

Senior staff member of resort solicits bribes from job seekers: anti-graft body

Tony Wong

A senior staff member of a local resort's stewarding department, whose tasks included staff recruitment, has been found to have hired at least nine mainlanders as stewards without going through the resort's formal hiring process after receiving bribes totalling around 190,000 yuan from them, the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) announced in a statement yesterday.

The statement did not mention whether the senior staff member has been dismissed. Neither did it reveal the name of the integrated resort and its location.

According to the statement, a resident reported to the anti-graft body that a number of the resort's stewards had told him or her that all of them paid "recommendation fees" so that they were hired, because of which it launched an investigation into the case.

The findings of the CCAC investigation showed that since last year, the senior staff member, in cahoots with his cohabiting girlfriend and a middleman, had been looking for mainlanders keen to work in Macau, telling them that they could be directly hired by a company here without having to go through a job interview, after simply paying a "recommendation fee".

According to the statement, the senior staff member used his power to help at least



This undated handout photo taken from the Commission Against Corruption's (CCAC) website shows its branch office in Taipa, located on the ground floor of Block 4 of the Nova City residential estate.

nine mainlanders get a job in his department, with each of them having paid a bribe ranging between 15,000 yuan and 25,000 yuan.

CCAC investigators also found that most of those who had paid the senior staff member a bribe were immediately hired without a job interview, some of whom even failed to

meet their position's minimum academic qualification requirements as they were illiterate

The statement said that the senior staff member destroyed evidence in an attempt to hide the fact that he had solicited job "recommendation fees" and told others

involved in the case to hide the fact.

The case has been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) for further investigation. According to the statement, the senior staff member, his girlfriend and the middleman face bribe-taking charges, while the nine mainlanders who were hired after paying the "recommendation fee" face charges of paying bribes, listed by Macau's law on private sector bribery, officially known as Law 19/2009 on the Prevention and Suppression of Bribery in the Private Sector.

Second similar case

Yesterday's statement pointed out that the case is the second private-sector bribery case detected by CCAC investigators in recent weeks, adding that companies or other private organisations should report to the anti-graft body should they discover bribe-taking and bribe-giving by their staff members.

The case announced yesterday came after a case announced in late May where an executive chef of a gaming operator's food and beverage department had been found to have told several of his subordinates to give him money every month between September 2020 and February 2023 in return for ensuring their job contract renewals. The chef solicited bribes totalling 240,000 patacas during the period. ■

Biden, aides urged to be open about his health

Frankie Taggart and Aurelia End

WASHINGTON – Democrats shocked by Joe Biden's dismal debate performance urged the US president yesterday to be transparent about his mental fitness as he faced the first call from his own side to drop out of the election.

Some supporters have expressed growing doubts about the 81-year-old following last week's televised showdown with Donald Trump, after Biden stumbled over his words and lost his train of thought –exacerbating fears about his age.

Congressman Lloyd Doggett became the first Democratic lawmaker to publicly call on Biden to make way for another candidate.

"Recognising that, unlike Trump, President Biden's first commitment has always been to our country, not himself, I am hopeful that he will make the painful and difficult decision to

withdraw. I respectfully call on him to do so," the Texan said in a statement.

Nancy Pelosi, a former House speaker and a grandee of the Democratic Party, said in her own statement it was "legitimate" to ask whether Biden's debate disaster was indicative of a deeper problem rather than a one-off.

She praised Biden's vision and "strategic thinking" in an interview with cable network MSNBC – but admitted he had had a "bad night" and said it was fair to raise the mental acuity of "both candidates."

Democratic Senator Sheldon Whitehouse also asked for reassurances, saying voters needed to know there would be no repeat of Biden's sub-par showing.

Whitehouse, of Rhode Island, told WPRI-TV he was "pretty horrified" by the president's performance during the 90-minute CNN match-up, watched by more

than 50 million Americans.

On Monday, at the end of a brief speech about a Supreme Court decision, a journalist asked him if he planned to withdraw from the race for the White House. Biden left the room without answering.

The polling margins between the president and his Republican predecessor have been razor-thin and almost static for months, with Trump showing a slight advantage in the all-important swing states.

Biden pushed for an unusually early first debate in hopes that he could jolt the race while there was still time to build on any momentum gained – but the plan backfired.

