

# Govt announces audited election results

Tony Wong

The government yesterday announced the audited results of Sunday's direct Legislative Assembly (AL) election, which did not affect the composition of the 14 lawmakers-elect.

It also announced the audited results of the indirect election, which also did not affect the composition of that segment's 12 lawmakers-elect.

According to the audited results announced yesterday, the New Hope candidacy group headed by veteran lawmaker-cum-civil service unionist José Maria Pereira Coutinho, that came out on top in Sunday's 2025 direct election, garnered 26.73 percent of the total number of valid votes, enabling three of its candidates to be elected. Only six candidacy groups were vying for the 14 directly-elected seats at stake in Sunday's election.

The audited results were announced by the General Audit Committee of the Legislative Assembly Election in a press briefing at the Public Administration Building on Rua do Campo yesterday.

Cheong Kuok Chi, who heads the committee, announced that 24 votes initially deemed invalid were finally declared valid.

In Sunday's direct election, the voter turnout was 53.35 percent, where 175,272 voters cast their ballots out of the 328,506 registered voters eligible to cast their ballots.

According to the direct election's preliminary results released in the early hours of Monday, a total of 5,987



A civil servant pastes the audited results of Sunday's direct and indirect legislative elections on ground floor of the Public Administration Building on Rua do Campo yesterday afternoon.

– Photo: GCS

votes were blank, while 7,077 votes were deemed invalid at that time.

According to the audited results announced by Cheong yesterday, the 175,272 votes cast in Sunday's direct election comprised 162,232 valid votes, 5,987 blank ballots and 7,053 invalid votes, after the committee validated 24 ballots initially deemed invalid.

The audited results of Sunday's direct election were also uploaded onto the legislative election's website yesterday.

According to the audited results announced yesterday, the percentages of votes garnered by the six candidacy groups in relation to the total number of valid votes remain the same as the preliminarily-announced ones.

By order of the number of votes garnered, according to the audited results announced yesterday, the New Hope group garnered 43,367 votes, while the Macau United Citizens Association (ACUM) group won 29,464 votes, the Union

for Development (UPD) group obtained 27,435 votes, the Progress Promotion Union (UPP) group won 21,750 votes, the Macau-Guangdong Union (UMG) group garnered 21,464 votes, and the Alliance for a Happy Home group obtained 18,752 votes.

According to analysts, the New Hope is the electoral vehicle of the Macau Civil Servants Association (ATFPM), while the ACUM group involves many members of Macau's sizeable Fujianese community,

estimated to account for about 1/5 of the local population, UPD group is the electoral vehicle of the Macau Federation of Trade Unions (Gung Luen), the UPP group is the electoral vehicle of the Macau General Union of Neighbourhood Associations (Kai Fong), the UMG is the electoral vehicle of the Macau Jiangmen Communal Society (Jiangmen, a city in Guangdong Province, is the ancestral hometown of thousands of Macau residents), while the Alliance for a Happy Home is the electoral vehicle of the Macau Women's General Association (Fu Luen).

Consequently, the New Hope group garnered 26.73 percent of the total number of valid votes, while the ACUM group obtained 18.16 percent, the UPD group 16.91 percent, the UPP group 13.41 percent, the UMG group 13.23 percent, and the Alliance for a Happy Home group 11.56 percent.

In Sunday's direct election, the New Hope group and the ACUM group won three seats each, while the other four candidacy won two seats each.

All the six candidacy groups competed in previous elections.

It is the first time that the New Hope group has won three seats since it was first elected in the direct election in 2005, while the ACUM group won three seats in the 2013 direct election and the 2021 direct election, as well as this time, since it first ran in the legislature's direct election in 2005.

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## Over 1,000 scientists rebuke US push to overturn climate ruling

NEW YORK – More than 1,000 US scientists and experts yesterday denounced the White House's efforts to overturn a key finding that underpins government authority to regulate greenhouse gases.

Under President Donald Trump, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is seeking to overturn its own 2009 "Endangerment Finding," which acknowledges that heat-trapping

emissions are endangering public health and welfare.

It has long served as the legal basis for numerous federal regulations like emissions standards.

Lee Zeldin, the current EPA head, has said the standard – which was upheld by the Supreme Court – was based on flawed reasoning and caused economic harm.

But the letter said that "as climate scientists, public health experts, and economists, we can attest to the

indisputable scientific evidence of human-caused climate change, its harmful impacts on people's health and well-being, and the devastating costs it is imposing."

"This explicit attempt to undermine or weaken these findings, as well as the critical regulations linked to them, is contrary to science and the public interest," it added.

The letter delivered by the Union of Concerned Scientists

also skewered a recent report commissioned by the Trump-era US Department of Energy, reiterating criticism that the report is inaccurate, contradictory and a mischaracterisation of data.

"The scientific evidence on human-caused climate change and its consequences was unequivocal in 2009 and, since that time, has become even more dire and compelling," read yesterday's letter.

"We urge you to stop dismantling

critical climate regulations and evading the EPA's responsibility by pushing disinformation about climate science and impacts," the signatories continued.

"Instead, we call on you to act with urgency to help address this pressing challenge by limiting heat-trapping emissions.

"People across the nation are relying on the EPA to fulfill its mission to protect public health and the environment." – AFP

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The Macau Post Daily

### Premier Li calls for coordination of high-quality development, high-level protection

Premier Li Qiang has urged efforts to coordinate high-quality development with high-level protection, and to accelerate the construction of a modern industrial system that leverages local characteristics and advantages.

– Story on p. 7

### Robert Redford dies at 89

Cinema legend Robert Redford, a screen great both in front of and behind the camera whose career spanned six decades, died yesterday at his home in Utah, his publicist said. He was 89.

