

## UNU Macau Milestone Series to be held Oct 23-25

Rui Pastorin

The United Nations University (UNU) Macau Milestone Series' flagship events "UNU Macau AI Conference 2025", "AI Education Day" and the "AI for SDGs - Global Youth AI Future Innovation Competition 2025" are scheduled to take place from October 23-25 at The Londoner Macao, Galaxy International Convention Centre (GICC) and Wynn Palace respectively.

Event details were introduced yesterday at the United Nations University Institute in Macau at Casa Silva Mendes on Guia Hill by UNU Director Huang Jingbo.

Over 500 participants from different sectors and regions are expected, with strong representation from the Global South, tackling the increasingly important topic of AI, as well as addressing its issues such as generative AI, AI safety and ethics, AI for climate adaptation and AI in education, and urgent global challenges such as governance.

Huang highlighted that this edition is particularly special as this year marks the UN's 80<sup>th</sup> and the UNU's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversaries. It will also be more elaborate than its inaugural edition last year when the conference was held for only a day, Huang told the *Post* during the Q&A session, with everything from the length to the number of participants expanded.

Introducing the upcoming three programmes, Huang told the media that it will kick-off with

the final round of the "AI for SDGs [Sustainable Development Goals]" at The Londoner Macao on October 23, gathering nine finalists from around the world. Themed "AI for the Environment: Ecological Environment and Green Transition Challenges", it will showcase youth-led climate resilience and green innovation.

Teams stand to win US\$1,000 and a growth-support package including pilot opportunities in the Chinese mainland, while there is also a special UNU Macau Prize for outstanding local entries, with Huang saying that the institution hopes to encourage more youngsters in Macau such as middle-school and high-school students to become "active agents" in the contest, while also preparing them for international competitions. Huang also said she hopes that more local youngsters would join AI studies and contests.

The following day, the UNU Macau AI Conference 2025 will take place at GICC in Cotai, tackling the theme "AI for Humanity: Building an Equitable Digital Future". It is expected to draw over 100 speakers and 500 participants across more than 30 sessions, altogether gathering multi-stake holders.

Among the featured keynote speakers at the GICC event are UNU Rector and UN Under-Secretary-General Tshilidzi Marwalal and Global Head of NVIDIA AI Technology Centre Simon See, while other highlights include the launch

of the "UNU-Springer Book Series on Artificial Intelligence and Sustainable Development", as well as a session hosted with the Macao Computer Association focusing on Macau specific AI cases.

Lastly, the AI Education Day will be held at Wynn Palace, with Huang noting that various age and occupational groups have different AI learning needs. The institute will partner with different entities to create workshops and training programmes including AI & SDG games, according to Huang. MOU signing and milestone launching events such as the unveiling of the UNU Hub on Humanitarian Innovation and Technology at Lingnan University are also among highlights.

Regarding the expectations, Huang told the *Post* during the Q&A session: "We want to build an ecosystem. We want to set up a community, our friend circle, who share similar interests in working and shaping the sustainable AI future. So we want to bring more people together and come up with more ideas and more concrete projects", including research and capacity building.

"We hope there will be more serendipities taking place during these three days", Huang noted to the *Post*, as well as contributing to Macau's development from the youth through the competition, where there are specific tracks and awards for young locals, while Macau academics are also set to participate in dedicated sessions of the AI conference. ■



United Nations University (UNU) Macau Director Huang Jingbo introduces the programmes for the upcoming UNU Macau Milestone Series during yesterday's press conference at the United Nations University Institute in Macau at Casa Silva Mendes.

— Photo: Rui Pastorin



President Xi Jinping (center, front) and his wife Peng Liyuan (eighth from right) pose for a group photo with the heads of foreign delegations and their spouses attending the two-day Global Leaders' Meeting on Women in Beijing, as well as senior central government officials, yesterday. Xi attended the opening ceremony of the Global Leaders' Meeting on Women and delivered a keynote speech at the China National Convention Center in Beijing yesterday. — (More on p.7) - Xinhua

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### Freed Israeli hostages hug loved ones in tears of joy

Freed Israeli hostages and their family and friends bounded into one another's arms yesterday, beaming and crying with joy at the end of the captives' two-year ordeal in Gaza.

