



Edmund Ho raises 4 points for greater Macau-Hengqin integration

Tony Wong

The consultative committee of the Guangdong-Macau In-depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin convened a meeting last week, where Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) National Committee Vice Chairman Edmund Ho Hau Wah, a member of the committee, suggested that the zone should make greater achievements in the Macau-Hengqin integrated development in four aspects, according to a statement published on the zone's official website.

According to the statement on Thursday, the meeting, which was held on Zhuhai's Hengqin island earlier that day, was the second meeting of the zone's first-term consultative committee.

The zone was inaugurated in September 2021.

The Guangdong-Macau In-depth Cooperation Zone's top decision-making body is its administrative committee, which is jointly headed by Guangdong Governor Wang Weizhong and Macau Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng.

The zone's executive committee, which is run under the administrative committee, is the body tasked with the zone's daily functioning and execution of tasks. The executive



This handout group photo released on the Guangdong-Macau In-depth Cooperation Zone's website on Thursday shows Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) National Committee Vice Chairman Edmund Ho Hau Wah (front, centre) and Macau Secretary for Economy and Finance Lei Wai Nong (front, seventh from right) posing on the sidelines of Thursday's meeting of the zone's consultative committee. Lei heads the zone's executive committee.

committee is headed by Macau Secretary for Economy and Finance Lei Wai Nong.

Consultative committee's members

The zone's first-term consultative committee consists of 36 appointed members, comprising 25 from the mainland, 10 from Macau and one from Hong Kong. The members include

experts and scholars in various fields, leading figures from different industries, and other civil-society representatives, who were appointed on September 27 last year. After they received their appointment certificates in a ceremony that day, the committee then held its first meeting.

Edmund Ho, Macau's first and second-term chief executive from 1999 to 2009, is one

of the consultative committee's 36 members. He chairs the committee.

Other members from Macau include community leader Tina Ho Teng Iat, the sister of Ho Iat Seng, University of Macau (UM) Rector Song Yonghua, and legal scholar Gabriel Tong Io Cheng, who now heads the UM Faculty of Law.

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Thousands defy roadblocks in rally for Pakistan ex-PM Khan

ISLAMABAD – Thousands of supporters of Pakistan's former prime minister Imran Khan gathered in Islamabad yesterday despite authorities' attempts to block the protesters' main routes into the capital.

The demonstration, led by Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, is the largest in Islamabad since the retired international cricketer was jailed last year on several charges, some of them still before the courts.

Protesters yesterday cleared containers used by Pakistani authorities to block major roads into Islamabad ahead of the demonstration.

"They closed the city with containers. But despite this, thousands are here. They cannot stop this motivation and emotions the people have right now," Humayun Mohmand, a PTI senator, told AFP.

In jail since August 2023, Khan insists along with his party that the charges against

him are designed to prevent him from returning to office.

Backed by the military, which wields enormous influence, he rose to power in 2018 by standing against widespread corruption embedded in the country's revolving door of dynastic politics.

But he was ousted in 2022 after falling out with the military establishment.

That furthered a sense of helplessness and frustration among many Pakistanis who want the generals to stay out of politics in a country that has been ruled by the military on and off for much of its history, and where a civilian prime minister has never served a full term.

Khan's first arrest, on corruption charges in May 2023, sparked nationwide demonstrations by supporters expressing anger at the army. In response, the army orchestrated a massive crackdown on the PTI. (More on Pakistan on p.9) – AFP



China's Jiang Yuyan acknowledges the crowd after winning the S7 Women's 100m Freestyle swimming event of the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games at Paris La Defense Arena in Nanterre, on Wednesday. Teenager Jiang collected her seventh gold of the Paris Paralympics on Saturday. Jiang, 19, who lost her right arm and leg in a car accident at the age of four, landed gold number seven by breaking the Paralympic world record in the women's 100m backstroke S6 to defeat US defending champion Jessica Long on the final day of the swimming programme. (More on Paralympics on pages 13, 14 & 16) – AFP

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The Macau Post Daily

China, Mongolia vow to deepen ties, expand cooperation

China is willing to deepen bilateral ties and expand cooperation with Mongolia, Vice President Han Zheng said in Ulan Bator on Saturday.

– Story on p. 7

Manhunt underway in US after Kentucky highway shooting

Five people were shot along a highway in the southern US state of Kentucky, US media reported on Saturday, as police hunted for a suspect considered "armed and dangerous."

– Story on p. 11

Xi meets Mozambican president

President Xi Jinping on Wednesday met with Mozambican President Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, who was in Beijing for the 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC).

