

Govt to create 15- to 20-minute community service circles for seniors: O Lam



Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Wallis O Lam addresses yesterday's Q&A session about her portfolio's 2025 policy guidelines in the Legislative Assembly's (AL) hemicycle.

— Photo courtesy of TDM

Tony Wong

Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Wallis O Lam said yesterday that the government is planning to create community service circles for senior citizens across the city where at least one service centre for seniors is available within a 15- to 20-minute walk from their homes, before Macau is expected to become a super-aged society in the future.

O made the remarks during yesterday's one-day Q&A session in the Legislative Assembly's (AL) hemicycle about her portfolio's policy guidelines for this year.

As defined by the United Nations, a country or region will enter an ageing society when those aged 65 or over account for over seven percent of the population, while a country or region will be defined as an aged society when those aged 65 or over make up over 14 percent of the population. If the percentage exceeds 20 percent, a country or region will be considered a super-aged society.

O noted during yesterday's Q&A session that senior citizens aged 65 or over currently account for 14.6 percent of Macau's population, while the percentage is forecast to amount to 21.4 percent in 2029, reaching the threshold of a super-aged society. The government projects

that the percentage would reach 24.8 percent in 2041, meaning that nearly a quarter of the population would be those aged 65 or over at that time, she said.

O underlined that the government will need to take systematic and effective measures to tackle Macau's ageing population. Before the possible onset of a super-aged society, she said, the government aims to create 15- to 20-minute community service circles for senior citizens across the city where at least one elderly service centre is located within a walk of no more than 20 minutes from their homes.

O said that the government will launch a study on drawing up a plan on how to create 15- to 20-minute community service circles for senior citizens across the city.

Meanwhile, O also acknowledged that the number of places in elderly care homes in Macau is currently insufficient to meet senior citizens' needs, adding that those in need currently have to wait 16 months on average before they can move into an elderly care home.

O said that the future elderly care homes to be completed in the Zone A land reclamation area will provide a total of 1,100 places. She also said that the government will study the feasibility of looking at some of its available

plots of land and granting private social organisations the respective land concessions to build elderly care homes.

AI classrooms

Meanwhile, O said during yesterday's Q&A session that the government is planning for local schools to be covered by artificial intelligence (AI) education, as well as advancing its AI education campaign for the population in general.

O underlined that in the AI era, the government's AI education campaign will cover different groups of residents such as students, young people who are working, and senior citizens.

Concerning school education, O said that the government will study the feasibility of requiring every school to set up a dedicated classroom for AI education, with the aim of enabling all students to be provided with better equipment for AI education.

O said that the government is planning to draft its official AI education curriculum in compliance with the mainland's standards, while it is planning to set AI education teaching hours for local schools in line with ones in Guangdong as it is a province strong in high tech.

Continued on p.5

Massive blackout hits Spain and Portugal

MADRID — Power went out across Spain and Portugal yesterday, cutting train, cell phone and internet networks, clogging roads and trapping people in elevators before electricity started to return to some areas hours later.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez said after an emergency government meeting on the situation, “we have no conclusive information about the reasons for this outage”.

He said no hypothesis could be ruled out, warning the public “not to speculate” because of the risk of “misinformation”.

“People were stunned, because this had never happened in Spain,” said Carlos Candori, a 19-year-old construction worker who had to exit the paralysed metro system in Madrid.

“There's no [phone] coverage, I can't call my family, my parents, nothing: I can't even go to work,” he told AFP.

Spain's nuclear power plants also automatically went offline as a safety precaution, with diesel generators maintaining them in a “safe condition”, the Spanish Nuclear Safety Council (CSN) said in a statement.

‘Serious disruption’

Sánchez said the blackout, which hit at 12:30 p.m. (local time) had caused “serious disruption” for millions and “economic losses in businesses, in companies, in industries”.

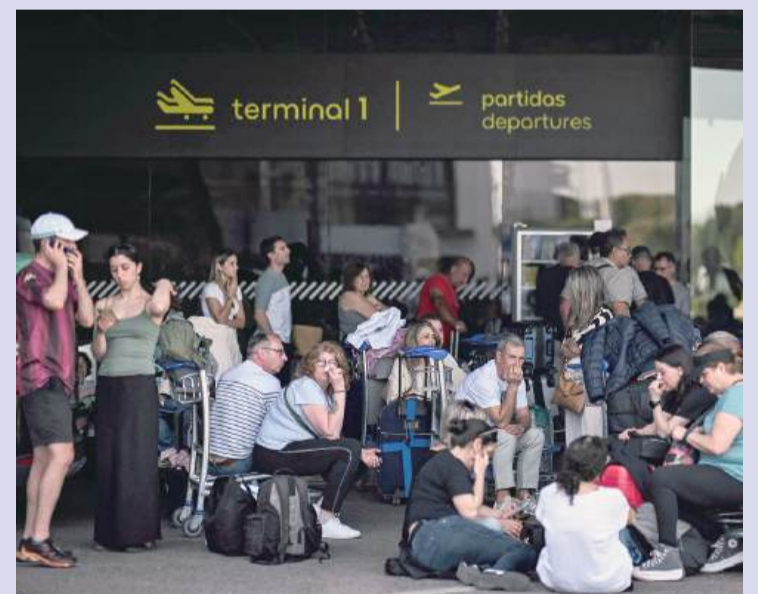
But he said grid technicians were working to resolve “the problem as soon as possible”, adding that some

parts of northern and southern Spain were already able to get power thanks to interconnections from France and Morocco.

The European Commission said it was in contact with Spain and Portugal over the situation, while European Council President António Costa said on X: “There are no indications of any cyberattack”.

Portugal's REN operator said the entire Iberian peninsula was affected — 48 million people in Spain and 10 million in Portugal.

The huge power cut disrupted flights to and from Madrid, Barcelona and Lisbon, European air traffic organisation Eurocontrol said, adding it was too early to say how many would be affected. — (More on p.12) — AFP



Passengers with their luggage wait outside Lisbon's Humberto Delgado Airport following a massive blackout in Portugal and Spain yesterday. — AFP

Macau's most popular English-language newspaper — Your trustworthy source of news & views

The Macau Post Daily

Xi stresses pooling strength of working people for rejuvenation of Chinese nation

President Xi Jinping yesterday called for pooling the strength of the country's working class and the broad masses of working people.

