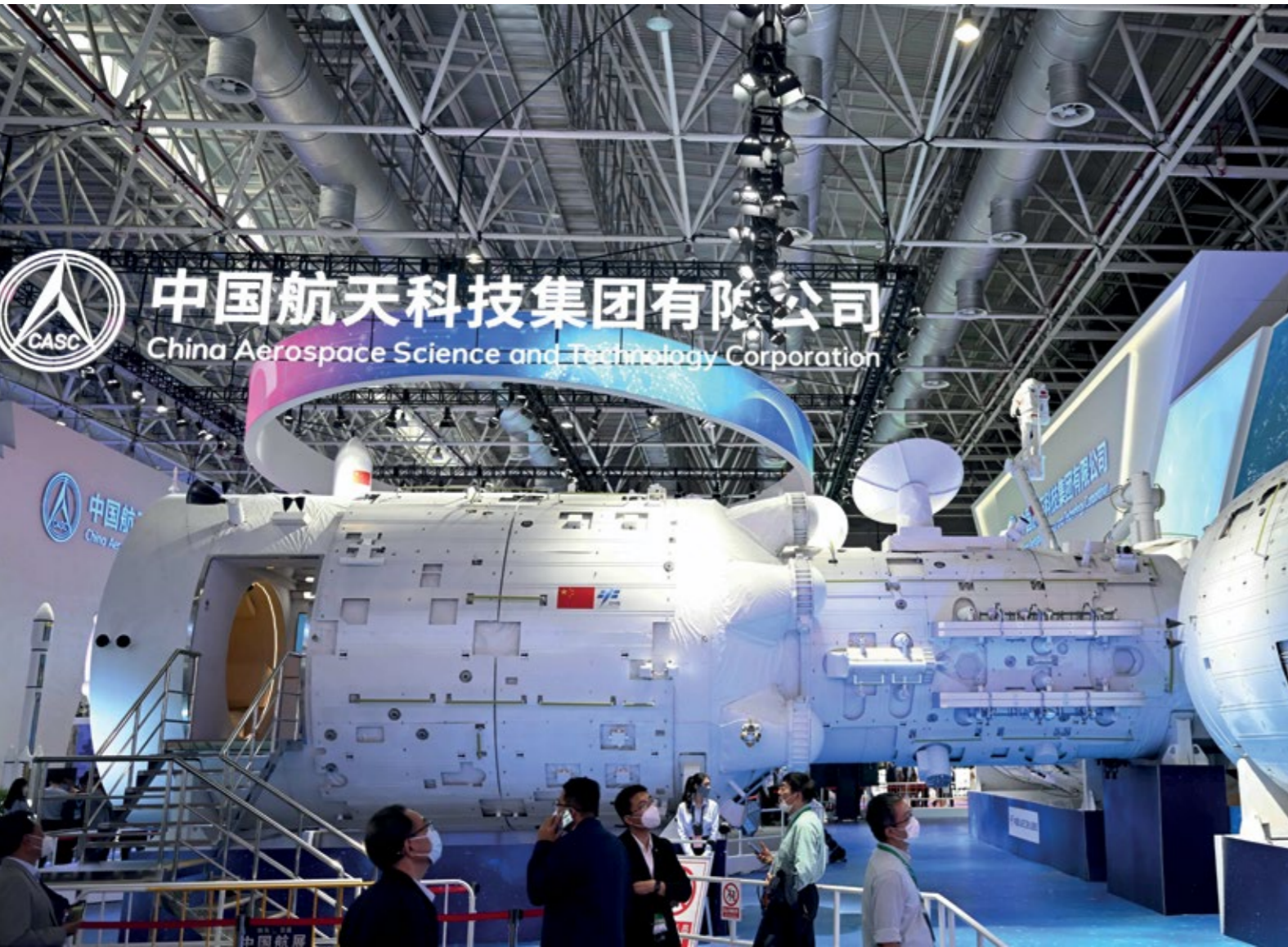
and command and control systems, and interception missiles produced by state-owned China Aerospace Science and Industry Corporation (CASIC).

