

Macau Basic Law Gallery reopens after revamp

Armando Neves

The Macau Basic Law Commemorative Gallery reopened to the public yesterday after its closure in late 2023 for a revamp aimed to strengthen its role in popularising the nation's Constitution and the Macau Basic Law.

The facility's reopening was marked by a ceremony yesterday afternoon, which was officiated by Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai, Central People's Government Liaison Office Director Zheng Xincong, Foreign Ministry Commissioner Liu Xianfa, People's Liberation Army (PLA) Macau Garrison Commander Yu Changjiang, and Macau Basic Law Promotion Association President Chui Sai Cheong.

Secretary for Administration and Justice André Cheong Weng Chon also attended yesterday's reopening ceremony which he addressed.

The Macau Basic Law Commemorative Gallery, located next to the main entrance to the Macau Forum complex in Zape, is open daily, except Mondays, between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Admission is free.

Before its closure in November 2023 for renovation, the gallery had been operated by the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) since it opened in 2013. The revamped and reopened gallery is now run by the Legal Affairs Bureau (DSAJ), which noted in a statement yesterday that in addition to its original exhibition functions of promoting the nation's Constitution and the Macau Basic Law, the revamped gallery now plays the additional function of being a Macau Youth Patriotic Education Law Popularisation Base, with the aim of further strengthening Macau residents' sense of national identity and consolidating Macau's social foundation rooted in love for the nation and love for Macau.

Cheong noted in his speech that the commemorative gallery, after a revamp including a redesign of its internal layout, now includes the new function of housing the Macau Youth Patriotic Education Law Popularisation Base, in addition to its original exhibition functions. Cheong said that with its new positioning as "One Gallery and One Base", the gallery will now publicise the nation's Constitution and the Macau Basic Law to all Macau residents through more diverse channels and methods, including multimedia devices, particularly targeting primary and secondary school students.

Cheong also pledged that the government will strengthen its collaboration with community associations and schools to leverage the gallery's role in publicising the nation's Constitution and the Macau Basic Law, with the aim of upholding Macau's core value of loving the country and loving Macau and ensuring the steady and far-reaching implementation of the great cause of "One Country Two Systems", so that it will last for generations to come.

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Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai (centre), Liaison Office of the Central People's Government Director Zheng Xincong (second from left), Chinese Foreign Affairs Ministry Commissioner Liu Xianfa (second from right), People's Liberation Army (PLA) Macau Garrison Commander Yu Changjiang (left) and Macau Basic Law Promotion Association President Chui Sai Cheong cut the ribbon at yesterday's reopening ceremony of the revamped Macau Basic Law Commemorative Gallery at the Macau Forum in Zape.

– Photo: Armando Neves

Trump says 'very wealthy' group to buy TikTok

WASHINGTON, DC – President Donald Trump said yesterday a group of buyers had been found for TikTok, which faces a looming ban in the United States due to its China ties, adding he could name the purchasers in two weeks.

"We have a buyer for TikTok, by the way," Trump said in an interview on Fox's Sunday Morning Futures with Maria Bartiromo.

"Very wealthy people. It's a group of wealthy people," the president said, without revealing more except to say he would make their identities known "in about two weeks."

The president also said he would likely need "China approval" for the sale, "and I think President Xi [Jinping] will probably do it."

TikTok is owned by China-based internet company ByteDance.

A federal law requiring TikTok's

sale or ban on national security grounds was due to take effect the day before Trump's inauguration on January 20. But the Republican, whose 2024 election campaign relied heavily on social media and who has said he is fond of TikTok, put the ban on pause.

In mid-June Trump extended a deadline for the popular video-sharing app by another 90 days to find a non-Chinese buyer or be banned in the United States.

Tech experts quickly described the TikTok kerfuffle as a symbol of the heated US-China tech rivalry.

While Trump had long supported a ban or divestment, he reversed his position and vowed to defend the platform – which boasts almost two billion global users – after coming to believe it helped him win young voters' support in the November election.

"I have a little warm spot in my heart for TikTok," Trump told NBC News in early May. "If it needs an extension, I would be willing to give it an extension."

Now after two extensions pushed the deadline to June 19, Trump has extended it for a third time.

He said in May that a group of purchasers was ready to pay ByteDance "a lot of money" for TikTok's US operations.

The previous month he said China would have agreed to a deal on the sale of TikTok if it were not for a dispute over Trump's tariffs on Beijing.

ByteDance has confirmed talks with the US government, saying key matters needed to be resolved and that any deal would be "subject to approval under Chinese law." (*More about Trump's China approach on p.6*)

– AFP

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The Macau Post Daily

Xi urges villagers in Xizang to uphold ethnic solidarity

President Xi Jinping has urged residents of a village in the Xizang Autonomous Region to uphold ethnic solidarity and create a happier and better life.

– Story on p. 7

Iran voices 'serious doubts' over Israel commitment to ceasefire

Iran yesterday said it was not convinced Israel would abide by a ceasefire that ended their 12-day war this week.

– Story on p. 10

Renters struggle to survive in Portugal's housing crisis

With sky-high rents beyond his modest pension, António Lemos has no choice but to live in an abandoned house in Lisbon without electricity or running water as Portugal's perennial housing crisis spirals.

