

# Govt to launch 3<sup>rd</sup> phase of talent acquisition scheme later this year: Sam

Tony Wong

Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai said yesterday that the government will launch the third phase of its talent acquisition programme later this year, with further improvements to its modus operandi based on experience gained from the implementation of the programme's first two phases.

Sam made the remarks in a speech while chairing this year's first plenary meeting of the government-appointed Talents Development Committee at Government Headquarters in Nam Van.

The meeting, which was held behind closed doors, was open to the media at the start when Sam made his opening speech.

The committee comprises government officials from various public entities, as well as professionals from various sectors from civil society appointed by the government.

The chief executive noted in his speech that the government rolled out the first and second phases of its talent acquisition programme in 2023 and 2024 respectively, since Macau's current legal system for acquiring talents from outside Macau came into force in July 2023.

Sam noted that after the evaluation of applications by the Talents Development Committee and another assessment committee, about 750 individuals from outside Macau were included in the recommended talent acquisition lists in the programme's first two phases, primarily including corporate executives, professionals for emerging industries, and teaching and research personnel.

Sam underlined that the acquisition of talents from outside Macau through the programme's first two phases have achieved results as expected by the government, injecting new vitality into the city's appropriate economic diversification campaign.

Sam said that after summarising the experiences gained from the implementation of the programme's first two phases, the government will make further improvements into the programme's modus operandi, and roll out its third phase "in a steady manner" later this year.

Sam also said that the acquisition of talents from outside Macau was a "systematic" project, which, he said, must be carried out with the



Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai addresses the Talents Development Committee's first 2025 plenary meeting at Government Headquarters yesterday. – Photo: GCS

aim of attracting the good ones who precisely meet the needs for Macau's development and of ensuring that they will remain in Macau.

Sam pledged that the local government will improve its talent acquisition system with the aim of

providing higher-quality support for talents from outside Macau to live, work, and pursue career development here.

Meanwhile, speaking to reporters after the meeting, Education and Youth Development



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Bureau (DSEDJ) Director Kong Chi Meng, who is also the committee's secretary-general, said that the about 750 talents from outside Macau in the programme's first two phases comprise about 20 high-end talents, about 120 outstanding talents, and about 600 high-level professionals, "evenly distributed" for the city's four emerging industries listed by the government's appropriate economic diversification plan.

Kong underlined that the about 750 talents come from the mainland, Hong Kong, and various foreign countries. ■

## Trump blasts India, Russia as 'dead economies'

WASHINGTON – President Donald Trump labelled Russia and US ally India "dead economies," indicating that his threat to ramp up tariffs on New Delhi will now go ahead.

In a social media post sent at midnight on Wednesday (local time), Trump said "I don't care what India does with Russia. They can take their dead economies down together, for all I care."

"We have done very little business with India, their Tariffs are too high, among the highest in the World. Likewise, Russia and the USA do almost no business together. Let's keep it that way," he added.

The statement on Truth Social followed Trump's announcement on Wednesday that India will face 25 percent tariffs, while also announcing an unspecified "penalty" over New Delhi's purchases of Russian weapons and energy.

Trump, 79, said the tariffs would kick in today.

He gave no indication in either announcement about what penalties would be imposed for India's continued trade with Russia, which is under massive US and Western sanctions over its invasion of Ukraine.

On Tuesday, Trump had said the United States will impose further sanctions on Russia in 10 days – which would be the end of next week – if it does not make moves to end the three-year war.

He has previously threatened that new measures could mean "secondary tariffs" targeting Russia's remaining trade partners, such as China and India. This would further stifle Russia, but would risk significant international disruption.

The 25 percent tariff on India would be marginally lower than the rate announced in April, but is higher than those of other Asian countries that have struck preliminary trade agreements with Washington. – AFP

## Trump says will be talking to Mexico over next 90 days for trade deal

NEW YORK – US President Donald Trump said yesterday that the United States will be talking to Mexico over the next 90 days with the goal of signing a trade deal.

Trump said in a Truth Social post after a phone conversation with Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum.

"We have agreed to extend, for a 90 Day period, the exact same Deal as we had for the last short period of time," said Trump on the social media platform.

"We will be talking to Mexico over the next 90 Days with the goal of signing a Trade Deal somewhere within the 90 Day period of time, or longer," Trump added.

"We had a very good call with the President of the United States, Donald Trump. We avoided the increase in tariffs announced for tomorrow [August 1] and achieved 90 days to build a long-term agreement based on dialogue," said Sheinbaum in a post on social media platform X.

Trump stressed the unique complexities of a deal with Mexico due to the shared border of the two countries. "We are getting to know and understand each other" more and more, said Trump.

In a letter posted on Truth Social on July 12, Trump threatened that 30 percent tariffs would be imposed on Mexico starting August 1. – Xinhua

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## China calls on EU to provide fair, just, non-discriminatory business environment for Chinese firms

China calls on the European Union (EU) to provide a fair, just and non-discriminatory business environment for Chinese companies seeking to invest and operate in Europe, a spokesperson for the Ministry of Commerce (MOC) said yesterday. – Story on p. 7

## Microsoft valuation surges above US\$4 trillion as AI lifts stocks

Microsoft surged above US\$4 trillion in market value early yesterday (local time) following strong earnings, as investor bullishness for artificial intelligence lifted major indices further into record territory. – Story on p. 11

## Portugal to weigh recognising a Palestinian state

Portugal will consider whether to recognise the State of Palestine at the UN in September, Prime Minister Luis Montenegro's office said yesterday. – Story on p. 12



# Police bust 2 illegal currency exchange cases

Armindo Neves

A man from the mainland was arrested on Wednesday for engaging in illegal currency exchange activities, Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Ho Wai Lok said during yesterday's special press conference.