— Story on p. 7

Putin orders 3-day Russia-Ukraine truce in May

Russian President Vladimir Putin yesterday ordered a truce with Ukraine on May 8-10 to coincide with Moscow's World War II commemorations, drawing ire from Ukraine which demanded Moscow pause hostilities immediately.

— Story on p. 10

Conclave to start May 7, with cardinals saying new pope must tackle abuse

Catholic cardinals agreed yesterday to begin a conclave on May 7 to elect a new pope, and highlighted clerical sexual abuse as one of the key challenges facing Pope Francis's successor.

— Story on p. 12

Police arrest 2 loan sharks for stealing chips from their 'client'

Ada Lei

The Judiciary Police (PJ) arrested two casino loan sharks from the mainland on Friday for engaging in casino loansharking activities and stealing chips worth HK\$60,000 from their "client", PJ spokesman Lei Chi Hou said during a regular press conference yesterday.

Lei identified the suspects as a 34-year-old man surnamed Chen and a 37-year-old man surnamed Zhou who told the police that they are jobless.

According to Lei, the police received a report on Friday about an illegal loansharking activity and the theft of chips at a casino in Cotai.

Lei noted that a middle-aged male gambler had borrowed HK\$350,000 from Chen under specific terms. They agreed that the gambler would contribute HK\$150,000 of his own money so that he would have HK\$500,000 at his disposal in total for gambling on baccarat. For each winning hand, 20 percent of the betting money would be taken as "interest," while



Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Lei Chi Hou looks on during yesterday's regular press conference. - Photo: Ada Lei

seen Zhou stealing chips from the table during the game. As the dispute escalated and alerted security guards, the accomplices fled the scene. The police later intercepted Chen, Zhou, the gambler and his two friends at the scene. They confiscated two mobile phones and HK\$130,000 in chips from them. The gambler claimed that he was unaware of how many chips had been taken as "interest."

The police discovered that Zhou had stolen chips from the victim six times, totalling HK\$60,000, which were apparently handed over to his accomplice. Under questioning, Chen refused to cooperate, and his accomplices were still at large at the time of the press conference. Zhou admitted to assisting Chen in collecting "interest" from the gambler for a payment of HK\$500. The police also discovered that Zhou had entered Macau illegally.

The duo have been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), facing charges of usury and theft, while Zhou is also facing an additional charge of illegal entry. ■

the gambler was required to sign an IOU for 340,000 yuan (HK\$362,000 at yesterday's exchange rate).

Afterwards, Chen and his accomplices monitored the gambler while Zhou collected the agreed "interest" from him. After four hours of gambling, the gambler wanted to stop, having only HK\$130,000 in chips left in his possession. Two of his friends told him that they had

Police nab man from Mali for stealing student's phone

Ada Lei

A man from Mali was arrested on Thursday for stealing a phone valued at 7,500 patacas from a secondary school student, Public Security Police (PSP) spokeswoman Lai In Hong said during a regular press conference yesterday.

Lai identified the suspect as a man surnamed Samv, who is in his forties and told the police that he is jobless.

According to Lai, a local secondary student reported on April 16 that his phone worth 7,500 patacas had gone missing. The student told the police that he had left the phone on a stone bench at school before joining an activity in the playground. After 14 minutes, he discovered that the phone had vanished and immediately reported the case to the police, accompanied by his father.

Through the citywide CCTV network and the school's surveillance footage, the police identified Samv as the suspect. The footage showed him entering the school, stealing the phone, and putting it in his pocket before quickly leaving the campus. The police intercepted him on Thursday near Rua de Cinco de Outubro (十月初五街) and discovered the phone in his backpack.

Under questioning, Samv admitted to entering the school campus and picking up the phone. However, he denied stealing it, claiming that he intended to hand the phone in to the police but did



This undated handout photo provided by the Public Security Police (PSP) yesterday shows a PSP officer escorting the suspect into a police station.

not know where to find them. He also told the police that he had never used the phone and claimed that he did not know it was a school.

According to Lai, Samv has been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) and is facing charges of theft and trespassing in restricted public places.

Mali, a landlocked country in West Africa, has some 22 million inhabitants. It is one of the world's poorest countries. ■

Times Higher Education Asia Universities Summit recently held in Macau



This undated handout photo recently provided by the Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ) shows the officiating guests at the opening ceremony of THE Asia Universities Summit last week.

Kristina Vallesteros

The Times Higher Education (THE) Asia Universities Summit took place in Macau last week, with the event supported by the Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ) and hosted by THE in partnership with the

Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST), according to a recent DSEDJ statement.

The three-day event included the presentation of the THE Awards Asia 2025 and the announcement of the THE Asia University Rankings 2025, where two local institutions

saw a "steady rise" in the rankings, the statement noted.

The statement did not say where the April 22-24 summit took place.

The statement said that over 850 universities were included in the THE Asia University Rankings 2025, an increase of more than 100 institutions from the previous year. This year, the University of Macau's (UM) ranking rose from 36th to 34th, while the private Macau University of Science and Technology rose up one place to 57th, reflecting the "steady improvement of Macau's higher education in Asia".

According to the statement, the summit, themed "Asia's Rise: A Transformative Journey in Science, Technology, and Innovation," gathered approximately 650 university leaders, senior managers, and policymakers to discuss trends in higher education and technological innovation. ■

Post Office issues warning over fake 'CTT' messages

Kristina Vallesteros

The Macao Post and Telecommunications Bureau (CTT) has received reports from residents about fake text messages claiming to be from the bureau.

According to the CTT statement, these messages claim that there were issues with mail or parcel deliveries and directed recipients to a fake website, where they were prompted to enter personal and credit card information.

In the statement, the bureau clarified that it will never ask for personal or credit card information through text messages, advising members of the public to stay alert and be aware of fraud.

Yesterday afternoon, a staff member of The Macau Post Daily received the following message: "CORREIOS: Your parcel has a problem with the delivery. Please update the delivery on our website: ctt-gov-mo.com". "CORREIOS" is the Portuguese word for Post Office. ■



This poster downloaded from the Macao Post and Telecommunications Bureau (CTT) website urges members of the public to beware of fraud.