— Story on p. 10

### French ex-president Sarkozy to go to prison on Oct 21: sources

Former French president Nicolas Sarkozy will serve jail time at a Paris prison from next Tuesday, informed sources told AFP yesterday, after a court last month sentenced him to five years behind bars for criminal conspiracy.

— Story on p. 11

### Brazil hopes COP30 in Amazon can unite world for climate action

Brazil is betting its climate summit in the Amazon next month can deliver something increasingly rare in a fractured world: proof that nations can still unite to confront a global crisis.

— Story on p. 12



# UK team wins 33<sup>rd</sup> Macao Int'l Fireworks Display Contest



This handout photo provided by the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) on Saturday shows a representative of Britain's Pyrotex Fireworks Ltd receiving the first prize from Secretary for Economy and Finance Anton Tai Kin Ip (left) after winning the 33<sup>rd</sup> Macao International Fireworks Display Contest at the Macao Tower Convention and Entertainment Centre in Nam Van.

## Khalel Vallo

The 33<sup>rd</sup> Macao International Fireworks Display Contest, organised by the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO), concluded on Saturday night with the United Kingdom's team Pyrotex Fireworks Ltd taking the top prize, according to an MGTO statement on Saturday.

The prize-giving ceremony was held on Saturday following the final two firework shows on the waterfront near Macao Tower. The first and second runners-up were Platinum Fireworks, Inc. from the Philippines and Dancing Fireworks Group from the Chinese mainland, respectively, the statement said.

MGTO Director Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes said that despite the rescheduling of the

finale due to weather conditions, 10 pyrotechnic companies from around the world delivered five nights of "stunning performances". She noted that the contest "continues to bring out Macau's diverse charm of 'tourism + events' and enrich the city's dynamic as a World Centre of Tourism and Leisure."

This year's competition featured teams from Australia, Austria, Brazil, the Chinese mainland, Japan, the Philippines, Portugal, South Africa, South Korea, and the United Kingdom, the statement said. Spanning the National Day and Mid-Autumn Festival holidays, the event attracted large crowds across six recommended vantage points, including the customary Fireworks Carnival held beside the Macao Science Centre (MSC),

the statement said, adding that the carnival offered food, games and performances, which aimed to boost Macau's nighttime economy.

In addition, MGTO launched three parallel competitions – the Photo Contest, Student Drawing Contest and the newly introduced AI Generative Art Contest – with entries to be accepted until October 31, the statement said, adding that an online interactive game also drew more than 390,000 participations through WeChat.

Since its debut in 1989, the Macao International Fireworks Display Contest has evolved into one of the city's signature "tourism + events," aiming to showcase Macau's role as an international stage for creativity, celebration and cultural exchange, the statement said. ■

## Police nab HK man for stealing from 4 cars

### Ada Lei

The Public Security Police (PSP) apprehended a man from Hong Kong on Wednesday for stealing from four unlocked cars parked in the city centre, PSP spokesman Lei Chan Hong said during a regular press conference yesterday.

Lei identified the suspect as a male surnamed Lou, who is in his thirties and claimed to be jobless. The four victims are aged between 30 and 42, comprising three males and one female.

According to Lei, the Public Security Police (PSP) received four reports between October 7 and 8 about thefts from inside the cars and damage to two of them. Lei added that one of the cars had its rear light damaged; another car had items stolen as well as its interior vandalised. The remaining two cars only had items stolen. The total loss from the four cases amounted to about 39,700 patacas. Stolen items included cash, a fisherman's hat, a bracelet, model cars, keyrings, and various personal belongings.

Lei noted that Lou entered Macau last Tuesday and went to a casino to gamble. After gambling away all his money, he decided to go on a theft spree. He then attempted to open the doors of parked cars along the streets in the city centre, entering the unlocked cars to steal items.

