

Macau hosting 1,000 performances in July-Aug: IC chief

Armando Neves

The government-appointed Cultural Development Consultative Committee yesterday held its fourth plenary meeting of the year, and after the closed door meeting, Macau Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) President Deland Leong Wai Man announced that a total of over 1,000 performances have been held this month or are slated for next month.

Yesterday's meeting was held at the Macau Cultural Centre (CCM).

Briefing the media afterwards, Leong said that the meeting focused on three main agenda items: first, consulting the committee on proposed amendments to the bylaws concerning the cultural sector's legal entities; second, presenting "Art Macao: Macao International Art Biennale 2025," which started on July 18 and will run until October, featuring nearly 30 exhibitions across six sections; and third, introducing the two-month 2nd Macau International Children's Arts Festival concluding at the end of next month, offering 49 programmes and over 1,000 events, including international performances,



Cultural Development Consultative Committee Acting President and Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) President Deland Leong Wai Man (right) and committee member Ieng Weng Fat look on after the committee's regular closed-door meeting at the Macau Cultural Centre (CCM) yesterday. — Photo: Armando Neves

large-scale musicals, and art exhibitions.

Committee member Ieng Weng Fat cited fellow committee members' views that both events feature rich and diverse content and, based on their popularity last year, have been well-received by the public. The members, Ieng said, expressed hope that these activities

would gradually develop into internationally renowned events.

Leong also said that the current edition of the children arts festival operates with a budget of around 20 million patacas, noting that over 80 percent of the tickets have already been sold, with particularly strong

public interest in programmes like "Family Art Camp", "Children's Creative Camp", and special performances for infants.

She also said that as the kids' arts-fest has just got off the ground, official participation figures for this year are not yet available. She noted that last year's attendance reached about 210,000, with local residents outnumbering tourists.

When asked by the media about the government-owned outdoor performance venue in Cotai, Leong said no performance requests were received for next month and a performance originally scheduled for early September has been cancelled at the organiser's request which was received on Friday, while requests have been received for performances in late September, late October, and December.

She also said that her bureau planned to use next month's performance-free period to upgrade the outdoor venue's facilities, including clearer entrance/exit signage and enhanced sanitation control by the relevant government entities, in order to prevent mosquito problems. ■

Govt launches chikungunya prevention measures targeting construction sites

Tony Wong

The Health Bureau (SSM) is carrying out special chikungunya-prevention measures targeting the city's construction sites in the wake of the recent detection of three chikungunya cases in neighbouring Guangdong Province the patients of which are non-resident workers from a construction site in Macau's Zone A land reclamation area, according to separate SSM statements issued yesterday and on Monday.

The statements did not reveal the whereabouts of the three patients, i.e., whether they are currently in Guangdong or Macau.

The bureau announced on Monday night that Guangdong's health authorities had notified the bureau about the three cases, after which the bureau confirmed that the three patients are non-resident workers working at the construction site in Zone A, in response to which the bureau had meanwhile carried out mosquito control operations in the construction site.

The bureau announced last night that it has, in collaboration with several other public entities, launched various special measures

to prevent chikungunya targeting the city's construction sites.

The measures for construction sites include strengthening mosquito control operations and the elimination of stagnant water.

The bureau also announced yesterday that Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Wallis O Lam inspected the concerned construction site in Zone A yesterday where she was briefed by officials about the ongoing special prevention measures implemented for the construction site and other sites in Zone A.

Meanwhile, the bureau also announced last night that Macau recorded this year's sixth imported case of chikungunya fever yesterday.

The patient is a 66-year-old local man who works in Cotai but lives in Zhuhai. He travelled with his colleagues to Sri Lanka for a working visit between July 7 and 18. After returning to Macau alone, he came down with various symptoms from July 21, before seeking treatment on Monday.

He was diagnosed with chikungunya fever by the Health Bureau's Public Health Laboratory yesterday. ■



A building contractor (front, left) yesterday briefs Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Wallis O Lam (front, second from right) about the ongoing mosquito control measures implemented for construction sites in Zone A. — Photo: SSM

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Chinese vice premier urges stronger China-US cooperation, less misunderstanding

The US should work with China to continue to enhance consensus, reduce misunderstandings, strengthen cooperation, further deepen dialogue and consultations, and strive for more win-win outcomes, Vice Premier He Lifeng said in Stockholm yesterday. — Story on p. 7

China, US hold in-depth, candid, constructive trade talks: China int'l trade rep

The trade and economic teams of China and the United States have held in-depth, candid and constructive exchanges over important topics of mutual interest, a senior Chinese official said in the Swedish capital yesterday. — Story on p. 7

Official franchised shop for 15th National Games & Special Olympics opens today

Khalel Vallo

The first official franchised products shop for the “15th National Games and National Special Olympics for Persons with Disabilities” opens on a trial basis at Tap Seac Multisport Pavilion today, according to a statement from the local preparatory office for the event yesterday.

