

# Macau's 4 state key labs get official plaques from MOST

Armindo Neves

Macau's four State Key Laboratories were presented with their official plaques by the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) yesterday.

The presentation ceremony was co-officiated by Science and Technology Minister Yin Hejun, Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Macau SAR Director Zheng Xincong and Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai.

The plaque presentation ceremony was held at Government Headquarters.

Addressing the event, Sam said that with the support of the central government, the ministry approved the establishment of four State Key Laboratories in Macau in 2010 and 2018 respectively, laying a solid foundation for the region's technological development. These laboratories, according to Sam, while based in Macau, serve national interests and have achieved significant results in scientific innovation, translational research, and talent cultivation.

Sam underlined that the four labs will actively undertake national strategic tasks in science and technology, deepen innovation



Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai (centre), Science and Technology Minister Yin Hejun (second from left), Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Macau SAR Director Zheng Xincong (second from right), Lunar and Planetary Sciences Laboratory Director Zong Qiang (left) and Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) President Joseph Lee Hunwei pose during yesterday's official plaque presentation ceremony at Government Headquarters.

— Photo: Armindo Neves

collaboration within the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA), and contribute to achieving high-level technological self-reliance, Sam said.

In his address, Yin emphasised that the formal accreditation

of Macau's four State Key Laboratories marks their integration into the national management framework, solidifying their role as a critical component of China's strategic scientific and technological strength. Yin stressed the vital

significance of these laboratories in advancing Macau's sci-tech innovation ecosystem.

Yin underlined three key expectations for the laboratories and Macau's scientific community, namely 1) to seize the opportunities

of the times and reinforce their sense of mission, striving to achieve leadership in specialised fields and key research directions; 2) to cultivate a dynamic and inclusive environment that attracts and nurtures talent, leveraging Macau's international character to build a globally appealing hub for excellence-driven research; 3) to deepen institutional and resource integration with the mainland, enhancing collaboration with leading universities, research institutes, and tech enterprises to accelerate the transformation and practical application of scientific outcomes.

Macau's four state key laboratories are Quality Research in Chinese Medicine; Analog and Mixed-Signal VLSI\*; Internet of Things for [a] Smart City; and Lunar and Planetary Sciences.

Hong Kong has 15 State Key Laboratories. A similar plaque presentation ceremony was held in Hong Kong on Monday. ■

\*VLSI stands for Very-Large-Scale Integration. It is the process of creating an integrated circuit (IC) by combining millions or even billions of transistors onto a single silicon microchip. — DeepSeek



Pedestrians take photos of a floral installation at Fuxingmen in Beijing yesterday. Ten sets of floral installations along Chang'an Avenue marking 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 have been completed. A grand parade will be held in Beijing next Wednesday in commemoration of China's victory. The Chinese characters read: "Embark on a new journey — Contribute to the new era". — Xinhua

## Sam to visit Portugal & Spain next month

Staff Reporter

Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai will pay official visits to Portugal and Spain from September 16 to 23, the Macau Government Information Bureau (GCS) announced yesterday.

According to a notice informing the media about the trip, Sam will visit Lisbon and Madrid.

The two-country tour will be Sam's first foreign trip since becoming Chief Executive of the Macau Special Administrative Region on December 20 last year.

Portugal administered Macau until December 19, 1999. The People's Republic of China (PRC) has never recognised the

claims of foreign sovereignty over its territory. Portugal unilaterally relinquished its overseas sovereignty claims resulting from its erstwhile colonial empire shortly after its anti-fascist Carnation Revolution on April 25, 1974.

The local and central governments said earlier this year that Macau would further strengthen its role as a platform for economic, commercial, and cultural exchanges between China and the world's Portuguese- and Spanish-speaking countries.

Portugal and Spain are known for having some of the friendliest relations with China among the 27 EU member states. ■

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### 54 pct of local SMEs report declining turnover: survey

The findings of a survey released yesterday show that 54 percent of Macau's SMEs asked by its organisers earlier this year responded that their turnover was declining.

— Story on p. 8

### Xi meets Russian State Duma chairman

President Xi Jinping met with Vyacheslav Volodin, chairman of the Russian parliament's lower house, the State Duma, in Beijing yesterday.

— Story on p. 13

### Israeli protesters demand hostage deal

Protesters demanding an end to the Gaza war and the return of hostages to their homes took to the streets in Israel yesterday ahead of a security cabinet meeting.

— Story on p. 16



# Bearing in Mind the History and Building a Promising Future Together

*Article by Liu Xianfa, Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in the Macao Special Administrative Region*

This year marks 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. The Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War are decisive battles between justice and evil, light and darkness, and progressive and reactionary. From 1931 to 1945, the Chinese people, having fought tenaciously for 14 years, won the great victory of their War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the full victory of the World Anti-Fascist War with all peace-loving people in the world. This year also marks the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the restoration of Taiwan. Taiwan's restoration to China is a victorious outcome of WWII and an integral part of the postwar international order, as well as a great victory of all Chinese people, including our compatriots in Taiwan, through their successive efforts and bloody battles.

**The pivotal role of the Communist Party of China is the key to the victory of the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression.** Throughout the entire course of the war, the Communist Party of China always stands at the forefront and shoulders its responsibilities, providing strong political leadership and driving the formation of a historical torrent of the entire nation's resistance. China is the main eastern battlefield in the World Anti-Fascist War. The Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression is an important part of the World Anti-Fascist War and makes a decisive contribution to the victory of the World Anti-Fascist War. In that devastating war, the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression started earliest, lasted longest, tied down most of the enemies and made greatest

sacrifice. In 1931, the Japanese Imperialists blatantly launched the September 18 Incident, an attack on Shenyang city staged by the Japanese Kwantung Army, which is 8 years ahead of Nazi Germany's blitzkrieg of Poland and 10 years before the Pearl Harbor Attack. At that time, Chinese soldiers and civilians fired first shot in the Anti-Fascist War and fought relentlessly across frozen plains in the occupied Northeast China. During the darkest days of the War of Resistance, China tied down nearly 70 percent of the Japanese Army, and thus helped Allied forces in other theaters gain vital strategic opportunities. During the 14 years of war, the Chinese people made tremendous national sacrifices and paid a heavy price. According to incomplete statistics, the number of casualties among Chinese military and civilians exceeds 35 million, accounting for approximately one-third of the total casualties during WWII. The direct economic loss is more than 100 billion US dollars, and the indirect economic loss over 500 billion US dollars.

