

Sam urges judicial organs to safeguard Macau's executive-led political system

Tony Wong

Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai said yesterday the executive, legislative, and judicial organs, in addition to exercising their respective statutory functions and duties, must also safeguard Macau's political system characterised by executive-led governance and judicial independence, with the aim of creating more favourable conditions for Macau's development.

Sam made the remarks while delivering a speech during a ceremony at the Macau Cultural Centre (CCM) in Nape which marked the formal start of the 2025/26 Judicial Year.

The annual event was also addressed by Macau's top judge Song Man Lei, chief public prosecutor Tong Hio Fong and Macau Lawyers Association President Vong Hin Fai. A large number of judges, prosecutors, legislators and lawyers attended the ceremony as guests, including Legislative Assembly President André Cheong Weng Chon.

According to a statement by the Court of Final Appeal (TUI) last night, 390 guests attended the function.

Since the establishment of the Macau Special Administrative



Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai addresses yesterday's ceremony marking the start of the 2025/26 Judicial Year at the Macau Cultural Centre (CCM) in Nape.

— Photo: GCS

Region (MSAR) on December 20, 1999, Sam headed the Court of Final Appeal (TUI) for nearly 25 years until late August last year when he resigned as the MSAR's top judge so that he could run in the election of the MSAR's sixth-term chief executive, which was held on October 13 last

year when he, the sole candidate, was elected by garnering 98.99 percent of the 398 votes cast by the 400-member Chief Executive Election Committee. Sam took office as the MSAR's sixth-term and fourth chief executive on December 20 last year, i.e., the 25th Anniversary of the

Establishment of the MSAR.

In his speech yesterday, Sam noted that he was attending the annual ceremony marking the start of the judicial year for the 25th

time since Macau's return to the motherland, and it was the first time that he presided over the ceremony in his capacity as the MSAR's chief executive.

Sam said that the rule of law is the cornerstone of stable social development. He said that a fair and efficient judicial system serves as the last line of defence for social equality and justice, constituting the core of implementing the rule of law, and is also crucial for enhancing public confidence and promoting social consensus.

Sam underlined that over the past year, Macau's judicial organs have made solid progress in upholding judicial justice, enhancing judicial efficiency, and improving the judicial system. In Macau's judicial history, Sam said, there had never been a time like now where the judicial organs have possessed such a substantial number of judges, prosecutors, and other judicial officers, while the government had never attached such great importance to the development of both the hardware and software facilities of the judicial organs.

Continued on page 6

Trump says expects 'good' trade deal with China

WASHINGTON — US President Donald Trump said yesterday he expected to seal a "good" trade deal with President Xi Jinping at a regional summit next week — even as he said that the highly anticipated sit-down might yet be cancelled.

Trump has repeatedly changed his mind on meeting Xi at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in South Korea since first announcing the encounter.

"So now we're going to have a fair deal, and I think we're going to have a very successful meeting. Certainly, there are a lot of people that are waiting for it," Trump told

a lunch event with Republican senators at the White House.

But he then added: "Maybe it won't happen. Things can happen where, for instance, maybe somebody will say, 'I don't want to meet. It's too nasty.'" But it's really not nasty."

Trump first announced on September 19 that he would meet Xi in South Korea — which would be their first encounter since his return to the White House — and travel to China early next year.

But on October 10 he threatened to scrap the Xi talks and threatened China with massive

tariffs after Beijing imposed export controls on rare earth minerals, only to reverse course.

The US president has apparently softened his stance again though, saying as recently as on Monday that they would meet and that his trip to China "fairly early next year" was "sort of set."

Trump said on Thursday that he would meet Russian President Vladimir Putin in Budapest within two weeks to discuss the war in Ukraine. But the White House said yesterday that there were now no plans for a meeting "in the immediate future." — AFP, MPD

EU, China to hold 'urgent' talks on rare earth export controls

STRASBOURG, France — EU and Chinese officials have agreed to meet in Brussels for "urgent" talks on China's export controls on rare earths, EU trade chief Maros Sefcovic said after speaking to his Chinese counterpart yesterday.

The world's leading producer of the minerals used to make magnets crucial to the auto, electronics and defence industries, Beijing this month announced new controls on the export of rare-earth technologies.

"I appreciate today's constructive discussion during which we agreed to intensify contacts at all levels," Sefcovic said after

a video call with China's Commerce Minister Wang Wentao that lasted nearly two hours.

"I invited the Chinese authorities to come to Brussels in the coming days to find urgent solutions. Minister Wang Wentao has accepted this invitation," Sefcovic told reporters in the European Parliament in Strasbourg.

The European Union says the Chinese export controls have forced some of the bloc's companies to halt production and inflicted economic harm.

Sefcovic has called the export controls "unjustified and harmful". — AFP, MPD

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The Macau Post Daily

Beijing hosts sharing event marking 80th anniversary of Taiwan's restoration

About 100 representatives from both sides of the Taiwan Strait gathered at a sharing session in Beijing yesterday to commemorate the 80th anniversary of Taiwan's restoration to China.

— Story on p. 7

Hamas says dealt 'severe blow' to group it says collaborated with Israel

Palestinian Islamist movement Hamas said yesterday its so-called Radea security force had "dealt a severe blow" to an armed group in Gaza it accuses of collaborating with Israel.

— Story on p. 10

Crashed Lisbon funicular had faulty cable: official inquiry

The funicular that crashed in Lisbon killing 16 people in early September had a faulty cable, the official inquiry said yesterday, recommending the city's vehicles stay out of service until their safety can be confirmed.

— Story on p. 12

17th UTM-UN Tourism Training Programme starts

Rui Pastorin

The Macao University of Tourism (UTM) kicked off its four-day 17th UTM-UN Tourism Training Programme yesterday at MGM COTAI.

Marking the 10th year of the programme, nearly 400 participants, according to a UTM statement, from 36 UN Tourism* member countries have been trained over the past editions.

Programme participants include scholars, experts and industry professionals from across the Asia-Pacific region. This time, the programme is themed “Leveraging Meetings and Events for Local Development”.

Addressing yesterday’s attendees, UTM Rector Fanny Vong Chuk Kwan highlighted that the programme will explore how meetings and events can become “drivers of local prosperity, strengthening destination branding and fostering public-private partnerships that empower youth development and advance sustainability”.