Several new drones were on display for the first time, including AVIC's Wing Loong-3, a medium-altitude long-endurance unmanned aerial vehicle, and the WZ-10 electronic reconnaissance drone. The PLAAF had not mentioned the existence of the WZ-10 before its debut at the airshow.

The Wing Loong-3 is 12.2 metres long, 4.3 metres tall, and has a 24-metre wingspan. It has nine payload hardpoints and can carry as many as 16 missiles and bombs.

Chinese *Global Times* revealed that "the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Air Force for the first time displayed a vehicle-mounted laser weapon system that targets small drones, a new and thinner missile of the HQ-9B air defence system, as well as the HQ-11 universal terminal defence system, which includes a vehicle equipped with vertically launched missiles and another vehicle equipped with a close-in gun."

The Shaanxi KJ-500A is another previously unmentioned development; a variant on the KJ-500 early warning aircraft, with the addition of an aerial refuelling probe.



The exhibition included a life-size replica of the Tiangong space station

SPACE STATIONS AND AEROBATICS

Visitors to the airshow had plenty of novelty activities to enjoy. They could enter a life-size exact replica of the Tiangong space station to get a feel for what it would be like inside the original, which orbits between 340 and 450 kilometres above the Earth's surface. The

T-shaped structure featured a model of the Tianhe core module, solar-powered wings, relay antenna, and robotic arms.

People could also watch thrilling demonstrations from August 1st, or Ba Yi, Aerobatics Team of the PLAAF. The team is named for the date the People's Liberation Army was founded: 1 August 1927. ●

葡語國家食品資料庫
 BASE DE DADOS DOS PRODUTOS ALIMENTARES
 DOS PAÍSES DE LÍNGUA PORTUGUESA
 中葡雙語人才資料庫
 BASE DE DADOS DE PROFISSIONAIS
 QUALIFICADOS EM CHINÊS E PORTUGUÊS
 專業服務供應商
 FORNECEDORES DE SERVIÇOS PROFISSIONAIS
 會展資訊
 INFORMAÇÃO SOBRE CONVENÇÕES E EXPOSIÇÕES
 經貿信息
 INFORMAÇÃO ECONÓMICA E COMERCIAL
 法規資訊
 LEIS E REGULAMENTOS

中國-葡語國家經貿
 合作及人才信息網
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 HUMANOS ENTRE A CHINA E OS PAÍSES
 DE LÍNGUA PORTUGUESA

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 Ministério do Comércio da
 República Popular da China
 澳門特別行政區政府經濟財政司
 Secretaria para a Economia e
 Finanças da RAEM

承辦單位：
 Entidade Coordenadora：
 澳門貿易促進委員會
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PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING COUNTRIES

Brazil and China's economic ties: Stronger than ever

China is Brazil's biggest investor and most valuable trade partner. These two massive countries' complementary economies create exciting opportunities across a range of sectors – it's no wonder their relationship is reaching new highs.

Text **Fei Pou Lou**

Brazilian oil and gas have been the primary beneficiaries of Chinese investment in the country

(Inset) Tulio Cariello

Brazil received more Chinese money than anywhere else in the world during 2021, according to a study by the Brazil-China Business Council (CEBC). The study, released in August, reveals Chinese companies invested US\$5.9 billion (MOP 47.5 billion) into South America's largest economy last year; more than triple 2020's numbers and a return to pre-pandemic levels of investment. Brazil's oil and gas sector was the standout beneficiary, receiving 85 per cent of total investment.

Titled "Chinese Investments in Brazil: 2021, A Year of Recovery", the CEBC study also reported US\$70.3 billion (MOP 566 billion) flowing from China into Brazil between 2007 and 2021, making it the fourth largest recipient of Chinese money for that period. As Chinese spending in markets other than Brazil fell dramatically over 2021 (by 70 and 27 per cent in Australia and the US, respectively) Brazil rose to the top. It's followed by the Netherlands, Colombia and Indonesia.

Meanwhile, Brazilian exports to China reached US\$87.9 billion (MOP 708 billion) last year – a more than 150 per cent increase from 2016, according to Brazilian Ministry of Economy data. Almost half of its exports were agri-products, making for a record high in spite of the Covid-19 pandemic. Chinese exports to Brazil, while also growing, were worth a more modest US\$47.6 billion (MOP 383.5 billion).