Published since Aug 2004

- Director & Chief Editor - Harald Brüning
- Office Manager - Sally Cheong
- Marketing Manager - Kevin Cheung King Lok
- Managing Editor - Maria Cheang Ut Meng
- Editors - Lesley Wells, Johnny Un
- Senior Reporter - Tony Wong
- Reporters - Rui Pastorin, Ada Lei, William Chan, Ida Cheong
- Chief Graphic Designer - Simon Wang
- Graphic Designer - Colin Zhong
- Administrative Assistants - Ester Mak, Carl Leong
- Printed by Tipografia Welfare Lda., 82-86 Rua dos Pescadores
- Wire services - AFP, Xinhua
- Chatbots: Poe, DeepSeek

Macau Weather

CLOUDY APART FROM SUNNY PERIODS.
FORCE 2 TO 4 EAST TO NORTHEASTERLY WINDS.
RELATIVE HUMIDITY WILL RANGE BETWEEN 65% AND 95%.



22°C~29°C

Source: SMG

Macau int'l communication week opens with focus on AI, future of media

The 11th edition of the Macao International Communication Week, themed “Emerging: AI and Medium,” opened yesterday at the Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST), with scholars from Singapore, Hong Kong, Macau, and the Chinese mainland gathering to explore media practices in the era of artificial intelligence.

The event has been co-organized by the Faculty of Humanities and Arts of MUST, the Center for Information and

Communication Studies of Fudan University, and the School of Journalism and Information Communication of Huazhong University of Science and Technology (HUST).

In his opening remarks, MUST President Joseph Lee Hunwei highlighted that as a world-class city embracing diverse cultures, Macau is not only a recipient of new technologies but also a laboratory for cultural innovation and the reshaping of communication practices amid the AI revolution.

Lee said he hopes the event would inspire the exchange of ideas on how Macau can harness AI to amplify its cultural voice and redefine its role within the global communication network.

MUST yesterday also launched strategic cooperation projects with the Journalism and Information Communication School of HUST and Shandong University's School of Journalism and Communication. — Xinhua

7 'One Central Loves Macao' sculptures unveiled

Rui Pastorin

A total of seven art sculpture installations were unveiled yesterday evening at ONE CENTRAL in Nape.

Entitled “One Central Loves Macao” and inspired by stained-glass artistry found at local landmarks, some of the exhibits are displayed in the mall, while the outdoor “Love Macao” installation can be found by the entrance. This installation, which features rainbow lights and colours, was designed by local artist Tramy Lui (雷欣宜), using the piece to showcase her love for the city.

The “Love Macao” interactive installation references local landmarks and Macau's intangible cultural heritage, glimpses of which can be found on each letter, according to a statement provided at yesterday's lighting

ceremony at the ONE CENTRAL Macau mall.

Moreover, Lui's six other works located within the shopping centre's ground and first floors comprise the “Macao's Heart” installation, which shows a red heart in front of the Ruins of St. Paul's; the Guia Hill Pedestrian Tunnel and Lighthouse-inspired “Beacon of Sound”; and four colourful “Time Capsule Mailboxes”.

Yesterday's opening ceremony was attended by guests including Lui and Hong Kong actor and singer Raymond Lam (林峯), along with those from government entities and the arts and culture sectors in Macau and Hong Kong.

Meanwhile, in celebration of the launch, there will also be shopping rewards offered until May 11, among which are rebates and complimentary flight tickets to destinations in Asia. ■



Officiating guests, including local artist local artist Tramy Lui (雷欣宜; second from left), pose in front of the outdoor “Love Macao” installation during yesterday's lighting ceremony at ONE CENTRAL Macau. — Photo: Rui Pastorin

Wynn Palace's Gourmet Pavilion opens today



Officiating guests from Wynn, along with those from the culinary brands to showcase their offerings at Gourmet Pavilion, pose for a group photo at Wynn Palace in Cotai yesterday. — Photo: Maria Cheang Ut Meng

Rui Pastorin & Maria Cheang Ut Meng

The “Gourmet Pavillion” at Wynn Palace in Cotai will have its soft opening today, showcasing different flavours from across Asia.

Located at the integrated resort's South Atrium, there are a total of 18 culinary brands, with delicacies from places including the Chinese mainland, China's Taiwan region, India, Japan and Singapore found at the pavilion, which was designed by UK-based David Collins Studio. Its Chinese name is “Fu Le Ting”, according to a statement by the pavilion and Wynn Palace, elaborating that “Fu” sounds like the Putonghua word for “rich” and symbolises the abundance of cuisine offerings, while “Le” represents the “joy” of sharing dishes with friends and loved ones. “Ting” means “pavilion” or “gazebo”.

The pavilion has a total of six restaurants that altogether provide 190 seats, while the food hall has 346 seats, according to the statement.

Meanwhile, the *Post* spoke with representatives of several of the culinary brands at the pavilion, among them from Japanese restaurant Sushi Masa, whose founder Tung Ka Ching said the aim of his omakase restaurant at the pavilion is to offer young people an affordable place to savour their favourite dishes.

Leela, which offers Indian

cuisine and is based in Hong Kong, is presenting its delicacies at the pavillion, with its founder Manav Tuli telling the *Post* that they have always wanted to enter the local and mainland Chinese market; adding that having a restaurant here gives them exposure to clients from the mainland, as well as a testing area to see if the food they offer requires some tweaking to be introduced to the mainland Chinese market. “I think it's a gateway for us to a bigger expansion towards [mainland] China”.

Tuli also noted he believes that there is more exposure to the mainland in Macau than in Hong Kong based on his experience running his restaurant there. He added he thinks that in Macau the integration with the other Greater Bay Area (GBA) cities is “very much there”.

Macau is one of the 11 GBA cities, nine of them in Guangdong Province, aside from the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR).

Some of the other brands noted they were invited by the integrated resort operator to extend to a new market that has customers from different countries or regions.

Gourmet Pavillion is open from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., with more details on the brands and pavilion on <https://www.wynnresortsmacau.com/zh-hk/wynn-palace/dining/gourmet-pavilion>, while one may also call 8889 3660 for more information. ■

MACAU EUROPEAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

“Waves of Portugal”

GALA DINNER - 16 MAY 2025

The Grand Pavilion at Grand Lisboa Palace Resort Macau

ORGANIZER



PLATINUM SPONSOR



MAM shows 100 works at 'New Perspectives' exhibition

Rui Pastorin

There is still nearly a month left to visit the "New Perspectives: Modern and Contemporary Works from the Macao Museum of Art" exhibition, with the works continuing to be on display through May 25.