– Story on p. 12

Macau, HK police bust 9 phone scam dens in April-June



Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Cheong Un Hong (right), IT Crimes Division Supervisor Lao Kuok Cheong (centre), and an unnamed senior officer look on during Friday's special press conference, as evidence seized from two local phone scam dens run by two suspects from Malaysia and another one from Indonesia is displayed. – Photo: Maria Cheang Ut Meng

Armando Neves

Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Cheong Un Hong announced at a special press conference on Friday that PJ officers, in cooperation with their Hong Kong counterparts, busted nine phone scam dens between April and this month.

The special press conference was held at the PJ headquarters in Zape.

Cheong said that between April and June, the Judiciary Police and the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) conducted three joint operations targeting cross-border telecom fraud. They busted nine telecom fraud dens across both special administrative regions, during which 68 GoIP devices*, 24 mobile phones, over 5,000 SIM cards, and a number of routers and surveillance cameras were seized, involving 168 victims that incurred losses totalling 22 million patacas.

Cheong said that the nine dens

in Macau and Hong Kong were believed to have been operated by the syndicate.

Police nab 2 Malaysian, Indonesian suspects

PJ IT Crimes Division Supervisor Lao Kuok Cheong said that in the latest joint operations, on June 22 and 24, PJ officers busted 2 phone scam dens in the northern district and San Kio district, respectively, and confiscated 12 GoIP devices.

Cheong identified the three suspects as a 30-year-old male surnamed Ng from Malaysia who told police that he works as a petrol station manager in Macau, a 27-year-old male surnamed Lim also from Malaysia who claimed to be unemployed, and a 34-year-old female surnamed Se from Indonesia who works as a domestic helper in Macau. Cheong said that the three suspects were caught at the local airport, in the northern district and in San Kio, without revealing further details.

Lao said that Ng and Lim were paid 8,000 and 3,500 Malaysian ringgit (15,285 patacas and 6,690 patacas), respectively, to set up the phone scam dens in rental units in the northern and San Kio districts. Se received the fraudulently obtained money through three personal bank accounts, Lao said.

Lao said that the two male suspects face charges of fraud, operating simulated mobile telecommunications stations using computer devices, and organised crime. The female suspect faces charges of fraud, money laundering involving particularly large sums of money, and organised crime.

All three suspects have been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) for further investigation. ■

* GoIP (GSM over IP) devices are hybrid communication tools that bridge traditional GSM (cellular) networks with VoIP (Voice over IP) technology. – DeepSeek

Elderly woman treated for Vibrio vulnificus infection

Ida Cheong

A 75-year-old local woman inflicted with chronic diseases suffered necrosis of her finger after being infected with *Vibrio vulnificus**, the Health Bureau (SSM) announced in a statement on Friday.

When the woman handled fish at home on May 24, the statement said, she accidentally injured a finger on her right hand.

According to the statement, the woman developed a fever, experienced swelling and pain on her injured finger in the early morning of May 24. She then sought treatment at the public Conde de São Januário Hospital Centre, where she was diagnosed with necrotising fasciitis of a finger on her right hand, so that she was hospitalised for wound debridement and antibiotic treatment.

Necrotising fasciitis is commonly known as flesh-eating infection, which is a serious bacterial infection of the soft tissue and fascia (layer of tissue).

According to laboratory tests, the patient was confirmed as having been infected with *Vibrio vulnificus* through her wound secretion samples, adding

that she has since recovered and been discharged after undergoing surgery, due to necrosis of her finger. The statement underlined that her cohabiting family members showed no similar symptoms. ■

**Vibrio vulnificus* is a bacterium found in warm marine environments, such as estuaries, coastal waters, and shellfish. It belongs to the same family as *Vibrio cholerae* (the causative agent of cholera) and is known for its potential to cause severe, life-threatening infections in humans.

Details about *Vibrio vulnificus* infection in English can be checked on <https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/healthtopics/content/24/3780.html>



Image courtesy of US FSN

OSH carnival promotes occupational safety & health

Ida Cheong

The 2025 edition of the annual "Occupational Safety and Health Carnival" was held yesterday, aiming to promote the importance of occupational safety and health (OSH) and enhance overall social awareness through the event.

The one-day carnival, organised by the Macau Occupational Health and Safety Association (OSHA), was held in Iao Hon Market Park, themed "Let's create a safe working environment in the hospitality industry by embodying corporate social responsibility". It featured interactive booth games, exhibitions, and performances.

OSHA Chairman Kou Chon Hong pointed out in a speech that the event has been held for over a decade, adding that the association has promoted occupational health and safety knowledge under various themes for years, with the aim of strengthening public occupational safety awareness.

Kou noted that workplace injuries are common in the hotel, catering, and construction industries, the main factors being poor lighting, uneven floors, and sharp edges on equipment in some venues.

Kou said that in recent years



Participants visit interactive games booths during yesterday's "Occupational Safety and Health Carnival" in Iao Hon Market Park.

hygiene and occupational safety in hospitality enterprises and small-to-medium-sized catering venues has improved significantly. He also said he hoped that the government's "Occupational Safety Training Card" programme will be expanded to more industries to further promote the importance of occupational safety and health.

According to a statement issued by the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) on May 31, a total of 5,095 people were injured in workplace accidents in 2024. In percentage terms, the main causes were, according to the DSAL statement: falls from height (25.4 percent), crushing, punctures, or cuts (19.3 percent), and tripping or

colliding with objects (16.1 percent).

10 fatal workplace accidents were recorded last year. One of these deaths was suspected to be related to violations of occupational safety and health laws, the statement said.

