

# Exhibition marks 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Victory Over Japanese Aggression, Fascism



Macau SAR Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai addresses the opening ceremony of the Exhibition Commemorating the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War, at the Forum Macao complex in Nam Van yesterday. – Xinhua



Liaison Office Director of the Central People's Government in the Macau SAR Zheng Xincong addresses yesterday morning's opening ceremony, at the Forum Macao complex. – Xinhua

## Armando Neves

The government of the Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR) held a solemn opening ceremony yesterday for a monthlong exhibition commemorating the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War.

The exhibition is officially titled "For National Liberation and World Peace – Exhibition of the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Victory of the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War". It will run until September 24.

The opening ceremony was held at the Grand Hall of the Complex of Commerce and Trade Cooperation Platform for China and Portuguese-speaking Countries in Nam Van.

Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai and Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the MSAR Zheng Xincong addressed the ceremony, which was also attended by Macau-based Foreign Affairs Ministry Commissioner Liu Xianfa, PLA Garrison Political Commissar Lin Qinghua, Legislative Assembly (AL) President Kou Hoi In, Court of Final Appeal (TUI) President Song Man Lei, Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Wallis O Lam and other senior local government

officials and civic leaders, as well as senior officials of the central government.

The exhibition is supported by the Museum of the War of Chinese People's Resistance Against Japanese Aggression.

In his address, Sam paid tribute to the martyrs of the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression. Sam emphasised that compatriots in Macau shared the nation's destiny throughout the fourteen-year war, writing a unique chapter in history through their patriotic and salvation-driven actions.

According to Sam, President Xi Jinping has previously pointed out that "history is

the best textbook, as well as the best dose of sobriety". Sam also pointed out that the spirit of the War of Resistance remains a vital force for national rejuvenation and called for embracing the challenges of the new era with patriotism and love for Macau.

He urged steadfast adherence to the "One Country, Two Systems" principle, thereby contributing Macau's strength to the nation's revival. The exhibition aims to remind civil society to remember history, cherish peace, and especially inspire Macau's youth to carry forward the patriotic spirit, Sam said.

*Continued on p.3*

## Netanyahu says Israel 'regrets tragic mishap' after Gaza reporters killed

JERUSALEM – Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu expressed his regret yesterday for a strike that killed 20 people, including five journalists, at a hospital in the Gaza Strip.

"Israel deeply regrets the tragic mishap that occurred today at the Nasser Hospital in Gaza," the

premier said in a statement released by his office, adding: "Israel values the work of journalists, medical staff, and all civilians."

Contributors for Reuters, the Associated Press and Al Jazeera were killed in the strike, the three news agencies have said. – (More on p.10) – AFP

## Syria says will remove two zeros in currency revamp

DAMASCUS – Syria's central bank governor Abdul Qadir al-Hasriya said yesterday that his country would change its currency by removing two zeros and printing new banknotes to replace those issued under ousted ruler Bashar al-Assad.

Since the start of Syria's civil war in 2011, the pound has plunged from 50 to about 10,000-11,000 against the US dollar, and Syrians are forced to carry huge wads of banknotes even for basic

needs like grocery shopping.

Removing two zeros "is a very important matter and... will not impact the currency's value", Hasriya said in an interview on state television.

He said the old banknotes would simply replace the new ones, avoiding further inflation in a country battered by soaring prices since the war and years of economic sanctions.

"We will not increase the cash supply, but will replace the

existing cash supply," he said.

"Changing the national currency is a sign of financial liberation after political liberation and the fall of the former regime," Hasriya added.

Improving the standing of the Syrian pound is among the greatest challenges for Syria's new authorities after ousting Assad, whose image and that of his father Hafez who ruled before him appear on some denominations of banknotes. – AFP

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## World's tallest bridge passes crucial test, promises connectivity

The karst mountains of Guizhou Province feature ravines so deep that locals call them "the Earth's cracks." At Huajiang Town, the Beipan River carves one such gorge, which once marked the limits of human passage. – Story on p. 6

## Trump tightens grip on security in US capital

US President Donald Trump yesterday announced new measures that tightened his grip on security in Washington, a day after National Guard troops began carrying weapons in the US capital. – Story on p. 11

## Portugal counts the cost of its biggest ever forest fire

Nearly 1,000 firefighters remained mobilised yesterday in central Portugal to prevent flare-ups of what authorities said was the biggest forest fire the country has seen. – Story on p. 12



# Macau Customs busts 4 smuggling cases, 5 smugglers in 3 days

Armindo Neves

The Macau Customs Service announced in a statement on Sunday that its officers have busted four smuggling cases in three days.

According to the statement, customs officers seized a total 208 kilogrammes of uninspected fruit, 30 used smart phones, 20 computer hard drives and two bottles of Mou Tai last week.

Local customs identified the five smugglers as being aged 32 and 35-year-old from the Chinese mainland and local residents.

On Tuesday, Macau customs officers at the Barrier Gate checkpoint noticed a woman and a man each with an abnormally stiff gait. An inspection revealed 10 computer hard drives were hidden in the man's umbrella and two bottles of Mou Tai concealed in a plastic bag the women's had recycled from another food item, as well as 10 computer hard drives wrapped around the man's abdomen and in his trouser pockets, to be smuggled into the mainland.

Meanwhile, on Thursday, customs officers at the Barrier Gate checkpoint noticed a man with a bulging waist. An inspection revealed 30 used smart phones

wrapped around his abdomen, to be smuggled into the mainland.

Moreover, on Thursday, Macau customs officers at the Barrier Gate intercepted a cross-border lorry in the inbound lane. An inspection revealed 208 kilogrammes of uninspected fruit to be smuggled into Macau, resulting in the arrest of a woman and man.

According to Macau's External Trade Law, the three people who smuggled electronic products and liquor face a maximum fine of 50,000 patacas each, while the seized contraband has been confiscated. The case involving the fruit smuggler has been transferred to the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) for further investigation and disposal of the fruit.