Image courtesy of Tulio Cariello

CEBC Content and Research Director Tulio Cariello told *Macao* magazine that the two countries' economic relationship is structurally sound and ripe for intensification due to complementary needs and resources.

China has an enormous demand for mineral, energy and agricultural commodities, for instance – areas where Brazil is highly competitive. Brazil is also one of few countries with the capacity to produce and export large volumes of these commodities.

Cariello noted that the countries' trade relationship is qualitatively uneven. "This reflects, on the one hand, the great Chinese competitiveness in sectors with higher added value, and on the other hand, that Brazilian industry suffers from heavy taxes and a relative complacency caused by protectionist measures," he explained.

(Inset) José Renato Domingues

Itaipu Dam, completed in 1984, was only recently surpassed in electricity production by China's Three Gorges Dam



“Chinese Investments in Brazil” shows Chinese investors are mainly involved in Brazil’s oil and gas sector. Last year, major oil exploration projects in the pre-salt region of Santos Basin and Búzios field were negotiated between the country’s state-run oil firm Petrobras and two Chinese companies: China National Oil and Gas Exploration and Development Company and China National Offshore Oil Corporation. Other sectors that drew Chinese interest were information technology, electricity and vehicle manufacturing.

Cariello said there was plenty of scope to explore further opportunities, too. Brazil has considerable bottlenecks in technology and infrastructure development, while China has a great deal of accumulated experience in both. “There is also space for a ‘market fit’ in sectors such as construction, transport and logistics, in addition to great synergy in projects aimed at sustainability, such as low-carbon agriculture and livestock,” says Cariello.

Representatives from three large Brazilian subsidiaries with Chinese holding companies attended the study’s release party: China Three Gorges (CTG) Brasil, Banco BOCOM BBM, and Great Wall Motors Brasil. José Renato Domingues, corporate vice-president of CTG Brasil, spoke of how China’s state-owned power company’s relationship with the South American country dates back 30 years. He recalled company technicians travelling to Brazil in the early 1990s to study the massive Itaipu hydroelectric plant, across the Paraná River, which was completed in 1984. The Chinese technicians wanted to understand what was then the world’s biggest hydro dam before they started building the Three Gorges plant in China, which overtook Itaipu in electricity output in 2020. CTG established its Brazilian subsidiary in 2009, sensing that “Brazil has to invest in energy to continue growing,” Domingues said.



All images on this page courtesy of CTG

A GROWING TRADE RELATIONSHIP

While Covid-related restrictions in China have caused shipping delays in recent years, trade generally kept its pace – and with Brazil, increased. One indicator that trade ties between China and Brazil are deepening is that the Sino-Brazilian High-Level Coordination and Cooperation Commission is now headed by China’s vice-president (it was formerly headed by the vice-premier). Both countries are part of the BRICS alliance of emerging economies, named for the first letter of each member country: Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

Cariello said that recent growth in Brazil’s exports to China came down to a combination of factors. The trade disputes between the US and China ended up benefiting Brazilian producers – especially in the agricultural sector – who stepped up to bridge the gap. China’s African swine flu outbreak led to surging demand for imported meat, which Brazil was able to supply. Pandemic-related supply shocks caused some Brazilian commodity prices to rise, which in turn brought greater



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financial returns even when volumes were down. Cariello notes that Brazil is one of few countries in the world with a trade surplus with China – nearly US\$40 billion (MOP 322 billion).

Brazilian exports to China are largely agricultural and mineral goods, namely oil, iron, soy and meat. Selling agricultural products to China is such a driving force for the Brazilian economy that the country’s Ministry of Agriculture recently created a specialised task force for the Chinese market. Almost all Chinese exports to Brazil, meanwhile, fall into the machinery, electronic appliances, and consumer goods categories. Due to the conflict in Ukraine, Brazil has also been importing more Chinese fertilisers.

“Today, unlike two decades ago, we import not only low value-added industrial products, but also more sophisticated products from China,” said Cariello. “I believe we will see this trend broadening in the coming years, given the innovations in the Chinese industry.”