The discussion in Macau is “especially pertinent”, said Vong,



Macao University of Tourism (UTM) Rector Fanny Vong Chuk Kwan (1st row, centre); Programme Officer of the Regional Department for Asia and the Pacific at UN Tourism, Christine Brew (1st row, 7th from left), and MGM Hospitality Senior Vice President Iwan Dietschi (1st row, 5th from left) pose with other guests, representatives and speakers during the opening of the 17th UTM-UN Tourism Training Programme at MGM COTAI yesterday.

– Photo: Rui Pastorin

noting the increase in MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions) events hosted in the city, along with the growing number of participants in meetings and conferences. She also noted Macau’s impressive standing in “the business events arena”.

“It is no surprise that ‘conferenc-

es and exhibitions’ is one of the four priority sectors to advance under the Macau SAR Government’s ‘Development Plan for Appropriate Economic Diversification’. UTM takes pride in spearheading the efforts to reach new heights in the industry, not only through research and engagement, but also through

new academic programmes that support innovation and developmental breakthroughs”, Vong said.

Christine Brew, programme officer of the Regional Department for Asia and the Pacific at UN Tourism, gave an overview of global tourism performance and underlined the growth in international tourism

in the first half of the year, along with the important contributions of the MICE industry.

“MICE tourism continues to thrive, with a market size estimated at over US\$800 billion in 2024... This proves that the importance of the contribution of meetings and events to the development of our communities cannot be overemphasised”, Brew said, calling MICE an “economic powerhouse”.

Meanwhile, this marks the third time that integrated resort operator MGM is sponsoring the event. During his speech, MGM Hospitality Senior Vice President Iwan Dietschi said: “We will continue to invest in world-class venues and experiences through innovation and stellar hospitality, as well as to nurture future generations of professionals”.

*The United Nations World Tourism Organisation or UN Tourism (formerly UNWTO) is a specialised agency of the United Nations which promotes responsible, sustainable and universally-accessible tourism. Its headquarters are in Madrid, Spain. – Wikipedia

NSFC, FDCT renew cooperation to advance scientific research, talent exchange

Khalel Vallo

The National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) and the Science and Technology Development Fund (FDCT) renewed three cooperation agreements in Macau on Monday, aiming to mark a new stage of collaboration to deepen joint research, attract global scientific talent, and enhance regional innovation, according to a

statement from FDCT yesterday.

The statement did not say where the signing ceremony took place.

During a meeting on Monday, NSFC Vice Director and academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) Lu Jianhua, who headed the delegation, signed the renewed agreements with FDCT President Vincent U U Sang, the statement said.

According to the statement, the updated documents aim to strengthen cooperation between the Chinese mainland and Macau in joint research funding, international scientific talent recruitment, and cross-border technological collaboration.

Lu was quoted by the statement as saying that the NSFC “has always attached great importance to scientific and technological cooperation and exchanges with Macau,” and added that the renewed agreements would further consolidate previous achievements while leveraging Macau’s advantages to boost innovation capacity in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA).

Meanwhile, U expressed gratitude for the NSFC’s continued support since their first cooperation agreement in 2016, the statement said, noting that the updated documents “cover a broader range of areas” and better align with the evolving landscape of scientific collaboration. He was quoted as saying that “by leveraging Macau’s international network, we aim to make the most of Macau’s strengths to serve the country’s needs.”

Since 2016, the two parties have jointly funded 133 research projects and co-organised nine academic seminars, contributing to stronger research ties between the Chinese mainland and Macau, the statement said, adding that with the updated agreements, the NSFC and the FDCT will further support high-level academic conferences in Macau, aim to attract international talent and propel scientific cooperation to new heights. ■



This photo provided by the Science and Technology Development Fund (FDCT) yesterday shows Vice Director of the NSFC and Academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) Lu Jianhua (left) alongside FDCT President Vincent U U Sang after signing their cooperation agreements in Macau.

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Macau Weather

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PERIODS OF RAIN.
FORCE 5 TO 6 NORTH TO
NORTHEASTERLY WINDS WITH
GUSTS.
RELATIVE HUMIDITY WILL
RANGE BETWEEN
75% AND 95%.



17°C~21°C

Source: SMG

‘11th Halloween Albergue SCM’ on this weekend

Rui Pastorin

The large-scale Halloween Albergue SCM will again be hosted this weekend, marking its 11th edition and featuring themed activities for the local community.

CAC - Círculo dos Amigos da Cultura de Macau (“Circle of the Friends of Macau’s Culture”) and Albergue SCM have so far held 10 well-received celebrations from 2013 to 2024, according to a CAC statement on Monday.

Taking on the theme of “Phantom Feast”, the free-admission event will again see Halloween decorations throughout Albergue SCM*, as well as makeup booths, clown performances and the “Cockroach Haunted House” challenge for all ages.

Other activities slated for this weekend include the “Albergue SCM - Let’s Trick or Treat” and “Albergue SCM Halloween Costume Contest”. The former will have children aged between five and 12, accompanied by an adult,

embark on a search for “hidden treasures” along Calçada da Igreja de S. Lázaro (瘋堂斜巷) from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. One can register for the free event on <https://forms.gle/HvpgyhoYmKsWPUEUz8>

The costume contest, meanwhile, will be held from Saturday through October 28, with the statement noting that participants can take a picture of themselves in their Halloween outfit while inside Albergue SCM and upload it on a designated post and comment “Watch me go into spooky mode!”, with more details on <https://www.facebook.com/CACMacau/>.

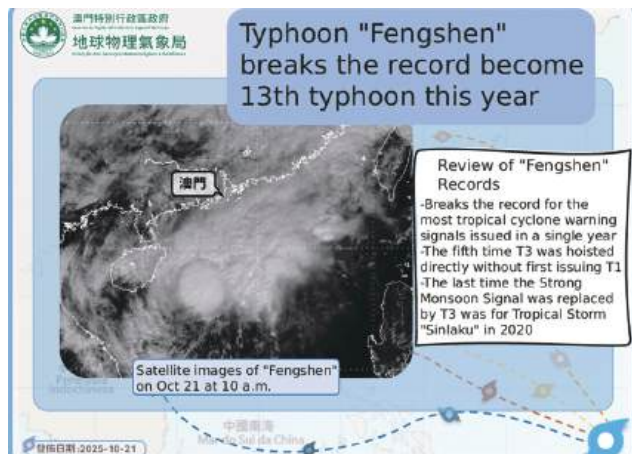
More information can be found on the CAC Facebook page, enquiries can also be made on 2852 2550 or 2852 3205, as well as through amigoscultura@gmail.com. ■

*Albergue is Portuguese for “hospice”. SCM stands for Santa Casa da Misericórdia (“Holy House of Mercy”), Macau’s oldest charitable organisation.