Using their citywide CCTV surveillance system, the police

identified Lou as the suspect and apprehended him on Wednesday near Avenida da Amizade (友誼大馬路). The police seized 70 patacas and HK\$20, along with a fisherman's hat, a bracelet, a black model car, and keyrings from Lou.

Under questioning, Lou admitted to stealing from the cars but denied causing any damage to them.

Lou has been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), facing charges of theft and property damage. ■



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

## Macau delegation of Portugal-China Chamber of Commerce and Industry hosts gala dinner

### Rui Pastorin

The Macau Delegation of the Portugal-China Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCILC) recently hosted its 2025 Gala Dinner at Fundação Oriente's (FO) Casa Garden headquarters.

According to a CCILC statement on Friday, among the attendees were the Chamber's Board of Directors President Carlos Álvares and Sam Lei Chou Sam, Member of the Board of Directors of the Commerce and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) on behalf of Secretary for Economy and Finance Anton Tai Kin Ip.

Lei, as summarised in the statement, highlighted CCILC's "pivotal role in advancing bilateral trade" and said he was confident about the chamber's "capacity to serve as a strategic conduit for Portuguese enterprises within the evolving landscape" of the Greater Bay Area (GBA) and the Guangdong-Macao In-Depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin.



This group photo provided by the Macau Delegation of the Portugal-China Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCILC) on Friday shows guests and representatives posing on the staircase of Casa Garden during the recent 2025 Gala Dinner.

"With over three decades of history, CCILC remains steadfast in its mission to strengthen commercial and economic ties between China and Portugal, while actively supporting enterprises from Portugal and other Portuguese-speaking

countries operating in the region", the statement said.

In addition to the dinner, the night featured musical performances as well as a certificate presentation. Other guests included business leaders and institutional partners. ■

## Mainlander cheats gambler out of HK\$51,000 in chips: police

### Ada Lei

A man from the Chinese mainland was apprehended on Saturday for defrauding a male gambler out of HK\$51,000 in chips by posing as a "casino public relations officer", Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Leng Kam Lon said during a regular press conference yesterday.

Leng identified the suspect as a 37-year-old businessman surnamed Song.

According to Leng, the police received a report on Thursday from a mainlander who said that he had met Song on October 1 at a casino in Cotai. Song claimed to be a "casino public relations officer" and accompanied the victim for several days, gambling and dining with him, and even assisted him to book a hotel guestroom.

Last Monday, as the victim was preparing to leave Macau, he entrusted HK\$51,000 in chips to Song for gambling again on his next visit. However, when the victim attempted to retrieve the chips on Wednesday, Song repeatedly made excuses for not returning the chips. Suspecting he had been scammed, the victim reported the case to the police the next day.

The police identified Song as the suspect and arrested him at a casino in Cotai on Saturday. Leng added that Song had overstayed in Macau for two months. The police seized a smartphone from Song.

Under questioning, Song admitted to defrauding the victim of chips under the pretext of safekeeping them, claiming that he had gambled away all the chips. He also claimed that he had been



Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Leng Kam Lon looks on during yesterday's regular press conference.

– Photo: Ada Lei

frequenting various casinos and hotels for the past two months.

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

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## Macau's 6 gaming operators funding half of Grand Prix budget: MGPOC

Armindo Neves

Macau Grand Prix Organising Committee (MGPOC) Secretary General Vong Ka Kun told reporters that this year's Macau Grand Prix (MGP) budget is 240 million patacas, similar to last year's.

Speaking to the media after a press conference at the Macau Science Centre in Nape about next month's event, Vong was quick to add that Macau's six gaming concessionaires are collectively providing 120 million patacas in funding this year, 20 million patacas each, covering half of the annual motor-racing competition's outlay.