– Story on p. 12

China, Africa join hands to advance global modernisation



Considering that China and Africa account for around one-third of the world population, “without our modernisation, there will be no global modernisation,” President Xi Jinping underlined in his keynote address* at the opening ceremony of the 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) in Beijing last week.

Nobody in their right mind would disagree with Xi, who also stressed that “the friendship between China and Africa transcends time and space, surmounts mountains and oceans, and passes down through generations”.

Sino-African ties date back to Chinese Admiral Zheng He’s famous voyages between 1405 and 1433 when his legendary fleet visited the eastern African coast, including present-day Kenya and Tanzania. Unlike the West’s maritime expansion between the late century and 17th century, China did not engage in conquest, occupation, exploitation and colonisation in Africa, a process that culminated in the mid-19th century in Europe’s nefarious “Rape of Africa”, euphemistically also known as “Scramble for Africa”, driven by the Second Industrial Revolution, after which only Liberia (founded by former African slaves from the United States) and Ethiopia, evaded colonial occupation (and even Ethiopia, then still known as Abyssinia, was finally invaded by fascist Italy in the 1930s).

Following the establishment of the People’s Republic of China (PRC) in 1949, relations between the New China and Africa, gradually strengthened, also because Beijing principled support African liberation movements’ struggle to unchain their countries from Europe’s colonial shackles, a process that finally ended in 1977 only when France granted Djibouti independent statehood.

One of the historic highlights

of China’s determination to support Africa nation’s independence and development was the 1,860km Uhuru Railway (“uhuru” means “freedom” in Swahili) between Tanzania and Zambia (therefore also known as TAZARA Railway), a turnkey project financed and involving scores of Chinese engineers and workers between 1970 and 1975, much to the derision of the West that badmouthed it as a “bamboo railway”. The railway remains an enduring symbol of cooperation and solidarity between China and Africa – and elsewhere in the Global South.

I opted for this digression from the main topic of this editorial as without at least a basic knowledge of history it is impossible to understand the present state of China-Africa relations and its outlook for the future.

Xi also said in his speech at the Great Hall of the People that the founding of the forum in 2000 was a milestone in the history of China-Africa relations, pointing out that “thanks to nearly 70 years of tireless efforts from both sides, the China-Africa relationship is now at its best in history.” He also proposed that the bilateral ties between China and all African countries having diplomatic ties with China be elevated to the level of strategic relations, “and that the overall characterisation of China-African relations be elevated to an all-weather China-Africa community with a shared future for the new era.”

Eswatini, formerly known as Swaziland, a landlocked kingdom in southern Africa, was the only one of Africa’s 54 internationally recognised nations that failed to attend last week’s three-day FOCAC summit in Beijing, as it continues to maintain “diplomatic” ties with Taipei.

On the sidelines of the triennial summit, Xi met separately with 25 heads of state from Africa.

In his speech, Xi said that “modernisation is an inalienable right of all countries. But the Western approach to it has inflicted immense sufferings on developing countries”.

10 partnership actions for modernisation

Xi also proposed six points

to jointly advance the world’s modernisation drive, in China and Africa in particular: modernisation that is just and equitable; that is open and win-win; that puts the people first; that features diversity and inclusiveness; that is eco-friendly; and that is underpinned by peace and security.”

Considering that the 2.8 billion people of China and Africa account for 36 percent of the world’s eight-billion population, Xi pledged that “China will work with Africa over the next three years to take the following 10 partnership actions for modernisation to deepen China-Africa cooperation and spearhead the Global South modernisation drive: mutual learning among civilisations; trade prosperity, such as China’s unilateral decision to give all least developed countries (LDCs) having diplomatic relations with China, including 33 countries in Africa, “zero-tariff treatment for 100 percent tariff lines”, which “will help turn China’s big market into Africa’s big opportunity”; industrial chain cooperation; connectivity, including 30 infrastructure connectivity projects in Africa and a China-Africa network featuring land-sea links and coordinated development; development cooperation, including 1,000 “small and beautiful” livelihood projects; health, including sending 2,000 medical personnel to Africa; agriculture and livelihoods, including the provision of 1 billion yuan in emergency food assistance; people-to-people exchanges, including the setting-up of the China-Africa Cultural Silk Programme; green development, including the launch of 30 clean energy projects in Africa; and common security within China’s Global Security Initiative (GSI) cooperation programme.

Xi also said that the Chinese government will provide Africa with 360 billion yuan in financial support over the next three years, consisting of 210 billion yuan of credit line, 80 billion yuan of assistance in various forms, and at least 70 billion yuan in investment in Africa by Chinese companies.