**Macao is never absent from this war and fights shoulder to shoulder with the motherland throughout.** All sectors of Macao society spared no efforts and overcame all difficulties to provide relief such as accommodation, food and medical care to a large number of compatriots displaced by the war. Macao's patriotic figures like Mr. Ma Man-kei, Ho Yin and Ke Lin broke through heavy blockades of the Japanese invaders and sent supplies and funds to the front line. A legion of passionate young people from Macao were heading off to battlefronts in the Pearl River Delta, Dongjiang and other areas without hesitation. Patriotic groups raised huge sums of money to support soldiers at the front line and went to great lengths to promote the publicity of the War of Resistance. *The Yellow River Cantata* composed by the Macao-born people's musician Mr. Xian Xinghai sounded the roar of national peril and became the strongest voice for national salvation. History will never forget



Undated file photo of Commissioner Liu Xianfa. – Photo courtesy of the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in the Macao Special Administrative Region.

the indelible contributions made by Macao to national independence and liberation of the people, nor will it forget the deep sense of patriotism and national righteousness of the compatriots in Macao.

**Upholding the correct historical perspective on WWII which is peaceful, righteous, comprehensive and objective.** History cannot be tampered with and facts must not be erased. Even today, driven by geopolitical interests, some countries and politicians are still trying to ignore the historical facts, intentionally downplay China's important contributions to WWII as the main eastern battlefield, openly beautify colonial rule, and even directly deny the history of fascist

aggression and the brutal crimes committed by the Japanese army. Such despicable and disgraceful acts not only bring shame upon themselves, but also pose challenges to the UN Charter, the post-war international order, human conscience and the people of all victorious nations. The 1.4 billion Chinese people will not tolerate any attempt to distort the truth about WWII history. China, together with peace-loving people all over the world, will fight to the end against all wrongful acts that distort, glorify or deny the history of aggression, and jointly safeguard historical truth and defend world peace.

**Joining hands to build a community with a shared future for humanity.** The international system with the UN at its core is a concentrated manifestation of the victory of WWII and serves as the cornerstone for the post-war international order. As a permanent member of the UN Security Council, China has always been an indispensable and important force in maintaining world peace. China will never follow the old path of some countries that have achieved modernization through war, colonization and plunder. Instead, China will firmly stand on the right side of history and the side of progress of human civilization, and hold high the banner of peace, development, cooperation and win-win results. China's proposal for building a community with a

shared future for humanity and other major concepts and initiatives are a continuation and development of the valuable experience of the victory in WWII, and have contributed Chinese wisdom and solutions to promoting human peace and development. China will work unswervingly with the international community to practice the global governance vision of extensive consultation and joint contribution for shared benefits, implement the Global Security Initiative, the Global Development Initiative and the Global Civilization Initiative, and build a community with a shared future for humanity.

President Xi Jinping has pointed out, "War is like a mirror. Looking at it helps us better appreciate the value of peace". We should learn from history, especially the hard lessons of WWII, draw wisdom and strength from the great victory of the World Anti-Fascist War and strengthen our determination to safeguard peace and consolidate security to jointly build a brighter future for humanity. We believe that all sectors in Macao will firmly carry forward the fine tradition of patriotism and the great spirit of the War of Resistance, thus making greater contributions to the steady and far-reaching development of the cause of "one country, two systems", and the realization of the complete reunification of the motherland and the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation!

## Observatory issues Yellow heat warning as mercury stays high

*Kristina Vallesteros*

The Macau Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) issued a Yellow hot weather alert yesterday that will continue today, with members of the public urged to pay attention to the continuation of the current heat wave.

According to the alert issued by the local observatory yesterday afternoon, the maximum temperature is forecast to reach 33 degrees Celsius or above today. The bureau has advised the public to be vigilant against heatstroke and to ensure they drink water regularly to stay hydrated.

The alert noted several essential precautions for the public to follow. These include wearing loose, thin, and light-coloured clothing when outdoors and seeking immediate rest in a shaded area if feeling unwell. It also strongly advises avoiding prolonged exposure to sunlight and the harmful effects of UV radiation. In a critical safety reminder, the public are warned



Heat-challenged consumers queue at Mixue Ice Cream & Tea (蜜雪冰城) on Travessa do Soriano yesterday. – Photo: Rui Pastorin

not to remain inside vehicles parked outdoors for extended periods.

Members of the public are advised to consult the Social Welfare Bureau's (IAS) services if necessary.

The Yellow hot weather alert was updated at 5:10 p.m. yesterday and remains in effect

today. Members of the public are encouraged to stay updated on any further announcements from the local observatory, according to the website.

The observatory has a two-level hot weather warning system: Yellow means "very hot", while Orange warns of "extremely hot" weather. ■

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### Macau Weather

**VERY HOT.  
CLOUDY APART FROM SUNNY PERIODS.  
ONE OR TWO SHOWERS.  
FORCE 2 TO 3 EAST TO NORTHEASTERLY WINDS.  
RELATIVE HUMIDITY WILL RANGE BETWEEN 60% AND 95%.**



**26°C~33°C**

Source: SMG





# Congratulations on the 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of The Macau Post Daily

*Wynn* 永利



# Fringe Festival to showcase unorthodox takes on motherhood & herbal tea

Interview by William Chan

The Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) will hold its 23<sup>rd</sup> Macao City Fringe Festival from September 5 to 28, featuring 18 programmes and 13 outreach activities across 28 venues. The *Post* interviewed the creators of two festival programmes last week, exploring their unique and unorthodox takes on artistic performance.