The press conference was also attended by Social Affairs and Culture Secretary Office (GSASC) Acting Chief Alex Vong Iao Lek, Automobile General Association Macao-China Chairman-cum-MGPOC Sporting Subcommittee Coordinator Chong Coc Veng, MGPOC Deputy Coordinator Mok Chi Hang, Sands China Limited Human Resources Senior Vice President Paulo Cheong (張國軍), MGM China Holdings Limited Executive Director-cum-President Kenneth Feng Xiaofeng (馮小峰), Melco Resorts and Entertainment Chief Advisor Kent Wong (黃昇雄), SJM Resorts, S.A. Chief Hospitality Officer Gerard Walker (紀睿德), Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG) Director Philip Cheng Yee Sing (程裕昇), and Wynn Macau Limited Resort Marketing Chief Marketing Officer Zoe Zou Wenyu (鄒文愉).

According to Mok, the 72<sup>nd</sup> Macau Grand Prix will be held from November 13 to November 16 with a total of seven race events: Macau Grand Prix-FIA FR World Cup; Macau GT Cup-FIA GT World Cup; Macau Guia Race-Kumho FIA TCR World Tour Event of Macau; Macau Formula 4 Race-FIA F4 World Cup; Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix-57<sup>th</sup> Edition; Greater Bay Area GT Cup (GT4); and the Macau Road-sport Challenge.

Event tickets are already on sale, Mok said.

According to Mok, during the Grand Prix period, Family Carnivals will take place on November 1-2, an Auto Show will be held on November 8-9, aiming to "extend the event's vibrant atmosphere into the local community".

According to Chong, Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix riders have been selected through street races held on the Isle of Man

and in Northern Ireland on the North West (NW) 200 "Triangle" circuit connecting the towns of Portstewart, Coleraine, and Portrush. Both regions are in the United Kingdom.

Chong said that the committee has invited the top and most experienced riders from these two locations, based on their race results, to compete in Macau.

According to Chong, this year's lineup of riders includes last year's champion, Davey Todd; the first runner-up, Ermo Kostamo; the second runner-up, Peter Hickman; as well as other street racing elites.

Chong underlined that this year's Macau Grand Prix overlaps with the 15<sup>th</sup> National Games in terms of scheduling, which, he said, presented both "a challenge and an opportunity".

According to Chong, the local government and the committee are working together closely, and preparations are progressing smoothly. "Everyone is confident in successfully hosting both major events simultaneously," Chong said.

Regarding nine-time Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix champion Michael Rutter's absence from this year's event "due to his current condition", Vong said that the event still boasts many other renowned and experienced motorcycle riders who have come to Macau to compete, ensuring the races remain highly exciting. In response to last year's partial cancellation of the Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix due to rain, Vong said that the committee has developed contingency plans addressing weather factors. Should a similar situation occur, arrangements will be promptly adjusted, Vong said, without elaborating.

According to an article by Northern Ireland's *News Letter* daily on September 3, Michael Rutter\* suffered various injuries including multiple fractured vertebrae when he crashed at the 31<sup>st</sup> Milestone in the second Supertwin race at the Man TT (Tourist Trophy), as he continues to recover from his huge crash on the Isle of Man in June. ■

\*Rutter is the Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix's most successful rider. He has nine victories under his belt, a record that cements his title as the "King of Macau." His wins span from 1998 to 2019, showcasing incredible mastery of the dangerous street circuit. — DeepSeek



Social Affairs and Culture Secretary Office (GSASC) Acting Chief Alex Vong Iao Lek (centre), Macau Grand Prix Organising Committee (MGPOC) Sporting Subcommittee Coordinator Chong Coc Veng (left) and MGPOC Deputy Coordinator Mok Chi Hang attend yesterday's press conference about "72<sup>nd</sup> Macau Grand Prix" at the Macau Science Centre (MSC) in Nape. — Photo: Armindo Neves