The shop features mascot-themed products and immersive photo zones, inviting residents and tourists alike to experience the vibrant atmosphere of the Games ahead of their launch, according to the statement.

The statement added that the shop for the 15th National Games, the 12th National Games for Persons with Disabilities, and the 9th National Special Olympics will operate daily from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., serving

as the Games’ main merchandise outlet in Macau.

The statement added that the shop will offer a wide range of official franchised merchandise featuring the event’s mascots “Xiyangyang” (“Joyful”) and “Lerongrong” (“Happy Harmony”), including plush toys, commemorative badges, crafts, and lifestyle items. The venue also includes themed photo installations designed to immerse visitors in the festive spirit of the games.

This Saturday a ceremony will be held to mark the 100-day countdown to the opening of the National Games and to celebrate the shop’s official launch.

Residents and tourists are encouraged to visit the shop to experience the Games in advance. More information can be found at www.2025nationalgames.gov.mo. ■



This undated handout photo provided by the local preparatory office for the 15th National Games shows the interior of the local official franchise merchandise shop of the National Games at Tap Seac Multisport Pavilion.

Police nab mainlander for ‘currency exchange’ fraud

Ada Lei

A man from the mainland was arrested on Sunday for defrauding another mainlander out of a total of HK\$60,000 (61,800 patacas), Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Ho Wai Lok said during a regular press conference yesterday.

Ho identified the suspect as a 30-year-old businessman surnamed Li.

According to Ho, the police received a report on Saturday from a middle-aged mainland man who said that he had been cheated by Li in a currency exchange deal. Early Saturday morning, the victim was approached by Li in a casino in Cotai, where he told the victim that he needed to exchange HK\$1,000 for gambling. The victim then showed Li a payment QR code. After receiving 950 yuan, the victim handed over HK\$1,000 in cash to Li, and the two left the scene.

Ho noted that early Sunday morning the victim met with Li again at the casino for another currency exchange. They agreed to exchange 55,920 yuan for HK\$60,000 in chips, at an exchange rate of 0.932. The victim then displayed a payment QR code, and Li showed the victim a screenshot appearing to show a successful transfer in return. After handing over HK\$60,000 in chips to Li,

the victim left the scene. Later, the victim discovered that the 55,920 yuan had not been transferred to his bank account. Suspecting he had been defrauded, he reported a loss of HK\$60,000 in chips to the police immediately.

The police identified Li as the suspect and apprehended him in a casino in Cotai. Under questioning, Li refused to cooperate. The police seized a mobile phone from Li.

Li has been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), facing a fraud charge. ■



Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Ho Wai Lok looks on during yesterday’s regular press conference. – Photo: Ada Lei

Police nab Filipino housekeeper for stealing chips worth HK\$63,000

Ada Lei

A male housekeeper from the Philippines was arrested on Thursday for allegedly stealing chips worth HK\$63,000 (64,900 patacas) from a guestroom, Public Security Police (PSP) spokeswoman Kong Chi Ian said during a regular press conference yesterday.

Kong identified the suspect as a non-resident worker (NRW) surnamed Canilao, in his twenties, who worked as a housekeeper at a hotel in Cotai.

According to Kong, a man from the mainland reported in April that his chips worth HK\$63,000, which he had left inside the hotel guestroom, had vanished. The victim told the police that after checking

out, he remembered that he had left the chips in the guestroom, and after returning to look for them could not find them. Suspecting someone had stolen them, he immediately reported the case to the police.

Using the hotel’s surveillance footage, the police identified Canilao as the suspect and apprehended him on Thursday in the hotel. The footage showed Canilao had entered the guestroom before the victim returned.

Under questioning, Canilao denied the crime.

Canilao has been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), facing a theft charge. ■



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

Gongbei Customs nabs man smuggling 28 used smartphones in e-scooter

Armindo Neves

Zuhai’s Gongbei Customs announced in a statement yesterday that its officers at Qingmao checkpoint nabbed a man attempting to smuggle 28 used smartphones in an e-scooter into the mainland.