Spanning two floors, those visiting the free-admission exhibition immediately upon entering, with more to see as they make their way up. From the vibrant and colourful to the muted and monochrome, 100 works ranging from sculptures, photography, various forms of paintings, mixed media, print-making, and works using waste and neon lights, among many others, are on display.

The exhibition has been on since December.

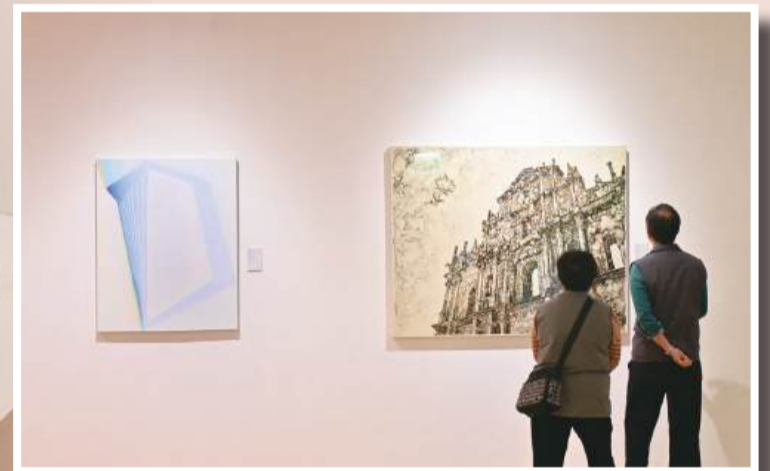
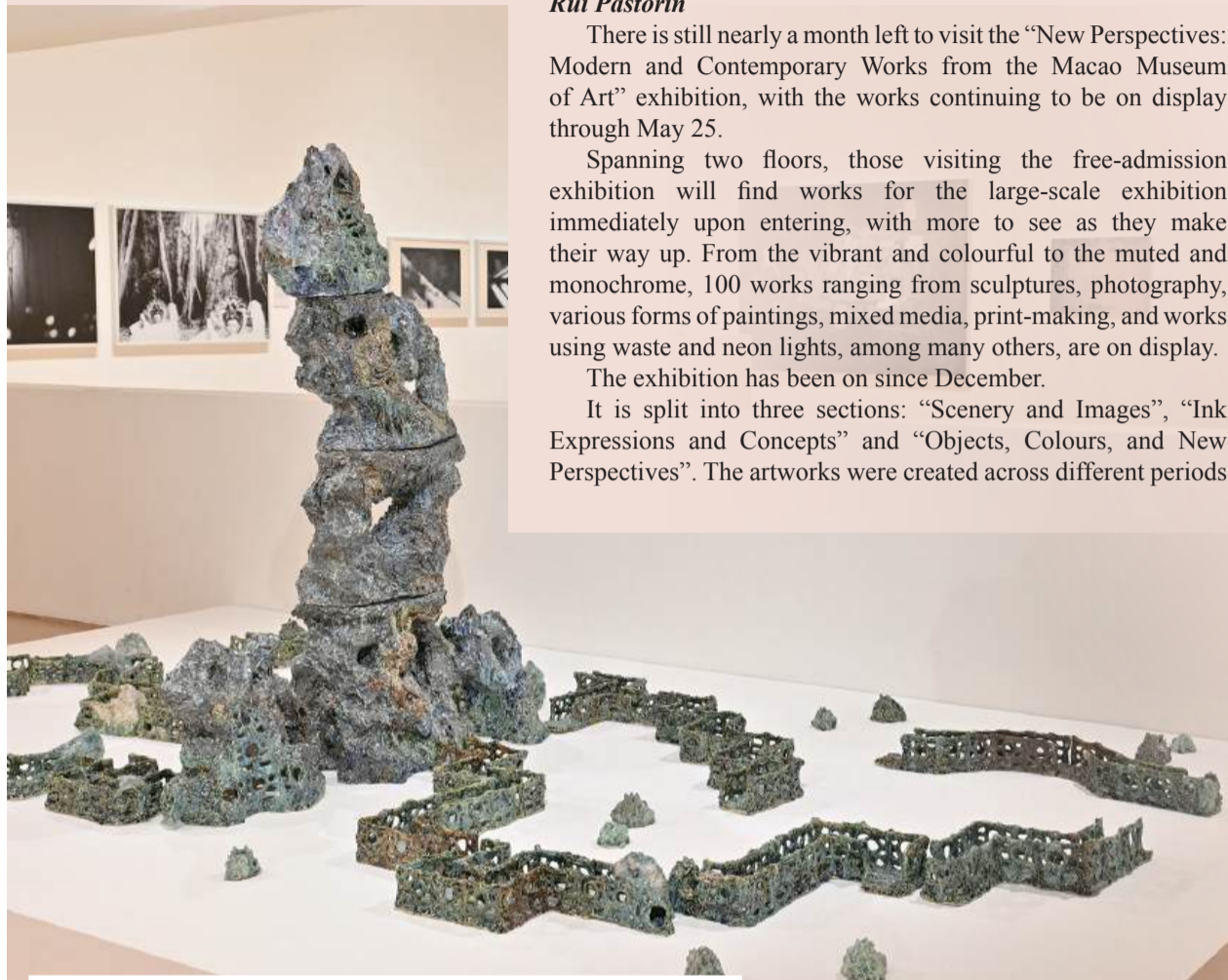
It is split into three sections: "Scenery and Images", "Ink Expressions and Concepts" and "Objects, Colours, and New Perspectives". The artworks were created across different periods

and, according to a recent statement by the museum, features those created by local artists and their counterparts from Portugal, as well as Russian and Australian artists who lived in Macau.

"The works on display demonstrate the achievements and diversity of the museum's collection since its establishment in 1999, exemplifying Macau's unique identity as a crossroads between Eastern and Western cultures, as well as the city's rich cultural values and diverse forms of artistic expression", the statement points out.

The exhibition aims to give those visiting a raft of "new visual experiences and encourage deeper contemplation on Macau's cultural memories", according to the statement.