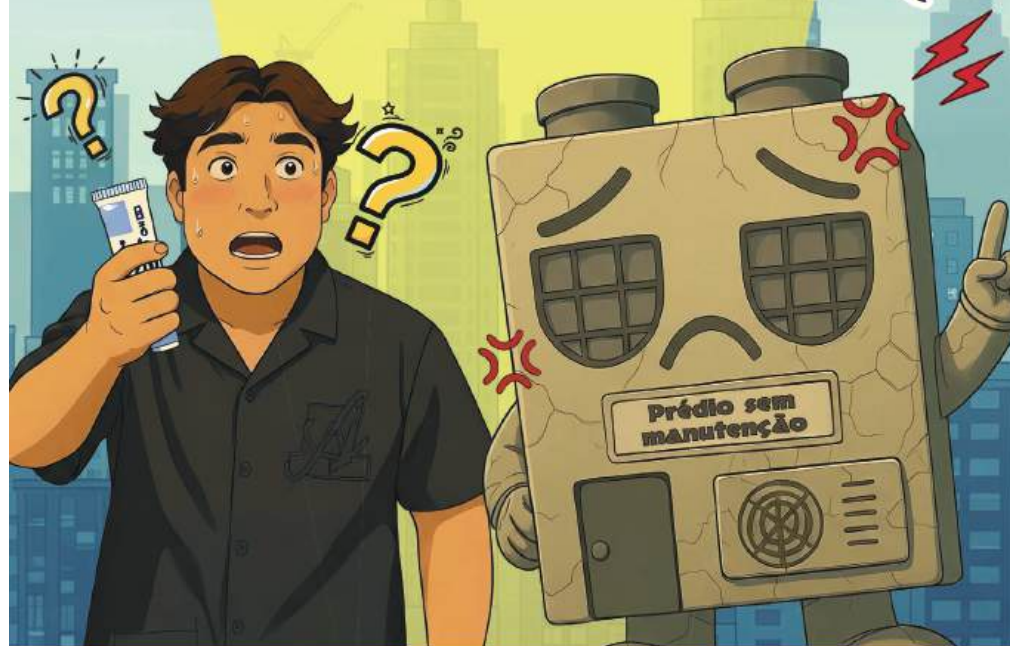
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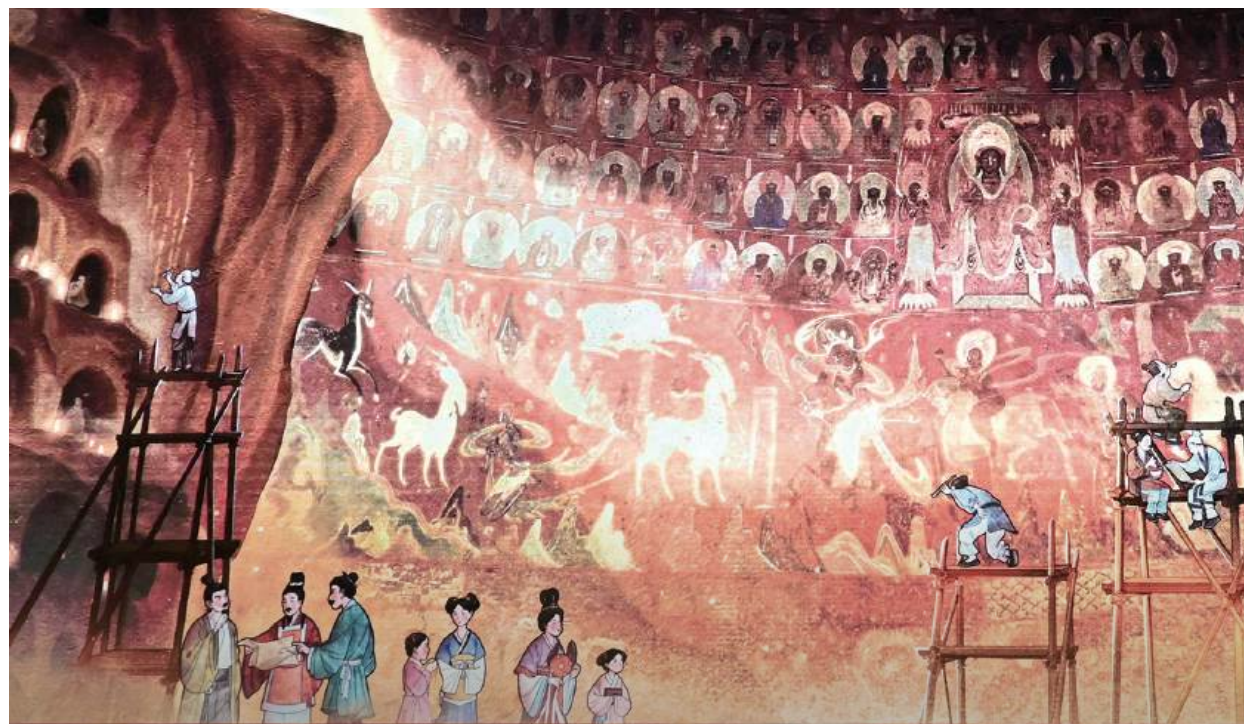
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## 'Silk Roads Beyond Borders' exhibition blends technology & cultural heritage