Gongbei Customs announced the case, which was detected last Tuesday, in a statement yesterday.

According to the statement, at 5 p.m. last Tuesday, a traveller wearing a grey short-sleeved shirt and pushing an electric scooter entered the mainland through the “Green Channel” at the Qingmao Port (checkpoint) traveller inspection site.

Customs officers at the scene noticed that he appeared to be nervous and decided to intercept and search him. Upon further inspection, customs officers found 28 used smartphones wrapped



This undated handout provided by Zuhai’s Gongbei Customs yesterday shows 22 used phones sealed in plastic film seized by Qingmao checkpoint customs officers last Tuesday.

in plastic film and hidden in the battery compartment of the traveller’s electric scooter.

In the statement, Gongbei Customs reminded the public that according to relevant regulations,

evading customs supervision by hiding or bringing goods subject to duties into the mainland constitutes smuggling. If the circumstances are severe enough to constitute a crime, criminal liability will be pursued. ■

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This undated file photo shows director Gary Ao leong Wun Un posing.

PO Art Studio explores 2nd-generation Filipinos' lives via art

Interview by William Chan

Local art organisation PO Art Studio recently launched a two-part programme delving into the experiences of second-generation Filipinos in Macau.

Director Gary Ao leong Wun Un and one of the interviewees, Jorge Miguel Villanueva Carvajal, spoke to the *Post* last week at a bar near Rua do Campo.

'Living Here, Living Together': Art and Identity

The project, titled "Living Here, Living Together", explores the daily experiences of second-generation Filipinos in Macau, using art to highlight the fluidity of identity through two creative mediums.

Part I: Documentary Film

According to Ao leong, the first part of the project is a documentary film focusing on three second-generation Filipinos. Ao leong noted that each interviewee relates to identity in a different way: one identifies as Chinese, another as a mix of both Chinese and Filipino, and the third primarily as Filipino.

Carvajal, who grew up in Macau and attended Escola Secundária Luso-Chinesa de Luís Gonzaga Gomes, identifies as Chinese. "My parents came to Macau and preserved their Filipino values, combining them with the Chinese values they discovered here. They have adapted to Chinese culture while still considering themselves Filipino."

Having grown up among ethnic Chinese friends, Carvajal considers himself very much a local. Speaking fluent Cantonese, he said, "Honestly, I don't think there's much difference between myself and my Chinese friends. Our hobbies and language are similar." Nonetheless, he notices subtle differences: "We Filipinos are more relaxed, while Chinese tend to be tenser. I'm also Catholic, like many local Filipinos, which adds another layer of difference."

One scene in the documentary is shot at Carvajal's favourite noodle shop, Lun Kei (聯記). "It's the kind of traditional place you'd expect only local Chinese to frequent," Ao leong remarks. "Seeing Jorge there challenges stereotypes – it's surprising at first, but also not, because he is a local. This contrast highlights how tightly we hold onto stereotypes about 'others', even when reality contradicts them."

Through research and candid conversations, the documentary aims to show that identity is not fixed, but fluid – constantly evolving and shaped by both internal and

external influences. "Each guest in our film has a unique background that shapes their sense of self. But there's no simple formula or common experience that determines identity. It's all contingent and ever-changing," Ao leong explains.

Ao leong pointed out that "Living Here, Living Together" reflects on the challenges and dilemmas faced by specific communities and demonstrates how identity can transcend ethnic boundaries while evolving fluidly. "Race, gender, family and religion are just some of the concepts that we apply when describing or identifying someone. In reality, we are all unique and none of the above concepts truly defines what we are," Ao leong underlined.

Part II: Roaming Audio Exploration

The second part of the project is an immersive Roaming Audio Exploration. This activity uses daily sounds and personal memories to express individual identities and lived experiences in Macau. Participants embark on a self-guided journey through the cultural landscape of Rua da Alfândega, following a booklet and audio prompts.

The story, written by Ao leong after gathering many stories from the community, centres on a second-generation Filipino youth born and raised in Macau, struggling to find his identity amidst societal integration. "The story is a composite, summarising the challenges many face – especially the tension between their own values and those of their parents' generation."

Facing the realities of family expectations, friendship, and workplace bias, the protagonist must decide whether to endure in silence or embrace his own path. The audio experience is narrated by Carvajal and another, older Filipino, portraying a father-son duo. "When I recorded the audio, it felt very organic, almost identical to my everyday conversations with my parents," Carvajal noted, pointing out that this was the first time he voice-acted.

