

# Xi meets Portuguese PM Montenegro

*Both sides should give full play to Macao's unique role as a bridge: Xi*

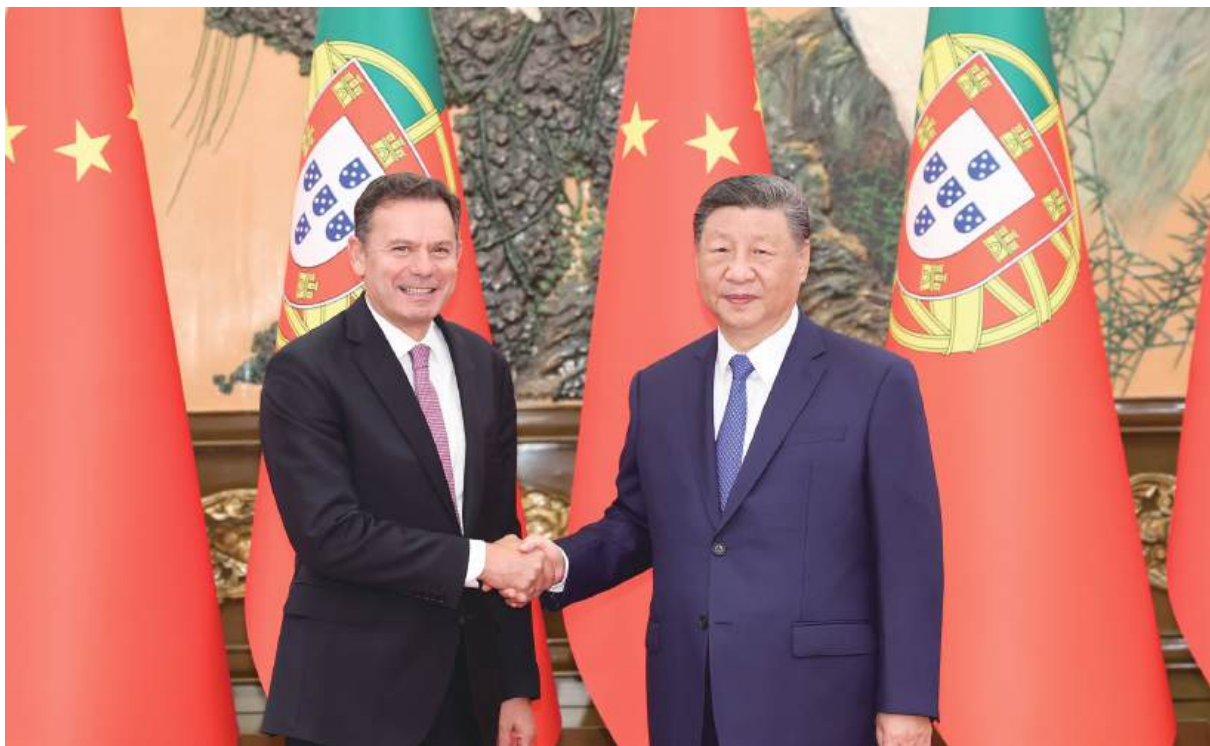
BEIJING – President Xi Jinping met with Portuguese Prime Minister Luis Montenegro in Beijing yesterday.

Xi said both China and Portugal are nations with a long history and rich culture, and the two peoples share the character traits of being open, inclusive, enterprising and self-reliant, adding that the two sides have appropriately resolved the Macao issue through friendly consultations.

Xi said in recent years, the two countries have achieved fruitful outcomes in cooperation across various fields, setting a model of mutual respect and mutual benefit for countries with different social systems and national conditions.

Noting that this year marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the China-Portugal comprehensive strategic partnership, Xi said China is willing to strengthen strategic communication with Portugal, steer the bilateral relations in the right direction, make the good relations even better, and contribute more to the prosperity and progress of the two countries and the world through solidarity and cooperation.

Xi called on the two sides to carry forward the traditional friendship, maintain mutual trust and support, deepen the alignment of development strategies, and expand practical cooperation in areas such as innovation, green development, maritime affairs and healthcare.



President Xi Jinping (right) shakes hands with Portuguese Prime Minister Luis Montenegro at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing yesterday. Montenegro arrived in Macao last night, his second and last stop on his three-day China visit. (More on p.7)

– Xinhua

He noted that the two sides should give full play to Macao's unique role as a bridge and make good use of mechanisms like the Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes at a higher level. They should also encourage exchanges in culture, education, tourism and scientific research, as well as deepen people-to-people and cultural exchanges, he added.

"The more turbulent the international landscape becomes, the greater the need for China and Europe to strengthen communication, enhance mutual trust and deepen cooperation," Xi said, expressing the hope that Portugal will work with China to uphold the orientation of the China-EU partnership and promote the sustained, stable and healthy development of China-EU relations.

Noting this year marks the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the victory in the

Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War, as well as the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the United Nations (UN), Xi stressed that China is ready to work closely with Portugal in multilateral affairs to jointly practice true multilateralism, safeguard the authority of the UN and the free trade system, and promote the building of a more just and equitable global governance system.

Montenegro conveyed Portuguese President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa's sincere greetings to President Xi, adding that the future-oriented relations between Portugal and China have a long history, and the two countries have properly resolved the Macao issue through friendly consultations.

Montenegro said the successful practice in Macao over the past 25 years fully demonstrates that the Portuguese government made the right decision. Portugal will continue to adhere to the one-China policy and will not forget the valuable support and assistance provided by China during the most difficult period of Portugal's economy, he said.

Montenegro expressed Portugal's willingness to deepen cooperation, enhance political mutual trust, and strengthen economic and trade ties with China.

He noted that Portugal agrees with the important concepts embodied in the Global Governance Initiative (GGI) proposed by President Xi and is willing to jointly uphold multilateralism with the Chinese side. Portugal welcomes China's greater contributions to improving the global governance system, he said.

China is an indispensable partner for Europe, and Portugal is ready to play a positive role in promoting the healthy and stable development of EU-China relations, Montenegro added.

– Xinhua

## Hamas says delegation survives Israeli assassination in Doha

GAZA – Hamas announced late last night (Macao time) that its negotiating delegation survived the "Israeli assassination attempt" in the Qatari capital Doha.