– Story on p. 11

### Bolsonaro conviction 'not a witch hunt,' Lula tells Trump in NYT op-ed

Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva pushed back on Sunday against harsh US criticism of the conviction last week of his far-right predecessor Jair Bolsonaro on coup charges.

– Story on p. 12



# GBA seminar discusses channels for 3-region lawyers

Ida Cheong

The “2025 Greater Bay Area (GBA) Legal-Business Exchange Seminar & 6<sup>th</sup> National Security Education (Instructor Training) Certificate Course Graduation Ceremony” was held yesterday, discussing ways how to establish a channel for direct access to legal resources across Macau, Hong Kong and the Chinese mainland, particularly providing clear guidance on practical issues such as cross-border legal practices and intellectual property protection, offering businesses clear directions for overseas expansion.

The one-day event took place at Macau Galaxy International Convention Centre, focusing on “bridging legal and corporate needs to solve cross-border challenges,” and over 300 legal representatives, corporate leaders and young lawyers from Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau attended.

Lawyer Junius Ho Kwan Yiu, a member of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), said in his speech that as of last week about 618 Hong Kong and Macau lawyers had obtained qualifications to practise in the Greater Bay Area (GBA) through the current pilot scheme, adding that the lawyers participating in the scheme are from nine Guangdong cities, including



Lawyer Junius Ho Kwan Yiu (first right), who is a member of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), and others pose for a group photo during yesterday’s “2025 Greater Bay Area (GBA) Legal-Business Exchange Seminar & 6<sup>th</sup> National Security Education (Instructor Training) Certificate Course Graduation Ceremony” at Galaxy International Convention Centre in Cotai.

– Photo: Maria Cheang

Guangzhou, Shenzhen and Zhuhai, which expanded more opportunities for legal professionals from Hong Kong and Macau in the Greater Bay Area.

According to a statement released by the International Probono\* Legal Services Association (IPLSA) yesterday, considering cross-border legal practices in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area, existing barriers across market competition, taxation, policies, and professional training domains, including the lack of mutual recognition for continuing

legal education credits among the three jurisdictions, it has proposed the setting-up of a “one-stop legal service hub” for the three regions, facilitating notarisation services and providing a network for three-regions lawyers. ■

\*Pro bono is short for the Latin phrase *pro bono publico*, which means “for the public good”, it refers to professional services (most famously legal work, but also other fields) provided voluntarily and free of charge to clients who cannot afford to pay, or to organisations that serve the public interest. – DeepSeek

# Forum aims to consolidate Macau, Guangdong & HK cybersecurity

Ida Cheong

Aiming to further consolidate the local cybersecurity framework and enhance collaboration between Macau, Guangdong and Hong Kong, the 2025 edition of “China Cybersecurity Week (Macau Sub-forum)” was held yesterday.

The one-day forum took place at the Macau Science Centre in Nape and focused on cutting-edge issues in cyber and data security, including personal data protection, artificial intelligence (AI), cloud computing security, ransomware prevention, and vulnerability management.

Over 400 local key infrastructure operators, related industries and government representatives, experts, as well as scholars from Guangdong and Hong Kong attended. They discussed advanced technologies and valuable insights aimed at strengthening regional security capabilities, according to a statement by the Judiciary Police (PJ).

Judiciary Police (PJ) Acting Director Lai Man Vai noted in his speech that cybersecurity is the lifeline of the digital age, encompassing not only technical protection but also national security, economic development and social stability, adding that since the enactment of “Macau

Cybersecurity Law” in 2019, the government has actively built a preventive cybersecurity governance system, advancing the institutionalisation, systematisation, and professionalisation of local cybersecurity efforts.

Lai added that the Judiciary Police will continue to cooperate with Guangdong Province and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) to further strengthen talent exchange and technological innovation among the three regions, vigorously facilitate data flow, and jointly fortify the cybersecurity defence line of the GBA, Lai said. ■



Judiciary Police (PJ) Acting Director Lai Man Vai delivers a speech during yesterday’s “China Cybersecurity Week (Macau Sub-forum)” at the Macau Science Centre in Nape.

– Photo: Ida Cheong

# Observatory mulls hoisting Signal No.1 tonight

Armindo Neves

The Macau Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) announced on its website yesterday afternoon that Standby Signal No.1 might be hoisted between tonight and early tomorrow when a tropical cyclone is forecast to arrive within 800 kilometres from Macau.

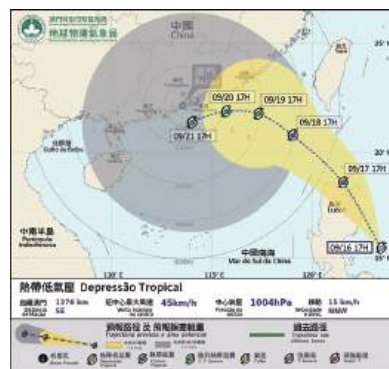
Signal No.1 is the lowest of Macau’s five-level tropical cyclone warning signals. It is hoisted when a tropical cyclone comes within 800 kilometres from Macau. Its higher warning typhoon signals are the No.3, No.8, No.9, and No.10.

The observatory said that a low-pressure area at the east of the Philippines has developed into a tropical depression, forecasting that the tropical depression was expected to enter within 800 kilometres of Macau

between tonight and early tomorrow.

The weather station said that the cyclone was expected to gradually intensify these two days, moving towards the eastern coast of Guangdong.

However, the bureau said there was still large uncertainty of the cyclone’s path, adding that it was still closely monitoring its development and movement. ■



# Police nab man for ‘slandering’ Macau table tennis player

Armindo Neves

A man was arrested on Saturday for allegedly slandering a local table tennis player, Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Lei Chi Hou said during a regular press conference yesterday.