ABC News said yesterday that President Joe Biden will sit down with the network on Friday for his first television interview since his election debate against Donald Trump raised questions over his fitness for office. –AFP



US President Joe Biden (centre) looks on during a visit to the DC Emergency Operations Centre in Washington, DC, yesterday. –AFP

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Xi arrives in Kazakhstan for state visit, SCO summit with focus on bolstering cooperation

President Xi Jinping arrived in Kazakhstan yesterday for a state visit and to attend the 24th Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

– Story on p. 7

Israel won't allow 'winds of defeatism' in Hamas war: Netanyahu

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu insisted yesterday that his country would not give in to the "winds of defeatism" as he reaffirmed his war aim of defeating Hamas.

– Story on p. 10

UK joke candidates add humour to election campaign

Every general election, the UK sees a handful of novelty candidates who often succeed in blurring the lines between politics and satire.

– Story on p. 12

NIA explains how foreign permanent residents can apply for mainland travel card

Yuki Lei

The National Immigration Administration (NIA) announced on Monday that non-Chinese permanent residents of Hong Kong and Macau can from next Wednesday apply for special travel permits to enter mainland China.

The mainland travel permit consists of an ID-card-like document. Its design is similar to Macau and Hong Kong Chinese nationals' Home Return Permit.

According to the announcement, those applying for the first time for the multiple-visit permit allowing them to travel to the mainland for short-term purposes such as investment, visiting relatives, tourism, business, seminars and exchanges should submit their applications in person to China Travel Service (Macao) Limited at Nam Kwong Building on Avenida do Dr Rodrigo Rodrigues in Zape.

The NIA has released its "Guidelines for Application for Mainland Travel Permit for Hong Kong and Macao Residents (Non-Chinese Citizens)" on its official website, stating that applicants in Macau shall present and submit the originals and copies of the application form "filled in completely and accurately", with the applicant's recent ID photo pasted on it, as well



This undated file photo taken from the Nam Kwong (Group) Company Limited's website last night shows the facilities of China Travel Service (Macao) Limited in Nam Kwong Building on Avenida do Dr Rodrigo Rodrigues in Zape.

as the originals and copies of their valid Macau permanent ID card, ordinary passport with a validity period of no less than six months, a "Certificate of Personal Data" issued by the Identification Services Bureau (DSI) within six months prior to the date of application, among other necessary application documents.

The guidelines also state that applicants aged under 18 should be accompanied by their guardians, who are required to present their original ID certificate, such as their passport and proof of guardianship, underlining that all the personal

information submitted by the applicants shall be protected in accordance with the law.

The fee for the first application in Hong Kong or Macau is HK\$260, while the fee for renewal or replacement in the mainland is 230 yuan.

According to the guidelines, the permit will be issued within 20 working days after the application is officially accepted when the applicant can collect the permit from China Travel Service (Macao) Limited. Those who are under 18 may apply for their permits to be collected by their guardians.

The guidelines underline that if applicants fail to collect their permits within 12 months from the scheduled date of collection without justifiable reasons, the permits would be revoked.

In terms of the replacement or re-issuance of a permit in the mainland, the guidelines point out that the permit holders can legally stay in the mainland with the original receipt of acceptance during the application period or apply for a one-time exit document in order to leave the mainland and apply for the replacement or re-issuance of

their permit in China Travel Service (Macao) Limited.

Permit holders will be allowed multiple entries into the mainland within a five-year validity period, with each stay not exceeding 90 days, but the guidelines point out that the permit holders shall apply for an extension of stay of up to 90 days to local exit-entry administration of the public security department at or above the municipal level in the mainland if they need to stay for more than 90 days there due to force majeure or other justifiable reasons, during which the permit holders shall register with the police in accordance with law.

If the permit holders lose the status of non-Chinese permanent resident of Hong Kong or Macau, or if there is any falsification or forgery, their permits will be cancelled or declared invalid by the competent authorities in accordance with the law, the guidelines underline, which added that any changes in the passport number, contact information or emergency contact person of the permit holder should be reported to the application-processing authority within 30 days.

China Travel Service (Macao) Limited opens from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. from Mondays to Saturdays, except public holidays. ■

Pharmacy salesman steals 85,000 patacas to gamble

William Chan

A non-resident worker (NRW) from the mainland has been arrested for stealing 85,000 patacas from a pharmacy where he worked, Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Ho Wai Lok said at a press briefing yesterday.

The 33-year-old suspect surnamed Ban worked as a salesman in the pharmacy for three months.

According to Ho, the pharmacy reported to the police on Sunday that 76,000 patacas and 8,000 yuan had vanished from its cash register. On the same day, Ban turned himself in.