However, Hamas said six were killed in the Israeli airstrike including a Qatari security officer.

A Hamas official told Qatar's Al Jazeera that its top negotiator's son was among several people

killed but that senior leaders had survived.

The White House said that the Qatar attack "does not advance Israel or America's goals". It also said that Trump "feels very badly" about the location of Israeli attack on Qatar.

Responding to the condemnation from European capitals, Netanyahu accused the critics of

forgetting Hamas's deadly attack on Israel in October 2023.

"Much of the world, including much of the democratic world, or governments at least, have shamefully, shamefully forgotten October 7<sup>th</sup>," he said, at a US embassy function in Jerusalem.

"But I don't forget, and Israel will never forget," Netanyahu added. (More on p.10)

– AFP, Xinhua



## Macron names defence minister Sébastien Lecornu new PM: presidency

PARIS – French President Emmanuel Macron yesterday named Defence Minister Sébastien Lecornu as the new prime minister to replace François Bayrou, who survived just nine months in office, the presidency said.

Macron has told Lecornu "to consult the political forces represented in parliament with a view to adopting a budget for the nation and making the agreements essential for the decisions of the coming months," the Élysée said in a statement.

– AFP

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### Pigs' heads left outside mosques in Paris region

At least nine pigs' heads were found outside several mosques in the Paris region yesterday, the city's police chief said – an incident that has sparked alarm over rising anti-Muslim hatred.

– Story on p. 10

### New Banksy artwork challenges UK's protest crackdown

British street artist Banksy on Monday took aim at the UK's crackdown on protesters with a new work outside the Royal Courts of Justice in London, adding fuel to a free-speech row roiling the country.

– Story on p. 11

### Spain's top prosecutor sent to trial as legal woes stalk Sánchez

The legal troubles embarrassing Spain's leftist government returned to the fore yesterday as the top prosecutor was formally sent to trial a day before a court appearance by the wife of Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez.

– Story on p. 12



# UM students win top award at robotics contest

Kristina Vallesteros

A team of students from the University of Macau (UM) has recently won the Grand Prize in the “MetaBCI Innovative Application Development” category at the World Robot Contest 2025 – Brain-Computer Interface (BCI) Controlled Robot Contest, according to a statement on the public university’s website yesterday.

According to chatbot Poe, the contest was held in Beijing on August 16-20.

The statement noted that the contest focuses on brain-computer interface technology, which allows people to control machines with their brains. Participants included teams from leading universities and research institutes worldwide such as Tsinghua University (THU) and the University of British Columbia (UBC), according to the statement.

UM’s winning team was led by Li Haobo, a third-year student in electrical and computer engineering. The statement said he has competed in the contest for the past three years. The team was guided by Wan Feng, associate professor in the UM Department of Electrical



This undated and unlocated handout photo provided by the public University of Macau (UM) yesterday shows the UM team posing.

and Computer Engineering in the Faculty of Science and Technology.

Their winning project is a system that uses electroencephalogram (EEG) to monitor a person’s emotions and psychological state. The statement noted that the system could be used in smart homes or for mental health monitoring.

The World Robot Contest is a large competition that began in 2015. The statement said it has had over 500,000 participants from more than 20 countries and regions, sometimes called the ‘Olympics of robotics.’ This year, UM sent 31 students to compete in various categories of the contest. ■

# Gongbei Customs seizes 169 boxes of cosmetics

Armindo Neves

Zhuhai’s Gongbei Customs announced in a statement yesterday that its officers have seized 169 boxes of cosmetics from a Hong Kong vehicle.

According to the statement, on August 28 Gongbei customs officers at the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HKZMB) Zhuhai checkpoint discovered during a routine inspection an anomaly in a single plate vehicle from Hong Kong.

A follow-up inspection found 169 boxes of cosmetics beneath the seats, inside the central console storage, within the door

compartments, and in the tool tray of the boot.

The statement pointed out that the seized cosmetics consisted of products such as blusher, foundation, and pressed powder from brands including YSL and HOURGLASS.

In the statement, Gongbei Customs reminded the public that according to relevant regulations, evading customs supervision by hiding or bringing goods subject to taxes into the mainland constitutes smuggling. If the circumstances are severe enough to constitute a crime, criminal liability will be pursued. ■



This undated handout photo provided by Zhuhai Gongbei Customs shows 169 boxes of cosmetics seized by its customs officers at the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HKZMB) Zhuhai checkpoint.

# Local student loses HK\$1.37 million in ‘fake police scam’

Ada Lei

A local woman studying in the Chinese mainland has fallen victim to a “fake police scam”, losing a total of HK\$1.37 million (1.41 million patacas), Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Cheong Kim Fong said during a regular press conference yesterday.

Cheong did not reveal the victim’s age.

According to Cheong, a middle-aged woman received a call from her bank on August 26, during which she discovered that HK\$1.37 million had been withdrawn from the account she had opened for her daughter over the summer.

Cheong said that the daughter had received a call from someone claiming to be a “police officer.” The caller accused her of sending numerous scam messages and requested a “fund review.” Following the scammer’s instructions, the daughter misled her mother into believing she needed HK\$1.37 million for an overseas exchange

programme, asking her to transfer the funds to her account. The daughter provided her bank account information to the scammer, who then transferred the HK\$1.37 million out of her account.

Realising her daughter had been scammed, the woman reported a total loss of HK\$1.37 million to the police on Saturday. ■



Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Cheong Kim Fong looks on during yesterday’s regular press conference.

— Photo: Ada Lei

# Police arrest local man for spreading false rumours about mother’s injuries during Tropical Cyclone ‘Tapah’

Ada Lei

The Public Security Police (PSP) arrested a local man on Monday for spreading false rumours on social media about his mother’s injuries, which he claimed were due to an erroneous warning about Severe Tropical Cyclone “Tapah” issued by the Civil Protection Operations Centre (COPC) on Monday, PSP spokesman Cheong Heon Fan said during a regular press conference yesterday.

Cheong identified the suspect as a male surnamed Lai, who is in his fifties and told the police that he is jobless.

According to Cheong, during the cyclone on Monday, a video circulated online in which Lai claimed that his 80-year-old mother had fallen and sustained injuries while outside during Tropical Cyclone Signal No. 8. He alleged that her injuries were due to a verbal error in the official warning about the storm issued by the Civil Protection Operations Centre (COPC), which mistakenly encouraged people “to go outside”.