## ‘Thanks for Being Here’

“Thanks for Being Here”, created and performed by Malaysia-based artist Suzuki Cheng (程嘉敏), aims to convey her personal story. “The genuine feelings of pregnancy and parenting are difficult to grasp through mere observation; only firsthand experience can present the most authentic emotions”. As an artist, Cheng said, she hopes to transform these real feelings and physical experiences into an artwork to present to the audience.

According to Cheng, the word “thanks” in the title carries a double meaning: it expresses gratitude to her child for bringing different experiences and more courage into her life, but it also carries a more negative sentiment, reflecting the helplessness a mother sometimes feels when facing her child – a desire to scold yet an inability to do so. This oscillation between bliss and agony, akin to “shuttling between hell and heaven,” is an accurate portrayal of a mother’s daily life, she said.

The performance is set to take place in mid-September at the bookshop “Bookand” in the Praia do Manduco neighbourhood. Cheng chose this location because the bookshop once provided her with immense emotional comfort and solace by chance during her parenting journey, an experience that will be reflected in the work.

Besides, she pointed out that “Bookand” is a place she frequently visited before pregnancy, symbolising freedom and self-identity. Finally, aligning with the Fringe Festival’s concept that “everyone is an artist, every place is a stage,” she said, adding she hopes that mothers or citizens can easily access this life-adjacent space during short breaks in their daily lives, making the bookshop an ideal choice.



This undated file photo shows Suzuki Cheng posing with her daughter. – Photos provided by Cheng

## ‘Herbal Tea Cultural Dev’t Association’

Meanwhile, concept artist and performer Jason Fong (馮兆恆) of the event series titled “Herbal Tea Cultural Development Association” addresses the gradual decline of herbal tea (涼茶), a traditional Chinese drink, in the urban life of modern society. The performance will be held at Pak Ka Cheong Herbal Tea on Rua da Felicidade (福隆新街), aiming to reignite the culture of drinking herbal tea in Macau.

Fong’s interest in herbal tea emerged by chance when his friend AK, a fellow performer in the show, invited him for herbal tea instead of coffee. This simple act sparked Fong’s curiosity about the history and culture surrounding the beverage. “Herbal tea carries many associations – some see it as a homemade soup served during family meals, while others think of commercialised cans sold in supermarkets,” Fong explained. Yet, despite these varied perceptions, the tradition of drinking herbal tea in a dedicated shop is fading, he said.

During his research, Fong learnt that herbal tea shops were once among the few establishments open late into the night on Macau’s streets. This was largely due to casino employees working round-the-clock shifts, who often stopped by for a drink on their way to or from work – making these shops some of the only sources of light in otherwise dark streets.

Despite herbal tea’s status as an intangible cultural heritage and the rich history embedded in these shops, Fong believes too little has been done to preserve this legacy in Macau. “For instance, when Wynn Macau attempted to revitalise Rua da Felicidade, they simply installed booths selling alcoholic drinks – a move that starkly contradicts the area’s character and overlooks its existing businesses,” he noted. “Through this performance, I hope to draw people into the atmosphere of the neighbourhood and reignite interest in herbal tea culture. I want to use this space to tell its story as authentically as possible – everything serves the goal of promoting herbal tea.”

For the schedule, venue details, and ticketing information of all performances and events at the Fringe Festival, visit: <https://macaacityfringe.gov.mo/2025/cn#page4>



Performers AK (front) and Jason Fong rehearse at Pak Ka Cheong Herbal Tea on Rua da Felicidade earlier this month. – Photos provided by Fong





# CONGRATULATIONS ON THE 21<sup>ST</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE MACAU POST DAILY





# Consumption reward campaign receives mixed reaction

Interview by Armindo Neves

The upcoming consumption reward programme titled “National Games Cohesion – Community Consumption Grand Prix” will start on Monday, when senior citizens’ Macau Pass discount will be raised by two-thirds, from 300 patacas in the previous programme to 500 patacas.

The discount for the elderly – as well individuals with a disability – will be borne by the government, costing the Treasury 75 million patacas.

The Economic and Technological Development Bureau (DSED) announced the programme at a press conference on Friday.

Several senior citizens told the *Post* yesterday that while the government’s decision to raise the Macau Pass discount to 500 patacas benefits them, the requirement to top up an additional 500 patacas themselves poses practical problems for them, pointing out that they lack the means to contribute extra funds. Most of the interviewees said that they have entrusted their Macau Pass cards to their children for handling, as, they said, many elderly are unfamiliar with where to tap their cards to receive the 500 patacas from the government. They mentioned that they plan to use the 500 patacas primarily for purchasing food, and generally feel that “getting the money is better than getting nothing.”

The *Post* talked to the elderly in a park on the peninsula.



Shoppers look for goods at a Western pharmacy on Rua dos Mercadores in the city centre yesterday. – Photo: Armindo Neves

The owner of a Western pharmacy told the *Post* that the consumer incentive scheme has indeed boosted business, though the exact extent was difficult to quantify. While expressing support for the government’s decision to continue the policy, the female proprietor noted that even short-term campaigns can stimulate consumer psychology, for instance, by incorporating lucky draws to attract non-essential spending. However, she expressed concern that about a potential decline in customer traffic after the campaign concludes, prompting a call for more sustainable long-term measures.

The programme is slated to end on November 30.

The owner of a traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) pharmacy told the *Post* that the government should include Fridays in the validity period of the consumer e-vouchers, not just the weekends, during the programme, or even not allowing the e-vouchers to be used every weekend but to have a spending break between weekends, in order to better stimulate consumer expenditure. He pointed out that as many residents currently prefer to travel to the Chinese mainland for shopping at weekends, he believes that extending the e-vouchers’ validity period by including every Friday would help increase e-voucher utilisation and enhance the policy’s positive impact on the local economy. ■

## Police nab mainlander for stealing ‘baijiu’

Ada Lei

A man from the mainland was arrested on Thursday for stealing a box of ‘baijiu’ from outside a shop, Public Security Police (PSP) spokesman Lei Chan Hong said during a regular press conference yesterday.

“Baijiu” is also known in English as “Chinese white liquor”.

Lei identified the suspect as a male in his forties, surnamed Wang, who told the police that he’s jobless.