Exhibitiongoers keen to admire the works can visit the museum from Tuesday to Sunday, including public holidays, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., with the last entry on 6:30 p.m. It is closed on Mondays. More information can be found on <https://www.mam.gov.mo/>



Photos: Rui Pastorin

Sam meets Jiangmen Party chief, calls for 'enhancing synergies'

Staff Reporter

Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai arrived in Jiangmen City yesterday afternoon where he met with Chen Anming, secretary of the Jiangmen Communist Party of China (CPC) Municipal Committee, president of the Municipal People's Congress Standing Committee and secretary of the Party Leadership Group of the Municipal People's Congress Standing Committee, as well as Mayor Wu Xiaohui, the Macau Government Information Bureau (GCS) said in a statement last night.

According to the statement, the two sides exchanged in-depth views on further strengthening cooperation between Macau and Jiangmen, particularly in industrial collaborative development.

Sam expressed his delight at visiting Jiangmen, noting that the city is a renowned hometown of overseas Chinese with profound historical and cultural heritage.

Like Macau, Sam stressed, Jiangmen also boasts UNESCO World Heritage sites, enabling the two places to synergise cultural and tourism resources and jointly develop "multi-destination" world-class heritage travel routes to promote mutual growth in tourism.

Sam added that within the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area (GBA), Jiangmen possesses abundant land resources, convenient transportation links, and strengths in multiple traditional industries, giving it broad prospects for development. Therefore, Sam said, Macau hopes to work closely with Jiangmen to seize the significant opportunities presented by the GBA initiative, building on their existing solid cooperation to leverage their respective core advantages, enhance

synergies, and chart a new chapter in high-quality integrated development.

Reflecting on his working visit to Jiangmen, he pointed out that Macau and Jiangmen already have a strong foundation for cooperation in food manufacturing, and the success of Jiangmen's overseas Chinese-themed cultural and tourism projects provides valuable lessons for Macau.

Sam emphasised that the new-term Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR) government is committed to promoting appropriately diversified economic development, advancing the four key industries and the "Four New Industries" in the Guangdong-Macau In-depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin.

Sam underlined that Jiangmen's Daguang Bay Economic Zone, which connects Hong Kong, Zhuhai and Macau while leveraging the city's rich marine resources, has clear advantages in diversified industries. Looking ahead, the two places can harness their complementary strengths to create a key collaborative platform for the GBA, Sam said.

Prior to the high-level meeting attended by senior officials from Macau and Jiangmen, Sam visited a Macau-invested food enterprise in Jiangmen to learn about successful cross-border cooperation and the advantages for Macau businesses operating locally. He and his delegation then toured the China Qiaodu Museum of Overseas Chinese, gaining insights into the rich Wuyi overseas Chinese culture and Jiangmen's cultural-tourism development projects.

Sam concluded his three-city Greater Bay Area tour in the evening and returned with his entourage to Macau last night.

Jiangmen, which has a population of 4.8 million, lies some 64 kilometres northwest of Macau. ■

Sam meets Zhongshan Party chief, calls for 'even more fruitful outcomes' of cooperation

Staff Reporter

Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai met with Guo Wenhai, secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Zhongshan Municipal Committee and president of the Municipal People's Congress Standing Committee, in Zhongshan yesterday morning, expressing the hope that the two regions will continue to work together on their existing solid foundation of cooperation to achieve even more fruitful outcomes, according to a statement by the Macau Government Information Bureau (GCS) last night.

Sam was quoted by the statement as saying that Macau and Zhongshan share profound historical ties and maintain close, friendly relations.

In recent years, Zhongshan has experienced rapid development, with both its society and economy showing positive momentum, Sam said, adding that there is significant potential for cooperation between Macau and Zhongshan across multiple fields.

Sam, who was born in Zhongshan in 1962, also said he was looking forward to further deepening exchanges and collaboration for mutual benefit. He also encouraged enterprises from both places to seize opportunities and jointly expand their business operations.

Sam underlined, according to the statement, that the Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR) government will steadily advance existing cooperation projects between the two sides while continuing to support Macau businesses in exploring opportunities in the mainland, thereby enhancing collaboration in areas such as economic and trade relations, biomedicine, cultural tourism, high-tech industries, and higher education.

Sam, who has headed by MSAR government since December 20 last year, further pointed out that during yesterday morning's working visit,



Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai (left) meets with Communist Party of China (CPC) Zhongshan Municipal Committee Secretary Guo Wenhai in Zhongshan yesterday. — Photo: GCS

he gained a deeper understanding of the strong development of Zhongshan's biomedical industry.

Sam emphasised that the MSAR government is also actively encouraging and supporting the development of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) in Macau. Therefore, he suggested that the two sides explore the possibility of jointly establishing a "Macau Formulas, Guangdong Production" collaborative demonstration base to promote integrated development in the healthcare and pharmaceutical industries between Guangdong and Macau. Additionally, Sam said, Zhongshan has built an excellent platform for cultivating and retaining high-tech talent, while Macau boasts national-level laboratories and a high degree of openness to the outside world. The two regions could leverage each other's strengths for mutual empowerment. In terms of cultural tourism, with the opening of the Shenzhen-Zhongshan Link, connectivity among cities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area (GBA) has become even stronger, Sam pointed out. He expressed hope that these favourable factors will lead to new achievements in regional cultural

and tourism cooperation.

Prior to the high-level meeting between senior officials from the two sides, Sam and his delegation visited the Zhongshan Institute of Drug Innovation under the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), where they received a briefing on innovative drug research and development, as well as industry-academia-research integration. They also learnt about the current state of Zhongshan's biomedical industry and its cooperation with Macau. Sam and his entourage, among them Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raymond Tam Vai Man, then inspected the Bay Area Future Sci-Tech City in Zhongshan, where he was briefed on Zhongshan's efforts to promote regional synergy in the GBA by aligning with Shenzhen's "Six Integration Measures."

Sam and his delegation started their three-city GBA working trip in Zhuhai on Sunday. They visited Zhongshan and Jiangmen yesterday.