In fact, the COPC spokesperson misspoke. The error was later corrected by the centre, which – as originally intended, urged the public “not to go outside”.

Cheong noted that Lai’s mother went out for breakfast on Monday morning at around 8:30 a.m. On her way home at 9:27 a.m., she fell on Istmo de Ferreira do Amaral

(關閘馬路) due to strong winds and was immediately rushed to the hospital, where it was confirmed that she had a fractured pelvis, requiring hospitalisation. The Civil Protection Operations Centre (COPC) had issued its erroneous warning at about 10:15 a.m. that day, indicating that Lai’s mother had left home an hour and a half before the inadvertently wrong announcement was made. The timeline confirmed that her injuries were not caused by the erroneous warning, Cheong said.

Cheong added that Lai had received a call from his younger sister at around 11 a.m., saying that their mother had fallen and fractured her pelvis. Shortly after, he received a message from a friend clarifying that the Civil Protection Operations Centre (COPC) had made an error in an earlier announcement. At around 2 p.m., he contacted the Civil Protection Operations Centre (COPC) to report his mother’s injuries, hoping they would follow up on the case. Lai recorded their conversation and later edited the video, uploading it to social media to spread false rumours claiming that the COPC’s erroneous warning had indeed caused his mother to fall, as well as resulting in other elderly people being hospitalised due to similar incidents.

The police contacted his mother at the hospital on Monday



Public Security Police (PSP) spokesman Cheong Heon Fan looks on during yesterday’s regular press conference.

— Photo: Ada Lei

night and subsequently summoned Lai to a police station. Under questioning, he admitted to the offence but claimed he was unaware of the correct timing of his mother’s injury, which led him to mistakenly believe it was related to the erroneous warning.

Lai has been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), facing charges for spreading rumours on social media about the authorities. ■

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MACAU POST

## Macau Weather

CLOUDY APART FROM SUNNY INTERVALS.  
OCCASIONAL SHOWERS.  
A FEW THUNDERSTORMS AT FIRST.  
SHOWERS WILL EASE OFF LATER.  
FORCE 3 TO 4 SOUTHERLY WINDS WITH GUSTS.  
RELATIVE HUMIDITY WILL RANGE BETWEEN 70% AND 98%.



26°C~31°C

Source: SMG





# Union for Development (UPD) group focuses on protection of locals' employment

Tony Wong

The Union for Development (UPD) candidacy group, the No.5 on the ballot paper for the 2025 direct legislative election, puts special emphasis on measures prioritising the hiring of local residents in Macau's employment market, while also advocating stronger protection of workers' rights and benefits.

The group is one of the six candidacy groups running in the upcoming direct election with polling day on September 14.

The UPD group has fielded incumbent lawmakers Ella Lei Cheng I, 44, and Leong Sun Iok, 47, as its first and second-ranked candidates for the 2025 direct election. Four years ago, the group won two seats when Lei and Leong were also the first and second-ranked candidates.

The group has fielded Cheng Ka Man, 37, as its third-ranked candidate for the 2025 direct election.

Cheng, a lawyer by profession, stood as a candidate for the direct legislative election for the first time four years ago, when she was the sixth-ranked candidate.

The group comprises 12 candidates for the direct legislative election this time.

The group is the electoral vehicle of the influential Macau Federation of Trade Unions (commonly known as Gung Luen in Cantonese), one of the city's biggest community associations.

The UPD group has run in the legislature's direct election since 1992, when Macau was still under temporary Portuguese administration.

The group has won one or two seats in every direct legislative election since it first took part in 1992.

Fernando Chui Sai On, the chief executive of the Macau Special Administration Region (MSAR) between 2009 and 2019, was the second-ranked candidate of the UPD group in 1992 when it won two seats. Chui failed in his re-election bid in 1996 when he stood as the second-ranked candidate. He became the government's secretary for social affairs and culture on December 20, 1999 when the MSAR was established.

Since 2001 when the MSAR held its first direct legislative election, the UPD group has won two seats every time except in the 2013 direct election when it only won one seat.

Lei first became a lawmaker in 2013 through the indirect election, representing the labour sector, before taking part in the direct election in 2017 when she was the first-ranked candidate of the UPD direct election group. Leong Sun Iok first became a legislator in



Ella Lei Cheng I (front, third from right), the first-ranked candidate of the Union for Development (UPD) candidacy group, its second-ranked candidate Leong Sun Iok (front, third from left), and its third-ranked candidate Cheng Ka Man (front, second from right), as well as other candidates gesture during a press conference on Monday last week about the group's political platform, at the headquarters of the Macau Federation of Trade Unions in Patane district. – Photo: UPD

2017 when he was the group's second-ranked candidate. Both were re-elected in 2021.

The UPD group first fielded Leong as a candidate for the 2013 direct election when he was the seventh-ranked candidate.

While the candidacy group's Portuguese name, União Para O Desenvolvimento, is literally translated as Union for Development, its Chinese name, 同心協進會, directly translated, means One Heart Progress Union.

The UPD group's political platform for the 2025 direct election comprises six major aspects, namely boosting the economy, promoting employment, safeguarding workers' rights and benefits, improving residents' well-being, supporting youth development, and building a better Macau.

In the first aspect laid out in its political platform for the direct election this time, the candidacy group urges the government to vigorously advance its 1+4 appropriate economic diversification plan while also ensuring the healthy development of the city's gaming industry.

The group calls for the government to roll out measures aiming to encourage visitors to increase their spending while increasing their length of stay.

The group calls for measures to encourage more international enterprises to invest in Macau and establish a presence here.

The group urges the government to roll out fresh measures aiming to revitalise the operations of local small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

In the second aspect, the group's political platform calls for measures to create more job opportunities for local residents while also ensuring the protection of casino workers' employment.

The group urges the government to accelerate its public infrastructure projects with the aim of creating more jobs while also strengthening the city's vocational training.

The group calls for the government to roll out special measures aiming to encourage enterprises to prioritise the hiring of local residents, while also urging the government to always rigorously assess employers' applications for the hiring of non-resident workers (NRWs).