According to Lei, the police

received a report on August 16 from the staff member of a shop in the northern district. The staff told the police that among several boxes of the liquor placed outside the shop one was later discovered to have vanished. Suspecting the box of ‘baijiu’ to have been stolen, the staff reported a total loss of 13,600 patacas to the police immediately.

Using their citywide CCTV surveillance, the police identified Wang as the suspect and

apprehended him at the Barrier Gate checkpoint on Thursday.

The police later discovered that Wang had sold the stolen box of ‘baijiu’ to a shop in Zape, where police recovered 12 bottles of the liquor. Under questioning, Wang denied the crime.

Lei did not reveal the liquor’s brand.

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



This undated pixelated handout photo provided by the Public Security Police (PSP) yesterday shows 12 bottles of a famous “baijiu” (Chinese white liquor) stolen by the suspect.



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

## Police arrest mainlander for fraud

Ada Lei

A man from the mainland was apprehended on Sunday for fraud, Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Chao Teng Hin said during a regular press conference yesterday.

Chao identified the suspect as a 30-year-old male surnamed Chen, who claimed to be jobless.

According to Chao, the police received a report on Saturday from a young man from the mainland who said that he had been defrauded out of HK\$112,000 (115,870 patacas) at a casino in Cotai. Chao said that the victim met Chen on July 21 at the casino and they gambled together. By around 4 a.m. that same day, the victim had won HK\$112,000 in chips. Chen then offered to assist the victim to transfer the funds to his mainland bank account. The victim trusted Chen and handed over all his chips, after which they both left. Chao added that Chen had immediately left Macau after defrauding the victim.

Chao noted that the victim never received any funds, and that Chen repeatedly delayed the repayment, coming up with various excuses. Finally realising that Chen had



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

– Photo: Ada Lei

deceived him, the victim reported the case to the police on Saturday.

The police identified Chen as the suspect and intercepted him on Sunday at the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge checkpoint when he was leaving Macau.

Under questioning, Chen refused to cooperate. The police seized a mobile phone from him.

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

## Pharma bureau explains recall of supplement for pregnant women

Armindo Neves

The Pharmaceutical Supervision and Administration Bureau (ISAF) explained in a statement yesterday the findings of an investigation following the earlier recall of a nutritional supplement for pregnant women.

On August 6, the pharma bureau announced in a statement that it had received a report from local drug importers about a product imported from the United States that was found to have black spots on its softgels.

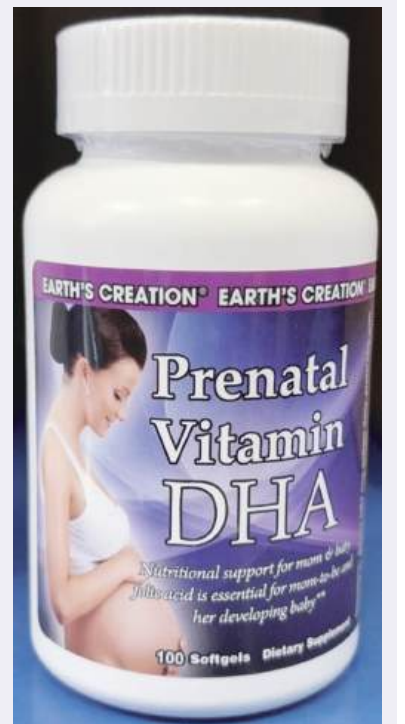
The problematic supplement titled “PRENATAL VITAMIN DHA SOFTGELS” produced by “Earth’s Creation USA” was found to have black spots on its softgels. As a precautionary measure, the drug importer has voluntarily recalled the affected batches of the product from the local market. The batch numbers are 22199 and 32149.

About the black spots on the softgels, according to the statement, the ISAF analysis indicates that the black spots were found to contain iron and vitamin C components derived from the capsule’s contents.

The statement said that the cause of the black spots has been determined as follows: iron and vitamin C from the contents migrated to the softgels’ shells, underwent a slow oxidation reaction that changed their colour, and subsequently combined with

the inherent colour of the softgels’ shell to form the black spots. The phenomenon does not pose any risk to the product’s safety, the statement stressed.

According to the statement, the bureau has required the US manufacturer to improve the production process of the product concerned to prevent the recurrence of such issues. ■



This undated handout photo provided by the Pharmaceutical Supervision and Administration Bureau (ISAF) yesterday shows a bottle of the softgels affected by black spots, a prenatal supplement imported from the US.



## CTT to offer postmark cancellation for elex campaign start

Rui Pastorin

The Macau Post and Telecommunications Bureau (CTT) is slated to set up a temporary post counter in Praça do Tap Seac (塔石廣場) on Saturday to provide commemorative postmark cancellation services for “The Commencing Day of the Electoral Campaign for the 2025 Legislative Assembly Election”.

In a CTT statement on Monday, it was noted that the counter and service are offered to celebrate the first day of the Electoral Campaign for the 2025 Legislative Assembly Election. The service will be provided from 9:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Commemorative envelopes will also be distributed, while philatelic products will be sold as well, the statement said.

The statement said that the counter will be moved to Tap Seac

Multisport Pavillion if adverse weather occurs. ■



This image provided by the Macau Post and Telecommunications Bureau (CTT) on Monday shows the commemorative envelope of Campaign Start Day for the 2025 Legislative Assembly Election.

## Cross-disability art exhibition showcases over 140 works to promote inclusion

Khalel Vallo

The “2025 Cross-Disability Art Invitational Exhibition” (二〇二五跨障藝術邀請展), organised by the Macao Populace Mental Health Promotion Association (MPMHPA), opened last week at Chun Chao Tong, Lou Lim Ieoc Garden, and concluded yesterday, which featured more than 140 artworks to promote exchange and inclusion, according to a statement from MPMHPA last week.

Since its first edition in 2017, the exhibition has provided a platform for persons with a disability in Macau to showcase their artistic talents with the support of rehabilitation organisations, social service groups, and cultural and arts associations, according to the information board provided by the association at the venue, adding that during the three years of the COVID-19 pandemic, the association worked tirelessly to ensure the exhibition continued without interruption.