Lei identified the suspect as a 51-year-old mainlander surnamed Liang who claims to be jobless.

According to Lei, the Judiciary Police received a complaint last Thursday night from a middle-aged female table tennis player representing Macau internationally, who said that she was being slandered by a group affiliated with a male surnamed Liang from the Chinese mainland.

The WTT [World Table Tennis] Champions Macao 2025 presented by Galaxy Entertainment Group was held between last Tuesday and Sunday. The competition took place at the Macau East Asian Games Dome in Cotai. The complainant competed in last week’s championship.

Lei said that the victim discovered multiple online posts early last Thursday containing photos of two individuals wearing clothing printed with the debt-collecting slogan “Macau table tennis player XXX, repay my hard-earned money!” and holding

up a banner with similar messages outside the venue of the Macau East Asian Games Dome. The victim confirmed that she had no financial disputes with any individuals and does not know the people in the photos, Lei said.

The victim demands that the relevant parties be held criminally liable, according to Lei, who added that after investigating, the Judiciary Police identified three male suspects, including Liang suspected of taking the photos.

The trio, according to Lei, entered Macau on Thursday morning; after allegedly taking the photos at the East Asian Games Dome, they left Macau together. Then, on Saturday evening, Liang re-entered Macau through the Barrier Gate where he was intercepted by PJ officers.

According to Lei, Liang confessed to accepting 2,500 yuan (2,820 patacas) from “someone” to do the related tasks, without verifying the authenticity of the information given to him. He also admitted to recruiting two accomplices, who – at the time of the press conference – were still at large, to come to Macau with him to take the photos. However, Liang did not reveal how he was



Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Lei Chi Hou looks on during yesterday’s regular press conference.

– Photo: Armindo Neves

contacted by “that someone” and how he hired his accomplices, Lei said.

Liang has meanwhile been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) facing a slander charge, Lei said, adding that the Judiciary Police are still looking for Liang’s two accomplices, Lei said. ■

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MACAU POST

## Macau Weather

**VERY HOT.**  
**CLOUDY APART FROM SUNNY INTERVALS.**  
**A FEW SHOWERS.**  
**A FEW THUNDERSTORMS AT FIRST.**  
**FORCE 3 TO 4 EASTERLY WINDS WITH GUSTS.**  
**RELATIVE HUMIDITY WILL RANGE BETWEEN 70% AND 95%.**



26°C~32°C

Source: SMG



## UTM marks 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary with gala dinner

**Kharel Vallo**

The University of Tourism of Macau (UTM) celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a gala dinner on Monday at Macau Tower, bringing together over 200 guests from various government entities, the tourism industry, institutions and organisations, as well as faculty, students and alumni to reflect on its journey and future development, according to a statement from the public higher institute of learning yesterday.

Addressing the gathering, UTM Council Chair Andrew Chan Chak Mo underlined that the university has aligned itself with the nation's "14<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan" and Macau's development strategy of "One Centre, One Platform, One Base", aiming to focus on cultivating versatile professionals with an international vision and patriotic values, the statement noted, adding that UTM Rector Fanny Vong Chuk Kwan expressed gratitude for the government

and the community's support, saying that "UTM is advancing its extended campus projects in the [Guangdong-Macao In-Depth] Cooperation Zone [in Hengqin] and preparing for a new campus there to strengthen teaching and research.

The evening also saw the unveiling of UTM's first official mascot "Chase", which symbolises happiness, courage, and determination, the statement said, adding that the celebratory atmosphere was enhanced by student and faculty performances, while its alumni association presented anniversary gifts to the university.

According to the statement, the gala not only marked three decades of its achievements but also aimed to reinforce its commitment to nurturing talent for Macau, the Greater Bay Area (GBA), and the whole nation, adding that UTM will continue to elevate teaching and research, aiming to foster industry collaboration, contributing to Macau's cultural and tourism development. ■



*This poster provided by the Macau University of Tourism (UTM) yesterday unveils its first official mascot – "Chase" – during its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Dinner at Macau Tower on Monday.*

## Consultation on 2026 policy guidelines starts today



*This undated image provided by the Macau Government Information Bureau (GCS) announces the government's public consultation on its policy guidelines for next year.*

**Armando Neves**

The Macau Government Information Bureau (GCS) announced in a statement yesterday that in preparation for the government's policy guidelines for next year, the latter will today start a one-month-long public consultation in the runup to Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai's upcoming 2026 Policy Address.

The consultation process will conclude on October 17.

Customarily, the chief executive delivers his annual policy address in the Legislative Assembly (AL) in November.

Macau's calendar and fiscal years are identical.

According to the statement, in order to solicit opinions from all sectors of civil society and build social consensus during the policy guidelines' preparation process, local residents may submit their views through their "Macau One Account" app, as well as via a dedicated telephone message line 2883 9919, fax number 2882 3426, or by sending an email to [comment@dsepr.gov.mo](mailto:comment@dsepr.gov.mo).

The statement said that residents also can choose to post their views to the Policy Research and Regional Development Bureau (DSEPR) at 185-195 Rua do Desporto in Cotai.

The statement underlined that residents' views on the government's policy guidelines for next year are of significant importance for the steady economic development and continuous improvement of people's livelihoods in Macau.

The statement noted that the government hopes that all sectors of society will jointly care about Macau's advancement and development, and submit constructive opinions and suggestions concerning next year's policy guidelines through the various communication channels set up for the purpose.