The special press conference was held at the PJ headquarters in Zape.

Ho identified the suspect as a 36-year-old male surnamed Li who told the police that he is jobless.

According to Ho, PJ officers patrolling a casino in Cotai on Wednesday afternoon, witnessed Li engaging in an illegal currency exchange activity with a gambler. Li approached the gambler and offered a currency exchange deal. The gambler then scanned the QR code provided by Li, after which he handed over HK\$30,000 in chips to the gambler. After the deal, the gambler entered the casino to gamble while Li left. The police later apprehended Li and the

gambler in the casino. The gambler then turned witness in the case.

Under questioning, the gambler told the police that Li had exchanged HK\$30,000 for 27,960 yuan. The police seized HK\$160,000 in chips and 8,000 yuan in cash from Li, along with HK\$30,000 in cash and chips from the gambler.

Ho said that as Li refused to cooperate, PJ officers have been unable to determine how much Li earned from the illegal currency exchange operations.

Li has been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), facing an illegal currency exchange charge, according to Ho.

## Police nab 2 illegal currency exchange dealers

Meanwhile, PJ spokesman Ho Wai Lok said that their officers nabbed two illegal currency exchange dealers also on Wednesday.

Ho identified the duo as 35- and 36-year-old male mainlanders surnamed Zheng and Jiang, who told the police that they are jobless.

According to Ho, PJ officers patrolling a casino in Cotai on Wednesday morning witnessed Zheng and Jiang engaging in an



Evidence seized from a mainland illegal currency exchange dealer surnamed Li is displayed during yesterday's special press conference at the Judiciary Police (PJ) headquarters in Zape. – Photos: Armindo Neves

illegal currency exchange activity with a gambler. Jiang approached the gambler and offered a currency exchange deal. Jiang scanned the QR code provided by the gambler, after which the duo handed over HK\$50,000 in five chips to the gambler. After the deal, the gambler entered the casino to gamble while the duo left. The police later apprehended the duo and the gambler in the casino. The gambler then turned witnesses in the case.

Under questioning, the duo exchanged 46,750 yuan for HK\$50,000. The police discovered that the duo had been engaging in illegal currency exchange activities since late May, earning HK\$7,200. The police seized HK\$18,000 in chips and two mobile phones from Zheng and Jiang.

The duo have been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), facing an illegal currency exchange charge, according to Ho. ■



Two hooded illegal currency exchange dealers, surnamed Zheng and Jiang, from the mainland are escorted by Judiciary Police (PJ) officers from the PJ headquarters to a PJ vehicle in Zape after yesterday's special press conference.

# Cheoc Van Beach cleanup promotes coastal hygiene & public awareness

Khalel Vallo

Following its Hac Sa initiative entitled "Beautiful and Clean Beach - Take Your Trash with You" launched last month, the

government's urban beautification and sanitation working group organised a second beach cleanup last week at Cheoc Van ("Bamboo Beach"), according to a Municipal

Affairs Bureau (IAM) statement yesterday.

On July 26, the environmental hygiene task force under the urban beautification and sanitation working group conducted its second beach cleanup activity at Cheoc Van Beach in Coloane, reinforcing its commitment to preserving Macau's coastal environment.

The statement said around 30 representatives from various government entities, volunteer groups, and organisations participated in the cleanup, collecting rubbish along the beach and rocky shore as well as sorting it for recycling.

The Marine and Water Bureau (DSAMA) also supported the operation by dispatching cleaning vessels to remove floating debris from nearby waters, the statement added.

From January to late last month, about 593 tonnes of rubbish were cleared from beaches and another 150 tonnes from the sea, highlighting the scale of coastal pollution, the statement said.

The statement concluded that the working group is urging the public to take direct responsibility by using eco-friendly containers, disposing of rubbish properly, and recycling when visiting beaches.

The statement also said that in order to urge swimmers and beachgoers to help protect the marine environment, future cleanup activities and hygiene campaigns will be launched progressively to foster a clear, more beautiful Macau. ■



This undated handout photo provided by the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) shows a working group of cleaners picking and cleaning up rubbish from Cheoc Van Beach in Coloane.

# Gongbei Customs nabs Macau driver smuggling 154 used smartphones

Armindo Neves

Zhuhai's Gongbei Customs announced in a statement on Wednesday that its officers nabbed a Macau driver smuggling 154 used smartphones into the mainland via the Zhuhai Macau Cross-border Industrial Zone checkpoint.

According to the statement, at 3 p.m. last Tuesday, customs officers at the Zhuhai Macau Cross-border Industrial Zone border checkpoint, during a routine vehicle inspection, detected suspicious activity and

immediately launched a detailed search of the car. They discovered 154 used mobile phones wrapped in plastic film concealed within a hidden compartment beneath the boot.