Now in its ninth year, the event presents calligraphy, Chinese painting, Western

painting, fluid painting and other works, reflecting the creativity and perseverance of its participants, the message noted. For the 2025 edition, the Futian District Family Resource Centre for Persons in Mental Health Recovery (Shenzhen) had been specially invited to display five works created by individuals in recovery, expanding cross-border exchange, according to the message.

The association emphasised that promoting the participation of people with a disability in arts training is a challenging but vital task, the message noted, adding that the exhibition not only provides new forms of artistic expression and sensory experience, but also fosters motivation, a sense of achievement, and a greater appreciation for inclusion in society.

The message added that MPMHPA expressed gratitude to the Macao Foundation (FM) the funding sponsor, and the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM), the venue sponsor, for their support. ■



Exhibits of “2025 Cross-Disability Art Invitational Exhibition” are displayed at Chun Chao Tong gallery, Lou Lim Ieoc Garden, which ended yesterday.

— Photo: Armindo Neves

## Community puppet theatre tour brings Macau’s stories to life

Khalel Vallo

The Funny Old Tree Theatre is presenting the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of its community puppet theatre project “Gugumelo Travels Around Ha Van” until tomorrow, offering free shows for children and families across Macau, according to a recent statement from the Funny Old Tree Theatre.

The local tour began on Sunday. Ha Van is the Chinese name of Praia do Manduco, an old neighbourhood in the Inner Harbour area.

The statement noted that the community puppet tour, one of the theatre’s longest-running projects, has expanded this time from libraries to community centres to reach a wider audience. Five venues are hosting a total of 10 shows, being held daily at 3 p.m. and 4 p.m., with free admission for children aged three to 12 and their parents.

The puppet show is in Cantonese, according to the statement.

The new production, “Gugumelo Travels Around Ha Van,” follows the local character Gugumelo as he explores Macau’s streets and alleys, discovering the origins of place names and the unique blend of local traditions and architecture, the statement said, adding that the initiative combines puppetry, picture books, and performances, aiming to promote reading culture, community history, and the popularisation of puppetry.



Puppeteers Loretta Lai Chi Ieng (right) and Carol Wong Weng Si perform their show “Gugumelo Travels Around Ha Van” at the Youth Experimentation Centre of Tap Seac Multisport Pavillion yesterday.

— Photo: Khalel Vallo

According to the statement, the project not only introduces young audiences to Macau’s cultural heritage but also supports the development of local illustrators, writers, directors, and puppeteers. “This performance allows children to appreciate art while deepening their understanding of Macau’s history and culture,” the statement noted.

Speaking with the *Post*, lead playwright, illustrator and puppeteer Loretta Lai Chi Ieng elaborated on how puppetry brings special power to storytelling.

“Because puppets can have a very big variety of actions. It really helps a lot to tell the story that you want to tell, and without using, like, a lot of people or a lot of costumes,” Loretta said.

Regarding why puppetry is so effective in cultural storytelling, Loretta added: “I think that a puppet show is important because if kids watch it, they will have better memories about it because they remember it, and they see that character in their eyes. And then, also, it can do a lot more than a real person can do.”

Through the 10 performances being staged in different community centres and libraries across Macau, “Gugumelo Travels Around Ha Van” not only aims to entertain but also to bridge generations, with the objective of connecting children and families to the city’s cultural roots while strengthening puppetry as a vital local art form. ■

## MGM awards nearly 100 young lion dancers completing summer activity

Rui Pastorin

A graduation ceremony for the 11<sup>th</sup> MGM Junior Lion Dance Summer Class 2025 was held yesterday at MGM MACAU, with nearly a hundred young participants of the seven-week activity receiving certificates, while a press conference for the 12<sup>th</sup> International Lion Dance Championship 2025 – MGM Cup set for October 4-5 was also held.

Having kicked off in July, the annual summer class took place at the former Barra Abattoir.

MGM Brand Marketing Senior Vice President Catarina Lio (廖穎琦) told the *Post* after yesterday’s ceremony and press conference that this year, they had received around 600 applications compared to its 100 available spots, with participation from around 52 local schools, or over 70 percent of the schools in Macau. The programme, which has been held since 2015, also saw more international schools taking part, adding that overall, the activity is moving in “the right direction”.

Lio pointed out some reasons for the increase in participations, one of which is parents viewing the summer activity as good physical exercise for their children as well as understanding “what lion dance means”. She also noted an increasing interest in lion dance culture, seeing the activity as more than a leisure exercise, but a “systematic” and real practice. Moreover, Lio said

that people may start seeing it as benefiting the children especially in terms of learning about patience, respect, and Chinese culture.

Following yesterday’s ceremony, which featured a performance by the students, the press conference for “The 12<sup>th</sup> International Lion Dance Championship 2025 – MGM Cup” was then held to provide more details of the upcoming event.

In his speech, MGM China Holdings Limited President and Executive Director Kenneth Feng Xiaofeng noted: “Over the past 15 years, MGM’s Lion Dance IP has continued to innovate and grow. The ‘International Lion Dance Championship’ has gradually developed into a signature cultural and sports tourism IP that integrates sports, culture, and lion dance artistry, connecting the world through lion dance”.

Held in Largo da Barra

(“Harbour Entrance Square”) for the third consecutive year, the upcoming edition has drawn 247 athletes from 22 teams across 14 countries and regions, including first time contender Brunei.

Over 60 percent of participants come from foreign teams, such as Australia, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, according to a statement provided at yesterday’s press conference.

A record 14 percent increase in youth participation has been set, while Lio also told the *Post* during the interview that the upcoming competition will have more female athletes participating than before, showing that although the lion dance might still be seen by some as a male-dominated sport, it can be for everyone regardless of age, gender, and nationality. ■



Young lion dancers deliver an opening performance yesterday afternoon at MGM MACAU.

— Photo: Rui Pastorin



# Public buses & LRT to provide free rides for all passengers on legislative polling day



Legislative Assembly Electoral Affairs Commission (CAEAL) President Seng Ioi Man (3<sup>rd</sup> from right) addresses yesterday's press briefing at the Public Administration Building, flanked by fellow commission members (from left to right) Louie Wong Lok I, Mak Kim Meng, Lai U Hou, Ng Wai Han, and Daisy Ho In Mui.