Following the chief executive's policy address and Q&A session in the Legislative Assembly, the government's five policy secretaries will attend Q&A sessions one by one about their respective portfolios' policy guidelines in the legislature's hemicycle. ■



## Sands China Nurtures Film Talents

### International Film Camp Winners Shine at Global Film Festivals

The Asian Film Awards Academy inaugurated the International Film Camp (IFC) in Macao last year. This groundbreaking cross-border collaboration between Hong Kong and Macao brought together government and industry resources from both regions to create a platform for guidance and exchange for the next generation of Asian filmmakers, laying a solid foundation for the sustainable development of the film industry. After a rigorous selection process, a professional jury chose the top 16 finalists to participate in the camp. Among them, eight projects were selected to receive guidance from professional mentors throughout the production process and a sponsorship of HKD 300,000 each to complete their short films. Many of these projects have since gained recognition at international film festivals.

Sponsored by the Cultural and Creative Industries Development Agency (CCIDAHK), the Film Development Fund (FDF) of the Hong Kong SAR Government, and Sands China, this year's camp took place Sept. 10-16. Let us revisit last year's outstanding projects!

#### Sweet Sour Bitter ...

Presenting the local style of Liuzhou and taste the sweet, sour, bitter and spicy human touch with a bowl of Liuzhou snail noodles that looks simple but has a complex taste.

Director: Lee Chak Hang

Scriptwriter: Lee Chak Hang

Producer: Fruit Chan

Mentor: Ding Yui Shan



#### Recognition

TDebuted globally at Italy's 27<sup>th</sup> Udine Far East Film Festival, which is the largest Asian film festival in Europe, showcasing outstanding films from the far east.

#### Lee Chak Hang (Hong Kong SAR)

"Beyond winning an award, the greatest takeaway from the camp was connecting with a group of like-minded young directors. Winning an award to me is a form of affirmation and a motivation to encourage myself to keep moving forward. For those pursuing your film dreams, I hope you take a moment to reflect on the feeling of making your first short film. Treat every opportunity as if it were your last, and give it your all to achieve the best possible outcome."



Learn more





# Participatory ‘Art Exhibition for All’ kicks off, invites Macau to unleash creativity

Rui Pastorin

The participatory “Art Exhibition for All” located adjacent to Flower City Park (花城公園) in Taipa kicked off yesterday with an opening ceremony, inviting members of the public not only to view works on display, but to showcase their own as well.

Featuring an exhibition and an improvisation zone, “Art Exhibition for All” is among the raft of events for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Macao City Fringe Festival, which is taking place across various districts in Macau through September 28.

Those visiting the venue can view the exhibits on display, while at the improvisation zone members of the public can use their creativity to produce artworks to be exhibited. One can also choose to submit one’s own works. “As long as you have a passion for creation, everyone is an artist, and there will be a place for you!”, emphasised the Macao City Fringe Festival website, where submission forms can be found, in addition to the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) website.

Addressing yesterday’s inauguration, the Cultural Affairs Bureau’s (IC) Performing Arts Development Department Chief Kuok Mio U said that art is without limits and is for everyone. And no matter the place, art can be created everywhere, therefore, as in this case, resulting in “Art Exhibition for All” and inviting those interested to come and create works and exhibit them.

Kuok, whose speech was interpreted into English during the ceremony, invited both locals and tourists visiting Macau to take part in and experience the Fringe Festival, as well as enjoy the art.

The free-admission exhibition and improvisation zone adjacent to Flower City Park, specifically located on the Rua de Seng Tou (成都街) side, is on until September 28, being open from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. from Tuesday to Sunday. It is closed on Mondays.

Meanwhile, this year’s Fringe Festival features two Crème de la Fringe (“Cream of the Fringe”) series, 11 programmes and nine outreach activities across various locations, according to an IC statement provided yesterday. The event’s programmes will also be launched successively. More details can be found on [www.macaucityfringe.gov.mo](http://www.macaucityfringe.gov.mo). Ticketing details are also available on [ticketing.enjoymacao.mo](http://ticketing.enjoymacao.mo), while registration for outreach activities can be done via the Macao One Account app.



Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) Head of the Department of Performing Arts Development Kuok Mio U (centre) and other officiating guests including representatives of various art groups pose after yesterday evening’s opening ceremony for “Art Exhibition for All” adjacent to Flower City Park in Taipa.

– Photos: Rui Pastorin





# Govt launches subsidy encouraging SMEs to launch online marketing

**Tony Wong**

The Economic and Technological Development Bureau (DSED) announced yesterday that it will launch a subsidy programme next month aiming to encourage local small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) offering unique products or quality services or those willing to innovate their operations to launch online marketing campaigns.

The programme was announced during a press conference at the bureau's headquarters in Nam Van.

The first round of applications will run between October 21 and December 2. Each round will have 100 places.



Flanked by other officials and representatives, Economic and Technological Development Bureau (DSED) Director Yau Yun Wah (centre) speaks during yesterday's press conference at the bureau's headquarters. – Photo: Tony Wong

DSED officials underlined during the press conference that online marketing campaigns have become ever more necessary for local SMEs in order to meet the

consumption habits of those in the new generation.

Each beneficiary will receive a subsidy of up to 100,000 patacas, or 60 percent of the cost required

for the beneficiary to launch and carry out their online marketing campaigns.

Similar to various other subsidies provided by the bureau for

local SMEs, only locally established companies that employ no more than 100 employees will be eligible for this new subsidy.

Meanwhile, the bureau also announced yesterday that the Macau Chain Stores and Franchise Association will launch a new programme recognising time-honoured local old shops, since it was first launched in 2019.

In the 2019 round, a total of 12 shops were officially recognised as time-honoured shops.