In the statement, Gongbei Customs reminded the public that according to relevant regulations, evading customs supervision by hiding or bringing goods subject to taxes into the mainland constitutes smuggling. If the circumstances are severe enough to constitute a crime, criminal liability will be pursued. ■



This undated handout provided by Zhuhai's Gongbei Customs shows 154 used smart-phones seized by customs officers at the Zhuhai Macau Cross-border Industrial Zone border checkpoint from a Macau driver. The photo has been pixelated by the Post in order to protect the suspect's identity.

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## Macau Weather

**VERY HOT.**  
**CLOUDY APART FROM SUNNY**  
**INTERVALS.**  
**A FEW THUNDERY SHOWERS.**  
**FORCE 3 TO 4 SOUTHWESTERLY**  
**WINDS WITH GUSTS.**  
**RELATIVE HUMIDITY**  
**WILL RANGE BETWEEN**  
**70% AND 98%.**



26°C~32°C

Source: SMG



# Police nab ex-lawmaker for endangering national security

*First case since national security law's enactment in 2009*

**Tony Wong**

The Macau Judiciary Police (PJ) announced yesterday that they had arrested a 68-year-old local man surnamed Au on Wednesday for allegedly violating the local Law on Safeguarding National Security.

The case was announced in a PJ statement at around midday yesterday, according to which PJ officers arrested Au at his home on Wednesday afternoon.

The statement merely identified the local male suspect by his age and surname. Public broadcaster TDM yesterday identified the suspect as former lawmaker Au Kam San, who did not seek re-election in the direct legislative election four years ago. He had been a member of the Legislative Assembly (AL) since 2001.

It is the first time that the local police announced the arrest of anyone for allegedly violating the local national security law, which was enacted in 2009 based on the Article 23 requirement of the Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR) Basic Law and was amended in 2023.

The Judiciary Police are the law enforcement agency in Macau tasked with investigating suspected criminal cases of endangering national security and collecting intelligence related to any forces endangering national security.

Yesterday's PJ statement said that a local resident was discovered to have allegedly conspired with an anti-China organisation

outside the MSAR since 2022, providing the organisation with a substantial amount of untrue and inflammatory information for public display on the internet and in physical locations outside the MSAR.

The statement said that after the amended version of the Law on Safeguarding National Security took effect in 2023, the resident agreed that the organisation continue publicising such information.

Moreover, the statement said, the resident was also discovered to have allegedly maintained long-term contacts with several anti-China entities outside the MSAR, repeatedly providing them or media outlets operated by them with untrue information about Macau for dissemination purposes, with the aim of inciting hatred, among Macau residents and even among people from various countries unfamiliar with the truth, towards the central government and the MSAR government, disrupting Macau's chief executive election in 2024, and causing certain foreign countries to take hostile actions against Macau.

The statement said that after their investigation and evidence-gathering for a long time, the Judiciary Police recently identified a 68-year-old local man surnamed Au as the suspect in the case, after which PJ officers went to his home on Wednesday afternoon to arrest him and take him to the PJ headquarters for

questioning and further investigation.

The statement said that according to the findings of the PJ investigation, there were strong indications that Au had colluded with hostile forces outside the MSAR for a long time and, by assisting others in collecting or publicly disseminating false and grossly distorted information, had engaged in acts inciting hatred towards the Central People's Government, facilitating anti-China forces in taking hostile actions against the People's Republic of China (PRC) and the MSAR, and disrupting elections in the MSAR, thereby seriously endangering national security, the statement said.

The statement said that the Judiciary Police yesterday transferred Au to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) for further investigation into alleged crimes listed in Article 13 of the amended version of the Law on Safeguarding National Security, namely establishing ties with organisations, bodies, or individuals outside the MSAR for engaging in acts endangering national security.

According to Article 13, Au faces between three and 10 years behind bars.

Meanwhile, the Public Prosecutions Office issued a statement late last night regarding Au's case, saying that he has been remanded in custody.

The MP said that "the examining magistrate, as suggested by the Public Prosecutions Office, has decided to remand the suspect in custody". ■



*This file photo shows then lawmaker Au Kam San addressing a forum in a privately run community facility in late 2016.*  
– Photo: Tony Wong

## GDP rises 5.1 pct in Q2: preliminary figure

**Staff Reporter**

Macau's gross domestic product (GDP) returned to positive growth in the second quarter when it rose by 5.1 percent year-on-year in real terms to 110.38 billion patacas, the Statistics and Census Bureau (DSEC) announced yesterday, citing preliminary figures.

In the first quarter, GDP dipped by 1.3 percent, according to both preliminary and concluding figures.

A DSEC statement said that the return to positive growth was "driven by a strong recovery of exports of services, supposed by surging visitor arrivals amid government efforts to boost visitation, alongside steady private consumption".

The statement underlined that Macau's overall economic output in the second quarter corresponded to 88.8 percent of the total in the same period of pre-pandemic 2019.

Analysed by major components, total exports of services increased by 5.8 percent year-on-year in real terms in the second quarter, fuelled by a nearly 20 percent rise in visitor arrivals. As regards domestic demand, the bureau said, government final consumption expenditure and private consumption expenditure registered growth of 1.1 percent and 0.3 percent, respectively. On the other hand, gross fixed capital formation declined by 3.6 percent owing to a decrease in private construction projects.

For the first half of the year, the preliminary GDP figure expanded by 1.8 percent year-on-year in real terms to 200.14 billion patacas. The overall economic output corresponded to 87.0 percent of the total in the same period of pre-pandemic 2019.