## Zhuhai Customs seizes 27 tonnes of plastic pellets

Meanwhile, Zhuhai Wanzai Customs announced in a statement yesterday that its officers at the Hongwan Port cargo entry channel intercepted a batch of plastic pellets. The shipment, identified as solid waste prohibited from entering the country by national regulations, weighed 27 tonnes.

In April, according to the statement, a company declared a shipment of "recycled polystyrene pellets" imported from Thailand to Wanzai Customs. During an on-site inspection, customs officers found that the pellets were uneven in size, had rough cuts, and emitted a pungent odour, raising suspicions that they might be solid waste. Samples were subsequently taken and sent for laboratory analysis. On July 12, the Guangzhou Customs Technology Centre confirmed that the pellets were indeed solid waste. The shipment has now been returned to its origin.

According to the "Solid Waste Pollution Prevention and Control Law of the People's Republic of China", the import of solid waste in any form is prohibited. Besides, the law forbids the dumping, stacking, or disposal of solid waste from outside the Chinese mainland. Those who violate these regulations, the customs authorities will order the return of the waste to their country of origin and impose heavy fines; if the incident constitutes a crime, criminal liability will be pursued in accordance with the law. ■



This undated handout photo provided by Macau Customs Service on Sunday shows 10 computer hard drives and two bottles of Mou Tai seized by custom officers at the Barrier Gate checkpoint.



This undated handout photo provided by Zhuhai Wanzai Customs yesterday shows 27 tonnes of plastic pellets in bags seized by customs officers at Hongwan Port.

## Macau logs this year 9<sup>th</sup> imported chikungunya case

Tony Wong

Macau recorded this year's ninth imported case of chikungunya fever yesterday, the Health Bureau (SSM) announced in a statement last night.

According to the statement, the patient is a 53-year-old local man who works in Macau but lives in the neighbouring city of Zhuhai.

The statement did not identify the man's workplace in Macau.

According to the statement, the man told the Health Bureau that he was in Zhuhai throughout the whole period between Thursday and Sunday without travelling to Macau, during which he came down with muscle and joint pain in his arms and legs on Thursday before developing a rash on his face and back on Sunday.

The man returned to Macau yesterday where he sought treatment at the Fai Chi Kei

Health Centre, after which he was diagnosed with chikungunya fever by the Health Bureau's Public Health Laboratory.

After receiving treatment at the public health centre in Fai Chi Kei district, according to the statement, the man has meanwhile returned to Zhuhai.

The man was in a stable condition at the time of last night's statement.

The statement underlined that the Macau Health Bureau has classified the man's case as a chikungunya case imported into Macau after considering his place of residence and the time of the onset of his symptoms, as well as its laboratory test results.

In response to the man's case, the bureau has launched special mosquito eradication operations in the vicinity of the Fai Chi Kei Health Centre as a precautionary measure. ■

## 17 cheated out of 3.4 million patacas in 'Taobao' phone scams: police

Ada Lei

Sixteen locals and a mainlander have fallen victim to scam calls impersonating customer service representatives from "Taobao", resulting in a total loss of 3.4 million patacas, Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Chao Teng Hin said during a regular press conference yesterday.

Chao said that the victims, aged between 18 and 70, comprise 10 female and six male local residents, along with a female mainlander.

According to Chao, the police received 17 separate reports from the victims between Friday and Sunday. Chao said that the victims had received calls from Thursday to Saturday from individuals impersonating "Taobao" customer service representatives. The scammers falsely claimed that the victims' "funds security insurance" had expired and then transferred the calls to another "customer service

agent", purportedly to assist them with cancellation procedures.

During these calls, the victims were instructed to click on specific website links while providing their bank accounts and personal information. The fraudsters then used the pretext of "verifying whether the account belonged to the victim" to request screen sharing during transactions. Some victims were even asked to take screenshots of transaction details and send them to the scammers.

Ultimately, all victims experienced unauthorised transfers and spending activities of varying amounts in their bank accounts and credit cards. Among them, an elderly local woman suffered the largest loss, totalling 1.3 million patacas, while the smallest individual loss was 3,000 patacas. Suspecting they had been scammed, finally they reported the cases to the police between Friday and Sunday. ■



Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Chao Teng Hin looks on during yesterday's regular press conference.

— Photo: Ada Lei

## 5 women fall victim to concert ticket scams: police

Ada Lei

Four young women and a middle-aged woman have separately fallen victim to concert ticket scams related to the same music event, resulting in a total loss of 12,668 yuan (14,110 patacas), Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Chao Teng Hin said during a regular press conference yesterday.

According to Chao, the police received reports from the five victims between Saturday and

Sunday. The victims told the police that they had been defrauded while attempting to purchase tickets for an international music event recently held at a resort in Cotai. The victims learnt about the ticket sales through online platforms or social media and proactively contacted the "seller", who also used these channels to negotiate ticket prices.

After transferring the specified amounts as instructed, the victims never received their tickets. On the

day of the concert, when they tried to reach the "seller" to request the tickets, they discovered that they had been blocked and that the "seller" was unreachable.

Suspecting they had been scammed, the victims separately reported the cases to the police on Saturday and Sunday. Chao noted that the total amount lost was 12,668 yuan, with the highest individual loss being 6,000 yuan and the lowest 971 yuan. ■

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### Macau Weather

CLOUDY APART FROM SUNNY PERIODS.  
A FEW SHOWERS AT FIRST.  
FORCE 3 TO 4 EASTERLY WINDS.  
RELATIVE HUMIDITY WILL  
RANGE BETWEEN 60% AND 95%.



26°C~32°C

Source: SMG



## Exhibition marks 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Victory Over Japanese Aggression, Fascism

*Continued from p.1*

Sam underlined that a series of activities will be held to engage local residents, especially the younger generation, in recalling the nation's hardships and glory, honouring the sacrifices of their predecessors, and transforming historical memory into a source of strength.

Meanwhile, Zheng said that his office was paying deep tribute to the war's martyrs and honouring all the patriotic compatriots.

Zheng pointed out that the exhibition highlights the brave deeds of local citizens during the war, who participated with unwavering devotion in national salvation efforts and frontline support, demonstrating their profound patriotic commitment and national righteousness.