In the third aspect, the group's political platform calls for the government to improve its mechanism for determining the level of the city's statutory minimum wage.

The group calls for the strengthening of the city's occupational health and safety, while also urging the government to roll out measures to encourage more companies to join the city's central provident fund system.

In the fourth aspect, the group's political platform calls for improvements in the city's education system while also strengthening patriotic education for schoolchildren.

The group urges the government to improve its planning of public housing projects while also accelerating urban renewal of the city's old quarters.

The group urges the government to accelerate its digital transformation in the

city's healthcare services, while also calling for the government to improve the design of the city's public bus routes.

The group urges the government to continue to improve the business environment for the city's wet markets while also increasing the number of public parks and community activity centres across the city.

The group also urges the government to strengthen its environmental protection campaign.

In the fifth aspect, the group's political platform calls for a one-stop system aiming to strengthen support for young local people in their study, employment, business start-ups, and the purchase of their first flats.

The group calls for the government to strengthen patriotic education for young local people, with the aim of enhancing their sense of identify with the "One Country, Two Systems" principle.

The group also calls for measures to broaden young local people's international perspective.

In the sixth aspect, the group's political platform urges the government to improve its coordination with the legislature concerning the drafting of new pieces of legislation.

The group also calls for the government to strengthen its law popularisation campaign for residents.

The group urges the government to streamline its business licensing system with the aim of making it easier for businesses to complete the required administrative formalities. ■

## NBA legends to headline 1<sup>st</sup> NBA House at Venetian next month

Khalel Vallo

The National Basketball Association (NBA) China announced in a statement yesterday that it will launch its first-ever NBA House in Cotai, between October 8 and 12, at The Venetian Macao's Hall A, slated to feature appearances by legends Tim Hardaway Sr., Stephon Marbury, Shawn Marion, Shaquille O'Neal, Mitch Richmond, and Deron Williams.

Announced on Monday, the five-day interactive fan event will coincide with the NBA China Games 2025 for preseason matchups at the Venetian Arena on October 10 at 8 p.m., and 7 p.m. on October 12, featuring the Phoenix Suns and the Brooklyn Nets. The NBA House is open to all ages with free registration, where activities will range from viewing parties and on-court clinics\* to photo

opportunities with the Larry O'Brien Trophy, according to the association.

The Larry O'Brien Trophy is the championship trophy awarded annually by NBA to the winner of the NBA Finals.

Highlights will include a first-of-its-kind LED basketball fountain inspired by Chinese marble art and Macau's skyline, an NBA Replay Centre experience simulating referees' calls, a Nets infinity photo booth, and a Suns sneaker vault, the statement said.

Interactive activations by partners such as Nike, Gatorade, Ant International, Ctrip, and integrated resort operator Sands China will also feature, along with live performances and family-friendly zones like an inflatable NBA castle, the statement said.

NBA Asia Managing Director Wayne Chang was quoted by the statement

as saying that the event will be "an immersive celebration of the culture and technology that surround today's game," adding that the NBA looks forward to welcoming fans during the weeklong basketball festivities in the city.

Further details on programming will be announced in the coming weeks, the statement said.

Previously held in countries such as Brazil, France, India, and Mexico, NBA House will mark its debut in Macau as part of the city's roster of international sporting events. ■

\* An on-court clinic is a live, practical, instructional session held on the playing surface (the "court") of a sport, where an expert – often a coach or elite player – demonstrates and teaches specific skills, strategies, or techniques to a group of participants. – DeepSeek

## China's Lin bags opening victory at WTT Champions Macao

The 2025 World Table Tennis (WTT) Champions Macao kicked off yesterday, with China's men's singles defending champion Lin Shidong defeating Kao Cheng-jui of Chinese Taipei 3-0.

Lin's compatriot Wang Chuqin overcame a brief scare before defeating Japan's Sora Matsushima 3-1, while Wang Yidi swept local favorite Kuan Cheok Lam 3-0 in the women's singles round of 32.

"I knew it would be a tough match beforehand, and the key to today's victory was handling the crucial points well," said Wang Chuqin after his victory.

2025 ITTF World Cup winner Hugo Calderano of Brazil battled through three intense games to beat South Korea's An Jaehyun 13-11, 12-10, 11-8.

Satsuki Odo of Japan staged a comeback from two games down to edge past South Korea's Shin Yubin 3-2, while Zhu Yuling of Macao, Chinese Taipei's Lin Yun-ju, and Japan's Mima Ito also moved into the round of 16.

The WTT Champions Macao runs through Sunday at the Macao East Asian Games Dome. (Photo on page 14) – Xinhua



# Creating miniatures of Macau: The Bright Dawn Studio



The Bright Dawn Studio co-founder Alan Lou Kin Wai poses after the Post's recent interview.  
— Photos: Rui Pastorin

## Interview by Rui Pastorin

Macau is full of distinct features that are unique to the city, from its blue and white-tiled street name signs in both Chinese and Portuguese down to its buildings with an Eastern and Western flare.

In this regard, what if you could have local landmarks like the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Ruins of St. Paul's or the Guia Lighthouse in the palm of your hand? Or perhaps Macau's signature street signs, colourful mailboxes, or bus stops at the tips of your fingers? The Bright Dawn Studio has a way to do just that.

Set on a mission to create 3D-printed miniatures related to Macau to completion and bring recognition to local life and culture, the studio is run by a small team that hopes to provide products that target not only tourists looking to take a piece of the city back home with them, but locals looking for representation. This is their story.

## The dawn

Having started the project in 2019, with its current premises on Calçada do Poço (水井斜巷) opening in 2021, the idea behind The Bright Dawn Studio is rooted in a passion for local culture and history, co-founder Alan Lou Kin Wai told the *Post* in a recent interview.

Lou, who holds a bachelor's in Macau history and also a master's degree in History, said that he and his partner, who majored in a course related to cultural history, were researchers that had been working close to the subject when they began to identify the issue: "There's a lot of valuable culture in Macau, such as our lifestyle, food and buildings. But the problem is no one knows that".

"We started to think, is there any good way to promote our culture to them [locals and visitors]?, while making a profit," Lou said.