Detailed results of the revised GDP for the second quarter of the year will be released on August 15.

### Jobless rate unchanged in Q2

Meanwhile, according to a separate DSEC statement, Macau's general unemployment rate (1.9 percent) and the jobless rate of local residents (2.5 percent) in the second quarter remained unchanged from the first quarter.

The general unemployment rate comprises local residents and non-resident workers (NRWs).

### Exports up 0.3 pct, imports down 4.8 pct in H1

Meanwhile, the bureau announced in a statement on Wednesday that while Macau's imports fell by 4.8 percent year on year to 60.5 billion patacas, its exports rose by 0.3 percent to 6.6 billion patacas, resulting in a merchandise trade deficit to 53.9 billion patacas.

Re-exports accounted for 89.2 percent of total exports in the first six months of the year.

Imports accounted for 90.1 percent of Macau's total trade in the first half.

Food and beverages continued to be Macau's top import segment, accounting for 18.4 percent of all imports.

Construction material imports dropped by 36.3 percent to 710.9 million patacas between January and June.

Most of Macau's imports originated from the Chinese mainland (29.6 percent), France (14.9 percent), and Italy (10.4 percent). All the other source markets recorded less than 10 percent of total imports. ■

## Police arrest self-proclaimed 'graffiti artist'

**Armindo Neves**

The Public Security Police (PSP) have arrested a local man for drawing graffiti on two traffic signal control boxes, PSP spokeswoman Kong Chi Ian said during a regular press conference.

The press conference was held at the Judiciary Police's (PJ) headquarters in Zape.

Kong identified the suspect as a waiter surnamed Choi in his twenties.

On July 18, according to Kong, Public Security Police officers patrolling the junction of Avenida do Conselheiro Borja (青州大馬路) and Avenida do Comendador Ho Yin (河賢紳士大馬路) in Ilha Verde district discovered a traffic signal control box that had been vandalised with graffiti.

On July 21, another act of vandalism was reported at the junction of Avenida do Almirante Lacerda (提督馬路) and Avenida do Ouvidor Arriaga (雅廉訪大馬路), where a second traffic signal control box was found similarly defaced, Kong said.

Kong said that using footage from CCTV cameras and the government's Transport Surveillance System, police officers identified Choi as the graffiti suspect. Choi was intercepted and detained last Thursday in Rua da Ressurreição (大三巴右街) near the Ruins of Saint Paul's.

Under interrogation, Choi said that he was a "graffiti artist" and confessed to vandalising multiple public facilities across Macau, including building exteriors, junction boxes, and the two

traffic light control box by using markers.

Kong said that Choi was transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), facing charges of causing aggravated property damage. ■



*This photo taken yesterday afternoon shows the traffic signal control box at the junction of Avenida do Conselheiro Borja and Avenida do Comendador Ho Yin vandalised by a self-proclaimed "graffiti artist".*

– Photo: Armindo Neves



# ‘Beyond the Frame: Int’l Contemporary Masterpiece’ opens at Sands Gallery



## Khalel Vallo

Sands Gallery has unveiled a collateral exhibition entitled “Beyond the Frame: International Contemporary Masterpiece” as part of Art Macao: International Art Biennale 2025 (commonly known as “Art Macao 2025”), featuring six acclaimed artists, according to a Sands Gallery statement.

The exhibition, which opened on Tuesday, explores how artistic boundaries are redefined through immersive and thought-provoking works across various media, the statement said.

“Beyond the Frame” brings together six renowned artists – Song Zhou, Bibi Lei, Jun Oson, GRAFFLEX, Ilya Milstein, and Jonni Cheatwood – to challenge traditional artistic boundaries through diverse media. The statement added that the exhibition features over 60 works, from paintings and sculptures to installations and mixed-media pieces, inviting audiences to engage directly with the visual language of contemporary art.

Sands Gallery has continuously met its role as a platform for “exchange, mutual inspiration, and elevation”, the statement noted, emphasising visual experimentation that transcends materiality, space, and cultural narratives to forge new artistic frontiers while retaining deeply personal creative realms.

The exhibition opened on Tuesday, inviting exhibitiongoers between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. to Sands Gallery, Level 6, The Grand Suites at Four Seasons, in Cotai. With free admission through October 15, the exhibition aims to reinforce Macau’s role as a cosmopolitan hub of contemporary art and international creative exchange.

*Photos taken on Wednesday by Rui Pastorin*





# HK's economy grows for 10<sup>th</sup> straight quarter as consumer, investor sentiment perks up

HONG KONG – Hong Kong's economy continued expansion in the second quarter of 2025, the 10<sup>th</sup> consecutive quarter of growth, as consumer and investor sentiment warmed, local data showed yesterday.

Advance estimates from the Census and Statistics Department of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) government showed that Hong Kong's real gross domestic product (GDP) rose by 3.1 percent year on year in Q2, picking up from the 3-percent rate registered in the first quarter.

Analysts and industry insiders said

that the solid Q2 growth was boosted by strong export performance and improved domestic demand, pointing to notable economic resilience.

Total exports of goods measured in national accounts terms recorded an increase of 11.5 percent over a year earlier as external demand retained steam, while bullish local stock market buoyed export of financial and business services, said a spokesperson for the HKSAR government.