Zhongshan, which has a population of some 4.4 million, and Macau are members of the 11-city GBA conurbation. Zhongshan lies some 40 kilometres north of Macau. ■



Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai (left) and Communist Party of China (CPC) Jiangmen Municipal Committee Secretary Chen Anming meet in Jiangmen yesterday. — Photo: GCS

Govt to create 15- to 20-minute community service circles for seniors: O Lam

Continued from p.1

Concerning AI education for the population in general, O said that the Macau Science Centre (MSC) will offer three levels of AI education for residents including young local people who are working, with the aim of enhancing their ability to pursue better career development.

Moreover, O said, the government is also aiming for the Macau Science Centre to provide AI education at elderly daycare centres, with the aim of making it easier for senior citizens to gain access to AI knowledge and skills.

Childcare allowance's application

Meanwhile, O said during yesterday's Q&A session that the government is aiming to launch its application process during the upcoming summer holiday period for its new childcare allowance for permanent local residents.

According to Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai's 2025 Policy Address delivered earlier this month, the newly launched childcare allowance will be issued to parents of children under the age of three years every month. During the period, they will receive an allowance of 1,500 patacas a month,

equivalent to 18,000 patacas a year.

Meanwhile, Sports Bureau (ID) President Luis Gomes said during yesterday's Q&A session that the government is planning to invite a football club from Europe later this year to launch and carry out training in Macau for potential young local footballers. He did not mention which country the football club would be from.

Meanwhile, O also said during yesterday's Q&A session that two or three government plots will be earmarked in the near future for the setting-up of recreational and sports facilities on a temporary basis. ■

STOCK MARKETS

Hang Seng Index closes 0.04 pct lower

HONG KONG — Hong Kong's stock market ended mixed yesterday with the benchmark Hang Seng Index down 0.04 percent to close at 21,971.96 points.

The Hang Seng China Enterprises Index finished the day flat to end at 8,080.19 points, while the Hang Seng Tech Index climbed 0.12 percent to end at 4,988.94 points. — Xinhua

Chinese automakers accelerate global expansion with smarter, consumer-centric strategies

Analysis

SHANGHAI – The accelerating global ambitions of Chinese automotive brands have taken center stage at the ongoing 21st Shanghai International Automobile Industry Exhibition in east China's Shanghai Municipality, as leading manufacturers unveiled targeted strategies to drive overseas growth.

The exhibition, also known as Auto Shanghai 2025, attracted nearly 10,000 international visitors in its first two days alone, with Chinese cars featuring innovation, adaptability and consumer-centric designs drawing much attention.

Hisham Elsahn, general manager of Inter Emirates Motors and SAIC MG's UAE distributor, recalled his nearly decade-long participation in the event.

"In the early days, Chinese cars were unknown here, but now customers actively seek them out. My dealerships alone sell over 1,200 MG vehicles monthly," he said while showcasing the MG Cyberster sports car, which saw strong pre-orders in the Middle East.

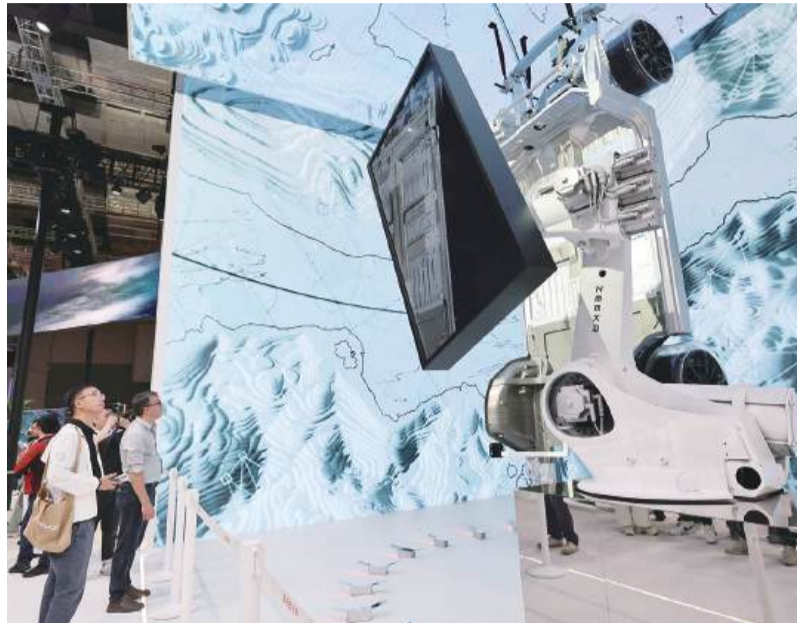
His enthusiasm mirrored the broader momentum, with Chinese automakers increasingly tailoring vehicles for diverse markets.

Dai Lihong, Chery Auto vice president and general manager of the Jetour brand, outlined the roadmap for the "SOUEAST" brand, which includes prioritizing left-hand-drive markets with fuel and plug-in hybrid models through 2025, balanced offerings of right-hand-drive by 2027, and promoting electrified vehicles in the EU after 2028.

Nio founder William Li revealed plans to enter 25 countries and regions this year, including 16 markets for its Firefly sub-brand, shifting from direct sales to local partnerships for infrastructure.

"This year marks our global debut," said Liu Tao, co-CEO of IM Motors (Zhiji Auto), noting unexpected demand following the brand's launch in Thailand. He added that the company now has its sights set on Australia, the Middle East, and, eventually, Europe's premium EV market.

SAIC Maxus, which aims to expand into 100 countries by the



Faiguers look at an exhibit of Chinese car brand Zeekr at the 21st Shanghai International Automobile Industry Exhibition on Saturday. The exhibition, also known as Auto Shanghai 2025, not only foreshadows technological trends in the global auto market, but also demonstrates the strength and confidence of China's rising automakers in the face of established global giants. The fair will end on Friday.

– Xinhua

end of 2024, reported a 9 percent growth in exports in the first quarter, reaching 25,000 units. "Our custom-built pickups adapt to regional needs...enhanced suspension for Latin America's

terrain, upgraded cooling for the Middle East," explained Zhao Aimin, CEO of SAIC commercial vehicle international and vice president of SAIC Maxus.

He projected that annual

overseas sales would exceed 100,000 units, with light commercial vehicle exports expected to double to 200,000 units by 2027.

SAIC Group president Jia Jianxu emphasized the importance of "glocalization," announcing plans to launch 17 new global models and pursue localized production plans, including partnerships in ASEAN countries and the development of an African hub.