Connecting power plants in Brazil’s north to population centres in the south has been a major project for the State Grid Corporation of China

BRAZILIAN AGRI-EXPORTS TO CHINA TO EXPAND

- China is Brazil’s largest trading partner, followed by the US.
- In 2021, Brazil exported 34 per cent of its agri-products to China; the country is China’s main supplier of these goods.
- A new trade deal is set to boost agri-imports even higher, opening China up to corn, soybean meal, concentrated soy protein, peanuts, and citrus pulp from Brazil.
- The Brazilian Association of Corn Producers is in talks with China about Chinese approval for certain types of genetically modified maize.



Chinese auto manufacturer Great Wall Motors marked the acquisition of their Brazilian factory by announcing a massive 10-year investment in the country

THE ROAD AHEAD: ELECTRIC VEHICLES, MERGERS, AND PREMIUM EXPORTS

Better matching Brazilian needs with Chinese expertise could open up significant opportunities for both economies, Celio Hiratuka, coordinator of the Brazil-China Study Group and professor at the Institute of Economics at Unicamp (the State University of Campinas), told *Folha Press*. Several major investment projects in areas such as sustainability, energy, urban mobility and digital transition are already underway.

Hiratuka points to Great Wall Motors' new factory in Iracemápolis, São Paulo (the Chinese automobile manufacturer bought what was then a São Paulo Mercedes Benz factory in 2021). Great Wall Motors is adapting its hybrid vehicles, which will be manufactured in Brazil from 2023, to run on ethanol – the most-used fuel in the country. Ethanol is a byproduct of Brazil's enormous sugarcane industry and significantly more environmentally friendly than traditional oil-based fuels. There are plans to transform the currently 100 per cent manual factory into one that's 50 to 60 per cent automated.

Great Wall Motors is also looking to partner with local businesses to develop a way to use ethanol as a source of hydrogen for its hydrogen-fuelled cars, which currently use compressed hydrogen in cylinders. It's already working with a Brazilian telecommunications operator to develop the vehicles' interconnectivity system.

Eventually, it will manufacture batteries for its 100 per cent electric vehicles there too.

Another example of Chinese expertise meeting Brazil's needs is the merger between the State Grid Corporation of China and State Grid Brazil Holding (SGBH), which controls transmission lines connecting the Belo Monte hydroelectric plant in Pará to Brazil's southeast. The two electricity giants are developing dry air-core reactors that will transmit at a voltage level never before used. This new technology will compensate for losses in SGBH's long transmission lines, is simpler to maintain, and is better for the environment than the currently used reactors.

On the trade front, Cariello expects that Brazilian exports to China will only go up: "With the growth of the Chinese middle class and the increase in its purchasing power, there are niches that could be explored by Brazilian producers, especially in a sector in which we are already competitive – F&B," he says. Examples given include premium meat cuts, selected fruits, dairy, specialty coffees, honey, alcoholic beverages and other high-end food products. "Chinese consumers could also explore the fashion sector and the idea of Brazilian exoticism, with an appeal to products from the Amazon rainforest, for example," Cariello added.

These considerable opportunities in trade and foreign investment signal a promising symbiotic future for Brazil and China. ●



Learn how the Permanent Secretariat of the Forum for Economic and Trade Co-operation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries (Macao) uses Macao as a platform by visiting their website: forumchinapl.org.mo





ZOOM

Accidentally Wes Anderson x Macao Art Exhibition

Featuring over 30 photographs captured in Macao and the surrounding region, the Accidentally Wes Anderson x Macao Art Exhibition is an ode to Wes Anderson’s whimsical universe.