"The strong goods export figure is a result of Hong Kong forging closer ties with the Chinese mainland market as well as other markets around the world. Its role as a global

trade hub remains unchanged," said Liang Haiming, chairman and chief economist of the China Silk Road iValley Research Institute.

Hong Kong boasts the world's biggest initial public offering (IPO) market and one of the best-performing stock markets by mid-July. The 52 IPOs raised HK\$124 billion in total.

Total market capitalization of the Hong Kong bourse came in at HK\$42.7 trillion in the first half of this year, up 33 percent year on year.

"The rising valuation of Chinese assets showed that global investors appreciate Chinese companies' ability to innovate," said Zhao

Yang, managing director of CICC Global Institute.

Another token of renewed investor confidence is capital inflow into the city. The number of registered funds reached 976 as of March 2025, with overall net inflows exceeding US\$44 billion, a year-on-year increase of 285 percent.

"Continued capital inflow, stock market upticks, as well as the HKSAR government's efforts to land mega events and high value-added tourism, have bolstered consumer sentiment," said Financial Secretary of the HKSAR government Paul Chan Mo-po.

Private consumption expenditure in Q2 increased by 1.9 percent after four consecutive quarters of decline, Thursday's data showed.

The long streak of steady GDP growth affirms global confidence toward Hong Kong's economy and creates a nurturing environment for its economic upgrade, especially in exploring new drivers like green finance, sci-tech innovation and high-end services, said Liang.

A report released by the HKSAR government on Wednesday showed that Hong Kong's core competitiveness is solid and new strengths are emerging. – Xinhua

## China steps up to the plate on climate

*China Daily Editorial*

In a major backtracking move, the United States government has fired the last of the staff members at the State Department's Office of Global Change, which oversees the country's international climate change negotiations. This means the world's largest historical polluter will possibly have no official presence at the 30<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, or COP30, scheduled to be held in Belém, Brazil, in November.

The event will provide representatives from 190 countries with a platform to try to foster consensus on how to reduce greenhouse gas emissions between now and 2035. It is considered to be one of the most consequential climate summits with a large bearing on the future of humanity. The absence of the US at the meeting will compromise the global efforts to address climate change.

A direct outcome of the US' withdrawal could be a shortage of the vital funding that spurs emissions reductions in other countries, and helps the most vulnerable communities to adapt to the mounting impacts of climate change. In 2023, the US announced a US\$3 billion pledge to the Green Climate Fund. And, given that the US is a high-tech superpower capable of providing solutions based on technology and innovation, its reversal on the climate agenda will make it more difficult for countries to try to slow the rising temperatures and deal with increasing extreme weather events.

The US' withdrawal also marks a major step back from the leading role it once played on climate change. The US is abandoning its responsibilities in the midst of a planetary emergency, as some observers said.

The US first committed to the Paris Agreement in a joint announcement with China in 2015. The legally binding international treaty, which entered into force in November 2016, aims to hold "the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 C above preindustrial levels".

Yet just one year later, the US withdrew from the treaty. The US rejoined the pact in 2021 and set the goal of cutting carbon emissions by at least half by 2030. But with the US pulling out of the Paris pact again and taking steps to boost fossil fuels and slow the growth of clean energy under the US leader's pro-drilling energy policy, the world again stands at a critical juncture as to how to work together to ramp up renewable energy and curb planet-warming gases in the face of the harsh reality of global warming.

Despite the challenges, China has remained steadfast in its commitment to green development and emerged as a major contributor to the global transition to renewable energy and the global fight against climate change. The country has been taking concrete steps toward its commitment to peak carbon emissions before 2030, and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060. Statistics show that China's energy consumption per unit of GDP decreased by 11.6 percent in the first

four years of the 14<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan (2021-25) period. A reduction that is equivalent to cutting 1.1 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions, nearly 50 percent of the European Union's total carbon emissions in 2024.

This attests to China's commitment to climate action. Despite the absence of robust US climate moves, China is determined to continue to work with other countries and international organizations to address the shared existential threat they confront. In a joint statement on climate change issued by China and the EU after their meeting in Beijing last week, the two sides reaffirmed their commitment to the Paris Agreement and called for strong action at the upcoming COP30. "In the fluid and turbulent international situation today, it is crucial that all countries, notably the major economies, maintain policy continuity and stability and step up efforts to address climate change," it said.

The US' withdrawal from the global climate agenda does not mean the end of the international community's endeavor to combat global warming. Rather, the global efforts aimed at creating a sustainable, resilient and low-carbon future that safeguards the planet that we call home will never cease.

The Paris Agreement demonstrates that countries with divergent interests can come together to address shared concerns that will affect them all. It survived the first US withdrawal eight years ago, and it will survive its second one.

– Courtesy of China Daily

## China seeks to deepen dialogue, consultations with US

BEIJING – China looks forward to deepening dialogue and consultations with the United States to seek more mutually beneficial outcomes, Ministry of Commerce (MOC) spokesperson He Yadong said yesterday.

The spokesperson made the remarks while responding to a media question about the recent China-US trade talks held in Stockholm, Sweden.

The two sides held candid, in-depth and constructive exchanges on China-US economic and

trade relations, macroeconomic policies, and other topics of mutual concern. Both sides reviewed and acknowledged the consensus reached in Geneva and implementation of the framework established in London, the spokesperson said.