Xi concluded Thursday’s speech by pointing that “as an African proverb goes, a friend is someone you share the path with,” and he was adamant that “on the path to modernisation, no one, and no country, should be left behind... let us promote modernisation of the Global South with China-Africa modernisation... [and] let us join hands to bring about a bright future of peace, prosperity and progress of our world.”

Addressing a press conference during the summit, Foreign Minister

Wang Yi proposed three principles for the international community when cooperating with Africa: China expects all countries engaged in cooperation with Africa to uphold justice; achieving modernisation is not a privilege exclusive to a few countries, and African nations also have the right to development; it is imperative to be attentive to Africa’s voices and respect African people’s aspiration to explore their own development paths.

Wang made the remarks in the presence of his counterparts from Senegal and the Republic of the Congo, Yacine Fall and Jean-Claude Gakosso.

I am sure both African ministers couldn’t agree more.

The 9th FOCAC summit on Friday adopted by consensus the Beijing Declaration on Jointly Building an All-Weather China-Africa Community with a Shared Future for the New Era.**

In their joint declaration, China, 53 African countries and the African Union (AU) Commission vowed to foster synergy between high-quality Belt and Road (B&R) cooperation and the Goals of Agenda 2063 of the AU and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The summit also decided that the 10th FOCAC Ministerial Conference will be held in the Republic of the Congo in 2027.

‘Ubuntu’ and ‘ren’ as unifying factors

Having read intensively about the development of Sino-Africa relations since my university years back in the 1970s, I am convinced that there are philosophical similarities between China and Africa that facilitate mutual understanding between the two sides. China’s Confucian concept of “ren”, i.e., the importance of relationships, benevolence, kindness and humanity, and Africa’s concept of “ubuntu”, i.e., the importance of relationships, compassion, and individuals’ well-being depending on the well-being of others are strikingly similar in their approach towards what humanity is supposed to be all about.

Both concepts emphasise the central value of community, interconnectedness, social responsibility, moral integrity, and empathy.

I find ubuntu’s idea that “I am because we are” particularly in line with my own world view. I regard both concepts as unifying factors in the China-Africa relationship.

I also think that the growing impact of wokeism on Western politics will further alienate the West from the Global South – including China and Africa.

The summit in Beijing also had a Macau connection, considering that six of the participating countries – Angola, Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau, Equatorial Guinea, São Tomé and Príncipe, and Cabo Verde (Cape Verde) are members of the 10-nation Macau-based Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking countries (Forum Macao). Africa’s six countries with Portuguese as an official language have a combined population of 76 million, 37 million and 34 million of them in Angola and Mozambique, respectively. The sextet account for about one-quarter of the about 290 million inhabitants of the world’s nine Portuguese-speaking countries, which also include South American powerhouse Brazil (203 million inhabitants), Portugal, and Timor-Leste (East Timor).

Incidentally, Admiral Zheng He is said to have visited Timor during his seven voyages in the early 15th century. The eastern half of Timor was later colonised by Portugal.

While China is Africa’s top trading partner, Angola is one of China’s main business partners in Africa.

I believe that Forum Macao should play a more prominent role in fostering economic, commercial and even cultural relations between China and Africa’s six Portuguese-speaking countries, such as organising more two-way business-promotion trips and holding more training courses between the two sides, in Macau or elsewhere.

While Chinese culture is deeply rooted in Macau, it is also a multicultural society traditionally open to foreigners (like myself), and I believe that our public and private universities are able to offer the right learning environment for African students to study and even pursue their academic careers here. Macau – including the Guangdong-Macau In-depth Cooperation Zone – should also try to attract more scholars, investors, businesspeople and creatives from Africa’s Portuguese-speaking countries to work here. This would certainly benefit both Africa and China and further elevate Macau’s status as a platform for various types of relations between China and Portuguese-speaking countries.

– Harald Brüning

*<https://www.macaupostdaily.com/news/22613>

**<https://www.macaupostdaily.com/news/22612>

(More about FOCAC summit on pages 6, 7 & 12)

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Macau Weather

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Source: SMG

End Polio Charity Walk & Run slated for Oct 20

Rui Pastorin

The 2024 End Polio Charity Walk & Run is slated to take place on October 20 in the Hac Sa Reservoir Natural Park in Coloane, aiming to raise funds to support Rotary International's efforts in eradicating the disease worldwide.

Marking its third edition in Macau, details were announced during a press conference at the Ilha Verde Secondary School of the Macau Chamber of Commerce by Macau's eight Rotary clubs, which is organising the event.

A statement provided by the organisers yesterday noted that polio (poliomyelitis) is a paralysing and potentially fatal infectious disease that most often afflicts children aged under five. It spreads from person to person, usually through contaminated water.