This file photo provided by CAC - Círculo dos Amigos da Cultura de Macau (“Circle of the Friends of Macau’s Culture”) on Monday shows a bird’s eye view of a previous Halloween Albergue SCM.

This year's No. of storm signals breaks 1972 record: SMG



This handout image provided by the local observatory (SMG) yesterday shows a satellite image of Typhoon "Fengshen", as of 10 a.m. local time yesterday.

Armando Neves

The Meteorological and Geo-physical Bureau (SMG) announced in a statement yesterday that Typhoon "Fengshen" has broken the record for the most tropical cyclone warning signals issued in a single year since records began in 1968, having reached 13 on Monday. The previous record was in 1974, with a total of 12 tropical cyclone warning signals hoisted, the observatory said.

The weather station also said that "Fengshen" also marked the fifth time on record that the Strong Wind Signal No. 3 (T3) was hoisted right away, without first issuing the Standby Signal No.1 (T1). Last time that was T3 hoisted without T1 first was for Tropical Storm "Sinlaku" in 2020.

The statement explained the difference between the "Strong Monsoon Signal" and the "Strong Wind Signal." When air flows from high pressure to low pressure, according to the statement, the greater the pressure difference is, the stronger the wind is as well. When Macau experiences significantly stronger winds due to monsoon effects, the observatory will appropriately issue the Strong Monsoon Signal; when significantly stronger local winds are caused by a tropical cyclone, a Tropical Cyclone Warning Signal is issued, the statement said. The Strong Monsoon Signal is symbolised by a black ball.

According to the observatory, under the combined influence of a relatively strong northeastern monsoon and Typhoon "Fengshen," Macau began experiencing stronger northerly winds starting on Monday. Due to the prevailing north to northeasterly winds having been obstructed by the local topography, according to the observatory, the average wind speed was not exceptionally high but gusts were frequently recorded reaching Force 7 to 8 on the Beaufort scale*.

In the statement, the observatory reviewed how Typhoon "Fengshen" affected Macau.

According to the statement, on Monday a relatively strong northeastern monsoon first moved southwards, increasing the pressure gradient along the coastal areas of southern China and strengthening the wind force. Therefore, the observatory initially issued the

Strong Monsoon Signal, the statement said.

According to the bureau's official system of warning signals, the Strong Monsoon Signal indicates that under the influence of a monsoon** (which in Arabic means "season"), winds with a sustained speed of 41 km/h or above are expected or blowing in Macau.

As "Fengshen" moved across the central and northern parts of the South China Sea and interacted with the northeastern monsoon, the pressure gradient along the southern China coast intensified further, the statement said, leading to even stronger winds.

The statement said that the circulation of "Fengshen" began to have a greater impact on Macau which convinced the observatory to hoist T3 right away, i.e., without issuing T1 first. As "Fengshen" moved away, the pressure gradient along the southern China coast eased, prompting the bureau to reissue the Strong Monsoon Signal, the statement said.

Meanwhile, the observatory forecast that today's minimum temperature will drop to 17 degrees Celsius, with conditions remaining rather windy, cloudy, and rainy. In the following days, the weather station said, the northeastern monsoon will gradually weaken. The bureau said there would be sunshine during the daytime, and temperatures will rise later this week.

The Strong Monsoon Signal, which was hoisted at 5 p.m. yesterday, was still in force late last night. ■

* The Beaufort scale is an empirical measure that relates wind speed to observed conditions at sea or on land. It's a standardised scale from 0 to 12 that traditionally uses visual clues, like the effect of wind on water, trees, or buildings, to estimate the wind's force without needing an anemometer (a wind-speed measuring instrument). – DeepSeek

** A monsoon is a seasonal change in the direction of the prevailing, or strongest, winds of a region. It is not just a single storm or a period of heavy rain, but a large-scale weather pattern that brings a distinct rainy season to many tropical and subtropical areas. – Deep Seek

Over 11,200 people train as 'Gatekeepers of Life': IAS

Armando Neves

The Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) hosted an awards ceremony yesterday to express its gratitude to all sectors of the public for promoting mental health initiatives, according to an IAS statement.

The ceremony was held at the Macau Science Centre (MSC) in Nape.

IAS Family and Community Services Department Chief Lei Lai Peng said in a speech that over 11,200 people have trained as "Gatekeepers of Life"* over the years.

The ceremony was also attended by representatives of a raft of other public entities as well as social service organisations.

According to Lei, a "Mental Health Support Group," jointly formed by the bureau and six social service organisations, implemented a programme to promote mental health information in the first nine months of the year. Lei said that over 600 training sessions and community activities were organised during that period, involving more than 35,000 participants. At yesterday's awards ceremony, she noted, nearly 100 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), associations, the city's six integrated resort operators, and public entities that

collaborated with the group were formally recognised, thanking them for their efforts in building a happier Macau.

Lei pointed out that mental health is closely intertwined with everyone's daily life, and good mental well-being can enhance the happiness of individuals and families. She also said that the bureau will continue to collaborate with all sectors of society to encourage citizens to care more for themselves and those around them through companionship, listening and caring, integrating them into their daily life. "Even a simple greeting or a smile can convey warmth and support to others," Lei said.

The Chinese name of the event "心理健康伙伴計劃", translated through DeepSeek, is "Mental Health Partnership Programme."