Under questioning, Ban confessed to stealing the money on eight occasions last Thursday and Sunday for gambling. He told the police that he surreptitiously used his own duplicate keys to enter the shop after it had closed.



Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Ho Wai Lok looks on during a special press conference yesterday.

— Photo: William Chan

He claimed to have gambled away all the stolen money.

Ban has been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), facing an aggravated theft charge, according to Ho. ■

Man strips & beats wife, records it: police

William Chan

A man has been arrested for stripping and beating his wife as well as recording her ordeal, Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Ho Wai Lok said during a special press conference yesterday.

Upon the victim's strong request, Ho noted that the police have decided not to disclose the identities of the individuals involved in the case.

According to Ho, the couple have been married for over 20 years. Since 2022, the suspect has been repeatedly injuring his wife during minor domestic disputes. Last year, the victim reported

one of the incidents to the police but later chose not to pursue the matter further.

Last month, after the victim returned home from a gathering, the suspect accused her of infidelity and forcibly removed her clothes while subjecting her to verbal abuse and physical assault. The abuse included binding the victim up with a USB cable cord, gagging her with a white cloth and forcefully banging her head against a wooden stool.

The suspect also coerced the victim into kneeling and confessing her alleged

wrongdoing. The entire ordeal lasted for over two hours, during which the suspect recorded the process. The victim suffered injuries to her head and numerous parts of her body. She later reported the abuse to the police.

The suspect was arrested at his workplace in the northern district on Monday. A video and two photos of the suspect abusing the victim were found on his mobile phone.

The suspect was transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) yesterday, facing domestic abuse and illegal recording charges. ■



Judiciary Police (PJ) officers escort the hooded domestic abuse suspect to a police vehicle outside the PJ headquarters in Zape yesterday. — Photos: William Chan



Evidence such as a USB cable and a mobile phone is displayed at the Judiciary Police (PJ) press conference room yesterday.

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FORCE 3 TO 4 SOUTH TO
SOUTHEASTERLY WINDS.
RELATIVE HUMIDITY WILL
RANGE BETWEEN 65% AND 95%.**



28°C~33°C

Source: SMG

ISF World School Basketball Championship ends with China winning women's finals

Yuki Lei

The eight-day ISF World School Basketball Championship concluded yesterday, with mainland China defeating France 72-65 in the women's finals, while Greece defeated France 74-63 in the men's finals.

The women's and men's finals took place at Tap Seac Multisport Pavilion. Organised by the International School Sport Federation (ISF) and co-hosted by the Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ), the tournament kicked off last Tuesday at Tap Seac Multisport Pavilion, which marked the start of the 117 matches played by more than 600 secondary school students in 37 teams from 20 countries or regions, comprising Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, mainland China, Cyprus, Czech Republic (Czechia), France, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Macau, Mexico, Mongolia, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Chinese Taipei, Turkey (Türkiye)



China Team 1 student-athletes pose with their medals and trophy won in the women's finals of the ISF World School Basketball Championship, which ended yesterday at Tap Seac Multisport Pavilion. International School Sport Federation (ISF) President Laurent Petrynka (ninth from left) and Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ) Director Kong Chi Meng (11th from left) posed with the victorious team members during the award ceremony yesterday.

— Photo: Yuki Lei

and Uganda, at the Sports Complex of the University of Macau (UM), Mong Ha Sports Centre and Tap Seac Multisport Pavilion.

China Team 1 won the women's

title, France and New Zealand took second and third place respectively, while Greece won the men's title, and France and Turkey (Türkiye) took second and third place respectively.

Macau Boys' School Basketball Team finished 10th with a 33-73 defeat against mainland China.

Wrapping up the tournament during yesterday's closing

ceremony, DSEDJ Director Kong Chi Meng said in a speech: "I believe that all the athletes here will experience the charm of Macau as a World Centre of Tourism and Leisure from different perspectives during the matches and cultural experiences in Macau," noting that the tournament attracted a lot of attention from the public, as each match was streamed online, with a cumulative total of more than 60,000 viewers.

Delivering a speech during the ceremony, ISF Delegate Zeljko Tanaskovic expressed his gratitude to the International School Sport Federation for its vision and leadership in promoting school sport worldwide: "Your efforts in creating platforms like this championship help foster global friendships, cultural exchange, and a love for sport among young people." Tanaskovic also expressed his gratitude to the Macau government for its "warm hospitality and excellent organisation". ■

Korean Air's first flight arrives here from Seoul: MGTO



This photo provided yesterday and taken on Monday at midnight by the Macau Government Tourism Office shows the South Korean Delegation posing with tourism mascot MAK MAK at the local airport in Taipa.