Zheng also said that it was imperative to promote the great spirit of the War of Resistance. He emphasised that Macau needs to focus on economic development, plan for growth, continue to forge new paths forward, steadfastly implement the "One Country, Two Systems" principle, safeguard national security, advance Macau's high-quality development, inspire youth to inherit revolutionary traditions, and shoulder the mission of national rejuvenation by collectively writing a new Macau chapter in the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

Looking back at the War of Resistance, Zhen expressed hope that all sectors of local society will carry forward the great spirit of resistance. He also encouraged Macau's youth to become builders and successors of the "One Country, Two Systems" principle for a stronger motherland and better Macau.

During the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War, Macau's then Portuguese

administration maintained neutrality in the conflict. While Hong Kong was occupied by the Japanese in 1941, they imposed indirect control over Macau through naval blockades and economic pressure between 1943 and 1945.

Irrespective of Portugal's proclaimed neutrality in the war, many Macau residents risked their lives to help the nation fight the Japanese aggression, historians have pointed out.

According to historical records, about 35 million Chinese military personnel and civilians were killed or wounded during this war between September 18, 1931\* and September 2, 1945.

According to an introductory presentation held during the ceremony, the exhibition showcases the arduous 14-year history of the War of Resistance through rare historical photographs and video materials, interpreting the significance of the victory and conveying its core ideals. It focuses on Macau's contributions and support efforts during the war, highlighting the profound connection between Macau and the people of the entire nation and carrying the message of "remembering history, honouring martyrs, cherishing peace, and creating the future".

Admission to the exhibition, which is open daily from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., is free of charge.

For further details, please refer to the dedicated thematic website. <https://www.kzsl80.gov.mo/?s=a&p=0&l=zhhant> ■

*\*On September 18, 1931, the "Mukden Incident" occurred, when Japanese forces staged an explosion on a railway line in Manchuria and used it as a pretext to invade and occupy all of Northeast China. This is widely considered the start of Japan's murderous aggression against China.*

## USJ visits Assumption University in Bangkok to advance collaboration

**Kristina Vallesteros**

A delegation from the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) recently visited Assumption University (AU) in Bangkok for a two-day exchange to discuss their academic partnership, according to a recent statement on the private Catholic university's website.

The visit to Assumption University's Albert Laurence School of Communication Arts, which took place on August 14-15, was led by USJ Vice-Rector for Internationalisation and Academic Affairs, Prof. Álvaro Barbosa. The delegation focused on developing initiatives for students and academics at both institutions, the statement said.

Discussions during the visit included advancing plans for joint academic programmes such as dual-degrees, short-term courses, and student exchanges, according to the statement. The statement noted that the geographic proximity of Macau and Thailand was seen as a factor that could make such exchanges more "accessible and economical".

During the two-day visit, a workshop on AI-powered video creation was conducted by USJ Prof. João Brochado for AU students and faculty, the statement said. The session provided hands-on experience with new tools and facilitated dialogue between students, the statement noted.

The USJ delegation also toured AU's communication facilities during the visit, gaining insights into media education standards, said the statement. The interactions, according to the statement, reinforced the importance of global perspectives in academia.

The statement indicated that both institutions, having setup a formal relationship through a 2023 agreement, are now preparing to launch a series of joint initiatives. USJ also thanked the Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ) for providing funding support for the exchange.

Both USJ and AU are private Catholic tertiary education institutions. ■

## Sam presents medals to families of martyrs of War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression

**Tony Wong**

Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai yesterday presented commemorative medals to the local families of two national martyrs who participated in the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression in a ceremony, during which he said in a speech that the local government's awarding of the medals aims to express reverence for the heroes of the war, promote the great spirit of patriotism and the great spirit of the War of Resistance, and demonstrate Macau compatriots' firm confidence in "remembering history, honouring martyrs, cherishing peace, and creating a great future".

To mark the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War this year, the nation will hold a grand military parade in Beijing next Wednesday, September 3.

In addition to Sam, yesterday's ceremony, held at the Macau Cultural Centre (CCM), was also attended by other dignitaries such as Central People's Government Liaison Office in Macau Director Zheng Xincong, Foreign Ministry Commissioner Liu Xianfa, Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Macau Garrison Deputy Commander Dai Jinsong, Macau Legislative Assembly (AL) President Kou Hoi In, and Court of Final Appeal (TUI) President Song Man Lei.

All of the local government's five policy secretaries also attended the ceremony.

In his speech yesterday, Sam noted that the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression was the war in which the Chinese people resisted foreign invasion with the longest duration, the largest scale, and the greatest sacrifices since modern times, adding that "our predecessors" made tremendous sacrifices for the victory in the war and great contributions to the World Anti-Fascist War.

Sam said that the victory in the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression was a great victory in which the Communist Party of China (CPC) played the role of the mainstay. At critical historical moments concerning national survival, Sam noted, the Party courageously fought on the front lines of the War of Resistance, and with outstanding political leadership and correct strategies, the Party proposed and implemented the general strategic principle of protracted war and the systematic strategies and tactics of people's war.

Holding high the banner of the national united front against Japanese aggression, Sam said, the Party persisted in extensively mobilising and closely relying on the people, maintained the overall situation of a united war of



Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai shakes hands with Ng Cheng Wa, daughter of martyr Wu Fengyu, after presenting a commemorative medal to her during yesterday's ceremony at the Macau Cultural Centre (CCM) in Nape.

— Photos: GCS



Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai shakes hands with Leong Fong Man, daughter-in-law of martyr Cai Jun, after presenting a commemorative medal to her at the Macau Cultural Centre (CCM) yesterday.

— Photos: GCS

resistance, guided the direction of the War of Resistance, and achieved the great feat of uniting the entire Chinese nation "with one heart and one mind" to save the nation from subjugation and to defend peace.

Sam said that the spirit of the War of Resistance is the great national spirit forged by the Chinese people during their War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression, and it is a precious spiritual wealth of the Chinese nation and has always inspired the Chinese people to advance courageously on the path of national rejuvenation.