Based on the consensus reached during the Stockholm talks, both sides will continue to push for extending the suspension of 24 percent of the US reciprocal tariffs, along with China's corresponding countermeasures, for an additional

90 days, he said.

The consensus is expected to help further stabilize China-US economic and trade relations and inject more certainty into global economic development and stability, he said.

China looks forward to working with the United States in accordance with the important consensus reached by the two heads of state to maximize the effectiveness of the bilateral economic and trade consultation mechanism, the spokesperson added. – Xinhua



Pakistani businessman Ali Kamran receives the business license for his company set up in Yiwu, Zhejiang Province, with his firm becoming the 10,000<sup>th</sup> foreign-funded company registered in the city yesterday. The city, which has about 1.9 million inhabitants, is best known for hosting the Yiwu International Trade City, the world's largest wholesale market for small commodities. – Xinhua

## State Council appoints new national security technical advisers for Macao SAR

BEIJING – The State Council yesterday announced that Liu Yu and Wang Qianjin have been appointed as national security technical advisers of the Committee for Safeguarding

National Security of the Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR).

Yin Shuhua was removed from the post, according to the State Council. – Xinhua, MPD





# China champions global cooperation on wetland conservation at COP15

Analysis by Xinhua writers Xu Zheng, Tafara Mugwara

VICTORIA FALLS, Zimbabwe – Amid growing global attention to wetland conservation, China’s efforts and achievements in this field are particularly eye-catching at the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (COP15), which concluded at the Victoria Falls yesterday.

From building the world’s largest number of international wetland cities to achieving legislative breakthroughs and forging capacity-building partnerships with other countries, China has embraced a comprehensive approach to wetland protection, deeply rooted in ecological civilization and its unwavering support for global efforts.

## SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS

At the height of summer, deep within the East Dongting Lake National Nature Reserve in central China’s Yueyang city, Hunan province, schools of fish swim freely in the lake, deer bound through the forests, and birds sing joyfully among the trees.

“We are proud to say that the wetlands are now the ecological calling cards of Yueyang,” said Yu Ge, a representative of the city who attended COP15 in the resort city of Victoria Falls in the Matabeleland North Province of Zimbabwe.

The COP15, themed “Protecting Wetlands for Our Common Future,” brought together government representatives to strengthen international commitments to wetland conservation and to highlight the vital role of wetlands in sustaining ecological health, biodiversity and climate resilience.

Yu actively promoted Yueyang at every event during his short stay in Zimbabwe, warmly inviting participants from different countries to explore the city. With approximately 285,200 hectares of wetlands, Yueyang has stepped up its conservation efforts in recent years and was officially recognized as an international wetland city at this year’s COP15.

A total of nine Chinese cities won the prestigious title during the meeting, bringing the total number of such cities in China to 22, the highest in the world, showcasing the country’s significant achievements in wetland conservation.

According to China’s National Forestry and Grassland Administration, China currently boasts 56.35 million hectares of wetlands, ranking fourth in the world. It is also home to 82 Wetlands of International Importance and five national parks.

Yan Zhen, deputy head of China’s National Forestry and Grassland Administration, said during the meeting that in recent years, China has continuously improved its legal



This photo taken on November 27, 2023 shows swans resting at a wetland in Yueyang City, Hunan Province. – Xinhua

and institutional framework for wetland conservation, comprehensively protected wetland ecosystems, and actively engaged in international cooperation, continuously contributing to global wetland protection efforts.

“Over the last 20 years, China has made significant progress in wetland conservation, marking a turning point that has led to a more balanced and sustainable relationship between humans and nature,” Yan said.

## SHINING EXAMPLE

China became a party to the Ramsar Convention in 1992 and hosted COP14 in 2022, during which it was elected as chair of the standing committee to lead the convention process for the following three years.

In an exclusive interview with Xinhua during COP15, Musonda Mumba, secretary general of the Convention on Wetlands, said she assumed the role six weeks before the opening of COP14 and felt “very fortunate” to start the journey with China. “China has provided leadership in making sure that all the draft resolutions made at COP14 were dealt with and delivered in a timely manner.”

China’s Wetland Protection Law, effective since June 2022, is the country’s first dedicated legislation on wetlands, providing a comprehensive legal framework for wetland conservation, restoration, management and sustainable use.

Hailing the law as a “shining example” to the world, Mumba said, “China is one of the very few countries that actually have a wetland law. And that for me is also incredibly impressive, because not only does the law talk about having inventory, having the right data, managing these wetland systems, it also talks

about the role of cities and why these cities matter.”

The success in wetland conservation has not only benefited China’s biodiversity, but also contributed to the health of cross-border ecosystems by integrating wetland protection with other environmental goals, such as migratory bird conservation, she noted.

Moreover, China’s efforts to raise awareness have sparked a significant increase in global interest in wetland conservation over the past years, she added.

“Indeed, if you look across the world, China has taken a leadership position in doing the right thing for wetlands,” Coenraad Krijger, CEO of Wetlands International, a global not-for-profit organisation, told Xinhua on the sidelines of COP15.

He applauded China for its leading role in the global wetland preservation agenda, noting that China’s status as a major investment partner in the world makes it a key player in safeguarding the health of wetland ecosystems.