Rui Pastorin

Korean Air's inaugural flight between Seoul and Macau reached Macau at midnight on Monday, with the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) welcoming passengers, which included South Korean media delegates, at the local airport, MGTO said in a statement yesterday.

According to the statement, the media delegation comprises 17 representatives of "leading and influential" South Korean media. They are divided into two delegations, the first of which arrived on Monday at midnight and are in Macau until tomorrow, while the second group will be in Macau from next Monday to Thursday.

The statement noted that their fact-finding trip's itinerary includes a visit to the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Historic

Centre of Macau and sampling culinary delights.

Meanwhile, MGTO and Korean Air are jointly presenting special air ticket offers, while a promotional campaign that includes promotions on Korean Air's website, app and social media platforms, is also being carried out, according to the statement. South Korean key opinion leaders (KOLs) have also been invited to film in Macau, while delegations can participate in arranged tours.

The statement added that starting in September, Korean Air will launch an indirect air service from Macau to Lisbon via Seoul.

According to the statement, South Korea ranks as Macau's top foreign visitor market and the fourth largest visitor market overall, according to visitor arrival figures from January to May. ■

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Artist explores identity concept in dance

Interview by William Chan

The local art organisation, T Theatre, presented a performance titled "The Uncanny" (Chinese: 溪山清遠) at its venue in Nape on Saturday.

Established in 2016, T Theatre not only refers to the venue in Nape but also promotes various forms of choreography, aiming to explore diverse body practices across different media and backgrounds.

Prior to Saturday's performance, Guo Rui, the co-creator, choreographer, and performer based in Guangzhou, spoke to the *Post* about the show. This marks the third time the *Post** has featured Guo, with this interview focusing on his thought process as a choreographer.

Created in collaboration with local hip-hop dancer Popeye Hong (洪振宇), the choreography of "The Uncanny" uses the dancing body to explore identity.

Guo constantly questions the notion of identity from an artist's perspective during the conceptualisation of dance. In dance, he noted, especially in Chinese folk and classical dance, which is his expertise, the individual identity is minimised, with everything devoted to the construction of the piece. "From every small movement to the expertise itself, the person is merely an executor of the dance parts," he noted.

Together with Hong, Guo deconstructed hip-hop dance, Chinese folk and classical dance into a more contemporary form, where the dress and styles and the choreography remixed again giving new imagination and freedom for dancers to bring their own dance experiences and exchange ideas. "The two completely different genres of dance come together and crossover, defying stereotypes," he said.

"A dance is always attached to its history, like hip-hop rising from African-American musical traditions, with lots of freedom and democratic

values, and people from different backgrounds come together to exchange dance with each other," Guo said, adding that if we detach these elements from the dance and isolate it, perhaps a new image or feelings will emerge as a result.

In a way, every dance system or genre exerts its influence or power to make us identify with a certain dance move. "For example, if we do a classic act in a ballet or classical dance, even under a very different context and with a completely different intention, people still interpret or relate it to that certain dance genre," Guo explained. Contemporary art, for Guo, is the attempt to break from these preconceptions and give us the freedom or identity.

Under these new premises – stage settings, new interactions, and individual thought processes injected into the dance – Guo hoped to not only give freedom to the dancers to find their own identities outside strict dance genres but also

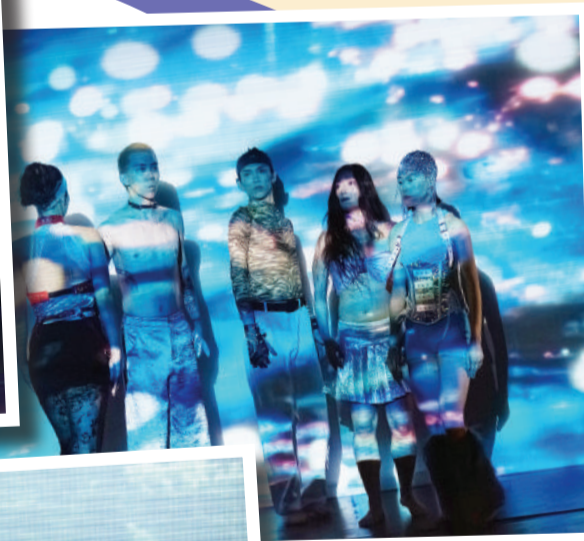
allow the audience to arrive at different interpretations of the dance, or even at times find it unfathomable.