Nowadays, 80 years after the victory in the War of Resistance, Sam said, the country has achieved remarkable accomplishments in various aspects such as politics, people's daily lives, economy, technology, and international status, adding that the Chinese people are now closer than ever before in the history to realising the goal of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

Sam noted that although compatriots in Macau lived under "special circumstances" during the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression, they always kept the motherland in their hearts and vigorously supported the War of Resistance in various ways.

Formally, unlike Hong Kong, Macau was not invaded by Japanese troops during the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression. Portugal, which ruled Macau at that time, maintained a neutral position during the war.

Sam said that "we cannot forget" the moving stories of the resistance by the vast number of Macau compatriots in the "Pearl River

Column" under the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC), and "we cannot forget" the heroic footprints left in Macau by General Ye Ting, the people's musician Xian Xinghai, and other predecessors of the War of Resistance.

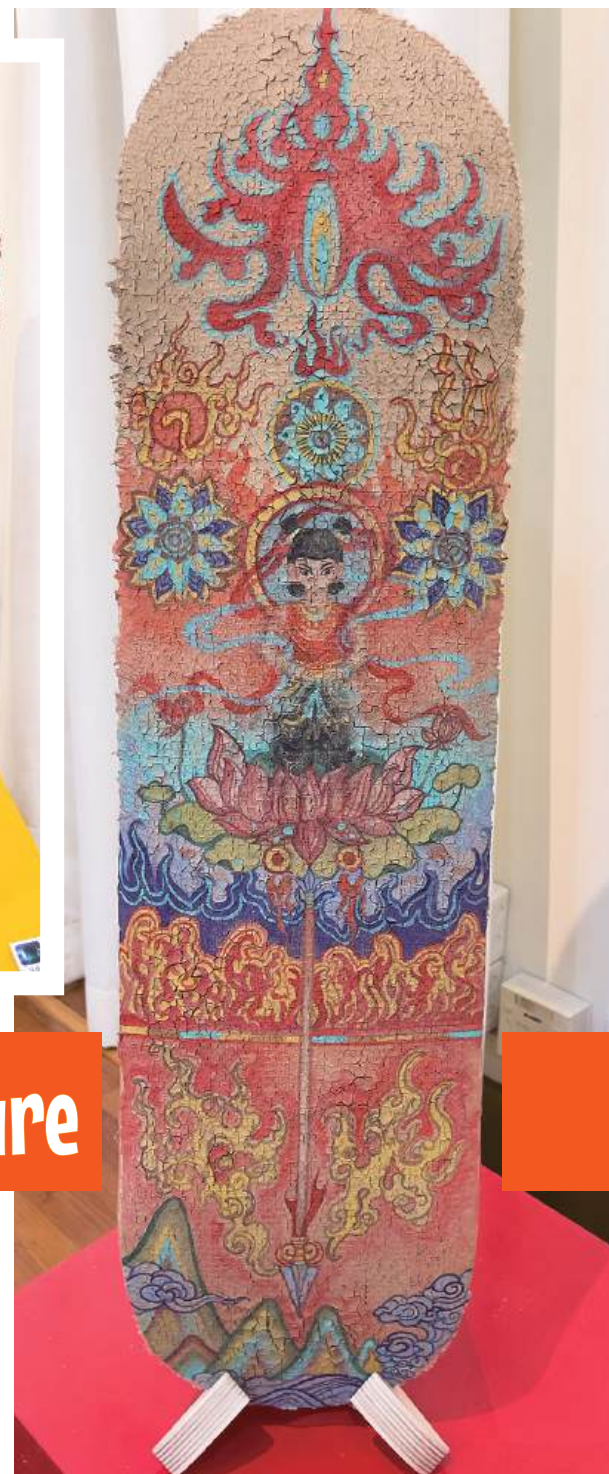
At the critical moment of the Chinese nation's fight for survival, Sam said, the vast number of Macau compatriots used practical actions to demonstrate the close relationship between Macau and the motherland, demonstrating their strong sense of belonging to the nation and strong sense of mission and responsibility, providing a vivid annotation of the great spirit of the War of Resistance.

During yesterday's ceremony, Sam presented commemorative medals to Ng Cheng Wa, a family member of martyr Wu Fengyu, and Leong Fong Man, a family member of martyr Cai Jun, honouring their forebears' bravery and symbolising the nation's profound respect for the families of martyrs.

According to information provided by the government during yesterday's ceremony, Ng is a daughter of martyr Wu from Guangdong, who joined the East River Column during the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression. During the War of Liberation, which lasted from 1945 to 1949, he was responsible for escorting supplies. In 1948, he heroically sacrificed his life while carrying out a mission, at the age of 30.

Leong is the daughter-in-law of martyr Cai from Guangdong, who joined the peasant movement in 1923 and later served as secretary of a special committee of the Communist Youth League. He was tragically executed in Guangzhou in 1932, at the age of 22. ■





## Skateboard art incorporates Chinese culture

**Armindo Neves**

All those who are passionate about skateboarding and Chinese culture will have the opportunity to visit an exhibition entitled "Skating the Greater Bay Area."

Spanning 10 Fantasia gallery's rooms C01 and C02, the exhibits primarily focus on depictions of traditional Chinese cultural emblems such as protection deities Nezha and Guanyin, as well as Cantonese opera, painted on the underside of skateboards.

On the information board at the exhibition venue, the curator says in a message that the exhibition showcases the creativity and talent of young artists from the three regions of the Greater Bay Area (GBA), conveying the cultural vitality and innovative spirit of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau conurbation.

In the message, the curator also states that there are plans to take the exhibition to the host city of the Los Angeles Olympics, introducing the creative works of the GBA to a global audience. The exhibition aims to transform skateboards into a bridge connecting cultures, revitalising intangible cultural heritage through contemporary art.

The skateboard, according to Wikipedia, was born during the 1950s California surf culture. Skateboards

were first homemade "sidewalk surfers" with roller skate wheels. The 1970s urethane wheel revolution allowed for faster speeds and tricks.