The statement added that the bureau has provided a range of OSH programmes and lectures to residents, covering the catering industry, construction industry, hospitality industry and others, to ensure that employees be provided appropriate occupational safety and health knowledge, aiming to result in fewer workplace accidents. For more information about OSH programmes visit https://www.dsai.gov.mo/dsso/zh_tw/standard/train.html ■



Macau Occupational Health and Safety Association OSHA Chairman Kou Chon Hong (fifth from right) and other attendees cut the ribbon at the opening ceremony of yesterday's "Occupational Safety and Health Carnival" in Iao Hon Market Park.

– Photos: Ida Cheong

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MAINLY CLOUDY.
OCCASIONAL SHOWERS.
A FEW THUNDERSTORMS.
FORCE 3 TO 4 EAST TO
SOUTHEASTERLY WINDS WITH
GUSTS.
RELATIVE HUMIDITY
WILL RANGE BETWEEN
75% AND 98%.



25°C~30°C

Source: SMG

Exports rise, imports fall in Jan-May

Staff Reporter

Macau's imports in the first five months of the year, accounting for 89.9 percent of its total external merchandise trade, fell by 5.5 percent year-on-year to 50.69 billion patacas, the Statistics and Census Bureau (DSEC) announced last week.

Total exports, comprising domestic and re-exports, rose by 2.3 percent to 5.67 billion patacas, with re-exports accounting for 90.0 percent of total exports.

Macau recorded a trade balance deficit of 45.0 billion patacas between January and May.

Food and beverages continued to be Macau's number-one import segment, rising by 7.5 percent to 9.399 billion patacas. Imports of mobile phones fell by 22.8 percent to 1.1 billion patacas, while construction material imports dropped by 39.2 percent to 573.2 million patacas in the first five months of the year. Other major import items included garments and footwear, gold jewellery,

beauty, cosmetic and skincare products, handbags, fuels and lubricants, and watches.

Merchandise imports mainly originated from the Chinese mainland (29.4 percent), France (15.1 percent), and Italy (10.6 percent).

Macau is a separate Chinese customs territory. The Chinese special administrative region (SAR) is a member of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the World Customs Organisation (WCO), under the official designation of "Macao, China."

Macau has one of the world's highest per capita GDPs. In 2024, according to DSEC figures, Macau's per capita GDP stood at 587,922 patacas (US\$72,767, at the current exchange rate). The local pataca is indirectly linked to the greenback through its Hong Kong dollar peg.

The Macau SAR's financial reserves amounted to 632.5 billion patacas (US\$78.2 billion) at the end of April, according to the latest available official figures. The Macau SAR has no public debt. ■

6 curatorial projects picked for Art Macao 2025

Kristina Vallesteros

The Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) announced on Friday the six selected exhibition proposals for the "Local Curatorial Project," a key programme of "Art Macao: Macao International Art Biennale 2025".

According to the statement, the selected proposals will be showcased during the upcoming "Art Macao 2025" event and shortlisted for preliminary selection for the "61st International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia – Collateral Event from Macao, China."

The bureau said that it received 34 proposals in response to the open call, which aimed to "provide an open and diversified exchange platform, encourage the creation of contemporary arts in Macau, cultivate local curatorial talents and showcase Macau's artistic achievements."

After two rounds of evaluation by a panel of international and local experts, the following six winning proposals were chosen: "Genetic Duration" curated by Guilherme Ung Vai Meng, "After Oriental Garden" curated by Cheong Weng Lam, "The Sea of Languages: Macao Language Research Programme" co-curated by He Yanjun and Zhang Ke, "A Speakable Position for Women" co-curated by Cheong Cheng Wa and Wang Jing, "Beneath the Wetware Peninsula" co-curated by Daisy Di Wang and Wong Mei Teng, and



This undated handout photo provided by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) on Friday shows the unidentified members of the jury posing in front of the Macao Museum of Art (MAM).

"Jacone's Tower" co-curated by Feng Yan and Ng Sio Ieng.

The statement noted that the selected proposals "explore the dialogue between the history, memory and current situation of Macau in a global context," covering themes such as cultural heritage, gender narratives, and technology.

The winning curators will now compete for a chance to represent Macau at the Venice Biennale Collateral Event, with the Cultural Affairs Bureau forming another jury to make the final selection, according to the statement.

Organised by the Cultural Affairs Bureau in conjunction with

the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) and Macau's six integrated resort operators, the statement said that "Art Macao 2025", themed "Hey, what brings you here?", features six sections, namely the "Main Exhibition", "Public Art Exhibition", "City Pavilion", "Special Exhibition", "Local Curatorial Exhibition", and "Collateral Exhibition". The statement emphasised that the event aims to "create an international cultural and artistic feast, promoting the development of local arts," while the selected projects will "bring a new artistic experience to residents and tourists." ■

Macau Basic Law Gallery reopens after revamp



University of Macau (UM) Faculty of Law (FLL) Prof. Lok Wai Kin gives a lecture about the Macau Basic Law during yesterday's Youth Patriotic Education Law Popularisation programme on the sidelines of the reopening of the Macau Basic Law Commemorative Gallery at Macau Forum. – Photo: Armindo Neves

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After yesterday's reopening ceremony, the gallery hosted a youth legal education lecture where University of Macau (UM) Faculty of Law (FLL) Prof. Lok Wai Kin laid out the core principles of the nation's Constitution and the Macau Basic Law to 40 secondary students from various schools. The lecture also highlighted the successful implementation of the "One Country, Two Systems" principle in Macau, yesterday's DSAJ statement said.