— Photo: GCS

## Tony Wong

The Legislative Assembly Electoral Affairs Commission (CAEAL) announced yesterday that rides on public buses and on the Light Rapid Transit (LRT) will be free for all passengers on polling day of the upcoming direct and indirect legislative elections, September 14, with the aim of making it “more convenient” for voters to visit polling stations to cast their ballots, as part of its efforts to encourage more voters to exercise their voting rights.

CAEAL President Seng Ioi Man made the remarks while speaking to reporters after chairing a regular closed-door meeting of the commission at the Public Administration Building on Rua do Campo.

Seng underlined that his commission has decided that all passengers will be given free rides on public buses and the LRT on polling day of the 2025 direct and indirect legislative elections after “referencing” similar arrangements implemented on polling day of the direct and indirect elections in 2001 as well as on the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of the Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR).

In celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Macau's return to the motherland on December 20 last year, passengers did not have

to pay fares on the city's public buses and LRT train rides that day.

On polling day of the 2001 direct and indirect elections, the first held after the establishment of the MSAR on December 20, 1999, registered voters could take free rides on public buses after showing the drivers their voter registration cards, and this measure was implemented again in the direct and indirect elections in 2005.

The legal requirement for registered voters to present their voter registration cards when casting their ballots was abolished for the 2009 direct and indirect elections. Since then, registered voters have only had to present their ID cards when casting their ballots.

Meanwhile, Seng also said yesterday that his commission will roll out a new measure aiming to make it more convenient for voters to cast their ballots, according to which various electoral service posts will be set up and run in different districts across the city on polling day, where voters can ask staff to check their designated polling stations. The service posts will be open between 8:30 a.m. and 9 p.m.

The polling stations will be open between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.

In addition, according to Seng, the electoral service posts will also arrange for transportation to be

provided for voters in special need, taking them to their designated polling stations.

Meanwhile, Seng also reaffirmed that on the first day of the two-week official election campaign period for the upcoming direct and indirect elections, his commission will hold a ceremony marking the electioneering period's formal start while also enabling the different candidacy groups to publicise their political platforms at the same time.

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

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

No ceremony was held marking the official start of the campaign period for the direct and indirect elections four years ago as Macau was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic at that time.

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

Seng said yesterday that the ceremony will be held in Praça do Tap Seac at 9:30 a.m. on the first day of the two-week election campaign period. ■

# Man, 37, in ICU with serious flu

## Tony Wong

The Health Bureau (SSM) announced in a statement yesterday that a 37-year-old local man with a history of chronic illness is in a serious condition after being infected with influenza.

According to the statement, the man came down with a fever, cough and sore throat on Wednesday last week, after which he sought treatment at a medical institution, which the statement did not identify.

As his symptoms persisted and he began to develop dyspnoea (difficulty in breathing) on Saturday, the statement said, he sought treatment at the public Conde de São Januário Hospital Centre at that time where he was then hospitalised and was diagnosed with influenza A complicated with pneumonia.

According to the statement, the man's condition worsened yesterday so that he was transferred to the intensive care unit (ICU) where he was put on a ventilator.

The man was in a serious condition at the time of yesterday's statement.

The statement said that the

man had not received a seasonal influenza jab.

## This year's 4<sup>th</sup> Legionnaires' disease case

Meanwhile, Macau recorded this year's fourth case of Legionnaires' disease on Friday last week, the bureau announced at that time.

The patient is a 56-year-old local man with a history of chronic illness. He visited the mainland alone between July 19 and Monday last week.

After returning to Macau on Monday last week, he came down with a fever, after which he developed shortness of breath on Wednesday last week.

The man sought treatment at a public health centre on Thursday last week, after which he was then transferred to the public Conde de São Januário Hospital Centre for follow-up treatment where he was diagnosed with pneumonia in his left lung and was then hospitalised.

The patient tested positive for Legionella pneumophila at the public hospital on Friday last week, because of which he was diagnosed with Legionnaires' disease. ■

# 54 pct of SMEs report declining turnover: survey

## Staff Reporter

The findings of a survey released yesterday show that 54 percent of the small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) asked by its organisers earlier this year responded that their turnover was declining.

The survey was carried out earlier this year by the Macau Economic and Livelihood Alliance, which held a press conference at its office in Zape yesterday to announce the survey's findings.

The survey collected 1,037 valid questionnaires from local SMEs which were randomly chosen.

According to yesterday's press conference, the findings of the survey also show that the respondents identified “fierce market competition” and “high operation costs” as two major factors making it difficult for them to run and develop their business.

Moreover, the findings also show that over 70 percent of the respondents said that they were carrying out, or planning to carry out, digital transformation in their operations. However, only nine percent of the respondents said that they had completed digitalising their operations.

According to the press conference, the findings of the survey also indicate that 62 percent of the respondents told the alliance that they did not have a comprehensive understanding of the government's various support measures for SMEs.

During the press conference, representatives from the alliance suggested that the government set up a one-stop SME platform dedicated to helping local SMEs make better use of its various support measures and streamlining the respective application processes. ■

# China to hold int'l fair to boost global investment

BEIJING — The 25<sup>th</sup> China International Fair for Investment & Trade (CIFIT) is slated to be held from Sept. 8 to 11 in Xiamen, Fujian Province, the organizer announced yesterday.

Covering an area of around 120,000 square meters, the four-day event will feature more than 70 investment-themed activities and over 100 roadshows, Vice Commerce Minister Ling Ji told a press conference.

This year's fair features the United Kingdom as its

guest country of honor. So far, delegations from more than 110 countries, regions and international organizations have signed up, with 51 countries and regions to host exhibitions, Ling said.

Against the backdrop of weak global economic momentum, rising trade and investment barriers, and slowing cross-border investment, active participation in this event highlights China's enduring appeal to foreign investors, he noted.