According to group representative Mok Chi Ian, the group acknowledged the collaborative achievements of all sectors this year. Mok said that by integrating mental health into public services, workplaces, and community networks, a community-based care and support system is gradually being woven together. Mok said she hoped to continue working hand-in-hand with civil society in the

future, safeguarding each other's psychological well-being through actions like listening and giving support, and jointly building a kind and liveable community. ■

*The term "Gatekeepers of Life" doesn't have a universally standardised definition and can vary by context. Generally, it refers to entities, systems, or individuals that control or regulate access to vital resources, opportunities, or processes essential for life, survival, or progress. – Grok



Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) Family and Community Services Department Chief Lei Lai Peng addresses yesterday's awards ceremony at the Macau Science Centre (MSC) in Nape. – Photo: Armando Neves

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10/22²⁰²⁵ WED

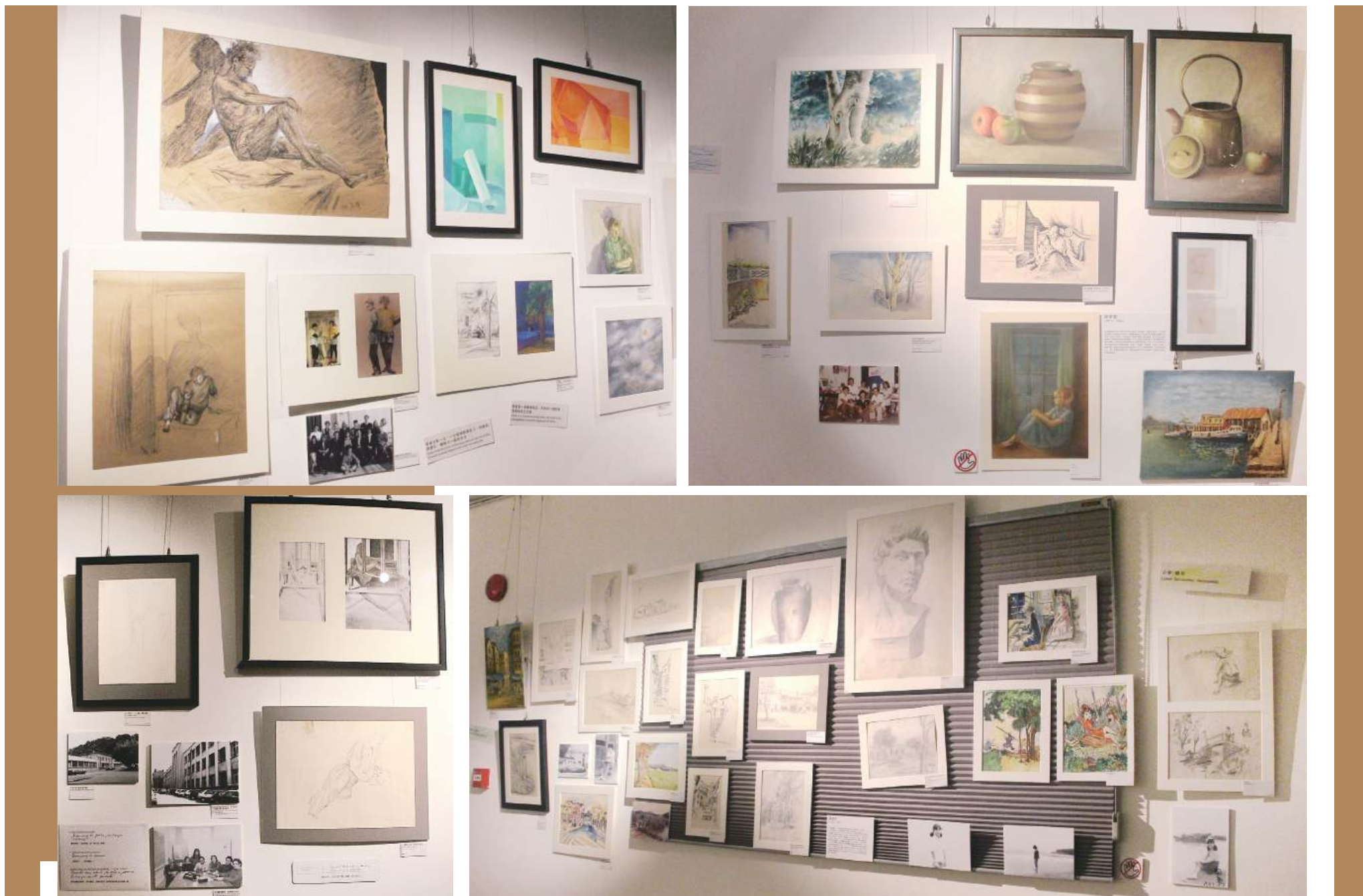
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CCCN Macau presents ‘Dreaming in Frames’

Khalel Vallo

“Dreaming in Frames — Solo Exhibition of Véronique Wong” opened on Saturday at the Cardinal Newman* Centre for Culture and Arts Performance of Macau (CCCN Macau), aiming to trace the local artist’s creative journey from the 1970s to 2007 through more than 35 works spanning painting, video, and documentary.

Véronique Wong’s full name is Véronique Wong Chio Peng.

According to the information board at the entrance to the exhibition, the exhibits explore Wong’s multifaceted practice across distinct creative phases – from her formative years studying painting under masters Tam Che Seng and Chen Shou Soo, to her sketches of old Macau streets, and her video art produced while studying at the École Nationale des Beaux-Arts de Lyon (“National School of Fine Arts of Lyon”) in France.

The showcase also features her early documentary works portraying Macau’s communities before Macau’s return to the motherland in 1999, the message noted, adding that as a pioneer of video art and video installation in Macau, Wong created her first experimental video, titled “Light (“Lumière”),” in 1988, and her first video installation “Every Day is 24 Hours” for the 2nd Macau International Art Biennale in 1995.

Her later documentaries, including about Ilha Verde

district and (the long-defunct) Kun Nam Tea House, recorded the city’s social transformation during a defining era. The exhibition also sheds light on Wong’s dedication to art education, reflecting her 25-year commitment to teaching and her contributions to emotional and creative learning for children and teachers alike, the message added.

Through its blend of moving images, sketches, and community stories, “Dreaming in Frames” not only shows Wong’s evolution as an artist but also invites exhibitiongoers to connect with Macau’s cultural memory and the enduring dialogue between art, history, and humanity, according to the message.

With free admission, the exhibition is open to exhibitiongoers until November 16. 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 19th-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*



Photos by Khalel Vallo



Police arrest loan shark for falsely imprisoning gambler

Ada Lei

The Judiciary Police (PJ) arrested a man from the mainland on Monday for usury and falsely imprisoning a male gambler, PJ spokesman Chong Kam Leong said during a regular press conference yesterday.