A student surnamed Ng told reporters on the sidelines of the lecture that it was her first visit to the gallery. Through exhibition panels and lectures, Ng said, she and her fellow schoolmates gained a deeper understanding of the Macau Basic Law, such as that it is not merely a legal document, but also the nation's commitment to Macau to safeguard residents' rights and freedoms. She described the experience as highly rewarding.

The implementation of the Macau Basic Law, which was passed by the National People's

Congress (NPC) on March 31, 1993, began on December 20, 1999 when the Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR) was established by the People's Republic of China (PRC). On that day, the Basic Law replaced the Portuguese administration's Macau Organic Statute (EOM).

December 20, 1999 marked Macau's transfer from temporary Portuguese to permanent Chinese administration and its return to the motherland. The so-called "handover" was not a change in sovereignty, as the People's Republic of China (PRC) did not recognise foreign sovereignty over Chinese territory. While until December 20, 1999 the PRC refrained from exercising its sovereignty over Macau, Portugal had unilaterally relinquished all its overseas claims of sovereignty shortly after its anti-colonial Carnation Revolution of April 25, 1974, including Macau. On December 20, 1999, China resumed its exercise of sovereignty over Macau and the Basic Law took effect. ■



ABOUT The Young Post

The Macau Post Daily's The Young Post will be published every Monday to present and discuss topical issues that may interest not only the younger but also all the other generations.

Chelsia Ng Cheok Ieng poses with some of her favourite works after the interview with The Young Post at The Macau Post Daily's editorial office in the city centre. -Photos: Rui Pastorin



This photo provided by Chelsia's mother shows the young student relaxing.

Talking art with youngster Chelsia Ng

Interview by Rui Pastorin

Art has long been a part of Chelsia Ng Cheok Ieng's life. Since she was a small child to now being a 17-year-old Form 5 student, Ng has continued to learn and create through drawing and painting, having a continuous passion that has also become one of her sources of calm.

A self-motivated youngster who likes learning about different types of artforms including ballet and music, the talented artist, who was interviewed by *The Young Post* at our newspaper's editorial office on Thursday, said she started taking lessons under seasoned local artist Io Fong when she was just six years old. And what started off as just attending classes quickly became something she enjoys greatly.

Chelsia, who studies at Sacred Heart Canossian College (English Section), said that the lessons started off with her learning to create works through using oil pastels before eventually moving on to sketching, colour pencil sketching and then drawing with technical pens*.

Now, she mainly works with watercolours, a medium that she has a preference for due to its fluid and transparent feel, while also noting that she likes the process behind it along with seeing colours change and mix together. In terms of what she likes to paint, architecture is a subject that she enjoys the most, with inspiration often coming from looking at pictures.

While she continues to take group classes with Io, Chelsia also has the chance of using her skills in school, where she has had the opportunity to create works for certain classes and homework. An example she gave of this was for an assignment in one of her classes where students had to draw something related to Macau's heritage, with Chelsia choosing to take on A-Ma Temple as her subject.

While discussing this particular work, for which she used technical pens and, she noted, mistakes could not simply just be erased, Chelsia pointed out the importance of patience. She emphasised this as being quite significant when creating something, adding: "When you put in more time, you can do the work".

Moreover, Chelsia said that she likes to take the time to paint something for herself each week, usually taking around an hour to paint if time allows it. To her, being able to create something is what she loves most about art, saying that she feels relaxed and happy when she paints or draws, while a feeling of satisfaction comes whenever she completes a piece. And with over 10 years of being engaged in art, she has created many works over time, saying: "I've never stopped".

Her passion for art is something that she wants to continue, but she also said she would prefer to keep it as a part of her life rather than pursuing it as a career or joining activities such as competitions. And when asked why, the young artist pointed out that she wants to keep both the enjoyment and love that she has for the craft she is engaged in, rather than finding stress in a hobby she thoroughly enjoys. "Since it's just for interest, I don't want to put any stress on myself in doing this".

The youngster said hopes to continue drawing and painting down the line, particularly finding more inspiration from architecture that she likes.



*A technical pen is a type of pen designed for technical and architectural illustration. Technical pen drawing emphasises accuracy and detail, making it a preferred choice for professionals in technical fields. -Source: Poe

Citibank withdraws from Macau, shuts sole branch today

Staff Reporter

Citigroup announced in a brief notice published in the local press on Friday that its Citibank, N.A., Macau Branch will officially cease operations today.

According to the notice, the bank will continue to provide services to Macau customers in Hong Kong as circumstances permit, in accordance with Macau laws and regulations.

According to a separate notice posted in English and Chinese on a single A4 paper on the door of Citibank's office on the 15th floor of the Macau Square commercial building in the city centre, dated December 31, 2024, "Citibank, N.A., Macau Branch will continue providing services until December 31, 2024. Effective from January 1, 2025, please contact CitiService at 852-23-2306 6022 for assistance. Thank you for your attention." Yesterday, the office of the bank's sole branch in Macau appeared to be empty.

In response to media enquiries, the

Macau Monetary Authority (AMCM) is reported to have said that Citibank has formally applied to withdraw from the Macau market due to a strategic business adjustment by the group. The monetary regulator mentioned that it was following up on the bank's winding-up arrangements in accordance with the law, adding that the bank had notified its customers in advance of these arrangements to ensure that they are not affected. Citibank has also appointed a qualified trustee to ensure that the bank's obligations in Macau are fully settled.

Citibank, N.A. ("N.A." stands for "National Association") is the primary US banking subsidiary of Citigroup, a financial services multinational corporation headquartered in New York City.