With most of the conversation in Tagalog, Ao leong and Carvajal noticed some unique quirks while preparing the script. "For example, ethnic Chinese speakers often use references to death to emphasise the seriousness of a situation, such as saying 'starve to death' [餓死]. However, Tagalog tends not to have this kind of expression, often substituting it with other phrases or avoiding it altogether, perhaps due to religious beliefs or cultural habits," Ao leong and Carvajal observed.

The documentary is freely available online through PO Art Studio's platform, and the Roaming Audio Exploration is also accessible to the public. For more information or to register, visit: <https://tally.so/r/w7gKkR>.



Three interviewees – Jorge Miguel Villanueva Carvajal (left), Yang Hoi Teng "Eunice" Centeno (centre) and Maria Shandra Eliza L. Musa – pose earlier this month during the filming of the documentary "Living Here, Living Together" in front of a church in the city centre.

– Photos provided by PO Art Studio

CEM showcases AI achievements at WAIC 2025 in Shanghai

Khalel Vallo

Power utility CEM attended the 2025 World Artificial Intelligence Conference (WAIC 2025) in Shanghai on Sunday, the company said in a statement yesterday.

According to the statement, the presentation focused on the company's ongoing digital transformation and the implementation of Smart Grid 2.0.

Principal Advisor Benjamin Yue Zongbin delivered a keynote speech highlighting CEM's innovative AI-driven solutions. Speaking at the "AI+ Power Innovation Forum", Yue spoke about the practical applications of artificial intelligence (AI) in CEM's operations, including smart meter image analysis, AI voice bots, and intelligent grid protection, demonstrating Macau's progress in digital energy transformation, the statement said. These innovations reflect CEM's broader strategy to enhance operational efficiency and deliver smarter, more resilient energy services to Macau, the statement added.

The statement said The AI+ Power Innovation Forum was part of WAIC 2025, held from Saturday



This uncaptioned photo provided by CEM yesterday shows a presentation taking place at the 2025 World Artificial Intelligence Conference (WAIC 2025) in Shanghai on Sunday.

to Monday, was hosted by China Southern Power Grid (CSG). The forum gathered leaders from across the power sector, including utility providers, tech developers, and equipment manufacturers, to discuss the role of AI in building a collaborative, future-ready energy ecosystem.

CEM emphasised that its participation in WAIC 2025 allowed

for meaningful technical exchanges and explaining Macau's progress in AI-powered energy solutions with international peers. The statement concluded that the company will remain committed to advancing smart technologies that strengthen the city's power infrastructure, supporting a more sustainable and intelligent future for Macau's socio-economic development. ■

Lisboeta hosts first dog-friendly movie screening



This undated handout image downloaded from the Lisboeta Macau website last night shows the poster for its first dog-friendly movie screening slated for this Saturday at Emperor Cinemas House 2 of the Lisboeta Macau H853 Fun Factory in Cotai.

Kristina Vallesteros

Lisboeta Macau H853 Fun Factory will hold its first-ever dog-friendly movie screening on Saturday, according to a statement recently provided by the resort in Cotai.

The event, featuring the recently released film "Superman", aims to promote pet-inclusive leisure activities and support the concept of "harmony among all kinds of animals", the statement noted.

The superhero film, which stars David Corenswet in the titular role, written and directed by US filmmaker James Gunn, is the eighth highest grossing film of 2025, with Wikipedia noting that its box office earnings stand at US\$503.6 million (over four billion patacas).

The statement said the initiative follows the success of the summer pet-themed campaign "Nana Loves Pets", reinforcing Lisboeta's commitment to pet-friendly tourism. According to the statement, ticket

holders will receive an exclusive Superman bouncy ball for their dogs upon presenting a valid QR code.

The statement noted that the screening will take place at Emperor Cinemas House 2 of the Lisboeta Macau H853 Fun Factory, with doors opening at 3 p.m. Attendees are advised to arrive at least 30 minutes early. Tickets are limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis.

In addition to the movie screening, the statement added that Lisboeta offers "Nana Loves Pets Park", an indoor playground designed for pets and owners to enjoy shopping, photo opportunities, and interactive experiences.