This year's CIFIT will also serve as a bridge for Belt and

Road Initiative (BRI) participating countries and regions, fostering closer ties and promoting practical cooperation, said Wang Jinfu, vice governor of Fujian. To date, 77 BRI participating countries and regions have confirmed their attendance, with more cooperation outcomes to be presented during the fair.

First launched in 1997, the CIFIT, organized by the Ministry of Commerce, has become an important platform for boosting investment and facilitating global development. — Xinhua



Representatives of the Macau Economic and Livelihood Alliance address yesterday's press conference at their office in Zape. — Photo courtesy of TDM



# CONGRATULATIONS ON THE 21<sup>ST</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE MACAU POST DAILY





# CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MACAU POST DAILY ON ITS 21<sup>ST</sup> ANNIVERSARY



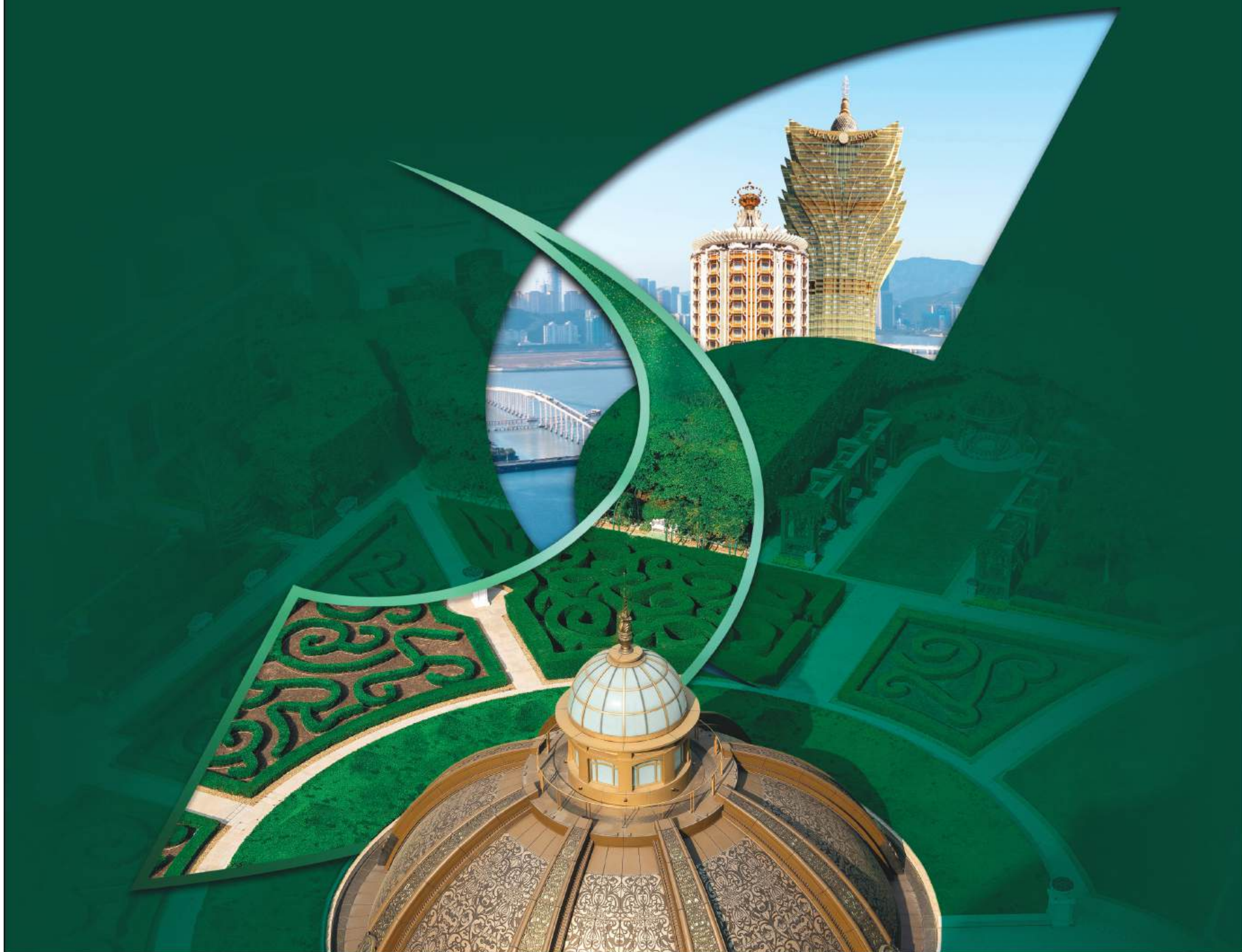
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# Xi meets Russian State Duma chairman

BEIJING – President Xi Jinping met with Vyacheslav Volodin, chairman of the Russian parliament's lower house, the State Duma, in Beijing yesterday.

Xi pointed out that China-Russia relations are the most stable, mature and strategically significant major-country relations in today's volatile and changing world.

Persistently promoting the high-level development of China-Russia relations is in the fundamental interests of the two peoples and is also the source of stability for world peace, he said.

"In May this year, I paid a state visit to Russia and attended the celebration to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the victory of the Great Patriotic War of the Soviet Union," Xi said, noting that next week, China will hold a grand event to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War.

China and the Soviet Union, as the main battlefields of World War II in Asia and Europe, respectively, made immense national sacrifice in resisting the aggression of Japanese militarism and German Nazism, and



President Xi Jinping shakes hands with Vyacheslav Volodin, chairman of the Russian parliament's lower house, the State Duma, at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing yesterday. – Xinhua

greatly contributed to the victory of World War II, Xi said.

It is important that the two sides carry forward traditional friendship, deepen strategic mutual trust, strengthen exchanges and cooperation across the board,

jointly safeguard their security and development interests, Xi said.

He called on the two sides to promote solidarity with other Global South countries, commit to true multilateralism, and work for a more just and equitable

international order.

Xi emphasized that cooperation between legislative bodies is an indispensable part of the China-Russia comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination for the new era.

It is hoped that the two sides will actively share experience on governance and lawmaking in order to provide more robust legislative guarantees for China-Russia strategic coordination and comprehensive cooperation under the new circumstances, he said.