According to its official website, "Citigroup has had a presence in Macau since 1902, proudly serving governmental institutions, financial

institutions, multinational corporations, and institutional investors across a range of corporate banking, lending, transaction services, and markets businesses." According to the website's Disclosure of Financial Information, dated December 31, 2024 and audited by the local office of KPMG Certified Public Accountants, the branch recorded a loss before taxation of 19.791 million patacas, total assets were 527.5 million patacas and deposits from clients amounted to 136.6 million patacas last year. According to the website, 2021 was the last year that the branch recorded a profit before taxation, at 358,000 patacas.

Meanwhile, two banking sources told the *Post* on Saturday that Citigroup had planned to shut down its sole Macau branch about a decade ago. Requesting anonymity, the sources also said that the impact of Citigroup's exit from Macau on the local banking sector was "close to zero" and "negligible," respectively. ■



This photo taken on Friday shows a notice displayed on the door of Citibank, N.A., Macau Branch on the 15th floor of the Macau Square commercial building in the city centre. – Photo: Maria Cheang Ut Meng

Tam orders 'internal investigation' of Transport Bureau over radio taxi services

Tony Wong

Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raymond Tam Vai Man has ordered an internal investigation into the Transport Bureau's (DSAT) supervision of the concessionaire that has been operating the city's radio taxi services since 2017, in the wake of a hard-hitting report published by the Commission of Audit (CA) slamming the bureau's failure to ensure that the company met the officially required minimum number of taxis in operation at different times of the day stipulated by the concession's agreement.

Tam made the remarks in a statement on Saturday, after the commission published the report on Friday.

The government granted two concessions for the city's radio taxi services, which were granted to the same company, Macau Radio Taxi Services Limited, at two different times. The first concession, with 100 radio taxis, commenced on April 1, 2017 and is now scheduled to expire on September 30 this year,

while the second concession, with 200 radio taxis, began on December 1, 2019 and is now scheduled to end on May 31, 2028.

The company's taxis are not allowed to pick up those hailing a cab in the street. To use the company's ride-hailing service, prospective passengers can phone its call centre or use its own mobile ride-hailing app.

The audit report says that the bureau's failure to properly exercise its supervision duty was a reason for the government's failure to meet its goal of making it easier for residents to get a taxi by granting the company the concession for radio taxi services, officially known as special taxi services.

Tam said in his statement said that the bureau was to blame for the case revealed by the audit report, adding that the government has launched an internal investigation into the matter.

Tam underlined that the government will handle the matter "in a serious manner with zero tolerance". ■



A radio taxi drives along Avenida do Dr. Rodrigo Rodrigues in Zape, near its entrance to Guia Hill Tunnel, on Friday. – Photo: Maria Cheang Ut Meng

Special TV gala celebrating 25th anniversary of Macao's return to the Motherland wins Magnolia Award

Government Information Bureau

The special TV show "Macao Sings with Joy for the Future: Celebration of the 25th Anniversary of Macao's Return to the Motherland", hosted by the Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR) Government and produced by China Media Group (CMG), has been awarded a Special Prize at the 30th Shanghai Television Festival Magnolia Awards.

The award is the latest accolade received by CMG at the prestigious Magnolia Awards. It follows the TV variety show "National Treasure" winning the Best Seasonal TV Programme Award at the 24th edition, and the "2024 Spring Festival Gala" claiming Best Variety Show at the 29th edition.

At the award ceremony, held on Saturday evening (27 June), the Magnolia Awards committee noted in its remarks that the "Celebration of the 25th Anniversary of Macao's Return to the Motherland" gala, themed "Unity in Celebration, Creating the Future Together", showcased the heartfelt sentiments of "patriotism and love for Macao" that have prevailed across all sectors of the city since its return to the motherland, as well as the successful implementation of the "One country, two systems" principle. This was achieved through diverse artistic performances, including songs, dances, instrumental music, traditional opera, martial arts, narrative acts, and musical theatre.

The "Celebration of the 25th Anniversary of Macao's Return to the Motherland" gala was held on 19 December 2024 in Macao. It featured performers and teams primarily drawn from Macao's local communities.

The gala was divided into three chapters: "Macao Welcomes You", "Sailing in the Greater Bay Area", and "The Most Beautiful Chinese Heart". It vividly illustrated the achievements of the "One country, two systems" principle with Macao's characteristics over the past 25 years, and the unwavering patriotic spirit of the city's population.

Following its broadcast, the gala sparked widespread acclaim in Hong Kong, Macao, and the Chinese mainland. It also resonated deeply among overseas Chinese communities and Taiwanese compatriots who share emotional ties to the motherland.

As jubilant melodies rose from the banks of the Houjiang River and intertwined with the heartfelt voices of compatriots abroad, the performance became more than a celebration – it was a powerful demonstration of culture's unifying force, and a poignant tribute to the dedication of the production team.

During his acceptance speech, director Zhang Ji said that the show had involved more than a year of



Special TV gala celebrating 25th anniversary of Macao's return to the Motherland wins Magnolia Award (Source: China Media Group Arts Programme Centre)

meticulous preparation. Though the journey had been challenging, the outcome was immensely rewarding, and the memories linked to it were unforgettable, he said. Moving forward, the production team would remain committed to the mission of being cultural creators in the new era, striving to produce new and exceptional artistic works and programmes that could honour this accolade, justify CMG's trust, repay audiences, and celebrate this remarkable era.