Rotary is a founding partner of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative and has reduced polio cases by 99.9 percent since its first immunisation project in the Philippines in 1979, the statement said. Polio remains endemic in Afghanistan and Pakistan. However, Gaza recently reported its first polio case in 25 years, one of a 10-month-old boy who is paralysed in one leg, which is "alarming", the organisers noted.

International District 3450 – Assistant Governor Elvo Sou (蘇桂龍) told reporters he believed that this "is a situation that the entire humanity needs to pay attention to".

The funds and proceeds raised will be used to purchase vaccines to help people in need in areas affected by the disease,



Presidents from eight Rotary Clubs in Macau, including International District 3450 – Assistant Governor Elvo Sou (fourth from right), pose after yesterday's press conference at Ilha Verde Secondary School of the Macau Chamber of Commerce. – Photo by Rui Pastorin

with hopes that it can reach as many children and students as possible. Sou noted that every [US] dollar raised will be matched by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. "Each dollar that we raise, the Bill Gates Foundation will match it with US\$2 as well"

Sou added he hopes that awareness of and donations by the local community will be raised through the activity. "By supporting our event locally from Macau, we can make a global contribution together", he said.

Participants can either join an 8km charity run or a 3km charity walk, Sou

told the Post. According to the statement, the organisers expect at least 400 participants.

Moreover, answering another question from the Post, Sou noted that though Macau is a place with good public health services that has not had [polio] cases in years, the disease can still be seen in underdeveloped parts of the world.

"In Macau, we are lucky. We certainly hope that Macau residents would have this global perspective, understanding that we, humanity, are all one. So, whatever is happening in other parts of the world, if we don't take action, it might come back.

Who knows, right?" he said, adding that the initiative was good for Macau and humanity as a whole as well.

The deadline for registration is on October 4, with entry fees ranging from 150 patacas or 300 patacas depending on what the participants choose to join.

World Polio Day is annually observed on October 24. ■



This poster downloaded from the Rotary Club of Macau's website promotes the 2024 End Polio Charity Walk and Run slated to take place next month.



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MGM co-organises Responsible Gaming Community Carnival

Rui Pastorin

Integrated resort (IR) operator MGM recently co-organised a Responsible Gaming Community Carnival, with the event aiming to raising public awareness of responsible gaming (RG) through entertaining and educational activities, and the event received a “great response” from participants, the company said in a Wednesday statement.

The carnival was held in partnership with the Macao New Chinese Youth Association and was supported by the Social Welfare Bureau (IAS), the University of Macau (UM) and the Macao Polytechnic University (MPU). The activities included stage performances and booth games on RG and financial planning, with nearly 2,000 tourists and locals participating in the carnival, the statement said.

MGM Director of Responsible Gaming

Tina Wong was quoted by the statement as saying: “The implementation of RG helps make a protective shield in building Macau as a safe city, and promotes the development of the city’s tourism and leisure industry in a healthy manner. Our efforts on the promotion of RG and positive financial value will help prevent local youth from getting involved in problem gambling”

Macao New Chinese Youth Association President Wong Chi Choi added: “Since 2007, the Macao New Chinese Youth Association has been rolling out different initiatives enabling young locals to learn more about the risks of gambling disorders. We are partnering with MGM for the second year to disseminate RG information to tourists, residents and frontline gaming employees, which allows them to know how to prevent addiction and seek help when in need.”



This undated handout photo provided by integrated resort (IR) operator MGM on Wednesday shows participants in the recently held “Responsible Gaming Community Carnival”, which it co-organised.



This undated handout photo provided by Sands Resorts Macao on Thursday shows Sands China Ltd. Senior Vice President of Hotel Operations Kris Kaminsky delivering his remarks at the recent Stella Awards ceremony.

Sands Resorts Macao wins 2 MICE Awards

Rui Pastorin

Sands Resorts Macao garnered two prizes at the M&C Asia Stella Awards on Wednesday, according to a statement from the company the following day.

The event was part of the two-day M&C Asia Connections MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions) trade show organised by Northstar Meetings Group and sponsored by Sands Resorts Macao.

The statement noted that Sands Resorts Macao won the Best Integrated Resort (MICE) award, while Venetian Macao won the Best Meetings Hotel (Macao) award, with all nominations and winners voted by readers of M&C Asia and endorsed by industry professionals.

Sands China Ltd. Vice President of Sales Stephanie Tanpure was quoted by the statement as saying: “Being acknowledged by industry peers for MICE excellence is gratifying recognition of the significant contribution Sands Resorts Macao has made to Asia’s MICE industry. I would also like to acknowledge the hard work and professionalism of our MICE team for ensuring that we offer a true one-stop service. We are also thrilled to host M&C Asia Connections for the first time in Macau, welcoming delegates from various

countries to experience our premier offerings.”