"Without a clear context provided by all the present dance genres, the audience can only interpret dance based on what is given by the performers," Guo said, adding that "the different kinds of interpretations signify the freedom from pre-conceptualisation, giving authentic meaning and identity to us as individual performers to connect with the audience."

By removing the constraints of established dance forms, Guo aims to liberate both dancers and viewers from preconceived notions, enabling a more personal exploration and experience of movement and expression. The ambiguity created space for unique perspectives unbounded by traditional contextual cues.

* <https://www.macaupostdaily.com/article20384.html>

<https://www.macaupostdaily.com/article17068.html>



"The Uncanny" dance performance held at T Theatre in Nape on Saturday. – Photos: Pekchi

348 register as candidates for CE election committee seats

Tony Wong

A total of 348 permanent residents have registered to run in next month's election of the Chief Executive Election Committee members, where 344 seats of its 400 members will be up for grabs, before the registration's deadline yesterday evening, the Macau Government Information Bureau (GCS) announced in a statement last night.

This means that the number of candidates will only exceed the number of seats available by four – if all of those who have registered are finally accepted as candidates.

A list of accepted candidates will be announced on Friday next week, the statement said.

The registration period ran from June 18 to yesterday.

The election of the chief executive of the Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR) is held every five years. The head of the MSAR is elected by the 400-member Chief Executive Election Committee.

Current Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng's five-year term at the helm of the MSAR government ends on December 19 this year. Ho, 67, has still to announce whether he intends to run for a new five-year term.

According to Article 48 the MSAR Basic Law, the chief executive of the MSAR may serve for not more than two consecutive terms.

This year's election of the Chief Executive Election Committee members will be held on August 11.

The chief executive election is expected to be held in October at the earliest.

A total of 344 out of the Chief Executive Election Committee's 400 members are elected by registered association representatives, while the other 56 members are chosen by a variety of other methods.

According to the Chief Executive Election Law, the 400-member, four-sector Chief Executive Election Committee comprises 120 members representing the first sector (comprising the industrial, commercial and financial segments), 115 members representing the second sector (comprising the cultural, educational, professional, and sports segments), 115 members representing the third sector (comprising the labour, social services, and religious segments), and 50 members representing the fourth sector, which comprises: 1) 22 representatives chosen from among the city's lawmakers; 2) the 12 local deputies to the National People's Congress (NPC); 3) 14 representatives chosen from among local deputies to the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC); and 4) two representatives chosen from among members of the city's municipal organs (Municipal Affairs Bureau/IAM).

According to the Chief Executive Election Law, 344 seats – 120 seats from the first sector, 26 from the cultural segment, 29 from the educational segment, 43 from the professional segment, 17 from the sports segment, 59 from the labour segment, and 50 from the social services segment – are chosen by the Chief Executive Election Committee election.

According to last night's statement, the educational and labour segments are the only ones where the number of seats available and the number of potential candidates will not be identical, while the number of seats available and the number of those who have registered for candidates are the same in all other segments, namely the first sector (comprising the industrial, commercial and financial

segments), the cultural segment, the professional segment, the sports segment, and the social services segment.

According to last night's statement, 31 have registered to become candidates for the educational segment, while 61 have registered for the labour segment's candidates.

This means that in both the educational and labour segments, the number of those who have registered for candidates only exceeds the number of seats available by two.

There were 350 candidates competing for the 344 seats up for grabs in the 2019 Chief Executive Election Committee election, when the educational and labour segments were also the only ones where the number of seats available and the number of candidates was not identical. In the educational segment, there were two more candidates than seats at stake, while in the labour segment, the number of candidates exceeded the number of seats available by four in 2019. ■



Sectores ou Subsectores	N.º de assentos na Comissão Eleitoral
1.º Sector	
Industrial, comercial e financeiro	120
2.º Sector	
Cultural	26
Educacional	29
Profissional	43
Desportivo	17
3.º Sector	
do Trabalho	59
dos Serviços Sociais	50

This diagram in Portuguese released by the Government Information Bureau (GCS) last month shows the number of seats up for grabs in different sectors and segments of the Chief Executive Election Committee.