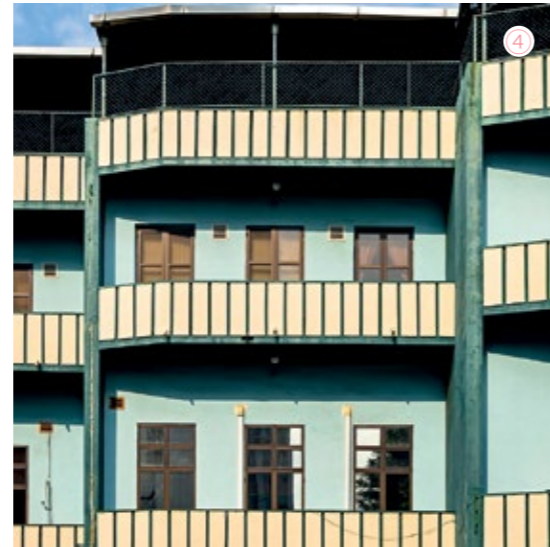
Text **Sara Santos Silva**
 Photos courtesy of
Youth Cultural Promotion Association of Macao

- ① Sacred Heart Canossian College by Dennis Ho, 2022
- ② Accidentally Wes Anderson x Macao Art Exhibition - Exploration of Colour Aesthetics in Architecture at the Small and Medium Enterprises Support Centre

Accidentally Wes Anderson is an ode to its namesake: the stylistically distinctive American movie director famed for *The Grand Budapest Hotel* (2014), *The Darjeeling Limited* (2007), and *The Royal Tenenbaums* (2001). It started as an Instagram page in 2017, featuring photos curated by New York-based couple Wally and Amanda Koval. Each image had to look like it came out of a Wes Anderson film – which are known for their pastel hues, symmetrical compositions, and whimsy – but didn’t. Hence being accidentally Wes Anderson (AWA).
 The project, still headed by the Kovals, has morphed into a travel website, a New York Times bestselling coffee table book, and a community of over one million

adventurers who seek and share Anderson-esque scenes from outside the big screen. These photographs hail from all corners of the world, including Macao.
 “Accidentally Wes Anderson x Macao Art Exhibition - Exploration of Colour Aesthetics in Architecture” is a showcase of more than 30 AWA photographs captured in Macao and the surrounding region. It includes familiar sites like Cinematheque Passion and the Mandarin’s House, and is co-organised by the Youth Cultural Promotion Association of Macao.
 The exhibition is being held at the Macau Small and Medium Enterprises Support Centre, on Rua das Estalagens, until 31 December. It’s open Tuesday to Sunday, between 12 pm and 8 pm. ●