The statement added that the recent M&C Asia Connections MICE trade show featured panel discussions on latest MICE trends, tabletop appointments* and site visits that united Asia’s top suppliers and global buyers in the MICE industry.

The statement added that the event was “designed overall to facilitate strategic alliances between prequalified international buyers from corporations, associations, incentive houses, independent planning companies, and elite MICE suppliers, including hotels, resorts, convention and visitors’ bureaus, and destination management companies”.

MICE stands for Meetings, Incentives, Conference and Exhibitions.

The statement added that Sands Resorts Macao played a “pivotal role” in this year’s trade show as hotel and venue sponsor.

For more information on the IR’s MICE offerings, visit: <https://en.sandsresortsmacao.com/meetings/index.html>

*A tabletop appointment typically refers to a type of meeting or discussion that is held in a relaxed setting, often around a table, where participants can engage in conversation in an informal manner. – Source: Poe

7 SJM restaurants receive ‘The Best of the Best Masterchef’ 2024 awards

Rui Pastorin

SJM Resorts said in a statement Thursday that seven of its restaurants received recognition during the recent The Best of the Best Masterchef (BOBM) recommendation restaurant awards organised by the Asia Art of Cuisine Society (AOC).

The event is annually held in Hong Kong.

Introduced by the society in 2012, the awards were created to “serve as an interactive platform for an elite gathering of gastronomy professionals to meet and exchange ideas”, according to the statement.

The statement added that the awards also provide a guide for diners “to identify the best dining destinations, as well as to inspire the culinary industry to consistently create exceptional dining experiences and improve standards of service”.

Among the winners, four of the restaurants are at Grand Lisboa Hotel, while the other three are at Grand Lisboa Palace (GLP) in Cotai.

At Grand Lisboa, French restaurant Robuchon au Dôme and The 8, the latter of which offers Chinese fine dining, are both

listed among the Top 10 for the second consecutive year, while The Kitchen, which is known for its premium steaks, and Italian restaurant Casa Don Alfonso received the BOBM accolades once again.

At GLP, the statement noted, Palace Garden, Mesa by José Avillez, and Zuicho received awards for the first time and were “honoured for their exceptional dining experiences”.

Palace Garden offers Cantonese cuisine and is honoured as a Forbes Travel Guide Five-Star Restaurant, the statement said. Mesa by José Avillez crafts contemporary Portuguese flavour, while Zuicho offers Japanese cuisine, centring around refined “kappo” cuisine that emphasises the connection between diner and chef, the statement noted.

Kappo, according to the MICHELIN Guide website, is defined as “a multi-course meal that is left entirely up to the chef. Kappo simply means ‘to cut and to cook’, an all-encompassing word for a less formal cuisine that emphasises the proximity between the diner and the chef who is cutting and cooking the food”.



This undated handout photo provided by SJM Resorts on Thursday shows the integrated resort operator’s award recipients during the recently held The Best of the Best Masterchef (BOBM) recommendation restaurant awards in Hong Kong.

IC presents charity show for sold-out 'Slava's Snowshow'

Rui Pastorin

The Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) said in a statement yesterday that a charity show of "Slava's Snowshow" has recently been held at the Macau Cultural Centre (CCM) in Nape for spectators from local non-profit associations and charities.

The charity show, among the play's five shows in Macau, took place in partnership with the Social Welfare Bureau (IAS).

According to the statement, the show was staged for over 700 spectators from over 30 associations and groups representing the "socially disadvantaged".

The well-received show, created by "the most celebrated living clown in the world", Slava Polunin, was staged at the Macau Cultural Centre's (CCM) Grand Auditorium from Friday through Sunday, for which tickets for all shows were sold out, the statement noted.

The immersive show without words incorporated a raft of special effects, including an "intense confetti storm, a gigantic spider web and colourful balls bouncing across the auditorium", according to the statement. The show unveiled a "visual blend of poetry, tragicomedy and physical theatre", according to the statement. ■



This undated handout photo provided by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) yesterday shows spectators from local non-profit associations and charities watching "Slava's Snowshow" at the Macau Cultural Centre's (CCM) Grand Auditorium during the recent charity session.

Edmund Ho raises 4 points for greater Macau-Hengqin integration

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According to Thursday's statement, 25 of the consultative committee's members attended its second meeting held that day.

Officials from the mainland and Macau related to zone's development also attended Thursday's meeting.

'Special area'

Lei said during the meeting that the zone is a "special area" that is a part of the nation's development strategy, adding that President Xi Jinping and the central government are paying close attention to Hengqin's development.