The association's implementation of the programme will continue to be supported by the bureau. ■

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Macao Int'l Shorts Film Festival opens at Galaxy Cinemas



Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG) Chief Operating Officer Kevin Kelley (left) and Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) President Deland Leong Wai Man deliver their respective opening remarks during the opening ceremony of the 2<sup>nd</sup> GEG MISFF at Galaxy Cinemas in Cotai yesterday. – Photos: Khalel Vallo

**Khalel Vallo**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG) Macao International Shorts Film Festival (MISFF) officially opened yesterday at Galaxy Cinemas in the integrated resort of Galaxy Macau in Cotai, highlighting short films as a platform for international creativity and cultural exchange.

The ceremony was attended by local officials and international jury members, as well as industry guests.

In his opening remarks, Kevin Kelley, chief operating officer of GEG, welcomed the guests and cinemagoers to the second year of the festival, and noted that beyond screenings, the event also includes workshops, masterclasses and forums, "creating valuable spaces for filmmakers and creative to share ideas, learn from each other, and build connections that support Macau's growing creative scene".

Kelley added that GEG would continue to leverage its integrated resort offerings to create "unforgettable experiences that blend tourism and culture."

Meanwhile, Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) President Deland Leong Wai Man underscored Macau's role as "a base for exchange and cooperation where Chinese culture is mainstream and diverse cultures coexist".



She emphasised that cinema, as a universal language, captures the city's East-meets-West identity and helps convey "the profundity of Chinese civilisation and zeitgeist".

Reflecting on the festival's growth since its first edition, she said that the event aims to "deepen exchanges and interactions between local and international film industries, as well as to showcase a diversity of short films, stimulate creativity, and ultimately explore the boundless possibilities of the shorts format".

This year's programme features over 60 local and international short films across five curated sections, alongside talks and workshops with visiting filmmakers.

Film screenings are being held at Galaxy Cinemas and Cinematheque•Passion near the Ruins of St Paul's. Tickets are on sale on the Enjoy Macau Ticketing website at [ticketing.enjoymacao.mo](http://ticketing.enjoymacao.mo). Various discount packages are available, including a 50 percent discount for Student Card holders and the elderly aged 65 or above, as well as a 20 percent discount for members of the public who purchase 10 or more tickets. ■

*\*A zeitgeist is the general set of ideas, beliefs, feelings, etc. that is typical of a particular period in history. – DeepSeek*

## Macau students thank teachers with posters & comics

**Rui Pastorin**

Teacher's Day\* was celebrated last Wednesday, and students conveyed their gratitude through artworks at the "2025 Teacher's Day Poster and Comic Exhibition" (2025年教師節海報及漫畫作品展) in the Centre of Educational Resources of the Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ).

On until October 18, there are a number of artworks showcased at the free-admission venue, all created by students ranging from primary to university students. The works featured were selected from an open call that was held until April this year that had the objective of transmitting the message of love and respect for teachers through the creation of related works, according to the DSEDJ website, showing their gratitude through them.

A statement displayed at the gallery further highlighted the role of teachers, noting that they "bear the mission of nurturing talent and deserve respect from society". The statement noted that the exhibition shares students' gratitude for their



Artworks by students to thank their teachers are displayed at the Centre of Educational Resources of the Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ) opposite S. Francisco Garden. – Photo taken yesterday: Rui Pastorin

teachers with members of the public, promoting "the traditional values of respecting teachers and honouring education, and expressing profound respect for the teachers in Macau".

One can visit the venue from Monday to Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. and on Saturdays between 9:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. and 5:40 p.m. ■

*\*Teacher's Day is celebrated on varying dates in different parts of the world. In the Chinese mainland, Hong Kong and Macau it is annually commemorated on September 10, while in China's Taiwan region it takes place on September 28. On the other hand, UNESCO established World Teacher's Day on October 5. – Poe, Wikipedia*

## Govt announces audited election results

*Continued from p.1*

Before Sunday's 2025 direct election, the ACUM group was the only electoral group that had won three seats since the Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR) held its first direct legislative election in 2001.

In the 2021 direct election, 14 candidacy groups vied for the 14 seats at stake when candidates of seven groups were elected, comprising the same six groups this time as well as the Power of Synergy group. This time, all candidates fielded by the Power of Synergy group headed by sitting lawmaker Ron Lam U Tou were disqualified from running in the election after the MSAR's Committee for Safeguarding National Security concluded that they had not upheld the MSAR

Basic Law or been disloyal to the MSAR.

In the direct election four years ago, the ACUM group garnered the highest number of votes, at 26,599, accounting for 20.14 percent of the total number of valid votes, enabling the group to win three seats. It was the only group to win three seats at that time.

Four years ago, the UPD group obtained the second highest number of votes, at 23,761, accounting for 17.99 percent of the total, while the New Hope group garnered the third highest number of votes, at 18,232, accounting for 13.80 percent of the total. Both groups then won two seats each.

In the 2021 direct election, the UPP group obtained 15,102 votes, accounting for 11.43 percent of

the total, while the Alliance for a Happy Home group garnered 14,232 votes, accounting for 10.78 percent of the total. Both groups won two seats each.

Four years ago, the Power of Synergy group won one seat as it obtained 8,764 votes, accounting for 6.64 percent of the total.

Although the voter turnout in Sunday's 2025 direct election (53.35 percent) was not the highest since the MSAR held its first direct legislative election, the number of voters (175,272) casting their ballots was the highest.

Since the MSAR held its first direct legislative election, the highest voter turnout was 59.91 percent in 2009, when 149,006 voters cast their ballots out of the then 248,708 eligible registered voters. ■



# China starts building ultra-high voltage power line from Xizang to GBA

GUANGZHOU — China yesterday began construction of a massive ultra-high voltage (UHV) power transmission line that will carry clean energy from Xizang Autonomous Region in southwest China across thousands of kilometers to the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA).