Rui Pastorin

POLY MGM MUSEUM is continuing to showcase its "Silk Roads Beyond Borders" at MGM MACAU in Nape, again offering museumgoers a blend of cultural heritage and advanced technology at the ongoing exhibition.

Told through thematic chapters comprising "Through Sand and Wind", "Gilded Threads", "The Golden Bough" and "Road to the Future", exhibitiongoers will be able to see over 200 rare artefacts from nearly 20 institutions in the Chinese mainland, as well as those from the National Museum of Damascus in Syria, and the Hirayama Ikuo Silk Road Museum in Japan.

Among the highlight pieces are the Bronze Procession of Chariots and Cavalry from Gansu Provincial Museum; Yongzheng Period Octagonal Blue Glass Bottle from the Palace Museum; a blue-and-white Ceramic Bottle from the National Museum of Damascus; a Gandhara Buddha statue from the Hirayama Ikuo Silk Road Museum; a phoenix-headed konghou\* restored by Tan Dun; and Replicated Dunhuang mural masterpieces produced by four generations of Chinese cultural inheritors, according to a recent statement by integrated resort operator MGM.

Ancient silk road instruments reconstructed by UNESCO Global Goodwill Ambassador and internationally acclaimed composer-conductor Tan Dun, contemporary works and digital exhibitions are also showcased.

The exhibits are on display until August 2026, with the museum open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. from Mondays to Fridays; 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturdays and public holidays; and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sundays. One can book a visit to the museum and find more details on <https://museum.mgm.mo/en/>

Meanwhile, on the eve of the Mid-Autumn Festival last week, a concert titled "The Vanishing Mogao Caves" was presented by the museum in conjunction with composer-conductor Tan Dun. According to a recent MGM statement, the concert was an extension of the exhibition and follows Tan's previous work "Buddha Passion".

The concert was conducted by Tan Dun with the Dunhuang Academy Ancient Music Consort, reviving Tang Dynasty compositions and performed using ancient instruments reconstructed from Dunhuang murals, the statement said, adding that it fused multimedia visuals and AI technology.

This article is a continuation of a piece in the *Post* titled "Macau's POLY MGM MUSEUM showcases over 200 artefacts in 'Silk Roads Beyond Borders'" published on October 7.

\* The konghou (箜篌) is a traditional Chinese plucked string instrument, often described as a Chinese harp. It is easily recognised by its elegant, arched structure that holds multiple strings vertically. – DeepSeek



This photo shows the Dragon-Patterned Throne Carpet from MGM's collection.  
- Photos taken by Rui Pastorin during a recent media tour.



This photo shows the Bronze Procession of Chariots and Cavalry from the Gansu Provincial Museum, one of the highlight exhibits at POLY MGM MUSEUM's "Silk Roads Beyond Borders".



## Govt lists 12 more intangible heritage items

Tony Wong

The government has listed 12 more items of Macau's intangible cultural heritage as statutorily protected ones.

The 12 newly classified items are listed in an executive order by Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Wallis O Lam published in the Official Gazette (BO) yesterday.