“Through the trade relations that China has, and the investments that China has all over the world, [China] is also connected to [other] very important wetlands worldwide,” Krijger said.

While development is welcome, there is a need to maintain a balance between development and the health of wetlands, he said, adding that he is eager to visit Chinese wetland cities in the future to learn how they achieve urban development while reaping the benefits of preserving the wetlands.

## UNWAVERING COMMITMENT

In many rapidly developing regions of Africa, urban expansion has taken a toll on

wetlands, a growing issue that communities and policymakers are striving to address.

According to Wetlands International’s Director for East Africa Julie Mulonga, many African countries have policies in place to protect wetlands, but there is a lack of investment in implementation measures.

Local communities and indigenous knowledge play a crucial role in effectively driving wetland conservation efforts, she said, adding that China’s wetland management experience could provide a valuable reference and its advanced technology could go a long way in helping the continent achieve green development.

Over the years, China has been actively supporting many African countries in wetland governance through legislative exchanges, technical training and talent development, helping enhance their ability to restore and preserve wetlands.

Wetlands are crucial for ecological resilience, and their future hinges on unwavering international cooperation, said Xia Jun, director general of the International Cooperation Department at China’s National Forestry and Grassland Administration. “This profound understanding underpins China’s unwavering commitment to its conservation.”

In 2024, China launched the International Mangrove Center (IMC) in the southern city of Shenzhen to promote global mangrove conservation, sustainable use and international cooperation.

Xia described the IMC as a landmark initiative that reflects the spirit of global cooperation.

With the support of the IMC, the Mangrove Conservation Foundation, a private foundation based in China, has been carrying out programs in African countries such as Madagascar and Kenya to help preserve mangroves, which are vital coastal ecosystems along the continent’s shorelines, Sun Lili, co-founder and executive board chair of the foundation, told Xinhua.

Christine Colvin, Freshwater Policy Lead, WWF International, said: “This COP is really important in terms of setting goals for the next period, for the next decade, and the strategic plan for the contracting parties to Ramsar, and it prioritises international cooperation.”

Colvin said that China is demonstrating to municipalities and local governments around the world how to bring nature back into cities and design new urban areas that are more permeable, allowing the natural water cycle to function.

Commending China for leading the way in this field, the WWF official said they are looking forward to continuing cooperation with China to boost global efforts to preserve wetlands and build more permeable sponge cities. – Xinhua

## China unveils plan to boost football development, youth training

BEIJING – State Councilor Shen Yiqin announced yesterday a comprehensive plan by the Chinese government to enhance football development through a series of strategic measures, including the establishment of national and regional youth training centers.

Speaking at a national football development conference, Shen emphasized the critical focus on nurturing a robust national youth football system. This initiative aims to expedite the construction of youth training centers at all levels, promote football education within schools, and cultivate

high-level coaching talent.

Shen also highlighted other key initiatives, such as launching pilot programs in major football cities and western regions of China, fostering healthy development of professional leagues, and enhancing international exchanges. These efforts will be introduced progressively.

In addition, Shen said the central government is committed to increasing support for football in China and is also maintaining rigorous disciplinary inspection and anti-corruption measures within the industry. – Xinhua, MPD

## China to review, supervise CK Hutchison’s overseas ports deal in accordance with law: ministry

BEIJING – The Ministry of Commerce (MOC) said yesterday that the central government will conduct reviews and supervision on the sales of CK Hutchison Holdings Limited’s overseas port assets in accordance with the law.

The ministry’s spokesperson He Yadong made the remarks at a regular press conference when answering a

media query.

The central government will protect fair market competition, safeguard society’s public interests, and resolutely defend its national sovereignty, security and development interests, He said, adding that relevant Chinese authorities have issued multiple statements on the matter. – Xinhua



## Pacific Ocean should not be turned into a sea of zero-sum disturbances

**China Daily Editorial**

When asked how he proposed to balance his country's ties between the United States and China when facing the media in his meeting with the US president at the White House on Tuesday last week, Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos apparently intended to take advantage of his reply to curry favor with his US host.

But before Marcos finished his I-am-always-on-your-side ingratiation, his US counterpart's abrupt interjection obviously caught the Philippine president off guard.

That was because he had been told at the Pentagon one day earlier that the Philippines should continue to do the dirty work it has been doing in the South China Sea as a provoker of China.

But as predicted by many observers, Marcos' bewilderment proved to be short-lived, as just one week after his trip to the White House, his government made a bid to purchase US arms, pretending it has no choice but to do so for its own security.

Philippine Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr on Wednesday urged the country's Congress to amend the military's modernization program. "The challenge isn't just traditional threats anymore," he said in a panel discussion. "We now face asymmetric and hybrid threats, like cyberattacks and others."

The Philippines has launched a sweeping US\$35-billion military modernization program aimed at bolstering its defense capabilities over the next decade, including the acquisition of advanced naval vessels, planes and missile systems, in a move to push back against what it claims is China's "threat".

Meanwhile, Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief-of-Staff General Romeo Brawner Jr said in the same panel discussion that the military is enhancing its cyberwarfare capabilities, as he described cyberspace as a new frontier for conflict, adding "We will harness this not only to defend our country, but, if necessary, to be on the offense".

The Marcos government's to-do list is therefore no longer restricted to staging its look-at-the-bully farces in the South China Sea, and it is also acting as a US agent in the new frontier of cyberspace, laying bare the hypocrisy of its "China threat" theory.