Lisboeta has also updated its pet-friendly policy, now allowing leashed and diapered pets in its indoor spaces. The statement emphasised the venue's dedication to creating a welcoming environment for both people and animals while leading the trend in pet-inclusive tourism. ■

'Enjoy Macao with Coffee' festival to start Saturday

Armando Neves

The Macao New Chinese Youth Association uploaded yesterday a poster on its social media platform informing the public that it will co-host a festival titled "Enjoy Macao with Coffee" in conjunction with the Macau Science Centre (MSC), starting on Saturday.

According to a statement from the association, the organisers have collected over 25 coffee and light-food brands, showcasing the "charm of local culture" combined with coffee. Visitors can enjoy the sea breeze and sunset by the waterfront while participating in coffee-themed hands-on

workshops, accompanied by live music and dance performances.

The event will be held at the heart-shaped Tree Square in front of Macau Science Centre from Saturday until August 27. During the period, different workshops will be available for public participation every Saturday and Sunday afternoon, while festivalgoers who post their snap shots of the festival on social media will receive complimentary commemorative merchandise.

The festival will run daily from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. The opening ceremony will be held at 6:30 p.m. this Saturday; admission is free. ■



This poster provided by the Macao New Chinese Youth Association yesterday shows the upcoming "Enjoy Macao with Coffee" festival.

Hotels guests fall 1 pct to 7.2 million in H1

Staff Reporter

Macau's 147 hotels recorded 7.2 million visitors in the first half of the year, a year-on-year decline

of 1.0 percent, the Statistics and Census Bureau (DSEC) announced yesterday.

Visitors from the Chinese

mainland rose by 0.8 percent to 5.349 million, accounting for 74.2 percent of all guests. Hong Kong visitors fell by 8.5 percent to 879,000.

Foreign guests increased by 8.6 percent to 589,000, accounting for 8.1 percent of the total number of guests.

South Koreans, the number-one foreign visitor segment, rose by 13.3 percent to 169,000.

At the end of June, the number of available hotel rooms stood at 45,000, down by 3.8 percent year-on-year.

Guestrooms' average occupancy rate rose by 5.1 percentage points to 89.1 percent.

In June, the number of hotel guests increased by 4.7 percent year-on-year to 1.197 million. ■



Pedestrians walk past the main entrance to the Grand Emperor Hotel in Nam Van earlier this month. — Photo: Rui Pastorin



Paróquia da Sé Catedral, Macau
天主教澳門教區主教座堂

Parish Announcement

The Cathedral will commence the installation of the pipe organ on 15 August 2025. To ensure the smooth progress of the works and the safety of the faithful, **starting from Monday, 28 July 2025, all Masses and liturgical services will be temporarily transferred to the Church of St. Domingos. The Mass schedule will remain unchanged.**

From the same date (28 July), the Cathedral will be temporarily closed until the completion of the works. For safety reasons, the faithful are strictly requested not to enter the Cathedral during this period.

It is anticipated that the Cathedral will resume the celebration of Mass around mid-October, and will be fully reopened to the public around mid-December. The exact dates will be announced at a later time. We kindly ask all parishioners to take note of the above arrangements and to inform others. We thank you for your understanding and prayers during this time, as we unite in prayer for the smooth progress of the works and the pastoral mission of the parish.

In Christ,

Cathedral, Macau
25 July 2025

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Sands China launches 2 exhibitions for Art Macao 2025

Rui Pastorin

Sands China kicked off two of its exhibitions for Art Macao 2025 yesterday afternoon at The Venetian Macao in Cotai.

Among them, “Dopamine: Fountain of Happiness” is one of the Special Exhibitions organised by Macau’s six integrated resort operators and features installations with reinterpreted characters from Sesame Street at The Venetian Macao.

The art pieces on display are the creations of nine artists from Asia (namely Macau, the Chinese mainland, South Korea, and Japan), Europe and the US: Craig & Karl, Bibi Lei, GRAFFLEX, Hei Lok, Ilya Milstein, Jun Oson, Jonni Cheatwood, and Song Zhou, each giving their unique take on Sesame Street characters while infusing them with elements of dopamine* art and Roman mythology to create Macau-exclusive original works.

These vibrant works are geared towards bringing happiness to Macau, co-founder and director of curatorial team ARTICROSS Linwood Lin told the *Post* in an interview** on Monday, adding that

the chosen IP for this exhibition is not only well known and positive, but also easy for everyone to understand, approach and connect with regardless of age, therefore promoting art for all.

In creating the works, each artist chose a character that they connected with the most and are presenting them in Macau, a place where they are exhibiting their works for the first time and as a way to promote art to everyone while bringing the exhibits and the audience together, as well as creating an “art and cultural travel destination” at The Venetian Macao, a place where the exhibits are also a perfect match through aspects like its architecture, according to Lin.