Brainstorming began and they started exploring what the market could want, throwing around ideas like creating videos and a themed game. But it was making miniatures that really stuck with them and despite not being artists or designers themselves, they decided to pursue the idea, learning skills ranging from painting to using the machines and software necessary to make miniatures, a passion-driven project to create miniatures of everything Macau.

It was not easy, Lou admitted, having to start from zero products. And when the initial products were made, they only earned around 200 patacas in the first month, though

he added that it was not a fulltime endeavour just yet.

They eventually found their stride, identifying the products that the market wanted. As of the time of the interview, they had made miniatures of close to 30 buildings, nearly 50 objects related to local life and culture, and around 100 street signs, Lou estimated, all sold at the studio. "We have a few products that the market likes and that's the reason we're still standing here". And they hope to keep going.

## The 2 markets

The two markets the studio mainly focuses on are tourists and locals, with Lou saying that each group places a "different value" on their products. Tourists might be looking for an affordable, well-made and memorable souvenir that also shows people that they have been to Macau. Locals, on the other hand, might be looking for something related to them, their culture, daily lives, or their memories.

Although there are different products that might appeal more to each group, Lou said that they are all "basically for locals".

Lou used their fridge-magnet street signs as an example, where tourists can get an affordable souvenir while locals might gravitate to a sign of a specific place, with some even requesting particular signs to be made, which also helps them stand out from those making only signs for specific places known to tourists. "That's the huge difference between us and other souvenir shops. As long as locals ask for it, we will make it for them", Lou said.

Aside from requesting particular street signs, Lou said that they also make high-value miniatures mostly bought by locals. "They will spend hundreds of patacas to buy those miniatures because they think those are related to their culture, to their memory", Lou pointed out.

Lou further highlighted one more reason for wanting to also focus on the local market: "If locals like [our products], they will help you promote them to others", having garnered support over the years.

## Using passion to keep going

Challenges still come each month, but Lou said that it's better than when they were just starting out, having struggled for a few years. "The most difficult time is the beginning", adding: "Now, it's better".

And while the general market may not be as strong as

it was prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the small team, which went from being a duo to now a trio and a part-timer, they want to keep going as well as figure out how they can continue running the business, earning a profit despite difficult times. Their biggest motivators? Lou said it has to do with passion and strong support.

"Why are we still working on it, even in this very difficult time? Because we want to finish this project, especially since we have already finished half of it", with completing half of the items in the Historic Centre of Macau being an example. "Details are our greatest teacher", adding that this might be the best way to also to teach others, particularly the younger generation, about the past.

The support they have received throughout their journey has also been crucial, having been told that that what they do "is very valuable". Moreover, in terms of souvenirs, there are many shops selling them in Macau, but Lou said that they want to offer something different to those items normally themed after gambling or food such as the ever-present egg tart, all the while being of a higher quality to stand as a better representation of the city, its life and culture, and people. "We need to show them what our life really is all about".

Moving forward, the studio looks towards promoting Macau and its life and culture in other ways, tackling other ideas such as pursuing a Macau-themed game, a plan that started this year, and even animation.



## GBA seminar discusses local AI practices



Ida Cheong

In order to provide a valuable exchange platform for Macau's artificial intelligence (AI) industry through the sharing of AI technology and practical case studies, "Smart Linking the Greater Bay Area (GBA) - Customer Service Innovation - The Greater Bay Area's Large Model + Intelligent Customer Service Industry" seminar was held yesterday.

The one-day seminar took place at the public Macau Productivity and Technology Transfer Centre (CPTTM) in Zape.

CPTTM President Victoria Alexa Kuan Chan noted in a speech that Macau is currently in a critical period of industrial diversification and technological transformation. She pointed out that AI customer service technology has been widely applied in tourism, finance, retail, and other fields, offering multilingual support, personalised recommendations, and intelligent voice interaction functions.

Pachira Technology (International) Limited Chief Executive Officer Elwin

**Pachira Technology (International) Limited Chief Executive Officer Elwin Ho Kuok Tou speaks to reporters on the sidelines of yesterday's seminar at the public Macau Productivity and Technology Transfer Centre (CPTTM) in Zape. - Photo by Ida Cheong**

Ho Kuok Tou told the media covering the seminar that Macau boasts rich AI application scenarios with immense potential, such as strong demand for intelligent call centres from government, financial, and gaming operators, as well as an urgent need to enhance monitoring efficiency through AI in casinos, which are equipped with extensive camera networks.

Ho pointed out that Macau already possesses technical capabilities in speech and image recognition, which can empower industries such as customer service, adding that the key to Macau's AI development lies in building platforms and technology transferring experience.

Ho added that while there are young locals with potential to develop careers in AI, they lack experienced mentors and practical platforms, adding that he has established a training system where seasoned professionals guide local youth, aiming to form a local talent pipeline. ■

## Over 17,000 join mental & physical health education activities: SSM

Armindo Neves

The Health Bureau (SSM) announced in a statement yesterday that it organised a raft of mental and physical health education activities between June and August which attracted 17,100 participants, or 2.5 percent of the population.

The statement noted that today is "World Suicide Prevention Day", which was established in 2003 by the International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) in collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO). The theme for 2024-2026, "Changing the Narrative on Suicide," aims to transform societal understanding of suicide through open dialogue, break down stigma, and raise awareness about mental health.

According to the statement, in order to expand Macau's mental health service network, the bureau has set up psychological counselling and psychotherapy outpatient services at nine public health centres and continues to fund two non-profit organisations to provide psychological support.

In order to improve accessibility, the statement said, residents in need can book psychological therapy appointments at health centres through the "My Health" section on the "Macau One Account" platform. For urgent support, the Psychiatric Department of the public Conde de São Januário Hospital Centre has established an emergency referral mechanism together with health centres and social service organisations to facilitate

case follow-ups. Additionally, psychiatric specialists provide 24-hour services at the public hospital's Emergency Department to tackle critical situations.

The statement also underlined that the bureau provided community-based psychiatric outreach services through its mobile mental health teams to support patients within the community, such as seminars, education activities and information posts between June and August, which attracted 17,100 participants.

Meanwhile, according to the "2025 Survey on the Mental Health of Secondary Students in Macao", released jointly by the General Association of Chinese Students of Macao and the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) on July 26, worrying trends have emerged regarding youth well-being.