Skateboarding exploded with the vert ramp craze, then evolved again in the 1980s with street skating's technical tricks. From backyard pools to the Olympic Games, it has grown from a simple pastime into a global athletic and cultural force.

Skateboard art, according to DeepSeek, is the graphic design and illustration applied to the bottom of skateboard decks. It evolved from the 1950s surf culture into a powerful form of cultural expression, reflecting skateboarding's rebellious spirit through punk aggression, subversive 90s humour, and modern diverse styles. It transforms the functional deck into a canvas for identity and art.

Exhibitiongoers may visit the free-admission gallery located on Calçada da Igreja de S. Lázaro (瘋堂斜巷) from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. until Thursday. More information can be found on the 10 Fantasia Facebook page or website.



Photos: Armindo Neves





## 'MICAFA Fun Day' brings grand finale to CCM Plaza

**Khalel Vallo**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Macao International Children's Arts Festival (MICAFA) is presenting its grand finale, the "MICAFA Fun Day" Arts Carnival, at the CCM Plaza over two consecutive weekends, featuring splash parties, interactive performances, workshops, and family activities, according to a Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) statement on Saturday.

This coming weekend will mark the conclusion of the "MICAFA Fun Day" Arts Carnival. MICAFA, which began on July 4, will end next Monday, September 1.

Organised by IC under the patronage of the Secretariat for Social Affairs and Culture, and co-organised with Sands China Limited and various other partners, the "MICAFA Fun Day" turns the plaza into a summer wonderland with inflatable installations, splash sprinklers, and engaging experiences for both adults and children, the bureau said.

Popular events such as the "Water Fun Party" and "Foam Party" have returned this year alongside new features, including food stalls, kids' corners, workshops, and a "Talent Show", the statement noted.

The bureau added that guests from government entities, cultural institutions, and corporate partners will visit booths and join the lively atmosphere on Saturday. Highlights also include outdoor concerts presented by the Macau Band Directors Association, screenings of animation shorts, and special appearances by festival mascots "MICAFA", "Mak Mak", and National Games mascots "Xiyangyang" ("Joyful") and "Lerongrong" ("Happy Harmony").

According to the statement, admission to the "MICAFA Fun Day" is free. Registration for selected activities opens at 12 p.m. tomorrow at [www.icm.gov.mo/micaf](http://www.icm.gov.mo/micaf), with limited walk-in quotas available.

Meanwhile, the "MICAFA, Where Are You?" Magical Mark Collection and the "Child Fun Upgrade Magic" draw, according to the statement, offer participants chances to win prizes, including round-trip Air Macau tickets and BOC electronic vouchers, with results to be announced on the bureau's Facebook page after the final draw at the end of the month. ■



This undated handout photo provided by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) shows the "MICAFA" mascot and the National Games' "Xiyangyang" ("Joyful") and "Lerongrong" ("Happy Harmony") mascots during this past weekend's "MICAFA Fun Day" Arts Carnival.

## Sands China, MSO organise GBA Badminton Invitational



This handout photo taken on August 9 and provided on Thursday by Sands China shows athletes and volunteers posing with guests and representatives during the one-day 2025 MSO Sands China Cup - Greater Bay Area Badminton Invitational.

**Rui Pastorin**

2025 MSO Sands China Cup - Greater Bay Area Badminton Invitational took place at the Macao East Asia Games Dome in Cotai on August 9, with the debut of the one-day tournament having gathered over 200 athletes from Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau, according to a statement from integrated resort operator Sands China on Thursday.

Athletes comprised those from the Guangdong Special Olympics Badminton Team, Special Olympics Hong Kong Team, and Macau Special Olympics (MSO), the statement said. Assistance was also provided by 60 volunteers including Sands Cares Ambassadors, the Scout Association of Macau, Macau Baptist College, and the MSO Ambassador programme, the statement noted.

The recent tournament featured over 90 matches, with 25 awards, sponsored by Sands China, presented. It was held in line with the 12<sup>th</sup> National Games for Persons with Disabilities and the 9<sup>th</sup> National Special Olympic Games slated for December.

Accommodation at The Londoner Grand and a tour of its resorts for the Guangdong and Hong Kong teams, among other activities, were also organised by the company.

The statement quoted Sands China Executive Vice Chairman Wilfred Wong Ying-wai as saying: "For 11 years now, we have been privileged to support the Macau Special Olympics Healthy Athletes programme, as we continue to promote inclusion, sports and public health by providing vital resources and support to the MSO athletes".

Wong added that the tournament demonstrates the "boundless nature" of sport and "provides a valuable cross-regional platform for skills exchange among athletes".

Sands China has supported the programme, which has provided over 7,000 health screenings for individuals with intellectual disabilities in Macau and funded follow-up medical care for over 850 individual, since 2014.

Sands China also recently held two community events to expand the programme's services into the Greater Bay Area (GBA), the

statement said, holding "a series of health screenings for athletes slated to compete in the National Special Olympic Games", hoping to raise "public awareness of the physical and mental health development of people with intellectual disabilities".

These comprised the 2025 Greater Bay Area Special Needs Healthcare Day on June 20 at Guangdong Lingnan Modern Technician College, and the 2025 Special Olympics Community - Healthy Athletes Programme on July 12 at Escola São Paulo in which nearly 100 individuals with intellectual disabilities participated.

The July 12 event also saw Sands present a ceremonial cheque for 708,700 patacas to MSO towards three key areas: continuing the company's funding of the programme, helping the Macau Special Olympics Badminton Team prepare for the National Games for Persons with Disabilities and the National Special Olympics Games; and it also helped sponsor the MSO Sands China Cup and funded a professional pre-competition training programme. ■

## Over 100 experts gather at UM for 5<sup>th</sup> Macao Int'l Conference on Smart City Technologies

**Khalel Vallo**

The University of Macau's (UM) State Key Laboratory of Internet of Things (IoT) for Smart City (SKL-IOTSC) hosted the 5<sup>th</sup> Macao International Conference on Smart City Technologies on August 19-22, drawing over 100 experts and scholars from home and abroad to exchange knowledge on AI-driven urban innovation, according to a UM statement on Friday.