During last week's meeting, Nie Xiping, a deputy director of the zone's executive committee, reported Hengqin's latest developments. Nie, who also heads the Hengqin Office of the Guangdong Provincial People's Government, also briefed the meeting about the zone's ongoing work on studying opinions and suggestions raised by members of the consultative committee during its first meeting in September last year as well as the zone's ongoing implementation of the respective measures launched in response to certain opinions and suggestions raised during the first meeting.

The statement also said that during last week's meeting, members of the consultative committee raised various constructive opinions and suggestions on the zone's development in various aspects such as industrial development, the aggregation of highly-qualified professionals, business environment,

the convergence of regulations, and innovations on improving its legal system.

Edmund Ho's 4 aspects

During the meeting, which was held at Sunjoy Hengqin Tianmu Hotel, Edmund Ho said that the zone should make greater achievements in the Macau-Hengqin integrated development in four aspects, according to the statement.

Firstly, according to the statement, Ho said that the zone should firmly remember the original intent to develop Hengqin and submit "an exam paper with satisfactory results" to the central authorities by achieving the high-quality completion of the zone's first-phase development goals.

Secondly, Ho said that the zone should accelerate the shaping of its core competitiveness, comprehensively enhancing its ability to attract and gather international high-quality development resources and factors of production.

Thirdly, Ho said that the zone should ensure the effective coordination between its population growth and aggregation of highly-qualified professionals, with the aim of better supporting the development of new industries and the creation of a hub for highly-qualified professionals.

Fourthly, according to the statement, Ho said that the zone should create a transparent, stable, and predictable first-class business environment, with the aim of enabling businesspeople, investors and other organisations to be well informed about Hengqin's new development achievements, from which they could also benefit. ■

Sam meets with electors from labour, religious, sports sectors, association reps

Tony Wong

Potential chief executive candidate Sam Hou Fai, who is currently seeking nominations from the 400-member Chief Executive Election Committee, has met with electors on the committee's labour, religious, and sports sectors, as well as representatives from several associations, according to separate statements by his election campaign office, released yesterday, Saturday, Friday and Thursday.

The ongoing chief executive candidacy nomination period, which started on August 29, ends on Thursday.

Labour sector

According to a statement yesterday, Sam paid a visit to the headquarters of the Macau Federation of Trade Unions (commonly known as Gung Luen in Cantonese) on Saturday night where he met with 56 of the labour sector's 59 members on the Chief Executive Election Committee.

Sam was accompanied by lawyer Lei Wun Kong, the trustee of his election campaign, lawmaker Ip Sio Kai, the election campaign office's head, and educator Chan Ka Leong, the office's deputy head.

According to the statement, the meeting was chaired by three of Gung Luen top board members, Ho Sut Heng, Leong Wai Fong and Lee Chong Cheng.

In addition, legislators Ella Lei Cheng I and Leong Sun Iok, both Gung Luen most senior board members, also attended the meeting. Both are also members of the Chief Executive Election Committee, but representing the Legislative Assembly (AL) instead of being in the committee's labour sector.

Introducing his declaration of candidacy during the meeting, according to the statement, Sam pledged to continue to promote Macau's patriotism and the improvements in the population's well-being, adding that fulfilling residents' desire for a better life will be his administration's most important task.

The statement said that 22 participants comprising legislators and the labour sector's electors raised opinions and suggestions during the meeting.

According to the statement, the issues raised by the participants during the meeting covered the protection of local residents' jobs, housing and urban renewal, the convergence of regulations between Macau and other regions in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area (GBA), measures supporting local small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), social welfare measures, and regional cooperation.



This handout photo provided by the Sam Hou Fai Election Campaign Office yesterday shows potential chief executive candidate Sam Hou Fai acknowledging applause by members of the Chief Executive Election Committee's labour sector on Saturday night, at the headquarters of the Macau Federation of Trade Unions.

In concluding the meeting, according to the statement, Ho Sut Heng, who chairs the federation, said she believed that Sam has the vigour and ability to unite all sectors of Macau's civil society to continue to give full play to the institutional advantage brought about by the implementation of the "One Country, Two Systems" principle, enabling Macau to make greater achievements in its development in various aspects.

According to the statement, Ho urged electors to nominate Sam for his candidacy, enabling him to serve Macau by uniting civil society to integrate Macau's development into the nation's overall development so that Macau's socioeconomic development can enter a new stage and residents' desire for a better life can be fulfilled.

Sports & religious sector

Meanwhile, Sam met with 13 of the sports sector's 17 members on the Chief Executive Election Committee on Wednesday last week, according to a statement by his election campaign office on Thursday.

The meeting was held in an office at the Hotline Centre commercial building in Nape.