From the joyous laughter echoing through Macao's neighbourhoods to the pioneering spirit of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, and from the patriotic fervour on stage to the tears of solidarity among millions of compatriots around the world, the gala wove an enduring tapestry of Macao's inseparable bond with the motherland – a reflection of their shared path of development. May the blossoms of culture continue to flourish, composing ever more jubilant melodies for Macao and the nation's bright future.

8 lists field 84 candidates vying for 14 directly-elected seats: govt

Tony Wong

The Legislative Assembly Electoral Affairs Commission (CAEAL) has announced the personal details of the candidates fielded by the eight lists that have submitted their respective lists of candidates and political platforms for the upcoming direct legislative election, according to which 84 candidates will vie for the 14 directly-elected seats at stake – if their respective qualifications are all finally confirmed by the commission.

Consequently, if all of them are confirmed there will only be six candidates per seat at stake. Four years ago, 126 candidates from 14 lists vied for the 14 directly-elected seats at stake, equivalent to nine candidates for each seat.

The commission has also announced the personal details of the 14 candidates fielded by the six lists competing for the 12 seats at stake in the upcoming indirect election.

The personal details of the 84 direct election candidates and the 14 indirect election candidates were posted on the ground floor of the Public Administration Building on Rua do Campo on Saturday.

The lists of candidates that have been posted are merely preliminary lists. The commission will assess the qualifications of the candidates, during which it will request the Macau Special Administrative Region's (MSAR) Committee for Safeguarding National Security

to assess whether the candidates uphold the MSAR Basic Law and bear allegiance to the MSAR.

After the vetting process, according to the electoral schedule, the commission will be required to announce its list of accepted candidates by July 15. If no objections to the commission's decision are lodged, the commission will be required to announce its final list of accepted candidates by July 18, while if appeals are lodged to the Court of Final Appeal (TUI) against the commission's decision, the commission will be required to announce the final list by July 31 following the court's ruling.

The 2025 direct and indirect legislative elections will take place on September 14.

Each direct election list must field at least four and no more than 14 candidates.

The 33-member Legislative Assembly (AL) currently comprises 14 deputies directly elected by universal suffrage, 12 deputies indirectly elected by association representatives and seven deputies appointed by the chief executive after the direct and indirect elections.

The legislature's 12 indirectly-elected seats comprise four seats representing the city's industrial, commercial and financial sector, three seats from the professional sector, two seats from the labour sector, two seats from the cultural and sports sector, and one seat from the social

services and educational sector.

Two lists will run for the upcoming indirect election's labour sector.

The labour sector is the only sector where more than one list will run in the upcoming indirect election, while only one list will run for each of the other four sectors.

The number of candidates fielded by each indirect election list must be the same as the respective sector's number of seats.

Therefore, a total of 14 candidates fielded by the six indirect election lists will vie for the 12 seats at stake – if their respective qualifications are all finally confirmed by the commission.

Consequently, while the four candidates fielded by the two lists for the labour sector will compete for the sector's two indirectly-elected seats, all candidates of the other four sectors' electoral lists are slated to be elected uncontested.

The eight direct election lists, with the personal details of their candidates having been posted, comprise, by order of the timing of their respective submissions of lists of candidates and political platforms: 1) Macau United Citizens Association (ACUM), 2) Union for Development (UPD), 3) Progress Promotion Union (UPP), 4) Macau Creating People's Livelihood Force, 5) Power of Synergy, 6) Alliance for a Happy Home, 7) New Hope, and 8) Macau-Guangdong Union (UMG).

The six indirect election lists, with the personal details of their candidates having been posted, comprise the Union of Macau Business Interests for the industrial, commercial and financial sector; the Union of Macau Professionals' Interests for the professional sector; the Joint Candidacy Committee of Employees' Associations, and the Union of Workers' Associations for the labour sector; the Rising Sun Cultural and Sports Union for the cultural and sports sector; and the Social Service and Education Promotion Association for the social services and educational sector. ■



This photo taken yesterday shows the preliminary lists of candidates for the upcoming direct and indirect legislative elections posted on the ground floor of the Public Administration Building on Rua do Campo. – Photo: Tony Wong

10-day gastronomy-fest returns, to start on July 11: MGTO



This poster provided by the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) on Friday promotes the upcoming 10-day "2025 International Cities of Gastronomy Fest, Macao"

Rui Pastorin

The 10-day "2025 International Cities of Gastronomy Fest, Macao" will be held at Fisherman's Wharf in Nape from July 11 to 20, taking on the theme "Spices and Herbs".

The event venues are mainly the Fisherman's Wharf's Roman Amphitheatre Square and Legend Boulevard.

Following the success of last year's inaugural event, a statement from the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) on Friday said that this year's fest will gather 34 UNESCO Creative Cities of Gastronomy from 21 countries across six continents, seven Creative Cities of other fields and two candidate cities from the mainland, along with two Culture Cities of East Asia 2025.

The upcoming culinary festival features three highlights, the first of which is the "International Gastronomy Promenade" that will have over 100 food booths and 1,000 dining seats, a 42 percent increase from last year, the statement said.

There will be 14 Creative Cities of Gastronomy from around the world gathered at the promenade, with 25 booths from mainland cities, (including Chaozhou, Chengdu, Huai'an, Shunde and Yangzhou), nine Asian booths [such as Iloilo City (Philippines), Buraydah (Saudi Arabia), Phuket

(Thailand), and Hatay (Türkiye)], and 52 local food booths and booths from integrated resort operators

Meanwhile, 11 food booths by Portuguese-speaking countries (PSCs) including Brazil's Belém*, Belo Horizonte* Florianópolis and Paraty that will take part in the local cuisine-fest for the first time.