Themed "Intelligent Synergy: AI-Driven Innovation for Smarter Urban Futures", the conference focused on strategies, interdisciplinary theories, and key technologies for smart city development, the statement said.

Yonghua Song (aka Song Yonghua), UM rector and director of SKL-IOTSC, served as general chair and highlighted in his opening remarks the vital role of AI and Internet of Things technologies in disaster prevention, mitigation, and

urban resilience, the statement said. Song stressed that the conference provided an important platform for professionals to share experiences and foster collaboration between academia and industry.

The statement added that keynote speakers included Prof. Dipti Srinivasan from the National University of Singapore, Prof. Yu Yizhou from The University of Hong Kong, Prof. Sethu Vijayakumar from the University of Edinburgh, and Prof. Claudio Cañizares from the University of Waterloo in Canada. A panel discussion moderated by UM Associate Professor Yang Dingqi on "AI-Driven Innovation for Smarter Urban Futures: Opportunities and Challenges" also engaged the attending scholars, according to the statement.

As in previous editions, the conference featured exchanges on artificial intelligence (AI), big data,

robotics, smart energy, intelligent transportation, and disaster prevention, presenting the latest research outcomes and projects in smart city development, the statement added.

The conference was jointly organised by UM's Faculty of Science and Technology (FST), the Macao Science and Technology Development Fund (FDCT), and other partners. The event was also supported by various government entities and attended by officials including FDCT President U U Sang, Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau Director Leong Weng Kun, Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) Vice President Choi Kin Long, Economic and Technological Development Bureau (DSED) Technology Department Chief Iong Nin Fai, and Macao Post and Telecommunications Bureau (CTT) Acting Department Chief Lei Kuong Leong. ■



This undated handout photo provided by the University of Macau (UM) on Friday shows UM Rector Director of SKL-IOTSC Yongshua Song, delivering his opening remarks during the 5<sup>th</sup> Macao International Conference on Smart City Technologies last week.



# Govt to ban import of plastic cottonwool buds, balloon sticks & inflatable cheer sticks from 2026

*Swabs for sampling purposes to be exempted*

**Tony Wong**

The Macau government announced yesterday that the import of three more types of single-use plastic products will be banned from the beginning of next year, namely cottonwool buds except swabs used for sampling purposes, balloon sticks, and inflatable cheer sticks.

The announcement was made through an executive order by Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai published in the Official Gazette (BO) yesterday. The order, which was signed by Sam on August 14, will take effect on January 1, 2026.

The government has banned the import of single-use Styrofoam meal boxes, bowls, cups and plates since January 1, 2021, the import of single-use non-biodegradable plastic drinking straws and drink stirrers since January 1, 2022, the import of single-use non-biodegradable plastic knives, forks and spoons since January 1, 2023, and the import of single-use non-biodegradable plastic plates and cups as well as single-use Styrofoam



**Packs of cottonwool buds are displayed on the shelf of a pharmacy in the city centre yesterday.**

— Photo: Tony Wong

food trays since January 1, 2024.

The Environmental Protection Bureau (DSPA) underlined in a follow-up statement yesterday that the government has decided to ban the import of the three more types of single-use plastic products after considering Macau's real situation, the availability of alternative products in the market, and the respective experience in neighbouring countries and regions, while also gathering opinions from

the relevant sectors in the city.

In addition to plastic, the rod of a cottonwool bud can also be made of wood, paper, or bamboo. Cottonwool buds with rods made of wood, paper, or bamboo are available in the local retail market.

Due to the level of availability, cottonwool buds with wooden or bamboo rods sold in the local retail market are currently still more expensive than their counterparts with plastic rods. ■

# UTM, MPU welcome record intakes for 2025/2026 academic year with orientation ceremonies

**Khalel Vallo**

The Macao University of Tourism (UTM) and Macao Polytechnic University (MPU) have officially launched the 2025/2026 academic year, welcoming nearly 4,000 new students across undergraduate and postgraduate programmes through their respective orientation ceremonies, according to recent statements from both public universities.

UTM held its student orientation ceremony on Friday on its Taipa Campus, marking the largest intake in its history with about 1,000 new undergraduate, master's, and doctoral students from Macau, the Chinese mainland and other countries and regions, the UTM statement said, adding that Rector Fanny Vong Chuk Kwan welcomed the new cohort, highlighting the recent renovation of the Yiu Tung Building and Educational Residence, which now provide expanded teaching and activity spaces, and confirmed that all degree programmes will mainly be conducted on the Taipa Campus.

The UTM statement added that Vong stressed that UTM's continued campus development strengthens the public university's regional and global standing, aligning with its mission to nurture world-class professionals in tourism, culture and related fields.

Meanwhile, on Thursday, MPU hosted its student orientation,

welcoming 3,000 new bachelor's, master's and doctoral students from Macau, other Greater Bay Area (GBA) cities, Portuguese-speaking countries, and around the world, according to the MPU statement. The ceremony began with the raising of the national flag and the singing of the national anthem in a solemn atmosphere, the MPU statement said.

The statement added that Rector Marcus Im Sio Kei delivered the opening lecture in which he encouraged students to uphold patriotism, embrace innovation, and collaborate in the advancement of human society, setting three key expectations: to set ambitious goals, to pursue innovation, and to work together with a spirit of responsibility.

According to UTM, the ceremony also included its first national flag-raising at the start of the academic year, complemented by seminars conducted by the Macau Customs Service on intellectual property rights, the Judiciary Police (PJ) on cybercrime and fraud prevention, and the Labour Affairs Bureau on labour law awareness.

Meanwhile, at MPU, the orientation featured addresses by faculty and student representatives, including Olympic champions Jiao Liuyang and Zhang Yangyang, who expressed their determination to bring the spirit of perseverance and teamwork into their academic journey, the MPU statement added. ■



**These handout photos provided by UTM and MPU show students and staff members posing during the respective 2025/2026 orientation ceremonies of both public universities last week.**

# Macao Chinese Orchestra to kick off new season with 'Eastern Radiance' concert

**Rui Pastorin**

The Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) said in a statement on Friday that the Macao Chinese Orchestra will kick off its 2025-26 season with the opening concert "Eastern Radiance" on Saturday at the Macao Cultural Centre's (CCM) Grand Auditorium.