Govt allows notary public to act as wedding officiant

Ginnie Liang

Apart from registering marriages at the Civil Affairs Registry, the newly amended Civil Registration Law allows a notary public to act as a wedding officiant for couples at a location of their choice, as long as the couple's appointment to be married has been confirmed, according to a statement released by the Secretary for Administration and Justice yesterday.

The amended law was passed by the Macau Legislative Assembly (AL) in May and took effect on Monday.

Residents who plan to get married can discuss the date and place of the ceremony with a notary

public in advance, which must be in accordance with public order and local customs, the statement said, adding that the couple will be formally married one week after the marriage ceremony has been performed by the public notary.

Residents can refer to the guidelines of the Macau Lawyers Association (AAM) to check the fees charged by the notary public.

Besides, the government will add the online marriage registration and birth registration to the "Macao One Account" mobile app, allowing eligible residents to apply online for various public services

such as wedding appointments and applications for a marriage allowance, while eligible parents will be able to apply online to register the birth of their infant and apply for the government's birth allowance, as well as make appointments to apply for various public services such as identity cards and Home Return Permit for Hong Kong and Macau Residents, the statement said.

Members of the public can visit the Legal Affairs Bureau's (DSAJ) official website at <https://online-service.rn.dsaj.gov.mo/civil/civil-info/home> to know more about the new law. ■

Deignan Award to recognise responsible SMEs

Interview by Rui Pastorin

Applications for the Second Deignan Award for Responsible Entrepreneurship are open until September 20, inviting small-and medium-sized (SMEs) in Macau and Hong Kong with less than 100 employees to apply.

This year themed "Corporate Philanthropy – Sharing Values, Determination, and Compassion", the award is co-organised by Wofoo Social Enterprise, Macau Ricci Institute and the University of Saint Joseph (USJ). A recent statement provided by the organiser noted that the award aims to communicate "core human values like integrity, honesty, care and unity as well as promote sustainable business models".

Speaking with the *Post* in a recent interview at Jesuitas (Macau) in Largo de Santo Agostinho, the award's chairman and Macau Ricci Institute Director Stephan Rothlin S.J. said the rationale behind it was to encourage SMEs in Hong Kong and Macau to link entrepreneurship with ethics.

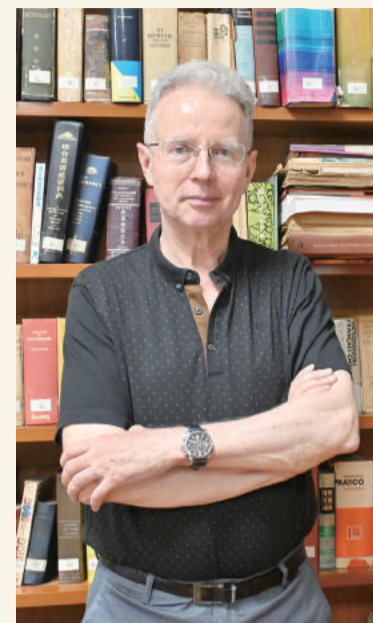
Its name, meanwhile, goes back to Fr Alfred Deignan (1927-2018), who was known to people in Hong Kong and beyond Catholic circles as a passionate educator who "really cared about the common good", according to Rothlin, who referred to Deignan as his dear friend. "His concern was always to share values". Rothlin collaborated with Deignan on workshops and conferences on business ethics.

Rothlin, who is from Switzerland, has been promoting business ethics in Macau, where he has organised various events for over 20 years, as well as in Hong Kong and the Chinese mainland. And when it came to the award, he noted: "I felt that an award is an incentive for business people to kind of show that they not only comply with, but also espouse these values".

The award debuted against all odds during the COVID-19 pandemic and led to surprising results, according to Rothlin.

This year's contest is the outcome of the first edition and has its special focus on corporate philanthropy, with Rothlin noting that the organisers felt how much small companies helped those who lost their jobs or were in other "terrible" situations during the pandemic. "We observed that this was a surprising contribution from SMEs to help those left behind, so therefore it's also a learnt lesson from the first round", Rothlin underlined, adding: "It's really great that we can honour these players who have a true track record of helping people".

Maintaining its basic profile, candidates of the award are evaluated based on the following criteria: respect for human dignity, fairness, the environment, the



This recently taken photo shows Deignan Award for Responsible Entrepreneurship Chairman and Macau Ricci Institute Director Stephan Rothlin posing in the library of Jesuitas (Macau).