This came after the government first classified 12 items in its statutory protection list of intangible cultural heritage in 2019 since the Cultural Heritage Protection Law took effect in 2014.

According to yesterday's executive order, the 12 newly classified items of intangible cultural heritage comprise Tou Tei ("Earth God") Beliefs and Customs, Dragon Dance, Lion Dance, Portuguese Folk Dance, Spring Festival, Tung Ng ("Double Fifth" – Dragon Boat Festival), Dragon Boat Races, Tai Chi ("Supreme Ultimate") Martial Arts, Confection of Portuguese-style Egg Tarts, Confection of Almond Cookies, Confection of Traditional Chinese Wedding Cakes, and Preparation of Jook-Sing ("Bamboo Rise") Noodles.

The Cultural Heritage Protection Law defines cultural heritage as comprising intangible cultural heritage and tangible cultural heritage that consists of classified immovable properties, i.e., cultural heritage construction structures, and movable properties.

According to the law, which came into force in March 2014, the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) is required to draw up an inventory of intangible cultural heritage with the aim of ensuring the protection of Macau's various items of intangible cultural heritage, as well as to update the inventory, i.e., adding items, in compliance with the findings of its latest surveys and research studies.

According to its website, the bureau first put 15 items of intangible cultural heritage into the inventory in 2017, before adding 55 more in 2020, because of which the inventory currently comprises 70 items.

In addition, according to the law, the government is required to decide whether to classify

certain intangible cultural heritage items that are already in the Cultural Affairs Bureau's inventory as statutorily protected ones, officially known as List of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

However, according to the law, the government is required to consult the public about its proposal to list certain intangible cultural heritage items as statutorily protected ones.

In addition to consulting members of the public, the government is also required to consult the Cultural Heritage Council before deciding whether to list the respective items as statutorily protected ones.

After a public consultation process, the government, for the first time, classified 12 items in its List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in December 2019.

Items newly classified in the statutorily protected List of Intangible Cultural Heritage must be published in an executive order signed by the secretary for social affairs and culture in the Official Gazette (BO) to take legal effect.

The government launched a public consultation late last year on its proposal to list 12 more items of intangible cultural heritage as statutorily protected ones. After consulting the public and the government-appointed Cultural Heritage Council, the government decided to list all of them as statutorily protected items, i.e., the 12 items gazetted yesterday.

After its promulgation in the gazette yesterday, O's executive order takes effect today.

Consequently, Macau now has 24 statutorily protected items of intangible cultural heritage, comprising 12 items listed in December 2019 and 12 items listed yesterday.

Macau's first 12 statutorily protected items of intangible cultural heritage include Cantonese Opera, Patuá Theatre, A-Ma Beliefs and Customs, Na Tcha Beliefs and Customs, and Herbal Tea Brewing.

Details in English about all 70 items listed in the government's Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage can be checked on: <https://www.culturalheritage.mo/en/detail/102318>. ■



This undated handout photo downloaded from the Cultural Affairs Bureau's (IC) cultural heritage website yesterday shows almond cookies being made in a kitchen.

## CreatorWeek Macao 2025 to kick off Oct 24

Khalel Vallo

CreatorWeek Macao 2025 is slated to take place in Macau between October 24 (next Friday) and October 28, aiming to bring together international content creators and social media leaders for a five-day creative celebration.

A media gathering was held yesterday at Macau Tower Theatre to introduce the programme highlights and participation details to local, national and foreign media. The upcoming event is co-organised by the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) and international media production company "Branded". Both co-hosted yesterday's media gathering.

MGTO Director Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes said in a speech that CreatorWeek will "unveil Macau's glamour and rich multicultural heritage to the world," while aiming to drive innovative tourism development and infusing "fresh creative energy into our journey to become a World Centre of Tourism and Leisure".