The event will feature the first-ever performance of the "Symphonic Suite of Traditional Chinese Music Eastern Radiance", which was co-composed by mainland Chinese composers Zhao Lin and Luo Maishuo, Japanese master musician Kaoru Wada, and South Korean traditional music composer Park Bum-hoon, with 12 traditional instrumentalists from the three countries performing the

piece. The statement noted that it will showcase the "unique charm of the cultural integration of the three nations of 'Culture Cities of East Asia'".

Moreover, "Nights in Macao", a commissioned work by Singapore Cultural Medallion recipient Eric Watson, will be performed along with regional classics.

Saturday's concert will be held under the baton of Music Director and Principal Conductor of the Macao Chinese Orchestra Zhang Lei.

Ticket prices for the upcoming performance, which will start at 8 p.m., range from 120 patacas to 380 patacas, with more details available on [www.macaoticket.com](http://www.macaoticket.com) and [www.ochm-macau.org](http://www.ochm-macau.org). ■



**This poster provided by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) on Friday promotes the upcoming opening concert "Eastern Radiance" for the Macao Chinese Orchestra's new concert season.**



**This aerial drone photo taken yesterday shows a load test on the Huajiang Grand Canyon Bridge in Guizhou Province. The Huajiang Grand Canyon Bridge, set to become the world's tallest bridge, had completed a key load test as of yesterday, ahead of its scheduled opening in late September. The five-day testing process confirmed that the bridge's structural strength, stiffness and dynamic performance met safety standards, according to the testing team. The load test, considered the final step before the bridge welcomes traffic – included both static and dynamic tests. The testing team drove 96 trucks, weighing about 3,300 tonnes in total, onto designated points of the deck in batches to measure displacement and stress in the main span, towers, cables and suspenders. The bridge is 2,890 meters long with a main span of 1,420 meters. Rising 625 meters above the river, it will set the record for both the tallest bridge in the world and the world's largest span bridge built in a mountainous area, upon completion.**

— Xinhua



# Top legislator calls for enhancing China-Russia parliamentary cooperation

BEIJING — China's top legislator Zhao Leji yesterday called on the National People's Congress (NPC) and the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation to fully leverage cooperation mechanisms and platforms, and continuously enhance exchanges and cooperation.

Zhao, chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, made the remarks while hosting the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the China-Russia committee for parliamentary cooperation with Vyacheslav Volodin, chairman of the Russian State Duma, in Beijing.

Zhao said under the strategic guidance of the two heads of state, the China-Russia comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination for a new era has consistently maintained a healthy, stable, and high-level development momentum.

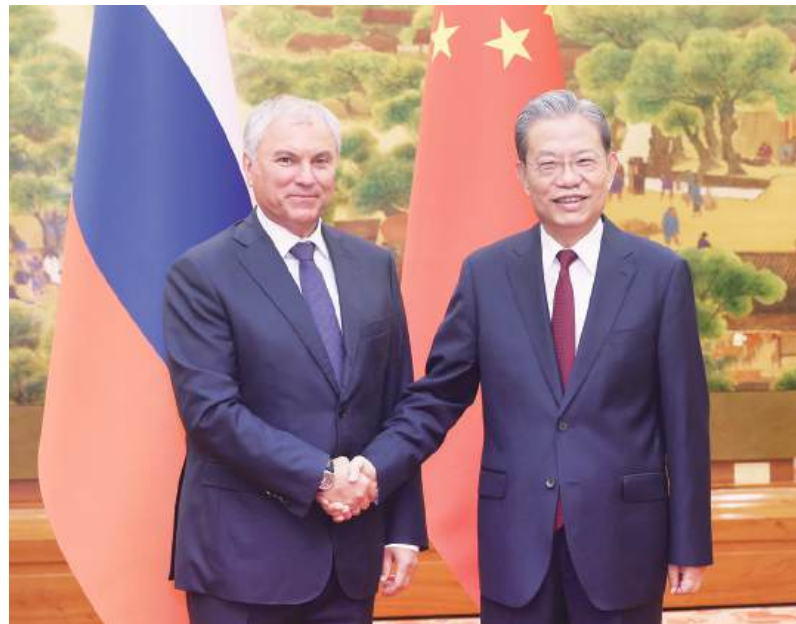
It has been proven that China-Russia cooperation features complementary strengths and immense potential, representing a strategic choice made by both sides based on their respective development

and revitalization goals, Zhao added.

Noting this year marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the China-Russia committee for parliamentary cooperation, Zhao said China's NPC is willing to work with the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, taking the important consensus reached by the two heads of state as the fundamental guideline, to fully leverage cooperation mechanisms and platforms, continuously enhance exchanges and cooperation, and contribute to the in-depth development of the China-Russia comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination for a new era.

He called on both sides to maintain the positive momentum of close exchanges, enhance mutual understanding and trust, and consolidate the political foundation of mutual support, solidarity and coordination.

Efforts should be made to expand the content and forms of mechanism exchanges to meet the development needs of China-Russia



**Zhao Leji (right), chairman of the National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee, shakes hands — on the sidelines of the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the China-Russia Committee for Parliamentary Cooperation — with Vyacheslav Volodin, chairman of the Russian State Duma, at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing yesterday. — AFP**

relations in the new era, Zhao said. He added that the legislative bodies of the two countries should engage in mutual learning of

governance experience, legislation and supervision to support the development and revitalization of their respective countries.

Zhao also urged for close communication and coordination between the two sides within multilateral mechanisms, to resolutely defend the outcomes of the victory of WWII, promote a correct historical perspective on WWII, safeguard the UN-centered international system, practice true multilateralism, and advance the building of a community with a shared future for humanity.