Chong identified the suspect as a 34-year-old farmer surnamed Shi.

According to Chong, the police received a report from a mainland man on Monday that he was being held against his will in a hotel guestroom in Cotai due to debts from high-interest gambling loans.

Chong noted that the victim had been persuaded to borrow money for gambling by a man, who remained at large at the time of the press conference, via WeChat on Sunday night. The victim then met the man and his two accomplices in the hotel lobby, where they discussed the terms of the loan. The victim agreed to borrow HK\$500,000 in gambling chips under three conditions: a 30 percent “interest” on any winning baccarat hand scoring 8 or 9; each bet should not exceed 10 percent of the total chips held; and he was required to sign an IOU.

After signing the IOU in a public toilet of the hotel, the victim received HK\$500,000 in chips and began gambling in the early hours of Monday. During this time, the man collected “interest” while Shi was tasked with watching over him. By 4 a.m.,



Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Chong Kam Leong looks on during yesterday's regular press conference. — Photo: Ada Lei

the victim had gambled away all his chips, and the man and his accomplices left, leaving Shi behind, who then confined the victim in the hotel guestroom, demanding repayment.

Chong added that the victim managed to call the police while being held against his will. The police arrested Shi at the scene and seized a mobile phone and HK\$1,400 in cash from him. Chong said while gambling the victim was charged HK\$500,000 by the loan sharks in “interest”. After gambling away all his chips, he was told by the gang to repay the principal of his loan – HK\$500,000. He was held for eight hours, Chong said.

Shi was transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) yesterday, facing charges of false imprisonment and usury. ■

3 locals fall victim to online blackmail through lewd photos

Ada Lei

Three local men have separately fallen victim to online extortion, resulting in a total loss of about 40,000 yuan (45,000 patacas), Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Chong Kam Leong said during a regular press conference yesterday.

According to Chong, the police received a report from a local male student who said that he had met a man on social media on Sunday morning and communicated with him via Telegram. The man persuaded the victim to download software and later claimed to have hacked into his phone. The man threatened to send “lewd photos” to all of his contacts if he did not pay. The victim paid a total of 34,531 yuan. However, the blackmail continued, finally leading him to report the case to the police.

Chong noted that, in a separate case, a middle-aged

local man reported that he had met a woman on a social media platform on Thursday. After chatting on Telegram, she requested that he download a mobile application for a video call. On Saturday night, he received an edited video that combined his profile picture with an image of genitalia, which she used to extort money from him. He immediately reported the case to the police and did not incur any financial loss.

In another case, Chong added that a local male student reported that he had met a woman on a social media platform on Sunday and was lured into a nude video chat on Telegram. A few minutes later, the woman edited the footage and demanded 10,000 yuan. Unable to pay the full amount, the victim managed to transfer 5,000 yuan. However, the blackmail continued. The victim then reported the case to the police. ■

Sept logs 1,358 notifiable diseases with 6.4-fold rise in flu cases

Ida Cheong

The Health Bureau (SSM) announced in a statement yesterday that a total of 1,358 cases of mandatorily notifiable diseases were recorded last month, and the top three diseases by case number were influenza (1,073 cases), enterovirus* infection (105 cases), and chickenpox** (36 cases).

The statement pointed out that a total of 1,073 influenza cases were reported in September, representing a 6.4-fold increase compared to the 145 cases reported in the same month last year and a 74.2 percent increase compared to the 616 cases reported in the previous month, adding that 20 cases of scarlet fever*** were reported in September, a decrease of 44.4 percent from the 36 cases reported in the same month last year, but an increase of 66.7 percent compared to the 12 cases reported in the previous month.

The statement noted that three diseases showing significant changes compared to the previous month were influenza (increase of 74.2 percent), scarlet fever (increase of 66.7 percent), and acute gastroenteritis caused by norovirus**** (increase of 66.7 percent).

Meanwhile, 10 cases of norovirus infection were reported in September, a decrease of 63.0 percent from the 27 cases reported in the same month last year, but an



This poster provided by the Health Bureau (SSM) gives the public flu prevention advice.

increase of 66.7 percent compared to the six cases reported in the previous month. Individuals of any age can be infected with this disease, with the peak season typically occurring in winter, the statement said.

Moreover, four imported cases of dengue fever were reported in September, along with 12 cases of Chikungunya fever (three local and nine imported cases), the statement said.

Chikungunya is a viral disease transmitted to humans by infected mosquitoes, primarily Aedes aegypti and Aedes albopictus (the same mosquitoes that spread dengue fever and Zika).

The statement underscored that in order to continuously monitor the local trends of infectious diseases and formulate appropriate prevention and control measures, the Health Bureau, under the stipulations of the infectious disease prevention,

requires the persons-in-charge of public or private medical institutions, the first diagnosing doctors, doctors completing death certificates, and laboratory diagnostic technicians to report infectious disease cases to the bureau within the statutory time frame.

Currently, 45 types of diseases are subject to mandatory notification in Macau, according to the statement. ■

* An enterovirus infection is an illness caused by a group of viruses called enteroviruses; the viruses typically enter the body through the mouth and initially multiply in the digestive tract (the “entero” part of the name refers to the intestine). - DeepSeek

** Chickenpox (also known as varicella) is a highly contagious infection caused by the varicella-zoster virus. It is best known for causing an itchy, blister-like rash that appears all over the body. - DeepSeek

*** Scarlet fever is a bacterial illness that develops in some people who have a strep throat or, less commonly, a streptococcal skin infection; there is no vaccine against scarlet fever. - DeepSeek

**** Norovirus is the most common cause of acute gastroenteritis (often called a “stomach bug” or “stomach flu”) worldwide, and it causes inflammation of the stomach and intestines, leading to the sudden onset of vomiting and diarrhoea. - DeepSeek

Disabled employees scheme awards 10 disabled staff and 61 enterprises

Ida Cheong

The awards ceremony for “2025 Outstanding Disabled Employees and Inclusive Employers Recognition Scheme” was held at the Macau Tower Convention and Entertainment Centre in which 10 disabled employees were awarded prizes based on criteria including professional ethics and discipline, work capability, and job performance.