This strategic agility aligns with Bosch's commitment to support Chinese brands abroad. "We've aided European automakers in China; now we'll enable Chinese automakers globally," said Stefan Hartung, chairman of the board of management of Robert Bosch GmbH.

Backed by surging EV exports – up 43.9 percent year on year to 441,000 units in Q1 – China's automotive sector is shifting gears from domestic dominance to global resonance.

With tailored designs and cross-border alliances, "Made in China" cars are accelerating beyond borders.

– Xinhua

White House unable to accomplish its goal but more than capable of ruining things

China Daily Editorial

Although the US administration continues to brag about how the US economy is becoming stronger due to the policies it has introduced since it took office on January 20, it seems it is standing alone with only its shadow for company.

US President Donald Trump has the lowest 100-day job approval rating of any president of the United States in the past 80 years, amid broad fears of a looming recession, according to a new ABC News/Washington Post/Ipsos poll. Seventy-two percent of respondents said they think it's very or somewhat likely that his economic policies will cause a recession in the short term.

Seventy-three percent said the economy is in bad shape, 53 percent said it's gotten worse since Trump took office and 41 percent said their own finances have worsened.

On the administration's tariff policy, which is harming both the US economy and the US' relations with other countries, 64 percent said they disapprove.

In particular, 62 percent said prices, which as a candidate Trump pledged to curb, are rising; 71 percent said they see his tariffs as a negative factor in price inflation; and 67 percent said they disapprove of his handling of the recent turmoil in the stock market. The S&P 500 is down 8.7 percent since Trump took office.

Although the Democratic Party remains out of favor, which is the one silver lining for the administration, the White House is like the player on the pitch confused by the game, while for

those watching all is clear.

The administration's tariff-centered economic policy is unsustainable, yet rather than admit that, it continues to brag about the "endless wins" it has produced. It backs up this claim by overstating the losses and anxieties it has caused other economies, as if their losses are the US' gains, and that their anxieties prove the correctness of its policy.

A vivid example is that US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said recently China's export-reliant economic model is "unsustainable" and harms both China and the rest of the world, implying that the US is actually doing China a favor by pressing it to shift away from the "export-led manufacturing growth" as Beijing wants.

"China needs to change. The country knows it needs to change. Everyone knows it needs to change. And we want to help it change — because we need rebalancing too," Bessent said in a speech at the Institute of International Finance in Washington on Wednesday. His message was that if Beijing accepts the medicine the US is offering it can have an "opportunity for a big deal" on trade with the US.

At the same time, the Treasury chief maintained that "America First does not mean America alone," a comment that comes after The Wall Street Journal reported the Trump administration is considering slashing tariffs on China to de-escalate tensions between the two largest global economies.

The reason why Bessent tried to rope in other countries in that way is because the US administration has

been left alone by acting on its policy of might makes right and its belief that relations with other countries are a zero-sum game.

Beijing has no intention of taking the US bait. If the US administration wants a deal with Beijing it needs to remove all the additional tariffs it has imposed on China to pave the way for negotiations.

Beijing does not share Bessent's pessimism about the outlook for the Chinese economy. And rightly so. In the first quarter of this year, China's GDP grew by 5.4 percent year-on-year, better than market expectations. In particular, net exports contributed 38.9 percent to GDP growth in the first quarter, reaching the highest level since quarterly statistics were available in 2009, thanks to its efforts to diversify its trade partners and upgrade manufacturing.

That many economies are taking the initiative to strengthen their economic and trade ties with China also gives the lie to the latest incarnation of the "China collapse" theory that the China hawks never tire of peddling in the mistaken belief that if they say it often enough then it will somehow come true.

The tariff war was launched by the US, and it is the US that should put an end to it by opening the door for talks. China's position is consistent and clear: it will fight, if fight it must; but it is willing to talk if the US shows its sincerity. That means it should cease its attempted intimidation in favor of dialogue and negotiations based on equality, respect and mutual benefit.

– Courtesy of China Daily

EV giant BYD starts to build vehicle assembly plant in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH – Chinese electric vehicle manufacturer BYD yesterday began to build an automotive assembly plant in Cambodia, the Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC) said in a press release.

Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and CDC First Vice-Chairman Sun Chanthol attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the plant at the Sihanoukville Special Economy Zone in the southwestern coastal province of Preah Sihanouk, the press release said.

Chanthol said the assembly plant was another fruit of close Cambodia-China cooperation, particularly under the Belt and Road Initiative.

"The presence of BYD company in Cambodia is a testament to Chinese investors' confidence in Cambodia's business and investment environment," he said.

Chanthol is confident that the plant will be a venue for the transfer of technical skills and new technology in the EV sector to Cambodian talents.

Thong Mengdavid, a lecturer at the Institute for International Studies and Public Policy of the Royal University of Phnom Penh, said BYD's assembly plant project in Cambodia marked a strategic move to tap into the country's growing industrial capacity and EV market in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

"It aligns with Cambodia's ambitions to become a regional automotive hub while benefiting from trade advantages under the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership," he told Xinhua.

He said China's EV expansion contributes to global carbon reduction by promoting cleaner transport.

"Strengthening green energy infrastructure is crucial to maximizing EV benefits in Cambodia and other emerging markets," he said.

BYD is the most popular EV brand in Cambodia, followed by Japan's Toyota and America's Tesla, according to the Ministry of Public Works and Transport.

Cambodia registered a total of 2,253 EVs in 2024, a rise from 313 in the year before, the ministry said.

The Southeast Asian country aims to increase the number to 30,000 by 2030, the ministry added.

– Xinhua

Xi stresses pooling strength of working people for rejuvenation of Chinese nation

BEIJING – President Xi Jinping yesterday called for pooling the strength of the country's working class and the broad masses of working people, and translating the grand blueprint of realizing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation into reality through hard, down-to-earth work.

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remarks at a grand gathering to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions and honor model workers and exemplary individuals.

The gathering was presided over by Premier Li Qiang. Senior leaders Zhao Leji, Wang Huning, Ding Xuexiang and Li Xi attended the event, and Cai Qi read out the commendations.

A total of 1,670 people were honored as national role model workers, and 756 were recognized as exemplary individuals.