The meeting was chaired by lawmaker-cum-restaurateur Andrew Chan Chak Mo, who is also a senior representative of the city's sports sector.

According to the statement, eight of the sports sector's electors raised their opinions and suggestions during the meeting.

Meanwhile, Sam met with all six members of the Chief Executive Election Committee's religious sector on Thursday, according to a separate statement on Thursday.

All six members raised their opinions during the meeting, which was held at Sam's election campaign office in Nam Tung Commercial Building in Nam Van.

The members suggested that Sam's administration strengthen support of the organisation of

religious festive activities and events. The members represent Macau's Buddhists, Taoists, Catholics and Protestants.

Meetings with manufacturing, tourism reps, think tank

Meanwhile, Sam met with senior representatives from the Macau Industrial Association on Friday where he said that the meeting enabled him to gain a better understanding of the current situation that Macau's manufacturing sector is facing, a statement on Friday said.

Sam also met with senior representatives from Macau's five major associations representing its tourism and hotel sectors where he said that through the meeting he was able to gain a better understanding of the current situation that the city's tourism industry is facing, a separate statement on Friday said.

Meanwhile, Sam met with representatives from local think tank Collective Wisdom Policy Centre on Saturday morning where they raised opinions and suggestions on topics such as urban renewal, flood prevention infrastructures, transport facilities, and the training of talents.

The two meetings on Friday and the one on Saturday morning were all held at Sam's election campaign office.

According to the campaign office's previous announcements, Sam has previously met with electors from the Chief Executive Election Committee's cultural, professional, business, social service, and education sectors, as well as committee members representing the Legislative Assembly (AL), local deputies to the National People's Congress (NPC), and local deputies to the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC).

Consequently, Sam is yet to meet with electors representing the city's municipal organs (Municipal Affairs Bureau/IAM). ■

Civic leaders urge govt to improve sewer network

Ginnie Liang

The government-appointed Northern District Community Service Consultative Committee's closed-door regular meeting on Thursday focused on the enhancement of the city's public sewer network, with a total of 18 committee members speaking before the formal start of the meeting at the Government Service Centre in Areia Preta, giving various suggestions to the government.

Committee member Zeng Zengwei suggested strengthening the frequency of inspecting the sewers, rainwater drains and grease interceptors in various districts, and that the drainage network should be monitored and maintained in a more scientific and data-based manner so that it can cope with severe weather conditions such as typhoons and rainstorms.

Committee members Si Iat and Xu Zhiwei suggested that before completion of the public housing projects in Zone A, the layout of the drainage network, sewage system and pumping facilities should be optimised, and the pipes should be cleaned regularly.

Citing official data on illicit discharge in the first quarter of this



Northern District Community Service Consultative Committee Deputy Convener Kou Ngon Fong (right) and committee member Fu U On look on during a press briefing after the committee's closed-door meeting on Thursday. — Photo: Ginnie Liang

year, committee member Ip Weng Hong expressed the hope that the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) would impose tougher penalties, introduce online monitoring and step up publicity to encourage the reporting of illegal dumping through the "IAM Connect" mobile app to speed up enforcement efficiency.

Committee member Chan Ka In noted that the new Lam Mau Tong footbridge in Areia Preta was equipped with a roof to keep out the sun and rain, but there was a risk of water accumulation during heavy rain near the Trust Leisure Garden

estate, and the government needed to strengthen communication with the person in charge to improve pedestrians' safety.

In addition, the committee's deputy convener Chan U Iong pointed out that the parking charges for car parks in the government's housing estate for elderly tenants were higher than those of the neighbouring car parks and suggested that consideration be given to adjusting the charging scheme in order to relieve the parking pressure affecting the busy Oriental Pearl neighbourhood. ■

Summit injects strong momentum into China-Africa relations

Analysis

SHANGHAI — The 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), which closed on Friday in Beijing, marks a significant upgrade in relations and a strong push to practical cooperation in various fields.

During the summit, China forged or elevated strategic partnership with 30 countries. China has so far established strategic partnerships with all African countries that have diplomatic ties with China. Meanwhile, the overall characterization of China-Africa relations has been elevated to an all-weather China-Africa community with a shared future for the new era.

China and Africa formulated a blueprint for future cooperation. In order for China and Africa to advance modernization over the next three years, China announced 10 partnership actions in areas such as mutual learning among civilizations, trade prosperity, industrial chain cooperation, and connectivity. China has pledged 360 billion yuan of financial support to implement these actions.

The new positioning of the China-Africa relationship responds to the evolving global landscape, the realistic need for strengthening China-Africa cooperation, and the common aspirations of their respective leaders and people. Thanks to decades of efforts from both sides, the China-Africa relationship is now at its best in history.