She pointed out that the resulting works are not only decorative, but are hoped to bring each visitor positive energy and dopamine to make them smile and feel happy. The team also hopes to bring the fun to each person viewing the works, as well as for them to take the time to understand each artist and their artistic approach through the provided information.

Moreover, as it gathers a lineup



Officiating guests, representatives and some of the participating artists pose for a group photo in front of one of the installations on display at The Venetian Macao for Dopamine: Fountain of Happiness, including Sands China Ltd. Executive Vice Chairman Wilfred Wong Ying-wai (third from right) and Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) President Deland Leong Wai Man (sixth from left). – Photos: Rui Pastorin

of artists from around the world to converge in Macau, the exhibition also serves as “a bridge for East Meets West”, said Lin, being a platform for global artists to learn about the city and, at the same time, being a stage for local artists.

Yesterday’s ceremony also saw the launch of the concurrent “Beyond the Frame: International Contemporary Masterpieces”, a Collateral Exhibition in Art Macao

where six artists from the Special Exhibition are presenting their works at Sands Gallery of the Four Seasons Hotel Macao.

Delivering a speech at the dual launch event, Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) President Deland Leong Wai Man thanked everyone involved in the exhibition for their work, noting the “passion and professionalism have not only brought this international spectacle to life, but also infused

Macau’s cultural landscape with enduring momentum”.

Sands China Ltd. Executive Vice Chairman Wilfred Wong Ying-wai highlighted the two exhibitions, with the company’s Special Exhibition being aimed at creating “the factor of happiness for everyone – dopamine”, while the collateral exhibition sees artists break through “the framework of traditional forms to build one universe after another”. Altogether, the two exhibitions feature over 80 works.

Wong also spoke with reporters after yesterday’s event, noting that their hotel occupancy rate reached 90 percent this summer, similar to previous years. He also noted that he has an optimistic outlook for the overall booking rate and occupancy rate for the second half of the year. ■

**Dopamine is most notably involved in helping us feel pleasure as part of the brain’s reward system. – Harvard Health*

***This article is the first of a two-part story about the Special Exhibition, with the next being an interview with three of the artists to be published on our Page 4. Stay tuned!*

Govt to hold ceremony marking start of legislative electioneering

Tony Wong

The Legislative Assembly Electoral Affairs Commission (CAEAL) said yesterday that on the first day of the two-week official election campaign period for the upcoming direct and indirect legislative elections, it will hold a ceremony marking the electioneering period’s commencement while also enabling the candidacy groups to publicise their political platforms at the same time.

The 2025 direct and indirect legislative elections will take place on September 14.

Before polling day on September 14, the 14-day official election campaign period will run from August 30 and September 12. No electioneering is allowed on the eve of polling day and on polling day.

More specifically, the campaign period will start at 00:00 on August 30 and end at 11:59 p.m. on September 12.

Speaking to reporters after chairing a regular closed-door meeting of the commission at the Public Administration Building on Rua do Campo yesterday, CAEAL President Seng Ioi Man noted that no ceremony was held marking the official start of the campaign period for the direct and indirect legislative elections four years ago as Macau was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic at that time.

A ceremony was held marking the official start of the campaign period for the 2017 direct and indirect legislative elections.

Seng said yesterday that for the upcoming direct and indirect legislative elections, the commission will once again host a



Legislative Assembly Electoral Affairs Commission (CAEAL) President Seng Ioi Man (centre) addresses yesterday’s press briefing at the Public Administration Building, flanked by fellow commission members (from left to right) Louie Wong Lok I, Mak Kim Meng, Ng Wai Han, and Daisy Ho In Lui. – Photo: GCS

ceremony marking the official start of the canvassing period, which will be held in Praça do Tap Seac in the morning of the first day of the two-week election campaign period.

In the previous legislative elections, normally, the direct election candidacy groups chose to paste their respective campaign posters on a board provided by the government in Praça do Tap Seac right after the election campaign period started at 00:00.

Seng also said yesterday that the commission has chosen 25 public venues, including Praça do Tap Seac, where the government will set up a board each for candidacy groups to paste and display their respective campaign posters during the upcoming electioneering period, two more than in the 2021 direct and indirect legislative elections.

Seng said that the commission has also designated 18 public venues for candidacy groups to

carry out their election campaigns, the same 18 venues for the legislative elections four years ago. He said that the commission will conduct a draw in due course to evenly distribute the different time periods for the different candidacy groups to use the venues for their respective election campaigns.