– Photo: Rui Pastorin

disadvantaged, business ethics, and entrepreneurial spirit.

The award organisers also collaborated with different partners in Macau to develop the competition's criteria. "I think we have had some solid criteria by a local, very dedicated group of scholars from different institutions who really are passionate and also support me a lot in these kinds of events."

He added that those going out of their way to show their social responsibility should get a certain spotlight. The award could also be a chance to set an example to others, be an incentive and stimulate innovation among SMEs, as well as promote the "key motor" of the economy, he noted. "If you slowly build up a momentum, this could really have a positive impact". He underlined that those who have received the award "will in a sense be more observed", and need to stick to their values.

Moreover, one does not have to be a big company in order to apply ethical principles that lead to positive impacts on its business, according to Rothlin, adding that there is good documentation showing that small players can also "thrive and thrive even better".

The application procedure is divided into two stages. Those interested can first send in their online submissions with their self-reported Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) practice by the deadline. According to a statement from the organisers, a pre-screening team will then select three finalists each from Macau and Hong Kong based on the self-reported CSR practice in November. Finalists must also submit further evidence and prepare for a site visit. Winners will be announced next March.

For further details and the competition timeline, visit <https://www.deignanaward.org/>. ■

STOCK MARKETS

Hang Seng Index closes 0.29 pct higher

HONG KONG – Hong Kong's stock market ended higher yesterday with the benchmark Hang Seng Index up 0.29 percent to close at 17,769.14 points. The Hang Seng China Enterprises Index rose 0.68

percent to end at 6,374.91 points, the Hang Seng Tech Index fell 0.43 percent to close at 3,539.13 points.

China leads global AI cooperation as 140 nations co-sponsor UN resolution

UNITED NATIONS – The 78th UN General Assembly on Monday reached a historic consensus by adopting a resolution spearheaded by China on enhancing international cooperation for artificial intelligence (AI) capacity building, with over 140 countries saying yes.

This milestone decision not only underscores the global consensus on AI governance but also highlights China's pivotal role in driving international AI collaboration.

In an address to the UN General Assembly, Fu Cong, China's permanent representative to the United Nations, said: "At present, the rapid advancement of AI technologies worldwide is having a profound impact on the socioeconomic development of all countries and the progress of human civilization. However, people in most countries, especially those in developing countries, have not yet been able to truly access, use and benefit from AI, as the global digital divide is still widening."

The resolution underlines that AI development should adhere to principles that are people-centered, promote the greater good and benefit humanity as a whole.

"China looks forward to taking the adoption of this resolution as an opportunity to work with member states toward active follow-up and implementation of the resolution by prioritizing development and following a people-centered approach based on equality, mutual benefit, integrity and innovation," Fu stressed.

It calls for international cooperation and concrete actions

to help all countries, especially developing nations, to enhance their AI capabilities.

This includes strengthening their representation and voices in global AI governance, advocating for an open, fair and non-discriminatory business environment, and supporting the United Nations' vital role in facilitating international cooperation.

The aim is to achieve inclusive, equitable and sustainable AI development, contributing to the fulfillment of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

"The draft resolution reaffirms the UN Charter, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society and a number of other important political consensus. It also recognizes that the rapid advancement of AI not only brings new opportunities for the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals, but might also pose potential risks and challenges," Fu elaborated.

The unanimous adoption of this resolution reflects a widespread agreement among UN member states on the necessity of enhancing global AI governance through dialogue and cooperation. It also demonstrates China's responsible approach and significant leadership in AI development and governance.

From four rounds of member-state consultations to bilateral exchanges, from the proposal of the draft resolution to the co-sponsorship by over 140 countries, every step of this process has showcased

China's openness, inclusiveness and proactive participation.

"China has fully listened to and actively taken on board the reasonable views and suggestions of the broad membership," said Fu.

In October 2023, President Xi Jinping introduced the Global AI Governance Initiative, which set the course for global AI development and governance.

This resolution, as the United Nations' first on international cooperation for AI capacity building, fully embodies the core principles of the Global AI Governance Initiative and the Global Development Initiative.

It aligns with the high expectations of numerous UN member states, particularly developing countries, and represents broad and robust support for multilateralism and the United Nations. It is a significant step in practicing the concept of a community with a shared future for mankind on the UN platform.

By prioritizing development, being people-centered, fostering equality and mutual benefit, and adhering to integrity and innovation, China aims to take practical actions to help developing countries strengthen their AI capabilities, further bridge the digital gap, and empower sustainable development through AI for the benefit of all humanity.