The survey's findings indicate that over 30 percent of students sleep fewer than six hours per night, with nearly 30 percent expressing dissatisfaction with their sleep quality, largely due to academic pressure as the dominant stress factor. Furthermore, only 54 percent of respondents showed no signs of anxiety, underscoring a growing mental health challenge.

Macau recorded 18 suicides - 13 males and 5 females - in the first quarter of this year, according to a statement by the Health Bureau (SSM) on May 16. The statement pointed out that the primary factors associated with these cases were gambling or financial difficulties, psychiatric disorders, and chronic or acute illnesses. ■



# Sands China Nurtures Film Talent International Film Camp Winners Shine at Global Film Festivals

With the full support of Sands China, the Asian Film Awards Academy inaugurated the International Film Camp (IFC) in Macao last year. This groundbreaking cross-border collaboration between Hong Kong and Macao brought together government and industry resources from both regions to create a platform for guidance and exchange for the next generation of Asian filmmakers, laying a solid foundation for the sustainable development of the film industry. After a rigorous selection process, a professional jury chose the top 16 finalists to participate in the camp. Among them, eight projects were selected to receive guidance from professional mentors throughout the production process and a sponsorship of HKD 300,000 each to complete their short films. Many of these projects have since gained recognition at international film festivals.

This year's camp is taking place Sept. 10-16. Outstanding film talents from across Asia will once again converge in Macao to provide guidance and inspiration for the future pillars of the local film industry. Let's check out this year's lineup of mentors.



### Esteemed mentors gather to Cultivate Emerging Filmmakers



#### Roger Garcia Director, Mentor

Roger Garcia is a film festival executive, producer and writer. He was the executive director of the Hong Kong International Film Festival and Asian Film Awards Academy. He is also a film producer who has worked in Asia, Europe and Hollywood. He was a board member of M Plus Museum in Hong Kong, and was awarded Chevalier des Arts et Lettres by the French government in 2018. He is also a member of the European Film Academy.



#### John Chong Chief Mentor

Veteran producer and co-founder of Media Asia Entertainment Group, John Chong has worked in the film industry for nearly 40 years. He served as a member of the Hong Kong Film Development Council and Chairman of the Hong Kong Screenwriters' Guild. As a screenwriter, producer and presenter, he has worked on over a hundred films, including the *Infernal Affairs* series, *Initial D*, *Beast Cops*, *Z Storm* and *Twilight of the Warriors: Walled In*.



#### Chen Daming Mentor

Chen Daming is a graduate of the prestigious Beijing Film Academy, furthered his education in the United States, and took part in Hollywood film productions. Chen began gaining industry momentum in 2004 with the film *Manhole*, which *Variety* magazine praised as "a fine standard-bearer for quality Chinese commercial cinema." He received international acclaim for his film *One Foot Off the Ground* (2006), which earned him a Golden Rooster Award along with several other international honours. He currently mentors PhD students at the Shanghai Film Academy.



#### Anthony Chen Mentor

Anthony Chen is a screenwriter, director and producer from Singapore. He became the first Singaporean to be awarded at Cannes; his film *Ilo Ilo* won many international awards. He has been a producer for many emerging Asian films that premiered at a number of international film festivals, promoting regional film development.



#### Chan Hing Kai Mentor

Chan Hing Kai is a renowned director, screenwriter, and producer with nearly 30 years of experience, known for his versatility in style and genre. He twice received the Hong Kong Film Critics Society Award for Best Screenplay. In recent years, he has been committed to supporting emerging directors. His producing credits include *Naked Ambition* (2003), *Weeds on Fire* (2016), *Manhunt* (2017) and *Love Lies* (2024).

Learn more





# 3 Macau women's teams do well in 4-region football league in Hainan

Ida Cheong

The “2025 Hainan-Hong Kong-Macao-Taiwan Friendship Football League” competition was held in Hainan Province from Friday through Sunday, with a local woman's football team –Tomoeda WFC – winning this year's Group B championship, while F.C. Artilheiros Macau secured the second spot in the same group, and Sporting Clube de Macau finished third in the women' Group A, which set a new record for Macau women's football in the tournament, according to a statement provided by one of the co-organisers, Macao International Culture and Sports Industries Association (MISIA), on Monday.

The 3-day competition took place at the Chinese Football (Southern) Training Centre at Mission Hills in the provincial capital Haikou.

This year's league set a record-breaking participation of 38 teams and over 800 players, the women's segment expanded notably, with the number of teams doubling to eight – three from Macau, three from Hong Kong, and two from Hainan, fostering a more competitive

regional exchange landscape, the statement noted.

F.C. Artilheiros Macau Director Wong Fok Tin told the *Post* yesterday at the MISIA headquarters in Nape that the 11-a-side league in Haikou provided local women's football teams with an invaluable learning experience, aiming to help players and coaches broaden their horizons and gain exposure to higher levels of competition, and allow local players to gain firsthand experience in the intensity and pace of high-level external competitions, helping them identify gaps between their current abilities and standards elsewhere.

Wong noted that his team is focusing on preparing for Macau's first-ever women's 11-a-side football match, which is set to be played next month, adding that a significant shift is being made locally from 8-a-side and 5-a-side formats to the full 11-a-side game, aligning Macau's football development with international standards.

Regarding the biggest challenge facing Macau, Wong pointed out, is that due to the severe shortage of field resources, unstable training



F.C. Artilheiros Macau Director Wong Fok Tin poses after yesterday's Post interview at the Macao International Culture and Sports Industries Association's headquarters in Nape.

– Photo: Ida Cheong

schedules have consistently disrupted regular practice sessions. Therefore, he suggested that the Sports Bureau (ID) provide more policy support, such as establishing dedicated field rental time slots exclusively for women's teams. ■



This photo provided by the organisers on Monday shows the women's football team F.C. Artilheiros Macau posing for a group photo with their medals and trophy during the third tournament day of “2025 Hainan-Hong Kong-Macao-Taiwan Friendship Football League” at the Chinese Football (Southern) Training Centre in the Mission Hills of Haikou, the capital city of Hainan Province.

## National Day Fun Run to be held in Zape & Nape: ID



Flanked by two sports-sector representatives, Sports Bureau (ID) Development Department Chief Chao Kuok Wai (centre) poses during yesterday's press conference.