The ±800 kV direct current transmission project involves a total investment of about 53.2 billion yuan. It starts in Qamdo, Xizang Autonomous Region, and ends in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, according to Dong Yanle, deputy general manager of the engineering construction department of China Southern Power Grid Co., Ltd.

The project stretches approximately 2,681 kilometers and runs through four provincial-level regions, which include southwest China's Yunnan Province and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in south China. It is China's first UHV power transmission line to cross the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, the Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau and the hilly terrain of south China.

After becoming fully operational in 2029, the line, with

a rated capacity of 10 GW, will deliver more than 43 billion kWh of electricity annually from the clean energy base in southeastern Xizang to the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

The line will exclusively deliver electricity generated from clean energy sources, Dong said, while adding that the green electricity provided by this line will be equivalent to the consumption of around 12 million tonnes of standard coal a year — while cutting annual carbon dioxide emissions by 33 million tonnes. “This will make economic development greener and cleaner,” Dong noted.

“The project will address world-class challenges such as large-scale clean energy transmission, the application of ultra-high-altitude UHV flexible direct current technology, and construction and operation in extremely complex environments,” said Rao Hong, chief scientist of China Southern Power Grid.

Nearly 90 percent of this line will run through mountainous areas. Workers will need to tackle challenges and face risks such as permafrost, geological disasters, environmental protection needs

and operations in uninhabited regions. Other challenges include research and development of new direct current power transmission technology and equipment suitable for regions at an altitude of above 4,300 meters.

Over the past years, China has invested heavily in the construction of UHV power transmission lines to deliver electricity from the country's energy-rich west to its booming east — and increase consumption of clean energy sources for green economic growth.

Xizang, one of China's key energy bases, is rich in clean energy sources — such as hydropower, wind power and solar power. It has already built several UHV power transmission lines to send surplus power to many parts of the country.

Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, one of China's most economically dynamic regions, is also a leader in green and high-quality economic growth.

In 2024, green electricity trading in the Greater Bay Area had reached 49.1 billion kWh, an 11-fold increase from the previous year — accounting for 39 percent of China's total. — *Xinhua*

# GGI a road map for solving global challenges

*Commentary by Balew Demissie\**

In an age of profound uncertainty, marked by geopolitical rivalries, pandemics, the climate crisis, and growing development disparities, fair and equitable global governance has become a necessity more than ever. Existing institutions, while historically significant, are often found wanting when it comes to addressing pressing transnational issues. Against this backdrop, President Xi Jinping's Global Governance Initiative is a strategic framework that aims to recalibrate international cooperation.

Based on principles such as sovereign equality, respect for international law, multilateralism, people-centric development and practical results, the GGI promotes the building of a more just and equitable global governance system. The initiative outlines ways to address challenges, from climate change to digital disruption. By emphasizing solidarity over confrontation, and cooperation over unilateralism, the initiative offers a road map for building collective resilience in a fractured world.

President Xi's GGI proposal — at the recent SCO Summit in Tianjin — coincides with the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations. One of the founding goals of the UN was to prevent further man-made catastrophes. But eight decades later, the UN-centered system has met some serious challenges: gross underrepresentation of the Global South, erosion of authority, and lack of effectiveness.

For example, Africa, home to more than 1.4 billion people, should have a bigger say in the UN Security Council. Similarly, unilateral sanctions against developing countries show how selective interpretations of international law undermine the authority of the UN. On the other hand, the slow progress on the Sustainable Development Goals highlights the effectiveness gap — nearly 700 million people were living in extreme poverty in 2024 despite global commitments to the contrary. In this sense, the GGI's call to “boost the representation of the Global South and redress historical injustices” is a corrective response to lived realities.

The first principle of the GGI, sovereign equality, directly challenges the hierarchies embedded in the existing global governance structure. All countries, regardless of their size, strength and wealth, have the right to have their sovereignty and dignity respected, to participate equally in the global governance process, and to make decisions and benefit from them.

This principle resonates with today's multipolar world. The expansion of BRICS, for instance, was driven by developing countries' pursuit of sovereign equality and dissatisfaction with Western-dominated forums. By ensuring the voices of emerging economies are heard, the GGI offers practical development avenues. If implemented, it could reduce the alienation of developing countries and increase their confidence in multilateral solutions.

According to the GGI, international

rule of law is the “fundamental safeguard of global governance”. In today's world where powerful states selectively apply rules, this principle is crucial. For example, the inconsistent enforcement of international law in the Russia-Ukraine conflict has raised questions of fairness.

The GGI's commitment to multilateralism is equally important. Global issues should be decided by all, the global governance system should be built by all, and the fruits of governance should be shared by all.

A distinctive feature of the GGI is its people-centric approach. The necessity of the people-centric approach becomes clear when we look at climate change. In 2022, devastating floods in Pakistan displaced millions of people, disproportionately affecting the poorest.

The crisis revealed not only the vulnerability of the environment but also the gaps in global governance, because developed countries' promises on climate finance have remained largely unfulfilled.

By advocating for a greater sense of fulfillment through accelerated co-development, prioritizing climate cooperation, and adopting a people-centric approach, the GGI aims to address such failures. And its emphasis on sustainable development and digital justice shows it recognizes that technological disruption, if left unchecked, could increase inequality.

Besides, the GGI calls for achieving tangible results. As the SCO concept paper says, effective global governance is essentially one that resolves real problems. This pragmatism is in line with the Chinese president's broader vision of development-oriented internationalism, as highlighted in the Belt and Road Initiative. When the Ebola epidemic broke out in western and central Africa in 2014, for example, China sent medical teams and set up treatment centers, demonstrating what results-oriented solidarity can deliver.