In stark contrast with the long-term strategic restraint China has been practicing in handling the maritime disputes with the Philippines, Manila's moves only serve to expose to the world that it is a US puppet in the South China Sea.

The Marcos government's increased spending on military in the costly new frontier warfare will directly benefit the US military-industrial complex. That this happens when the Philippines faces no actual security threat in either conventional or the new cyber frontier only proves the Pentagon's success with its other AI tactic—"artificial intimidation".

The US applies similar tactics to its other regional allies and partners as well by hyping up a "China threat". Both Australia and Japan are being pressed to increase their purchases of US weapons.

In a move that experts said is undoubtedly "directed at China", the US Air Force's Resolute Force Pacific exercise from July 10 to Aug 8 has seen more than 400 aircraft and 12,000 personnel from the US and allies such as Australia and Japan converge on Guam.

The exercises in the Pacific come on the back of US Defense Under Secretary Elbridge Colby's recent comments, calling on allies, such as Australia and Japan, to make clear if they would commit troops to a conflict with the Chinese mainland over the Taiwan question.

Meanwhile, the US and Japan have been discussing a scenario, in which the US military would use nuclear weapons in the event of a contingency, during talks on so-called extended deterrence. It is the first time the two countries have delved into the issue, in a sign that they are seeking to strengthen the US nuclear umbrella amid what they allege is intensifying military activity by "hostile countries".

These are all desperate moves by the US to try and create a confrontational atmosphere reflecting the unwavering focus of its strategic emphasis on the Asia-Pacific. Moves that are detrimental to regional peace and stability.

The Pacific Ocean is a place of peace and should not be turned into a sea of artificial disturbances, as Chinese National Defense Ministry spokesperson Zhang Xiaogang said on Wednesday while taking questions on the US moves.

The US allies and partners in the Asia-Pacific should realize that threatening and undermining the security of other countries will not bring about their own security. Only by fostering a comprehensive, cooperative and lasting security perspective and embarking on a new security path based on dialogue rather than confrontation, partnership rather than alliance, and win-win rather than zero-sum strategies can the region truly ensure security.

— Courtesy of China Daily

## Xi signs order to unveil flag patterns of 4 PLA branches

BEIJING — Xi Jinping, chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC), has signed an order to unveil the flag patterns of four branches of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA), namely the aerospace force, cyberspace force, information support force and joint logistics support force.

On the occasion of China's Army Day that falls on August 1, Xi extended festive greetings to

service personnel of the PLA and the People's Armed Police Force, civilian personnel posted in the military, and members of reserve forces and militia.

The release of the branch flags marks the establishment of a military flag system of the people's army in the new era, comprising the PLA flag, the flags of the army, navy, air force and rocket force, as well as the flags of the aerospace force, cyberspace force, information

support force and joint logistics support force.

The branch flags will be put into official use starting today.

The CMC has issued a decision to adjust the current trial regulations on the administration of military flags, revising provisions on the types and usage of military flags to standardize their management and safeguard their dignity through legal measures, according to the statement.

— Xinhua



This photo taken on Wednesday shows a wind power off-grid hydrogen production project at a hydrogen energy technology company in Tieling County, Liaoning Province. In recent years, Tieling has worked to promote green energy industries including wind power, photovoltaic power, hydrogen energy, so as to make progress in high-quality development of the regional economy.

— Xinhua

## Defense chief reiterates PLA's readiness for national reunification at Army Day reception

BEIJING — Defense Minister Dong Jun said yesterday that the Chinese military is always ready to pursue the goal of China's complete reunification, pledging resolute efforts to thwart any separatist attempts seeking "Taiwan independence" and foil any military interference by external forces.

Dong made the remarks at a large reception that the Ministry of National Defense held in Beijing to celebrate the 98th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA), which will be observed on Aug. 1.

This year marks the 80th anniversary of victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War, as well as the 80th anniversary of Taiwan's restoration and the 80th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, Dong said.

On September 3, China will hold a military parade in Beijing's Tian'anmen Square to celebrate the anniversary of victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War.

Dong said the parade will

demonstrate to the Party and the Chinese people that the PLA is a force that safeguards peace and justice, and that excels in military strength.

He also noted that the Chinese military is willing to work with its counterparts in all countries around the world to achieve the vision of a community with a shared future for humanity and the three major global initiatives, address risks and challenges, and build a world with lasting peace, universal security, common prosperity, openness and inclusivity, and a clean and beautiful environment.

— Xinhua

## China calls on EU to provide fair, just, non-discriminatory business environment for Chinese firms

BEIJING — China calls on the European Union (EU) to provide a fair, just and non-discriminatory business environment for Chinese companies seeking to invest and operate in Europe, a spokesperson for the Ministry of Commerce (MOC) said yesterday.

China hopes the EU will keep its market open, take the concerns

of Chinese companies seriously, and exercise restraint in the implementation of restrictive trade measures, said commerce ministry spokesperson He Yadong at a regular press conference.

He stressed that China will continue to expand high-level opening-up, improve its business environment, fully ensure national

treatment for foreign investors, and strengthen intellectual property protection, in order to provide sound services for foreign companies.

China welcomes more European enterprises to invest in China, further explore the Chinese market and share its development opportunities, the spokesperson added.

— Xinhua