"It is the shared expectation of the UN membership to enhance international cooperation on AI capacity building, develop and utilize AI on an equal footing, and share the fruits of AI knowledge," said Fu. —Xinhua

Dual-licence plate vehicle driver smuggles branded clothing; 6 mainlanders smuggle 27 fish



This undated handout photo provided by the Zhuhai's Gongbei Customs yesterday shows some of the plastic bags containing the smuggled fish.

Ginnie Liang

A Guangdong-Macau dual licence plate vehicle driver smuggled 32 items of undeclared branded clothes from Macau to Zhuhai via the Barrier Gate checkpoint last Wednesday, according to a statement released by the Zhuhai's Gongbei Customs yesterday.

The driver is a local resident surnamed Ng.

The statement said that Gongbei Customs discovered an abnormality in the Guangdong-Macau dual licence plate vehicle at a vehicle inspection channel at the Barrier Gate checkpoint.

Upon further inspection, the customs officers discovered a large number of clothes in plastic bags under the middle of the second and third rows of seats in the car, and all clothes had a brand logo. After counting, there were six coats, 11 sweaters and 15 T-shirts.

6 mainlanders smuggle 27 fish

Meanwhile, Gongbei Customs said in a separate statement yesterday that six mainland border-crossers have recently been

intercepted by its officers at the Barrier Gate checkpoint and were found to be attempting to smuggle a total of 27 live fish from Macau to the mainland.

The statement identified the fish as belonging to 10 species, nine of which are exotic species in the mainland.

According to the statement, two female border-crossers were intercepted by customs officers on June 6 when entering Zhuhai through the Barrier Gate checkpoint, adding that a number of colourful fish were each found hidden in a plastic bag, carried in their handbag, the statement said, while another four border-crossers were found to be hiding 27 fish, also in the plastic bags in their handbags, on the same day.

Due to improper preservation and transport conditions, some of the fish had suffered from oxygen deprivation and showed obvious signs of reduced activity, the statement pointed out.

The sextet failed to provide the required customs declaration documents as well as proof indicating that they had made an appointment for the health quarantine of the fish, the statement said. ■

UBTECH, FAW-Volkswagen join hands to build humanoid robot-run car factory

SHENZHEN – UBTECH, a Shenzhen-based humanoid robotics research and manufacturing company, and FAW-Volkswagen, one of China's earliest joint venture automakers, have announced that they will work together on developing highly intelligent and flexible production lines, as well as an unmanned car factory.

The collaboration aims to integrate humanoid robots into industrial operations at FAW-Volkswagen's factory in Qingdao.

According to the cooperation agreement, FAW-Volkswagen will grant UBTECH access to its production lines at the Qingdao

facility, where UBTECH's industrial humanoid robot, Walker S, will perform tasks such as bolt tightening, component assembly and handling of automobile parts.

UBTECH will dedicate resources to refining and optimizing its humanoid robots for industrial applications, supporting FAW-Volkswagen's efforts to enhance the intelligence and automation of its factories.

The industrial humanoid robot Walker S has already been deployed for on-site training at a factory of Chinese electric carmaker NIO and Dongfeng Liuzhou's motor assembly workshop. —Xinhua



Rescuers transfer stranded residents in Pingjiang county, Hunan province, yesterday. Floods in Pingjiang are gradually declining. As of 6 p.m. yesterday, the water level of the Pingjiang watch station of the Miluo River was 76.18 meters, still 5.68 meters above the warning mark, but 1.49 meters lower than the peak level. —Xinhua

Shenzhou-18 crew to conduct 2nd extravehicular activities

BEIJING – The Shenzhou-18 crew members, who are currently on board China's space station, will conduct their second extravehicular activities (EVAs) within the next few days, the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) announced yesterday.

Since completing their first spacewalk on May 28, the crew has successfully completed tasks,

including maintaining the experiment cabinets and installing components, monitoring environmental conditions inside the space station, and preparing for the second EVAs.

They have made steady progress in experiments in fields such as space materials science, space life sciences, and aerospace medicine.

The CMSA said the

Shenzhou-18 crew is in good health, and the space station combination operates smoothly, presenting good conditions for conducting EVAs.

China launched the Shenzhou-18 manned spaceship on April 25, sending three astronauts – Ye Guangfu, Li Cong, and Li Guangsu – to its space station for a six-month mission. —Xinhua

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