The second highlight, the "City of Gastronomy Showcase", will gather chefs from 28 Creative Cities of Gastronomy for over 60 cooking shows.

Lastly, the "International Gastronomy Forum, Macao", themed "The Spice of Life: Macao's Culinary Connections", will gather representatives, culinary professionals and industry leaders from around 30 Creative Cities of Gastronomy worldwide together with those from the mainland's Creative Cities in other fields and candidate cities, representatives of the integrated resort enterprises as well as some Culture Cities of East Asia 2025 for discussions.

The forum will be held at Fisherman's Wharf's Convention and Exhibition Centre on July 14.

More event details can be found by visiting MGTO's website.

*There are seven cities by the name of Belém in Brazil. The statement did not identify which one will be present at the local event. ■



Visitors learn about the Hg LaserWeeder, a 24/7 intelligent laser weeding robot at a product launch event in Wuhan, capital of Hubei Province, on Saturday. A laser weeding robot is an advanced agricultural machine that uses laser technology to eliminate weeds without chemicals or manual labor. These robots are part of precision farming, helping reduce herbicide use, lower environmental impact, and improve crop yields. – Xinhua/DeepSeek

Trump says 'getting along well' with China, downplays hostile acts

WASHINGTON – US President Donald Trump yesterday dismissed the importance of alleged actions linked to Beijing including recent arrests of two Chinese nationals accused of smuggling a dangerous pathogen into the United States, saying "that's the way the world works."

Trump told Fox News that Washington behaves in a similar way.

"You don't think we do that to them? We do, we do a lot of things," he said on the "Sunday Morning Futures with Maria Bartiromo" show.

"That's the way the world works. It's a nasty world."

Trump was responding to a question about how he viewed alleged Chinese intellectual property theft, alleged hacking

of the US telecoms system and controversy around the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic.

He likewise dismissed concerns over a case in which two Chinese nationals were accused last month of smuggling a toxic fungus into the United States.

Jian Yunqing, 33, and Liu Zunyong, 34, are charged with conspiracy, smuggling, false statements, and visa fraud.

The US Justice Department said the pair conspired to smuggle into the United States a fungus called *Fusarium graminearum* that causes "head blight," a disease of wheat, barley, maize, and rice.

Trump downplayed this saying, "You don't know where that came

from, though. I mean, did that come from the country, or is that three wackos that happened to carry something?"

Referring to the ongoing US-China trade war, Trump appeared to signal he was satisfied, saying "We're getting along well with China."

He added: "I think getting along with China is a very good thing, but they are paying substantial tariffs."

This past week the White House signalled trade progress with China, with an official saying both sides had reached an understanding on issues including expediting rare earth shipments to the United States.

After talks in Geneva in May, Washington and Beijing agreed to temporarily lower steep tit-for-tat tariffs on each other's products. – AFP

China's homegrown C909 breaking new ground in regional aviation

Interview

SHANGHAI — China's commercial jetliner C909, formerly known as ARJ21, celebrated the 9th anniversary of its maiden flight on Saturday.

With a layout of 78 to 97 seats, and a range of 2,225 to 3,700 km, the C909 is the first short-medium range turbofan regional aircraft independently developed by China in accordance with international civil aviation regulations.

A total of 166 C909 aircraft have been delivered to the market, which have operated on more than 700 routes and transported over 24 million passengers.

The C909 has achieved a breakthrough in the commercial operation of homegrown jetliners and explored a development path for their entire life cycle, its chief designer Chen Yong told Xinhua in an interview.

LINKING BORDER CITIES

The C909 aircraft have been deployed in China's border regions, such as Xinjiang, the northeast and Inner Mongolia. By expanding the regional air route network, they have enhanced travel convenience, supported population mobility, and spurred local economic development.

According to Chen, who also serves as chief engineer at Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China Ltd., the developer of the C909, since the jetliner's debut in Xinjiang in June 2023, a total of such 22 aircraft have been put into local operation, opening more than 120 routes and safely transporting over 1.3 million passengers.

This month, as Xinjiang entered its peak tourist season, four daily round-trip flights began operating between the popular destinations of Kashgar and Yining, serviced by C909 aircraft from Chengdu Airlines and China Express.

"We have received feedback from airlines such as Chengdu Airlines, indicating that in terms of flight performance, they are very well-suited to the operating environment in places like Xinjiang," Chen said.

The jetliners have also been deployed on international routes. The first C909 international service, connecting Harbin in northeast China and Vladivostok in Russia, was launched on Oct. 26, 2019. These routes have further facilitated economic, cultural and tourism exchanges and integration between cities on both sides of the border.

SOUTHEAST ASIA EXPANSION

On April 18, 2023, the C909 completed its maiden flight in Indonesia, marking the launch of regional routes between the islands and expanding to cross-border trunk routes. Notably, the Manado-Guangzhou route, covering over

2,700 km, is currently the longest commercial route operated by the C909 aircraft.

Chen Yong said that with its excellent airport and route adaptability, as well as passenger comfort, the C909 is well-suited to meet the operational needs of Southeast Asia's aviation market. The aircraft has pioneered a new business model for domestic passenger planes in the region by being leased to airlines through both dry and wet lease agreements.

Dry lease means that the lessor only provides the aircraft, while wet lease refers to the lessor providing not only the aircraft but also flight crew, safety management, maintenance and operational control.