A total of 61 enterprises and organisations were commended and recognised.

Yesterday’s awards ceremony for the scheme, co-organised by the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) and Social Welfare Bureau (IAS), aimed to honour the outstanding performance of disabled individuals across various job positions and publicly commend businesses, government entities and non-profit organisations that hire disabled staff, as well as promote public recognition and support for the employability of persons with disabilities, thereby creating more employment opportunities for them.

DSAL Director Chan Un Tong noted that the government has always prioritised support for the employment of people with disabilities, such as the ongoing implementation of the “Income Subsidy Plan for Employees with Disabilities”, which provides income protection for eligible disabled staff, as well as various policies to encourage employers to



Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) Director Chan Un Tong (eighth from left) and other attendees pose for a group photo during yesterday's award ceremony for “2025 Outstanding Disabled Employees and Inclusive Employers Recognition Scheme” at Macau Tower. — Photo: Ida Cheong

hire individuals with disabilities. Chan also said that the government remains committed to building an inclusive employment environment that integrates people with and without disabilities.

Wan Fai, a cytology technician* at the private Kiang Wu (KW) Hospital, who is one of awardees of outstanding disabled employee, told reporters on the sidelines of the event that the employment environment for people with disabilities has improved, such as enhancing accessibility facilities, adding she hoped that the employment environment would develop further in the future, provide more opportunities for people with disabilities to utilise their expertise. She called on employers to provide more job opportunities for them.

Chang Tak Toi, chairman of the Association for Parents of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities, added that his association’s supported employment centre, which includes supermarket services, has over 50 trainees. Among them, five individuals with disabilities are formally employed in different positions at Rainbow House supermarket in Avenida do Coronel Mesquita, while more than 10 trainees have been successfully hired by local small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). ■

* A cytology technician is a specialised medical laboratory professional who examines human cells under a microscope to detect signs of disease, most notably cancer and pre-cancerous conditions. - DeepSeek

Sam urges judicial organs to safeguard Macau's executive-led political system

Continued from p.1

Sam said that as “a veteran in the judicial field”, he feels deeply grateful and proud of the achievements that have been made by Macau’s judicial organs and system over the years.

At present, the chief executive said, Macau is in an era of profound transformations where both the internal and external environments are becoming increasingly complex, with the continuous emergence of new development, new problems, and new changes, entailing higher requirements for Macau’s judicial work.

Sam also underlined Macau’s executive-led political system established by the MSAR Basic Law, which also lists provisions governing Macau’s administrative, legislative and judicial systems.

As the MSAR’s important organs of political power and governance, Sam said, the executive, legislative, and judicial organs, in addition to exercising their respective statutory functions and duties, must also safeguard Macau’s political system characterised by executive-led governance and judicial independence, where the executive and legislative organs should cooperate with each other while carrying out their respective duties in accordance with the law, with the aim of creating more favourable conditions for Macau’s development and reform and better serving its residents.

Sam offers judiciary 5 insights

In his speech yesterday, Sam raised five insights for Macau’s judicial organs, in compliance with President Xi Jinping’s requirements for Macau laid out in the latter’s speech delivered during the inauguration ceremony of the MSAR’s sixth-term government on December 20 last year, to strictly exercise fair administration of justice, improve the judicial system, enhance judicial efficiency, and uphold the rule of law.

Sam said his five insights were based on the successful implementation of the “One Country, Two Systems” principle in Macau over the past 26 years, including the development of its judicial organs and the role they have played.



Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai (front, centre), Macau’s top judge Song Man Lei (front, third from right), chief public prosecutor Tong Hio Fong (front, second from right), Macau Lawyers Association President Vong Hin Fai (front, right), Legislative Assembly President André Cheong Weng Chon (front, third from left), as well as judges and prosecutors attend yesterday’s ceremony marking the formal start of the 2025/26 Judicial Year.

– Photo: GCS

First, Sam said, the judicial organs should uphold the MSAR’s constitutional order and consolidate the foundations of the rule of law.

Sam noted that the MSAR’s judicial system is rooted in the constitutional order established by the nation’s Constitution and the MSAR Basic Law. Judicial personnel must accurately understand the essence of the “One Country, Two Systems” principle and, through judicial practices, resolutely safeguard the nation’s sovereignty, security and development interests, firmly support and cooperate with the MSAR government in exercising law-based governance, and provide various judicial and legal support to the government’s various reform initiatives, Sam said.

Second, Sam said, the judicial organs should uphold judicial justice and maintain social stability.

Sam said that court judgements are closely related to residents’ lives. He urged judiciary personnel not to forget their original intent to serve the public, as well as to exercise their powers prudently, maintain integrity and self-

discipline, keep the public interest in mind, respect the law, and always perform their duties loyally.

Sam said that the value of judicial work lies not only in the precise application of legal provisions but also in the profound care and consideration for the well-being of the people. While upholding the fundamental principles of the rule of law, Sam said, judicial personnel should also handle cases with judicial compassion as much as possible so as to resolve social conflicts, enabling fairness and justice to constitute the foundation for Macau’s prosperity and stability.

Third, Sam said, the judicial organs should safeguard public and private rights and interests in accordance with the law and respond to the needs of Macau’s socioeconomic development.

The rule of law is the cornerstone of a good business environment, while the judicial system functions as the indispensable “stabiliser” for socioeconomic development, Sam said, adding that Macau is now at a critical stage in vigorously advancing its “1+4”

appropriate diversification development strategy, accelerating the development of the Guangdong-Macao In-Depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, and actively participating in the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA). Sam said he expects the judicial organs to firmly defend people’s rights, safeguard the legitimate interests of public and private entities in accordance with the law and respond efficiently and with a high standard of quality to the demands of social development. Moreover, Sam also said expects the judiciary to continue serving as a driving force in stimulating economic vitality and promoting the sustainable and healthy development of society.

Fourth, Sam said, the judiciary should further strengthen its professional competence to enhance judicial efficiency. The professional quality of the judiciary constitutes the core driving force for the progress of a society grounded in the rule of law. Faced with the complex transformations characterising contemporary development and the dynamics of social structures, the judicial sector must, simultaneously, deepen its technical capabilities, discern the new demands arising from economic growth, technological innovation and social governance, in a continuous and consistent manner, Sam said. It must also proactively broaden its horizons, enhance the predictability and precision of judicial decision-making, thus ensuring the judicial system’s alignment with the evolution of the times.