– Photo: Armino Neves

Armino Neves

The Sports Bureau (ID) co-hosted a press conference yesterday with the General Association of Athletics of Macau about their “2025 National Day and World Walking Day Fun Run” which will be held in the Outer Harbour districts of Zape and Nape on October 1.

The press conference was held at the ID headquarters in Zape.

ID Development Department Chief Chao Kuok Wai said during the press conference that the event aims to celebrate the “75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Establishment of the People's Republic of China” on October 1 and World Walking Day on September 29.

Chao said that in order to encourage widespread participation across the community, the event will offer two “National Day Trophies.” One will be awarded to the first athlete to complete the fun run, while the other will be awarded to the organisation with the highest number of finishers. The top 10 male and female participants in the fun run will also receive awards. All participants who complete the entire run will receive an electronic certificate of achievement, Chao said.

According to the announcement, the event will commence at 8:15 a.m. on October 1, with both the starting and finishing points set in Praça Flor de Lótus (“Golden Lotus Square”) in Zape. The route, which is around three kilometres long, is open not only to runners but also walkers. It will pass Kun Iam Statue in Nape. The activity is free of charge and available to all residents, with a participation cap of 18,000 people.

According to an ID statement, anyone interested can register now through the official website. The registration period for the fun run ends at 12 p.m. (midday) on September 24, while registration for the walking event remains open until 12 p.m. (midday) on September 30. Applications will close once all slots are filled, the statement said.

Everyone finishing the run or walk will be given a free bottle of water.

Groups or associations wishing to participate are required to download the registration form from the Sports Bureau website: [gooutmall.com/products/2926](http://gooutmall.com/products/2926), complete the necessary information, and submit it via email to [DDT@sport.gov.mo](mailto:DDT@sport.gov.mo). ■

## CCCN Macau marks 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary with 2 photo exhibitions

Khalel Vallo

The Cardinal Newman\* Centre for Culture and Arts Performance of Macau (CCCN Macau) is celebrating its 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary with two concurrent photography exhibitions – “A Glimpse: Call for Entry Photography Exhibition” and “Echoes of Heart”.

Established in 2020, the centre's motto is “COR AD COR LOQUITUR” (“Heart Speaks to Heart”), aiming to foster dialogue through cultural exchange, according to an information board displayed at the entrance to one of exhibition rooms, which also states that that “A Glimpse: Call for Entry Photography Exhibition” presents works by 19 photographers, exploring “heart-to-heart” moments, ranging from the joy of new life to the power of faith, with each piece serving as what the board describes as “a visualisation

of the photographer's inner space, aiming to reflect their peaceful talk with the world”.

Meanwhile, running in parallel is “Echoes of Heart”, a solo exhibition by local Catholic photographer Ivan Leong Wai Chun. Leong is known for documenting feast days and liturgies of the Catholic Diocese of Macau, presenting a body of work that traces his transition from designer to photojournalist, and from enthusiast to professional voice within Macau's local photographic aesthetics, according to a statement provided by CCCN.

The statement quoted CCCN Macau Director Agnes Wong Kai Yiu as commending Leong's ability to capture “the bonding between people and God, people and people, and people and objects that we often overlook.”

With free admission, both exhibitions are open to exhibitiongoers until this Sunday. It is open from Monday through Friday from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. and on Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The centre is located at 55 Calçada da Vitória (得勝斜路55號地下). ■

\* Cardinal John Henry Newman (1801–1890) was one of the most important and influential figures in 19<sup>th</sup>-century religious thought. He was a renowned theologian, intellectual, writer, and eventually a cardinal of the Catholic Church.

His significance stems from his profound journey from Anglicanism to Catholicism and the powerful ideas he developed along the way. – DeepSeek



These photos taken yesterday show exhibits of the concurrent photography exhibitions – “Echoes of Heart” and “Call for Entry” – displayed at the Cardinal Newman Centre for Culture and Arts Performance of Macau (CCCN Macau) at 55 Calçada da Vitória. – Photos: Khalel Vallo





Premier Li Qiang (right) shakes hands with Portuguese Prime Minister Luis Montenegro, who is in China for an official visit, at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing yesterday. Montenegro arrived in Macao last night for a one-day visit, part of his official China trip. — Xinhua

## Xi extends congratulations to Kim over DPRK's 77<sup>th</sup> founding anniversary

BEIJING — President Xi Jinping yesterday extended congratulations to Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) and president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), over the DPRK's 77<sup>th</sup> founding anniversary.

In his congratulatory message, Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, pointed out that over the past 77 years, the WPK has united and led the people in the DPRK to forge ahead unrelentingly and promote the continuous development of all socialist undertakings in the country.

In recent years, under the leadership of the WPK headed by Comrade General Secretary Kim, the people in the DPRK have strived hard to fulfill the goals and tasks set out at the 8<sup>th</sup> Congress of the WPK, and have achieved many gratifying accomplishments, Xi said.

Xi expressed his belief that the people in the DPRK will greet the WPK's 9<sup>th</sup> Congress with high spirits and outstanding achievements, and open a new chapter in the

cause of building DPRK-style socialism.

Stressing that China and the DPRK are traditional friendly neighbors linked by mountains and rivers, Xi said that it has always been the steadfast strategic guideline for the CPC and the Chinese government to maintain, consolidate and develop well China-DPRK ties.

Noting that a few days ago, Kim came to China to attend the events commemorating the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War, Xi said that he met Kim again to jointly plan a blueprint for the development of relations between the two parties and the two countries.

Xi said the Chinese side stands ready to enhance strategic communication, maintain close exchanges and cooperation with the DPRK, and join hands to promote China-DPRK friendship and the socialist cause of the two countries, so as to make greater contributions to peace and development in the region and the world at large. — Xinhua

## Xi extends Teachers' Day greetings, urges nurturing capable youth for socialist cause

BEIJING — President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, has extended greetings to teachers and educators across the country ahead of today's Teachers' Day.

In a letter to eight rural teachers, Xi urged them to enhance their teaching skills and nurture more capable young people with sound moral grounding, intellectual ability, physical vigor, aesthetic sensibility, and work skills needed to join and carry on the socialist cause.