For example, the two C909 that Chengdu Airlines has wet leased to Vietnam's Vietjet Air operate daily flights from Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City to Con Dao, respectively.

"The Con Dao Airport runway is only over 1,800 meters long and bordered by the sea at both ends. This has fully verified the C909's operational capability on short and narrow runways and its adaptability to the humid environment in Southeast Asia," Chen explained.

To date, three Southeast Asian airlines — TransNusa of Indonesia, Lao Airlines and Vietjet Air — operate a total of seven C909 aircraft. They have launched 15 routes connecting 18 cities and have transported over 370,000 passengers.

VARIANT TYPES

The development of aircraft variants is a feature of the commercial aircraft industry. At present, four variants of the C909 jetliner have been made public, namely the freighter, emergency rescue command aircraft, medical aircraft, and business jet.

According to Chen, the C909 freighter can meet diverse air cargo needs, including the special cargo market, plateau market and short-haul international cargo routes. The emergency rescue command variant can achieve situation awareness, decision-making and coordination in disaster response. It can also be used for transporting rescue forces and establishing temporary communication networks in disaster-hit areas.

The medical variant is capable of air medical rescue and patient transfer missions. The business jet, known for its flexibility, efficiency, quietness and comfort, can be customized to meet individual customer requirements.

"Over the past nine years of operation, the C909 has been continuously improved and optimized to enhance its performance, crew operating experience and cabin comfort," Chen said.

"Today, the C909 has found its suitable operational scenarios, such as high-density shuttle routes. It will continue to deliver greater value in the future," he added. — Xinhua

Xi urges villagers in Xizang to uphold ethnic solidarity

BEIJING — President Xi Jinping has urged residents of a village in the Xizang Autonomous Region* to uphold ethnic solidarity and create a happier and better life.

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, put forward his expectations in a reply letter to residents of a village in Nyiningchi, where he paid a visit in July 2021.

"Learning that the village has undergone new changes in recent years and villagers' incomes have increased, I feel happy for you," Xi wrote in the letter.

Xi also voiced his hope that the villagers will, under the guidance of the Party's policies to develop border areas and improve people's lives, do an even better job in protecting the natural beauty of the plateau region, developing

the village's tourist brand, and contributing to building a prosperous and stable border area.

The village is known for its peach blossoms. In recent years, it has made new achievements in developing rural tourism, strengthening the collective economy, and promoting ethnic solidarity. — Xinhua

*Formerly known in foreign languages as Tibet Autonomous Region

China opposes any tariff deal made at its expense: MOC

BEIJING — China firmly opposes any country making trade deals with the United States at the expense of Chinese interests in exchange for so-called "tariff relief," a spokesperson for the Ministry of Commerce (MOC) said on Saturday.

"If such a situation arises, China will not accept it and will take resolute countermeasures to safeguard its legitimate rights and interests," said the spokesperson, responding to a media query about

recent US trade talks with other economies.

"Since April, the United States has been pushing so-called 'reciprocal tariffs' on its trade partners. This is a typical act of unilateral bullying that seriously undermines the multilateral trading system and disrupts the normal international trade order," the spokesperson said, adding that China has consistently and firmly opposed such practices.

The spokesperson said that China welcomes efforts by

other countries to resolve trade differences with the United States through consultations on equal footing, and urges all sides to uphold fairness and justice, remain on the right side of history, and resolutely defend international economic and trade rules as well as the multilateral trading system.

"It is proven that only by firmly defending its principle and position can a country truly protect its legitimate rights," the spokesperson said. — Xinhua



Tourists visit the famed Bund waterfront area in Shanghai yesterday. Shanghai issued a heatwave alert yesterday, which will last for about 10 days with high temperature hitting 39-40 degrees Celsius. At 12 a.m. today the mercury stood at 29 degrees Celsius in the mega-city. — Xinhua

Mainland expert debunks Lai's 'four elements' argument for Taiwan's so-called statehood

BEIJING — A Chinese mainland scholar has criticized Taiwan leader Lai Ching-te for his recent claim that "Taiwan is a country," calling it a misguided distortion of the "four elements" theory of statehood.

Lai's argument violated legal principles, history, and the facts surrounding cross-strait relations, Wang Yingjin, director of the cross-strait relations research center of the Renmin University of China, wrote in a signed article.

According to the article, a closer examination of the four essential elements of statehood — population, territory, government and sovereignty — clearly shows that Taiwan has never been a country, and nor will it be a country.

Wang noted that the 23 million people in Taiwan are the people of a local administrative region, and they are part of the entire Chinese population. He explained that "the people" in the concept of "sovereignty belongs to the people" refers to all the people of a country. Thus, the "people" in this context are the Chinese people as a whole, not just the 23 million people in Taiwan.

He emphasized that while Taiwan's authorities currently control and administer the areas of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Mazu in a temporary manner, they hold no territorial sovereignty over those areas. Instead, their territorial sovereignty should be held jointly by all Chinese people on both sides

of the Taiwan Strait.

Wang clarified that as a local administrative unit of China, the so-called government to which Lai referred is merely a local authority within China and does not possess the status of a subject under international law in international affairs.

Moreover, Wang said that Taiwan's sovereignty belongs to China. Although the two sides of the Taiwan Strait have not yet been fully reunified, China's sovereignty has not been divided, and the fact that both the mainland and Taiwan belong to one China remains unchanged.

"Taiwan is a part of China. This is a fact that brooks no challenge," Wang added. — Xinhua