The GGI also addresses new frontier areas such as artificial intelligence, cyberspace and outer space. Given the rapid advancement of AI, gaps in governance could exacerbate global risks, from algorithmic bias to autonomous weapons. By calling for international rules, formulated based on a comprehensive consensus, the GGI shows unilateralism would be disastrous in the face of the next generation of challenges.

The GGI is another major global initiative proposed by China, following the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative and the Global Civilization Initiative. The initiatives have their respective priorities but can be pursued simultaneously. Taken together, they aim to address the interconnected needs of humanity: material development, peace, cultural dialogue and institutional reform. The GGI aims to transform the global governance system from a battleground of competing powers into a collaborative platform for building humankind's collective resilience.

*\*The author is a communication and publication consultant at the Ethiopian Policy Studies Institute.*



**The Concert “Voice of Peace” is held during the first Europe-China Youth Peace Forum in Geneva, Switzerland, on Monday. The first Europe-China Youth Peace Forum gathered about 120 participants in Geneva on Monday, marking 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. — *Xinhua***

# Tax relief set as Portugal drops HK from its blacklist

HONG KONG — Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury Christopher Hui Chin-yu said yesterday Hong Kong investors in Portugal will no longer be subject to higher taxes — as the Chinese special administrative region (SAR) is set to be removed from the Iberian country's “blacklist of tax havens” from the start of next year.

The news of the imminent move came after the SAR government had urged Portugal to take the special administrative region off the blacklist “in light of the city's continuous efforts in supporting global cooperation”.

Hui also raised such concerns when he met with Portuguese officials to exchange views over global tax cooperation and

mutual investments in a trip to Lisbon in June last year.

Currently, Hong Kong is included in Portugal's “tax haven list”, meaning that Hong Kong enterprises and investors will face increased taxation and special anti-abuse measures in Portugal.

But following the removal, Hui noted that SAR investors and businesses can see their property taxes in Portugal decline by up to 7.2 percent while enjoying certain waivers for non-resident capital gains taxes — with potential savings amounting up to 28 percent.

Transactions between Hong Kong and Portugal will also no longer be subject to strict transfer pricing rules, he added.

“We will continue to support

international tax cooperation, maintain close communication with overseas tax jurisdictions, and actively expand the network of tax treaties to further consolidate Hong Kong's position as an international leading business and investment hub,” he said.

Along with the HKSAR, Liechtenstein and Uruguay will also no longer be on the list, with the removal set to take effect from January 1.

In February last year, the city was also removed from the European Union's watch list on tax cooperation, which Hui said demonstrated the efforts that the city had taken to comply with international tax standards and address concerns emanating from Brussels. — *RTHK, MPD*



# Premier Li calls for coordination of high-quality development, high-level protection



Premier Li Qiang (center), also a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, inspects a high-tech company and an industrial park in Lanzhou, northwest China's Gansu Province, on Monday. Li went on a two-day inspection tour of the northwest Gansu and Qinghai provinces that concluded yesterday. — Xinhua

XINING — Premier Li Qiang has urged efforts to coordinate high-quality development with high-level protection, and to accelerate the construction of a modern industrial system that leverages local characteristics and advantages.

Li, who is also a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, made the remarks during a two-day inspection tour of the northwestern Gansu and Qinghai provinces that concluded yesterday.

While inspecting a high-tech company and an industrial park in Lanzhou, Gansu Province, Li stressed the importance of keeping pace with international frontiers, of supporting enterprises and research institutions to increase R&D investment, and of

improving mechanisms for talent cultivation.

He also inspected afforestation and ecological protection efforts along the Lanzhou section of the Yellow River. Praising local achievements in ecological restoration, he called for a holistic, systematic approach to the protection and conservation of mountain, water, forest, farmland, grassland and desert ecosystems in order to continuously strengthen the country's hard-won green legacy.

In Xining, Qinghai Province, Li was briefed on local ecological protection efforts, as well as the utilization of green power and computing capacity. He highlighted Qinghai's significance in ecological protection, and its advantages in developing clean energy and green computing,

calling for the steadfast pursuit of green development and the further integrated development of green computing and power.

At a local food company, Li encouraged enterprises to deepen their engagement in the green agriculture and animal husbandry sectors, thereby playing a greater role in improving quality and efficiency, as well as in boosting employment and incomes among farmers and herders.

Fully affirming the economic and social development achievements of Gansu and Qinghai, Li also urged further progress in green development and in the large-scale development of the country's western regions, with the aim of making new contributions to the country's overall development.

— Xinhua

## China and US both gain from rational dialogue

### Commentary

BEIJING — The two-day China-US economic and trade talks, which concluded in Madrid on Monday once again demonstrated that rational dialogue serves the interests of both sides.

During the talks, the Chinese and US delegations engaged in candid, in-depth and constructive communication, and reached a basic framework consensus on resolving issues related to TikTok through cooperation, reducing investment barriers and promoting relevant economic and trade cooperation.

China's position on the TikTok issue is clear and consistent: China opposes politicization, instrumentalization and weaponization of technology as well as economic and trade matters, and will resolutely protect the national interests and the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese-funded enterprises overseas.

In the talks in Madrid, the Chinese side reaffirmed that China never seeks to reach any agreement at the expense of principles, interests of companies, or international fairness and justice. China will firmly safeguard the national interests, the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese enterprises, and carry out technology export approval in accordance with relevant laws and regulations. At the same time, the Chinese government fully respects the will of enterprises and supports them in conducting business negotiations on an equal footing in accordance with market principles.

China-US economic and trade talks should never deviate from the fundamental principles of mutual respect, peaceful coexistence

and win-win cooperation. China agreed to reach a relevant consensus with the United States because, based on its assessment, China has come to the judgment that such a consensus is in their mutual interest.