Volodin said the Russian State Duma is willing to strengthen friendly exchanges with China's NPC. Focused on implementing the important consensus reached by the two heads of state, it aims to leverage the mechanism and platform of the Russia-China committee for parliamentary cooperation, making contributions to promoting comprehensive cooperation between the two countries, optimizing the business environment, deepening cultural exchanges, jointly upholding a correct historical perspective on WWII, and safeguarding multilateralism. — Xinhua

## Newly identified dinosaur species in Guangxi sheds light on Jurassic evolution

NANNING — Scientists have identified a new species of eusauropod dinosaur, a derived clade within sauropod dinosaurs, in south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, marking the earliest known long-necked herbivore in the region and providing fresh insights into sauropod presence during the Jurassic Period.

A team of researchers, led by paleontologist Mo Jinyou from the Natural History Museum of Guangxi, formally named the species *Huashanosaurus qini* after an iconic local landmark.

According to Mo, the dinosaur can be traced back to the Early to Middle Jurassic, around 180 million years ago, roughly 30 million years earlier than *Jingia dongxingensis*, the region's oldest known sauropod from the Upper Jurassic.

"These findings offer novel fossil evidence for global Jurassic sauropod evolution and distribution patterns," said Mo. "They also suggest a potentially diverse sauropod community that once roamed south China during this period."

The discovery, detailed in a study published this month in *Acta Geologica Sinica* (English Edition), stems from the fossils excavated at a quarry near the Mingjiang River in Ningming County.

The scattered bones, first spotted by a local teacher, were later collected during a joint expedition by the Natural History Museum of Guangxi and the local authorities of Ningming County in 2017.

Researchers analyzed the partial skeleton, including fragments of vertebrae, ribs, humerus, ulna, fibula and foot bones, before identifying it as a new species of eusauropod, a group

of advanced sauropods known for their massive size and elongated necks.

The defining bone traits that set it apart from other known sauropods include a sharply curved, hook-shaped posterior process on the ulna, which is a first among sauropod dinosaurs, a unique crescent-shaped cross-section in the ulna's shaft due to bone indentation, and a longitudinal groove on the distal end of the fibula's posterior surface.

These characteristics, unseen in other sauropods, suggest specialized adaptations in the dinosaur's limbs, possibly related to locomotion or weight distribution.

"The findings increase the diversity of Jurassic sauropods in China," the researchers noted in their paper.

Based on bone measurements, researchers have estimated that *Huashanosaurus qini* reached about 12 meters in length, a medium-sized quadrupedal herbivore that likely inhabited forested river and lake shores.

According to Mo, the remains hail from the Wangmen Formation in Guangxi's Shiwandashan Basin, a Mesozoic continental basin with lake and river sediments. Other findings from this area include fish scales, turtle shells, and incomplete sets of plesiosaurian teeth, indicating a humid, ecologically complex environment favorable to sauropod thriving.

"*Huashanosaurus qini*'s discovery fills a gap in Early to Middle Jurassic eusauropod fossils from south China," said Mo. "Its unique features provide new clues to sauropod early differentiation."

Mo expects that further fieldwork at the site and in the Shiwandashan Basin will reveal more about sauropod distribution in south China.

— Xinhua

## Chinese experts advocate human-centered AI in education at global conference

BEIJING — Chinese education experts have emphasized that AI should serve as a powerful enabler rather than a replacement. They have advocated for a human-centered approach that integrates technology to enhance educational quality, foster creativity, and support students' holistic development in the intelligent era.

These remarks were made during the recent Global Smart Education Conference 2025 in Beijing last week, co-organized by Beijing Normal University and the UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education.

Under the theme "Human-Machine Collaboration Fosters a New Ecology of Education," the event gathered specialists from the education, technology and enterprise sectors, along with frontline teachers — to explore pathways for deeper integration of emerging technologies in education.

At the forum on high-quality school development in the new era, principals and scholars from across China shared insights on digital transformation and intelligent upgrading in school education.

Li Youyi, chairman of the School Alliance of Educational Digitalization, highlighted that the deep integration of new technology and education has become a core issue in global digital transformation.

She urged school leaders to proactively embrace technological opportunities while remaining mindful of its dual-edged nature,

ensuring that technology always aligns with the fundamental values of education.

Sharing practical experiences, Xu Hui, principal of the No.1 Middle School affiliated to Central China Normal University in central China's Hubei Province, outlined her school's experiments with AI-enhanced curricula, human-computer collaborative teaching and data-driven personalized learning.

She emphasized that innovative talent should no longer be viewed merely as repositories of knowledge, but as deep comprehenders and creators of future knowledge. "AI is not a substitute for education — it is an amplifier. Human intelligence must remain central, working synergistically with machine intelligence," she noted.

Echoing the need for educator development, Wu Yingming, principal of Hefei No. 1 High School in east China's Anhui Province, proposed that teachers strengthen four core capabilities in the AI context — aesthetic appreciation, cultural understanding, scientific reasoning and value judgment.

These competencies will enable educators to better discern authentic information, integrate technology with teaching fundamentals, and foster students' core competencies through teacher-student-machine interaction.

Zhang Hua, vice dean of Changsha Normal University's primary education college in Hunan Province, central China, emphasized three guiding

principles in facing AI — use, use wisely and do not abuse. The college combines national and project-based curricula, stimulates student interest through activities, and provides teacher training and incentives to improve digital competence.

Warning against treating AI as a panacea, Wang Xiao, principal of No. 3 Primary School in Yumin County, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, stressed the importance of guiding students to become creators of technology rather than passive users. Wang reiterated that AI should empower — and not replace teachers.

Adding a corporate perspective, Nie Xiaolin, co-founder of China's leading AI company iFLYTEK, introduced the concept of "two-way empowerment" between AI and education. "While AI empowers education, education also feeds back into AI, improving its capabilities in the educational domain," he explained.

To address a shortage of qualified science teachers in primary schools, iFLYTEK has partnered with the China National Institute of Education Sciences to develop a three-dimensional knowledge graph and a teaching logic-driven large model for science education.

By learning from over 50,000 courses taught by expert teachers, the system makes implicit teaching experiences visible — helping educators instruct like experts and inspiring students to think like scientists.

— Xinhua