On behalf of the CPC Central Committee, Xi congratulated the honorees and extended his greetings to workers, farmers, intellectuals and other working people from all ethnic groups, as well as to trade unions and their staff at all levels, ahead of Thursday's International Workers' Day.

Xi noted that the All-China Federation of Trade Unions has written a magnificent chapter in the workers' movement over the past 100 years since its founding.

Since the 18th National Congress of the CPC in 2012, trade unions at all levels have united and mobilized



President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, delivers an important speech at a grand gathering to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions and honor model workers and exemplary individuals at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing yesterday. – Xinhua



Xi Jinping (left) and other leaders of the Communist Party of China and the state present honorary certificates to representatives of the awardees at a grand gathering to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions and honor model workers and exemplary individuals at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing yesterday. – Xinhua

the broad masses of workers to make significant contributions to the realization of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects as scheduled and to advancing Chinese modernization, Xi added.

No matter how historical conditions and social groups evolve, the status and role of the working class in China, the fundamental principle of relying wholeheartedly on the working class, and the nature and functions of the country's trade unions cannot be shaken, he said.

He stressed that over the past century, the most significant achievement in the theoretical innovation and practical development of the Party's workers' movement cause has been the formation of the

socialist trade union's development path with Chinese characteristics.

The path upholds the overall leadership of the Party over the workers' movement and trade unions, sticks to the fundamental principle of relying wholeheartedly on the working class, commits to following and serving the central task of the Party, maintains the trade unions' political character, pioneering nature and connection with the people, adheres to serving the working people as its lifeline, and stresses operation in accordance with laws and regulations, Xi said, adding that such a path must be upheld in the long run.

The Party's central task defines the theme of the times for the workers'

movement in China, he said.

On the new journey in the new era, it is imperative to focus on promoting high-quality development and motivate the broad masses of working people to strive for achievements and be innovative and creative, he said.

It is essential to ride the latest sci-tech revolution and industrial transformation wave, and comprehensively boost the quality of the country's workforce, Xi said.

He called for promoting the respect for model workers, the ethos of work as well as craftsmanship, focusing on advancing common prosperity, and steadily enhancing the well-being of the vast number of employees and working people.

Xi called on the whole society to learn from the model workers and exemplary individuals, and promote their excellent qualities. Model workers and exemplary individuals should also cherish the honors they have received and continue working hard to achieve new successes.

Standing at a new, historic starting point, trade unions at all levels need to promote the high-quality development of their work, he said.

Party committees at all levels should strengthen and improve their leadership over trade unions, promptly study and address major issues in trade union work, and create favorable conditions for trade unions to perform their duties, he added. – Xinhua

Xi urges promoting healthy, orderly development of AI

BEIJING – The Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee on Friday held its 20th group study session, which focused on strengthening the development and regulation of artificial intelligence (AI).

While presiding over the session, Xi Jinping, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, said that in the face of the rapid evolution of new-generation AI technologies, China must fully leverage the strengths of the new system for mobilizing the resources nationwide, achieve self-reliance and strength in this regard, and prioritize practical application so as to promote the healthy and orderly development of AI in the country in a beneficial, safe and fair manner.

Zheng Nanning, a professor with Xi'an Jiaotong University, made a presentation and put forward suggestions. Members of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee listened attentively to the presentation and held discussions.

After hearing to the presentation and discussions, Xi delivered an

important speech, emphasizing that AI, as a strategic technology leading the new round of scientific and technological revolution and industrial transformation, is profoundly reshaping people's work and life. The CPC Central Committee attaches great importance to the development of AI. In recent years, efforts have been made to improve top-level design and strengthen overall planning, achieving systematic and comprehensive advancement of China's AI capabilities. At the same time, deficiencies and weaknesses exist in areas such as basic theories and core technologies in key fields. Xi stressed the need to face up to the gaps and redouble efforts in order to comprehensively advance technological innovation, industrial development, and application empowerment in AI, improve regulatory systems and mechanisms, and firmly maintain the initiative in AI development and governance.

Xi stressed that to gain a head start and secure a competitive edge in AI, it is a must to achieve breakthroughs in basic theories,

methodologies and tools. He called for concentrated efforts on basic research, integrated endeavors for breakthroughs in core technologies such as high-end chips and basic software, as well as building a basic AI software and hardware system that is autonomous, controllable and functioning collaboratively. By leveraging AI to drive the transformation of scientific research paradigms, we can speed up achieving breakthroughs in scientific and technological innovation in all sectors.

Xi noted that China has abundant data resources, a complete industrial system, vast application scenarios and huge market potential. He stressed the need to promote the deep integration of AI scientific and technological innovation with industrial innovation, build an enterprise-led synergistic innovation ecosystem that incorporates industries, universities, research institutes and end users, facilitate the transformation and upgrading of traditional industries, and open up new arenas in developing strategic

emerging industries and future-oriented industries. He called for coordinated efforts to advance the construction of computing power infrastructure and promote the development, utilization and open sharing of data resources.

Xi emphasized that strong policy support is essential for the development of AI, a new technology and emerging field. He urged solid efforts to make integrated use of policies concerning intellectual property rights, fiscal and taxation incentives, government procurement, and the opening up of infrastructure, as well as better leverage the role of sci-tech financing. Efforts should be made to promote AI education across all academic stages and enhance public awareness across society to cultivate a steady stream of high-caliber personnel. It is necessary to improve mechanisms for AI research support, career development and talent evaluation, and to create platforms and favorable conditions for all types of talent to fully display their capabilities.

Xi noted that while AI presents

unprecedented development opportunities, it also brings risks and challenges not seen before. He urged efforts to grasp the trends and regularity of AI development, accelerate formulation and improvement of laws and regulations, policies and systems, application norms and ethical guidelines, and establish systems for technical monitoring, early risk warning and emergency response, in a bid to guarantee its safety, reliability and controllability.

Xi highlighted AI as a global public good capable of benefiting the humanity. He called for extensive international cooperation on AI, as well as endeavors to help the Global South enhance its technological capacity building, and contribute China's effort in the drive to bridge the global AI divide. He also encouraged efforts to engage all parties for further alignment and coordination of development strategies, governance rules as well as technical standards, and work toward an early formation of a consensus-based framework and standards for global governance. – Xinhua