The outcomes of the talks were hard-won, yet their foundation remains fragile. Despite multiple rounds of China-US economic and trade consultations, the United States continues to expand its sanctions against Chinese entities. The US side cannot, on the one hand, ask China to take care of US concerns, and on the other hand, continuously suppress Chinese enterprises. Such contradictory practices only severely undermine the atmosphere of cooperation and erode the hard-won outcomes of dialogues.

The essence of China-US economic and trade relations is mutual benefit and win-win results. Both China and the United States stand to gain from cooperation and lose from confrontation.

It is hoped that the United States will take the basic framework consensus reached in the Madrid talks as a new starting point, walk in the same direction with China, demonstrate sincerity through concrete actions, lift restrictions on China at an early date, end its suppression of Chinese enterprises, and work together to safeguard the hard-won results of the dialogue.

Looking ahead, Washington should work with Beijing to make full use of the bilateral economic and trade consultation mechanism, continue expanding common ground while resolving differences, and steer China-US economic and trade relations back onto the track of sound, stable and sustainable development.

— Xinhua

## Free trade, AI make China-ASEAN economic cooperation closer, more fruitful

### Commentary

NANNING — Amid global uncertainties and the rise of protectionism, China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) are forging ahead to deepen their integration.

This commitment is epitomized by the full conclusion of the China-ASEAN Free Trade Area 3.0 upgrade negotiations, which was announced in May and is an achievement that promises to bolster economic ties.

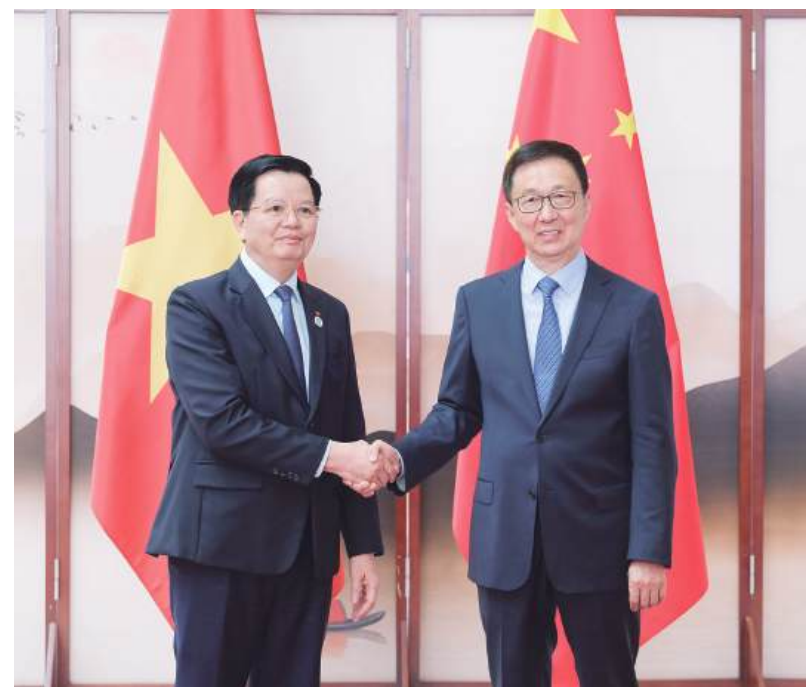
With its negotiations lasting more than two years, the upgraded pact extends to new areas such as digital economy, green development and supply chain connectivity.

Boosted by this landmark upgrade and an AI boom, the 22nd China-ASEAN Expo, scheduled to open today in the southern Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, is expected to showcase new cooperation momentum and potential. The annual event has this year drawn more than 3,200 exhibitors from 60 countries — as global firms flock to tap into two of the world's most open and dynamic markets.

Notably, the five-day expo features a 10,000-square-meter AI pavilion, a pavilion of new quality productive forces, and an exhibition area for the blue economy. In addition, green and low-carbon technologies and new energy vehicles are also among the highlights of this edition of the expo. These fields have significant growth prospects in terms of China-ASEAN economic and trade cooperation.

Advanced manufacturing and digital infrastructure are poised to fuel this growth.

In the field of digital infrastructure, China's investments have accelerated in both scale and scope. These include investments



Vice President Han Zheng (right) shakes hands with Deputy Prime Minister of Vietnam Mai Van Chinh, who is in China to attend the 22nd China-ASEAN Expo and China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit, in Nanning, capital of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, yesterday. — Xinhua

in the 5G sector — which is a key enabler of AI, with a number of Chinese tech giants participating in related digital projects.

Guangxi, as China's southern gateway to ASEAN, is at the forefront of this integration. Its proximity to ASEAN has made it a vanguard of cross-border cooperation programs.

AI, which is set to transform investment landscapes, has emerged as the linchpin for future collaboration, as ASEAN countries embrace digital transformation, underscoring their strong desire for deepening cooperation with China in the regard.

China and ASEAN countries are seeing robust momentum in AI cooperation. In April 2025, Guangxi Beitou IT Innovation Technology Investment Group Co., Ltd. partnered with MY E.G. Services Berhad, Malaysia's leading digital services company,

to develop an AI innovation and cooperation center — focusing on areas such as blockchain applications and robotics.

Meanwhile, the China-ASEAN Artificial Intelligence Collaborative Innovation Center in Nanning, the capital of Guangxi, has signed contracts with 16 enterprises from ASEAN countries, which will help boost industrial upgrading.

China has remained ASEAN's largest trading partner for 16 consecutive years, while ASEAN has been China's largest trading partner for five straight years.

As global trade continues to be affected by volatility, China-ASEAN cooperation stands out as a model of stability. By enhancing trade frameworks and embracing AI, China-ASEAN economic and trade cooperation is set to become even more dynamic and deliver even greater win-win outcomes.

— Xinhua