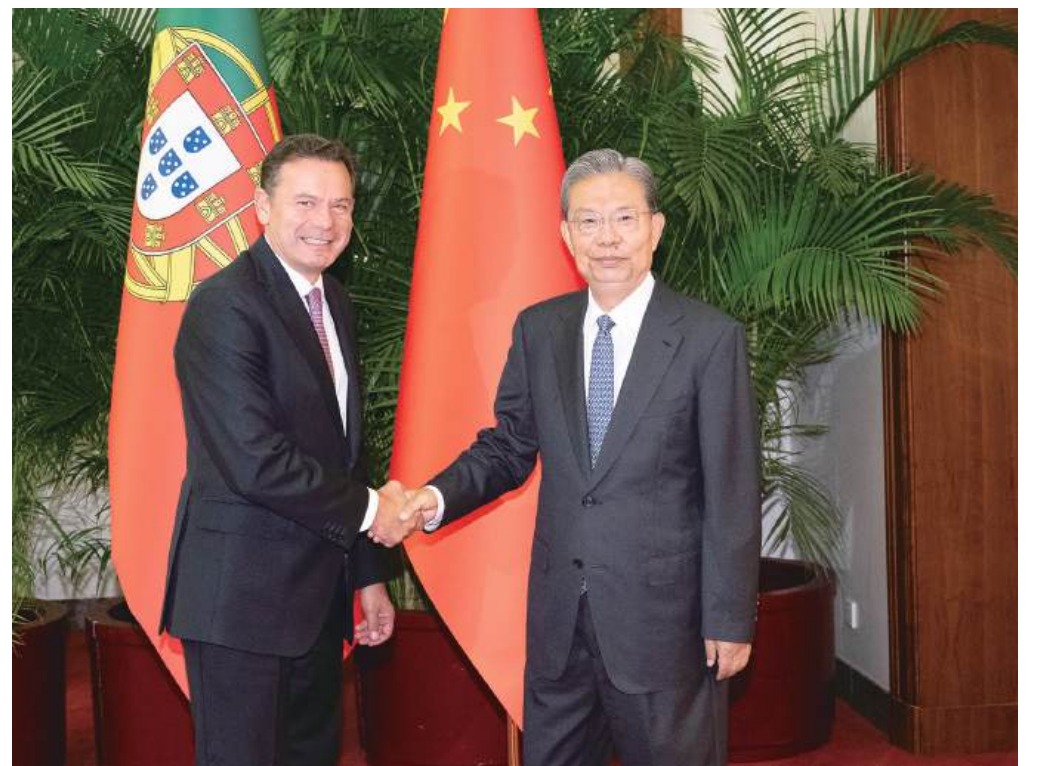
The letter was sent in response to the eight representatives from the Special-Post Teachers Program, a central government-funded initiative that has sent about 1.18 million college graduates to teach in rural areas of central and western China since

2006. The program has covered over 30,000 schools, spanning more than 1,000 counties in 22 provincial-level regions.

Over the past two decades since its implementation, teachers in the program have demonstrated the dedication and sense of responsibility emblematic of people's teachers, Xi noted in the letter.

He called on them to continue upholding their original aspiration in education and guide children toward healthy growth.

In an instruction on the program, Premier Li Qiang, also a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, called on teachers and educators to work where the motherland and the people need them the most, and to contribute more to building a strong educational system. — Xinhua



Zhao Leji (right), chairman of the National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee, shakes hands with Portuguese Prime Minister Luis Montenegro in Beijing yesterday. — Xinhua

## World benefits from closer BRICS solidarity, cooperation

### Commentary

BEIJING — The virtual BRICS Summit held yesterday has never been more relevant as it came at a time of growing global uncertainties and an intensifying deficit in global governance.

During the summit, President Xi Jinping called on BRICS countries, which stand at the forefront of the Global South, to jointly defend multilateralism and the multilateral trading system, advance greater BRICS cooperation, and build a community with a shared future for humanity.

The urgency of this call cannot be overstated as the world is facing rising hegemonism, unilateralism and protectionism, with trade wars and tariff threats waged by some countries constantly surfacing. At this critical juncture, Xi's proposals at the BRICS summit strike at the heart of today's challenges in global governance, charting a course of unity, openness and shared development for the Global South and beyond.

The call for upholding multilateralism and defending international fairness and justice carries particular weight.

History shows that multilateralism is both the common aspiration of humanity and the trend of the times, serving as a cornerstone for peace and development, while the Global Governance Initiative (GGI), recently proposed by Xi, is aimed at galvanizing joint global action for a more just and equitable global governance system.

As a leading force within the Global South, BRICS countries are well-placed to drive a positive change in global governance. They should champion true multilateralism, follow the principle of extensive consultation and joint contribution for shared benefit, safeguard the UN-centered international system and the international order underpinned by international law, and steer global governance reform toward amplifying the representation and voice of Global South countries.

Equally important is the reaffirmation of openness and win-win cooperation in the

economic realm. Economic globalization is an unstoppable trend of history.

By advocating for an open world economy and resisting protectionism in all its forms, BRICS countries can protect and promote not only their own growth prospects but also the collective well-being of the international community. For the Global South in particular, inclusive economic globalization ensures that development remains a central priority, enabling more equitable access to opportunities and benefits.

The call for upholding solidarity and cooperation to foster synergy for common development is another pillar of advancing greater BRICS cooperation. Representing nearly half of the world's population and around 30 percent of global economic output, BRICS countries are an increasingly prominent force in the global economy. The closer BRICS countries cooperate, the more resilient, resourceful and effective they are in addressing external risks and challenges — from climate change to geopolitical conflicts.

With significant strengths in markets, resources and industries, BRICS countries should harness their respective strengths, deepen practical cooperation, and make their business, financial, scientific and technological cooperation more productive, thereby consolidating the foundation of the greater BRICS cooperation, creating lasting momentum and broader benefits for people across the world.

At a time when uncertainty overshadows global affairs, BRICS stands as both a stabilizer and a catalyst for change. By upholding multilateralism, openness and solidarity, BRICS countries can not only safeguard the interests of the Global South but also inject new vitality into global governance.

As long as BRICS members remain committed to their founding spirit and deepen their solidarity, they will continue to serve as a beacon of multilateralism, a champion of cooperation and a driving force for shared development. — Xinhua