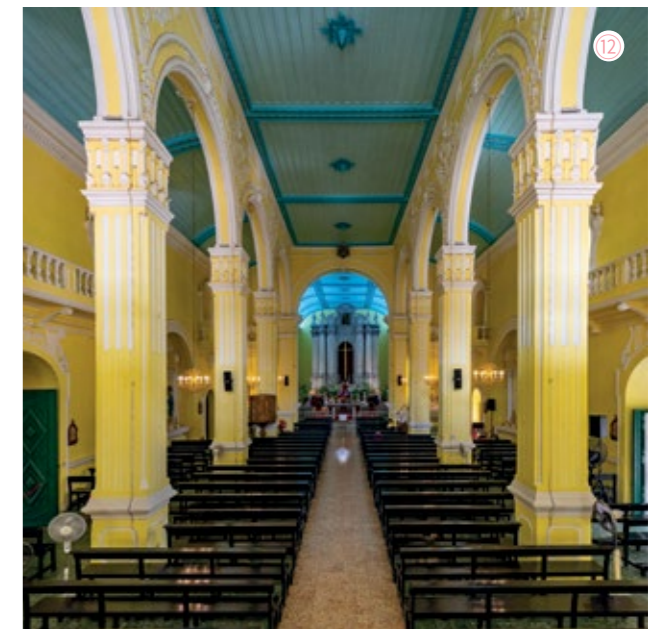
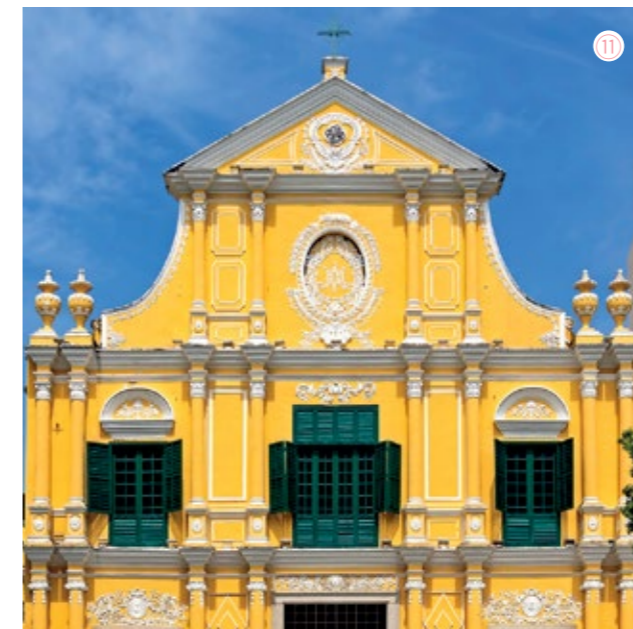
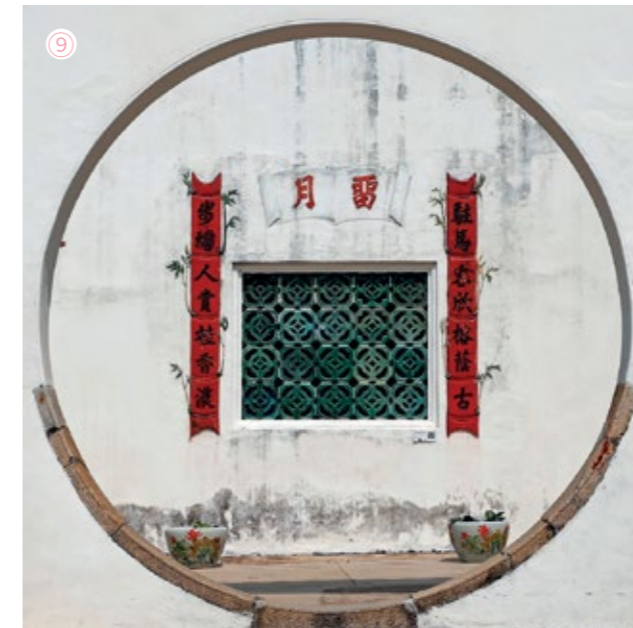
③ Octagonal Pavilion Library by Gia, 2022

④ Cinetatro Macau by Gia, 2022

⑤ Macao Central Library by Begonia Leong, 2022

⑥ Chun Hing Trading Co by Gia, 2022

⑦ Tap Seac Square by Gia, 2022



⑧ AWA Exhibition at the Small and Medium Enterprises Support Centre

⑨ Mandarin's House by Begonia Leong, 2022

⑩ Cinematheque Passion by Dennis Ho, 2022

⑪ St Dominic's Church by Dennis Ho, 2022 (façade)

⑫ St Dominic's Church by Matt, 2022 (interior)



⑬ AWA Exhibition at the Small and Medium Enterprises Support Centre

⑭ AWA Exhibition in Macao takes explorers on a journey through the captivating Wes Anderson-esque landscape



⑭



澳門藝術博物館 澳門新口岸冼星海大馬路 展覽開放時間：上午十時至下午七時（下午六時三十分停止入場），逢星期一休館，公眾假期照常開放，免費入場。
 Museu de Arte de Macau Avenida Xian Xing Hai, Macau Horário da exibição: 10h00 – 19h00 (última admissão às 18h30). Encerra às Segundas-feiras, aberto nos dias feriados. Entrada livre.
 Macao Museum of Art Avenida Xian Xing Hai, Macao Exhibition Opening Hours: 10am – 7pm (last entry at 6:30pm). Closed on Mondays and open on public holidays. Free admission.
 電話/Tel: (853) 8791 9814 傳真/Fax: (853) 2875 1317 網址/Website: www.MAM.gov.mo 電郵/E-mail: MAM@icm.gov.mo

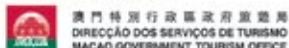
2022

ILUMINAR MACAU LIGHTUP MACCAO 2022
幻彩耀濠江

閃亮冬日
Inverno Deslumbrante
Dazzling Winter

2022.12.3-2023.1.1

主辦單位 / Organizer / Organizer



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協辦單位 / Coorganizadores / Co-organizers



合作單位 / Parceiros do Evento / Event Partners