Moreover, Seng said, the commission will also conduct a draw in due course to determine the time periods for the different candidacy groups to carry out their election campaigns on the TV and radio channels of public broadcaster TDM, such as publicising their political platforms and attending election debates.

Seng also noted that each candidacy group can use up to eight vehicles travelling across the city to play audio campaign messages, adding that their time periods and volume limits must comply with the official requirements. ■

Photos & texts of trip to ‘Land of the Crocodile’ displayed at FRC gallery until Saturday

Rui Pastorin

There are still two days left to admire works in the ongoing exhibition titled “A Voyage to the Land of the Crocodile in the Year of the Serpent” – East Timor – at the Rui Cunha Foundation (FRC) gallery, with the event ending on Saturday.

The exhibition features 25 photos by Cristiana Figueiredo, who was born in Angola, and texts by Timor-Leste born Bibi Ain. The works are a result of a journey for one of them and of discovery for the other after a trip to the half-island nation north of Australia at the beginning of this year, according to a statement on the gallery’s website.

Timor-Leste is the official Portuguese name of East Timor, which restored its independence in May 2002.

Describing the journey, the statement noted that it was “an intimate and awe-inspiring peek into East Timor, where seemingly

disparate perspectives came together to create new perspectives on the people and places of this small wondrous country”.

The statement quoted Figueiredo as saying that while taking the photos, she “witnessed the transformation from shy demeanours to generous tropical smiles that unlocked fleeting intimate glimpses”. She added that the photos showcased serve as her “love letter to East Timor”.

The trip took place earlier this year, the Year of the Snake, according to the Chinese lunar calendar.

The Timorese believe that their island was originally a crocodile.

The free-admission exhibition is open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. today and tomorrow, while one can still visit it from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday. More details are available on the website.

East Timor is officially known as the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste. ■



This photo downloaded from the Rui Cunha Foundation (FRC) gallery website last night shows exhibitiongoers admiring photos on display for the “A Voyage to the Land of the Crocodile in the Year of the Serpent” exhibition.

Crucial to foster stable China-ROK ties

China Daily Editorial

The relations between China and the Republic of Korea have evolved fast over the past more than three decades, marked by a substantial increase in trade and economic interdependence.

Bilateral trade has surged by around 50 times since they established diplomatic ties in 1992, with China remaining the ROK's largest trade partner for many consecutive years. The economic interdependence is also underscored by the fact that China received about 40 percent of the ROK's technology exports as of the end of last year.

China has always valued the mutually beneficial relationship with the ROK, describing the country as an inseparable neighbor and cooperation partner. That was reaffirmed once again by Foreign Minister Wang Yi during a telephone conversation on Monday with his ROK counterpart Cho Hyun, their first exchanges after the inauguration of the new ROK government early last month.

Wang expressed the hope that the new ROK government will ensure that its China policy is "stable, sustainable and predictable", without vacillation. Stressing that China and the ROK should work together to elevate bilateral relations to a higher level, he said that the two sides needed to maintain policy stability, as only in this way will the two countries be able to continue to benefit from their strategic cooperative partnership free from external interference.

On his part, Cho said the ROK attaches great significance to its relations with China and will promote greater development of the two countries' strategic cooperative partnership.

All this indicates the two countries are now ready to start from a new beginning to advance their partnership.

Bilateral ties experienced some difficulties during the ROK's previous administration, mainly due to Seoul aligning itself with the "value diplomacy" of the previous United States administration, which led to it making confrontational moves, such as the upgrading of the US' Terminal High Altitude Area Defense missile system and supporting the US' "Indo-Pacific" strategy to contain China.

The adoption of a pragmatic stance by the new ROK administration toward China has been driven by the recognition that sound, stable and ever-deepening China-ROK relations serve the fundamental interests of the two peoples.

In the past, thanks to their good-neighborly and friendly policy toward one another, China and the ROK have been able to transcend their differences in ideology and social systems, and actively advance exchanges and cooperation across various fields.

For example, the China-ROK Free Trade Agreement, which came into effect in 2015, has played a significant role in boosting trade and investment between the two countries. Both countries are currently engaged in negotiations to enhance the liberalization in their services trade and investment, demonstrating their shared commitment to fostering economic growth and cooperation.