Fruitful results since the launch of the FOCAC in 2000 highlight the resilience and dynamics of China-

Africa cooperation. From 2000 to 2023, the bilateral trade volume increased from US\$10.5 billion to US\$282.1 billion. China has been the largest trading partner of Africa for the past 15 consecutive years. Chinese enterprises have built railways, highways, bridges, ports, schools and hospitals in Africa.

China's role in promoting Africa's development has been consistent, comprehensive and practical, said Wang Heng, deputy director of the Institute of African Studies at Zhejiang Normal University.

With a combined population accounting for one-third of the world's total, the joint pursuit of modernization for China and African countries is of great significance for advancing the modernization of the Global South and the world at large, said Wang, adding that the upgrading of the China-Africa relationship provides a solid political basis and institutional guarantee for the modernization drive.

Having eradicated absolute poverty and achieved a moderately prosperous society in all respects, the Chinese people are pursuing national rejuvenation through Chinese modernization. Africa is marching with solid strides toward the modernization goals set forth in the African Union's Agenda 2063. The joint modernization endeavors of China and African countries will also generate enormous opportunities for cooperation with each other, the Global South and the whole world, observers say. — Xinhua

China a true partner of Africa: Tanzanian President

BEIJING — China is a true partner of African countries in their fight against poverty and in pursuing prosperity, Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan said in Beijing yesterday.

Hassan made the remarks at the opening ceremony of the 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC).

Hassan voiced appreciation of Chinese President Xi Jinping's proposal to elevate the overall characterization of China-Africa relations and the announcement of implementing 10 partnership action plans to jointly advance modernization at the summit.

These partnership actions will support China and Africa in

strengthening cooperation in various fields and advancing modernization together, Hassan said.

In recent years, African countries have witnessed a significant increase in trade and investment between the two sides, the Tanzanian president said.

"China's imprints are evident and vivid in infrastructure improvement, rapid industrialization and all progress in small and medium-sized enterprises in our countries," she said, noting that Tanzania stands ready to showcase China-Africa socio-economic innovations.

During his first visit to Africa as president in 2013, Xi put forward the principles of "sincerity, real

results, amity and good faith" in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, which have become the guiding principles for China's cooperation with African countries, Hassan said.

"Our presence here today reflects the solidarity and commitment to building a shared future of progress and prosperity," she said, calling on African countries to work with China towards fruitful socio-economic innovations and development.

Reflecting on the future development of China-Africa relations, Hassan quoted Xi as saying that "the development of China-Africa ties can only be in present continuous tense, and never in present perfect tense." — Xinhua



Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan addresses the opening ceremony of the 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Thursday. The summit ended on Friday. — Xinhua

China starts import of mutton products from Africa

CHANGSHA — A shipment of mutton from Madagascar was cleared at Changsha Customs in Hunan Province yesterday, marking mainland China's first mutton imports from Africa and an important breakthrough in the China-Africa meat trade.

Customs officials conducted an on-site inspection of the frozen mutton shipment, weighing 1,000 kg in total.

The mutton was shipped by air from Madagascar to Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport in Guangdong Province and then transported by road to Changsha, with the entire delivery time taking approximately 36 hours.

The Madagascar mutton will be sold in various restaurants and supermarkets across Hunan, a leading province in economic and trade relations with Africa, and a pioneer in China-Africa cooperation.

According to the customs department, the meat was produced by a Madagascar-based animal husbandry company, established with investment from Hunan's Yuan's High-tech Seed Co. Ltd. The company is also a key exporter of China's hybrid rice seeds to Africa.

Yuan Ding'an, chairman of the company, told Xinhua that Madagascar mutton has both

quality and price advantages in the Chinese market. The company aims to export 20,000 tonnes of mutton annually from Madagascar to China within three to five years.

The animal husbandry company in Madagascar has established an industrial chain of sheep breeding and mutton processing, and is actively promoting the development of new tropical forage varieties, Yuan said.

China signed an agreement with Madagascar to allow the mutton trade during the third China-Africa Economic and Trade Expo in Changsha last year.

Consequently, Changsha Customs formed a task force to guide Madagascan meat producers on quality management and official procedures.

In the first seven months of this year, Hunan imported African agricultural products valued at approximately 240 million yuan, up 10.6 percent year on year.

In addition to Madagascan mutton, Changsha Customs has facilitated the issuance of market access certificates for 24 batches of African food exports to China. These include wild aquatic products from Kenya and Tanzania, cashews from Guinea-Bissau, dried chili peppers from Rwanda, and dried anchovies from Kenya. — Xinhua