Fifth, Sam urged the judiciary to deepen exchanges and cooperation and promote mutual learning in the judicial field. As a meeting point of Chinese and Western cultures, Macau possesses a unique legal system and an international perspective, Sam said. In the future, Sam said, Macau should actively intensify cooperation with judicial institutions in the Chinese mainland and participate extensively in regional coordination and international exchanges in the judicial field, thereby injecting new impetus and resilience into its judicial system. ■

Session to set the stage for next phase of country’s high-quality development

China Daily Editorial

The ongoing fourth plenary session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China in Beijing marks a key moment in the nation’s journey toward comprehensive modernization. As China concludes its 14th Five-Year Plan and prepares to draft its 15th, this session will shape the long-term trajectory of high-quality development – the core strategy guiding China’s economic and social progress in the new era.

The 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-25) marked a fundamental shift in the nation’s approach – from seeking growth to seeking better growth. It prioritized innovation, efficiency, sustainability and inclusiveness.

Over the past five years, China has made remarkable progress in transitioning its development from quantity to quality despite the increasingly complex external environment.

The plan’s promotion of high-quality development, introduced as socialism with Chinese characteristics entered a new era, has led to breakthroughs in scientific and technological innovation, industrial upgrading, green development and social welfare. These have laid a robust groundwork for the next phase of growth.

As Xinhua reports, from 2021 to 2024,

China maintained an average annual growth rate of 5.5 percent. The estimated increment of the Chinese economy during the 14th Five-Year Plan period is set to surpass 35 trillion yuan, which is comparable to the annual GDP of a major Western economy, and its per capita GDP was US\$13,445, placing China among the top tier of upper-middle-income countries.

The 15th Five-Year Plan period (2026-30) marks a crucial phase for the country to consolidate this foundation, inject strong impetus into high-quality development, and make all-out efforts to accomplish its 2035 target for advancing Chinese modernization.

During this period, backed by comprehensive top-level planning, stronger institutional support and targeted policy measures, the country will seek to seize the opportunities presented by the new wave of technology and the rise of the digital and green economies.

Strategic emerging industries, including artificial intelligence, new energy, biotechnology, and advanced manufacturing, have flourished under the 14th Five-Year Plan, and the contribution of innovation to economic growth has increased significantly, reinforcing the resilience and reliability of China’s industry and supply chains.

It is therefore imperative that the

development of new quality productive forces be elevated to a more prominent strategic position.

At the same time, the green transition has gained remarkable momentum. As a global leader in renewable energy installation and investment, China’s commitment to its “dual carbon” goals – peaking carbon emissions before 2030 and achieving carbon neutrality before 2060 – is reshaping its energy landscape and accelerating the shift to sustainable growth.

A major focus of the new five-year plan is expected to be how to spur scientific and technological innovation and achieve breakthroughs in core technologies in critical areas, upgrade traditional industries, nurture emerging sectors and lay the groundwork for future industries amid the complex and uncertain international environment and the domestic need to address regional disparities and boost household consumption, which call for deeper reforms and coordinated policy measures.

This will involve enhancing mechanisms and systems that promote high-quality economic development and the growth of new quality productive forces, focusing on high-technology, high-efficiency and high-value production.

By outlining clear development guidelines, the country can ensure the effective implementation of national strategies aimed at improving the socialist rule of law, optimizing the business environment and strengthening intellectual property protection.

In this context, the session will play a vital role by setting the stage for a stable, transparent and predictable institutional environment. From sci-tech self-reliance and green development to common prosperity, a clean, efficient, and service-oriented governance system is the guarantee for a more innovative, eco-friendly and equitable China.

Clear guidelines are also necessary to facilitate green transition, which while irreversible, also entails transition costs. Balancing emissions reduction with energy security and industrial upgrading will require precise policy coordination and innovation-driven solutions.

While high-quality development is China’s domestic orientation, it is also a contribution to global economy. Not only will it create development dividends and fresh opportunities as the nation embarks on the next leg of its modernization journey, but its requirement for openness and cooperation should instill confidence in a world in need of both.

– Courtesy of China Daily

VP Han meets with president of Oregon State Senate



Vice President Han Zheng shakes hands with Rob Wagner, president of the United States' Oregon State Senate, in Beijing yesterday. — Xinhua

BEIJING — Vice President Han Zheng met with Rob Wagner, president of the United States' Oregon State Senate, yesterday in Beijing.

Han noted that a series of important consensus have been reached between the two countries' leaders during phone talks held since the beginning of the year, and said that as they share broad common interests and promising cooperation prospects, China and the United States can and should become partners and friends.

China hopes the US will work with it on mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win results, and to find the right way for the two major countries to get along in the new era, aiming to benefit the two sides and the world at large, Han said.

He said that Oregon has maintained friendly, cooperative relations with China for a long time. China hopes that Oregon State Senate President Wagner and his fellow senators will continue to enhance communication and exchange between the two sides, deepen people-to-people relations and play an exemplary role in promoting subnational China-US cooperation, Han added.

Wagner expressed his hopes for the success of the fourth plenary session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, and said that US-China cooperation at the subnational level is very important, adding that Oregon has passed a bill to continue strengthening its friendly cooperation with China. — Xinhua

US visa curbs won't hold back China's ties with Central American states: FM spokesperson

BEIJING — Weaponizing visas will not scare off the sober-minded, nor will it hold back the flourishing ties between China and Central American countries, foreign ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said yesterday.

Guo made the remarks at a regular news briefing when asked to comment on a US announcement of visa restrictions on citizens of Central American nations as well as their immediate family members who engage in cooperation with the Communist Party of China (CPC) and "undermine the rule of law in Central America."

Noting China has lodged solemn representations to the United States over the visa restrictions, Guo said the United States, under the guise of "rule of law," is carrying out illegal actions by imposing unilateral sanctions to politically suppress and economically coerce regional countries and individuals.

By placing domestic laws above international law and its

obligations, the United States is undermining the legitimate rights and interests of other nations, seriously violating the principles of sovereign equality and non-interference in internal affairs, and severely disrupting the international order, Guo said.