Volodin conveyed to President Xi the cordial greetings and best wishes from Russian President Vladimir Putin.

He said that under the strategic guidance of the two presidents, the Russia-China relations have seen further development and yielded fruitful outcome.

The Russian State Duma is committed to acting in line with the important consensus between the two presidents, reinforcing exchanges and cooperation between the legislative bodies, and working hard to make the bilateral relationship even more productive, he noted.

Volodin said that eight decades ago, people in the Soviet Union and China made great contributions to the victory over fascism. Russia will join China in celebrating this hard-won victory, honoring fallen heroes, and working for a better future, he said. – Xinhua

## Key things to know about SCO Tianjin Summit

BEIJING – Leaders from Asia, Europe and Africa will gather in the northern port city of Tianjin from Aug. 31 to Sept. 1 for the largest-ever Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit in history, charting the blueprint for the bloc's next decade of development.

Primarily born to address security concerns, the SCO has, over its 24-year development, grown into a comprehensive regional organization representing nearly half of the world's population. Here is what you need to know about the SCO's remarkable journey and what to anticipate at the Tianjin summit.

### AN EVOLVING REGIONAL BLOC

The SCO traces its roots to the "Shanghai Five" mechanism, when China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan came together in 1996 to manage border security issues after the end of the Cold War. On June 15, 2001, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization was established with Uzbekistan joining as the sixth member.

What began as a regional security grouping has evolved into a regional organization encompassing nearly half of the world's population, a quarter of the global landmass and a quarter of global GDP. With the accession of India, Pakistan, Iran and Belarus, the SCO now has 10 member states, alongside two observer states and 14 dialogue partners.

Dedicated to maintaining regional security and promoting common development, the SCO

adheres to the Shanghai Spirit, which features mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, consultation, respect for diverse civilizations and pursuit of common development.

This spirit has guided the bloc to chart a path of regional cooperation, transcending differences in ideology, social system and development path, and setting an example for a new type of international relations.

Over the years, SCO member states have seen deepened political mutual trust and fruitful cooperation, which led to regional stability, steady trade growth, joint infrastructure projects, and coordinated action in fields such as food and energy security.

Through mechanisms such as the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure, SCO members have worked together effectively to maintain regional peace and stability by combating terrorism, separatism, and extremism. Security frameworks have been strengthened, and joint exercises have expanded into cyberspace.

In the first 20 years since its establishment, the total trade value of SCO member states increased nearly 100-fold, while their share of global trade rose from 5.4 percent in 2001 to 17.5 percent in 2020, demonstrating growing influence, according to a trade development report released in 2022.

"The Shanghai Spirit is the 'root' and 'soul' of the SCO," said Fan Xianrong, a Chinese foreign ministry official responsible for coordination work in the SCO.

In the face of the ever-changing international landscape, SCO

member states would continue to champion this spirit through concrete actions, offering their solutions for creating a fair and equitable global governance system and support for the building of a community with a shared future for humanity, according to Fan.

### CHINA: A FIRM UPHOLDER OF SHANGHAI SPIRIT

As one of the founding members, China has always made the SCO a diplomatic priority and firmly upheld the Shanghai Spirit. The country has put forward a series of important initiatives and propositions, and contributed Chinese wisdom, solutions and dynamism to the regional development.

China has proposed the building of an SCO community with a shared future, an inspiring vision that enriches the Shanghai Spirit. It also called on SCO members to build a common home featuring solidarity and mutual trust, peace and tranquility, prosperity and development, good-neighborliness and friendship, as well as fairness and justice.

On the economic front, trade and investment ties between China and other SCO members have become increasingly robust, with cooperation spanning across sectors such as infrastructure, energy, agriculture and technology, enhancing the well-being of the people across the region.

In 2024, China's trade with other SCO members, observer states and dialogue partners reached a historic high of US\$890 billion, or 14.4 percent of the country's

total foreign trade. In the same year, the number of China-Europe freight trains passing through the SCO countries and regions reached 19,000, an increase of 10.7 percent compared with 2023.

In one of its latest efforts to promote tech cooperation, China has welcomed all SCO parties to use its BeiDou navigation system and participate in the development of the International Lunar Research Station, while pledging to provide at least 1,000 training opportunities on digital technology to other SCO countries in three years.

Since taking over the SCO presidency in July 2024, China has worked closely with all parties and hosted over 100 events with the theme "SCO Year of Sustainable Development," including ministerial-level meetings, an SCO political parties' forum, a media and think tank summit, and an art festival.

"China will work with all parties of the SCO to remain true to the organization's original aspiration, shoulder its mission, carry forward the Shanghai Spirit, and provide SCO solutions for global governance and reform," Assistant Foreign Minister Liu Bin told the press last week.

### WHAT TO EXPECT FROM TIANJIN SUMMIT

With leaders from more than 20 countries and heads of 10 international organizations set to participate, the upcoming SCO Summit 2025 is expected to pool consensus and steer the organization toward building a closer community

with a shared future.

Key outcomes will include the signing of a declaration by leaders of SCO member states at the summit as well as the approval of a development strategy of the bloc for the next 10 years, according to Liu.

The summit will also issue statements marking the 80th anniversary of the victory in the World Anti-Fascist War and the 80th founding anniversary of the United Nations, and adopt a series of outcome documents on strengthening security, economic, people-to-people and cultural cooperation.

China will also elaborate on its new vision and propositions for the SCO in carrying forward the Shanghai Spirit, embracing the mission of the times, and responding to the people's expectations, and announce new measures and initiatives to support the high-quality development of the SCO and comprehensive cooperation.

"China believes that a friendly, united and productive Tianjin Summit will advance the SCO into a new phase of high-quality development, characterized by greater solidarity, closer coordination, stronger momentum and higher effectiveness," Liu said.

Sheradil Baktygulov, director of the Institute of World Policy of Kyrgyzstan, expressed high expectations for the summit. "The SCO Tianjin Summit will take place at a difficult time of global turbulence, but it will become a guiding bright star – showing the right path to safe and stable development." – Xinhua