However, the evolving geopolitical landscape poses rising challenges to the China-ROK relationship. Since ROK President Lee Jae-myung took office in June, there have been reports that Washington is pressuring Seoul to take on a larger role in countering China, emphasizing the need to modernize their bilateral alliance by beefing up their defense and security cooperation.

This could potentially strain the ROK's efforts to maintain strategic autonomy. The US has also been seeking the ROK's participation in reshaping global supply chains aimed at decoupling from China, a move that risks harming the long-standing economic partnership between China and the ROK.

Looking ahead, it is imperative that China and the ROK join hands to navigate these challenges and capitalize on the opportunities for cooperation. Keeping their industry and supply chains stable and unimpeded, and expanding cooperation in areas such as innovation and climate change can serve as positive steps toward strengthening their partnership.

The China-ROK relationship stands at a critical juncture, where both countries must carefully balance their strategic interests while fostering mutual trust and cooperation. By upholding the principles of good neighborliness, mutual benefit and win-win outcomes, China and the ROK can continue to build a resilient and productive partnership that contributes to regional and global peace, stability and development.

— Courtesy of China Daily

China, US hold in-depth, candid, constructive trade talks: China int'l trade rep



Li Chenggang, China international trade representative with the Ministry of Commerce (MOC) and vice minister of commerce, briefs the press following the new round of economic and trade talks between China and the United States in Stockholm, Sweden, yesterday. — AFP

STOCKHOLM — The trade and economic teams of China and the United States have held in-depth, candid and constructive exchanges over important topics of mutual interest, a senior Chinese official said in the Swedish capital yesterday.

Li Chenggang, China international trade representative with the Ministry of Commerce (MOC) and vice minister of commerce, made the remarks when briefing the press

following the new round of economic and trade talks in Stockholm.

The two sides will continue pushing for the continued extension of the pause on 24 percent of reciprocal tariffs of the US side, as well as counter measures of the Chinese side, said Li.

Both sides are fully aware of the importance of safeguarding stable and sound China-US economic ties, Li said, adding that the two sides held candid exchanges over each other's major trade and economic concerns.

Over the past day and a half, the two sides reviewed the implementation of the Geneva and London consensus and gave full affirmation to the progress made, Li said.

The Chinese and US economic and trade teams will maintain close communication, conduct timely exchanges on trade and economic issues, and continue to promote the stable and healthy development of bilateral economic and trade relations, Li said. — Xinhua

Vice premier urges stronger China-US cooperation, less misunderstanding

STOCKHOLM — The United States should work with China to continue to enhance consensus, reduce misunderstandings, strengthen cooperation, further deepen dialogue and consultations, and strive for more win-win outcomes, Vice Premier He

Lifeng said in Stockholm yesterday.

A stable, healthy and sustainable China-US economic and trade relationship serves not only the two countries' respective development goals but also contributes to global economic growth and stability, He said.

He made the remarks during the new round of China-US economic and trade talks in Stockholm on Monday and yesterday with US lead person Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer. — Xinhua

China urges Philippines to stop colluding with other countries to escalate maritime tensions

BEIJING — A Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson yesterday urged the Philippines to stop colluding with other countries to exacerbate tensions on maritime issues.

Spokesperson Guo Jiakun made the remarks during a daily news briefing in response to a media query about the recent announcement of military cooperation between the Philippines and the United States.

According to reports, when the Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos was visiting the United States, the two sides announced the launch of military cooperation, and reiterated that the Mutual Defense Treaty is extended to the South China Sea. Marcos said that the promotion of modernizing the

Philippine military is a direct response to the changing situation in the South China Sea, and that the United States deploying mid-range missiles and the two countries jointly building arsenal bases are conducive to preparations for possible future situations. Other sources said that Japan has exported six Abukuma-class destroyer escorts to the Philippines.

In response, Guo said that China has always opposed attempts to increase military alliance and engage in military deployment and operation targeting others under the pretext of the South China Sea issue.

"This will not solve any problem, still less intimidate China, and is against the common aspiration of Asia-Pacific countries of pursuing peace,

development and stability," said the spokesperson.

Guo stressed that any defense or security cooperation between the Philippines and other countries should not target any third party or meddle in the South China Sea disputes, still less provoke confrontation or escalate tensions in the region.

"We urge the Philippines to stop colluding with other countries to act as scaremongers and shift blame on maritime issues, and stop inviting external forces for support, or finding reasons for voluntarily joining 'small circles.' Independence should be upheld with concrete actions, and regional peace and stability should be earnestly protected," said Guo.

— Xinhua