He said the US inflammatory finger-pointing at Central American countries' exchanges and cooperation with China is entirely groundless and shows its complete lack of respect for Central American countries.

This once again reflects how the US is accustomed to bullying others and also reveals relevant politician's deep-seated arrogance and bias, Guo said.

China will always be a good friend and partner to Central American countries, and will work with them to promote development and revitalization, and jointly build a China-Latin America community with a shared future, Guo added. — Xinhua

China completes world's first wind-powered underwater data center

SHANGHAI — China yesterday completed construction of the world's first wind-powered underwater data center (UDC) project in east China's Shanghai Municipality, setting a benchmark in terms of the green development of computing infrastructure.

Located in the Lin-gang Special Area of China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone, this UDC project received an investment of 1.6 billion yuan and has a total power capacity of 24 megawatts, according to the administrative committee of the Lin-gang Special Area.

The administrative committee said the completion of this initiative marks a breakthrough in the integrated development of UDC projects and offshore renewable energy. It provides a concrete example of green and low-carbon development of computing infrastructure and local consumption of offshore wind power on a demonstration scale.

Compared to traditional land-based data centers, the underwater project is designed to use over 95 percent green electricity — reducing power consumption by 22.8 percent, and water and land use by 100 percent and more than 90 percent, respectively, said Su Yang, general manager of Shanghai Hicloud Technology, which is one of the project contractors.

Su also noted that energy consumption for cooling in conventional data centers accounts for roughly 40 to 50 percent of total energy consumption. By leveraging seawater as a natural cooling system — this UDC can reduce the proportion to below 10 percent.

The entire project will be constructed in two phases. Phase one, now completed, was designed to

achieve a power usage effectiveness (PUE) of no higher than 1.15, which represents an advanced industry level. PUE is a measure of how efficiently a data center uses its power. The lower the PUE, the greener the data center.

Based on a green development policy for data centers issued by the Chinese government in 2024 — all new or retrofitted large and mega data centers should achieve PUE below 1.25 by the end of 2025. For data center projects in national hub nodes, the PUE standard is no higher than 1.2.

Wu Xiaohua, deputy secretary of the Party committee of the Lin-gang Special Area, said the completion of the data center is a milestone for Lin-gang in integrating the digital economy, new energy and the marine economy. It also represents a major initiative by Shanghai in serving national strategies and building a global hub for sci-tech innovation.

As an economic hub in east China's coastal region, Shanghai is developing its intelligent computing industry. According to measures released by the Shanghai municipal government in March 2025, the city aims to grow its intelligent computing cloud industry scale to over 200 billion yuan by 2027 — with a targeted computing capacity of 200 EFLOPS.

These measures also outlined plans to deploy intelligent computing capacity and expand cluster scales in key areas such as Lin-gang.

Huang Dinan, chairman of Shenergy Group, another project contractor, said the East China Sea provides Shanghai with unique offshore wind power resources, as annual utilization hours exceed 3,000 hours — thus supplying stable and green electricity for the city's economy and residents.

This innovation integrates offshore wind power with subsea computing systems — achieving efficient resource coordination across power generation, grid and load, while matching the data center's requirements for green electricity, Huang said.

Yesterday, Shanghai Hicloud Technology, Shenergy Group, the Shanghai branch of China Telecom, INESA and China Communications Construction Company's Third Harbor Engineering Co., Ltd. all signed an agreement to cooperate in launching a 500-megawatt offshore wind-powered UDC project.

"Construction of UDCs is still in its initial stage. To achieve the transition from demonstration projects to large-scale application, progress is still required in terms of technological maturity and cost optimization," said Wang Shifeng, chairman of Third Harbor Engineering Co., Ltd.

He added that the company will focus on breakthroughs in core technologies for far-shore computing infrastructure, optimization of operation and maintenance, and green low-carbon upgrades.

Building green computing facilities near the east China economic hub is an innovative move and provides a valuable addition to the country's national computing network.

China in 2022 launched a mega data project to accelerate the development of an integrated national computing network. Dubbed the "East Data, West Computing" initiative, it is designed to see less-developed inland regions storing and processing data transmitted from the country's economically vibrant eastern areas.

— Xinhua

Beijing hosts sharing event marking 80th anniversary of Taiwan's restoration

BEIJING — Approximately 100 representatives from both sides of the Taiwan Strait gathered at a sharing session in Beijing yesterday to commemorate the 80th anniversary of Taiwan's restoration to China.

Taiwan's restoration was a key outcome of the victory of the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War, said Zheng Ping, president of the All-China Federation of Taiwan Compatriots, at the session.

He noted that international legal documents such as the 1943 Cairo Declaration and the 1945 Potsdam Proclamation affirmed China's sovereignty over Taiwan, while the five-decade resistance by people of Taiwan against Japanese rule further proved their Chinese identity.

In 1895, after its defeat in a war with Japan, the Qing government was forced

to cede Taiwan and Penghu Islands to Japan. Fifty years later, after 14 years of relentless struggle, the Chinese people overcame Japanese aggression during World War II, leading to Taiwan's restoration to the motherland.

Lin Ming-cong, a descendant of the patriotic Lin family from Wufeng in Taiwan and head of an association for relatives of patriots in Taiwan, said in a video speech that hundreds of compatriots in Taiwan actively participated in resistance movements against Japanese colonial rule (1895-1945). Their sacrifices paved the way for Taiwan's restoration to the motherland.

Several young people from Taiwan also shared their thoughts on this issue. Lu Ying-chu, a student at Minzu University of China, recalled her great-grandfather's story.

"Having spent most of his life under Japanese colonial rule, he

consistently wore traditional Chinese clothing and faithfully preserved our ancestral courtyard, clan shrine and genealogical records, which he regarded as the root and soul of our family, while longing for the end of the colonial rule," she said.

Lin Ching-mao, from Changhua in Taiwan and currently studying at Peking University, said that commemorating Taiwan's restoration is not only about remembering history but also about raising awareness on the island, especially among younger generations, while also serving to refute the secessionist historical narrative that promotes "Taiwan independence."

The event was jointly organized by the All-China Federation of Taiwan Compatriots, China Daily, Beijing Taiwan Compatriots Association, and the association for relatives of patriots in Taiwan. — Xinhua