Branded CEO and Co-Founder Jasper Donat presented the event's concept and lineup of creators. Representatives of local, mainland Chinese and other multi-channel networks discussed during the gathering how to leverage the event to connect foreign content creators with the Chinese (Chinese



Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) Director Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes (left) and Branded CEO and Co-Founder Jasper Donat address the CreatorWeek Macao 2025 media gathering at Macau Tower Theatre. The weeklong event is slated to start on October 24.



– Photos: Khalel Vallo

mainland, Hong Kong and Macau) market, while local creators gave insights into their experiences and aspirations in the global landscape.

According to an MGTO statement yesterday, the five-day event will feature six themed activities, including an opening and closing party, a two-day CreatorWeek Conference, CreatorWeek Live performances, a Meet & Greet session, wellness workshops, and a Creator Academy.

The programme is slated to bring together around 250 groups of foreign, local, Chinese mainland and Hong Kong guests, including 180 creator teams, 50 guest speakers and 20 performing units.

Twenty local "ambassadors" have been selected under the CreatorWeek Macao 2025 Ambassador Recruitment Programme to collaborate with 20 renowned content creators during the event, the statement said, adding that their joint work aims to spotlight Macau's cityscape and culture through a blend of local, mainland Chinese, Hong Kong and foreign creativity.

According to MGTO, the first edition of CreatorWeek was held in Singapore in 2024. This year's edition is sponsored by Macau's six integrated resort operators with the support of 25 entities from Macau, the Chinese mainland and foreign countries. ■

## Gongbei, Macau customs seize Maotai, cigars



This undated handout photo provided by Gongbei Customs shows three bottles of Maotai liquor smuggled in three fruit cans from Macau to Zhuhai.

Armando Neves

Gongbei Customs announced in a statement yesterday that its officers nabbed a male mainlander surnamed Tan on Thursday for smuggling three bottles of Maotai hidden in three fruit cans into the Chinese mainland.

According to the statement, on Thursday night customs officers at the Zhuhai's Gongbei border checkpoint noticed Tan entering the Chinese mainland through the "Green Channel" in the passenger inspection hall. As his shopping bag had not been X-rayed, they decided to intercept him for inspection.

The inspection revealed a sealed pack of three fruit cans inside Tan's bag. The cans showed no signs of having been opened or tampered with, but their weight was abnormal, leading to an initial suspicion of concealed contents. Upon opening them, it was discovered that one bottle of Maotai liquor had been

stuffed inside each can, making a total of three bottles.

In the statement, Gongbei Customs underlined that smuggling includes concealing, disguising, misreporting, or otherwise evading customs inspection when transporting, carrying, or mailing dutiable goods entering or leaving the mainland, and that serious cases that constitute a crime will be subject to criminal liability in accordance with the law.

### Macau Customs seizes 9 bottles of Maotai, cigars from 3 smugglers

Meanwhile, Macau Customs announced in a statement yesterday that it officers seized nine bottles of Maotai and cigars weighing 6,006 grams.

On September 26, customs officers at the local checkpoint of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB) intercepted a cross-border vehicle through their risk

management system. A follow-up inspection revealed that the female smuggler attempted to smuggle nine bottles of Maotai into Macau.

In the other case, on October 1 (National Day), customs officers at the Barrier Gate checkpoint noticed a male mainlander acting suspiciously, and found him carrying cigars weighing 4,641 grams, which were concealed in two local souvenir shop bags.

On October 3, Macau customs officers at the Barrier Gate also noticed a male mainlander exhibiting nervous behaviour during a routine inspection. The inspection revealed cigars weighing 1,365 grams hidden in a bag from the same local souvenir shop.

According to Macau's External Trade Law, the three smugglers face a fine of up to 100,000 patacas each, while the seized contraband has been confiscated. ■



This undated handout photo provided by the Macau Customs Service yesterday shows cigars weighing 4,641 grams seized from a mainland-bound smuggler.



# Govt to build 2-floor 'kids' exploration pavilion' at Govt Services Centre

Tony Wong

The Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) announced yesterday that it will build a "children's exploration pavilion" on the first and second floors of the podium of the Mong Son social rental housing estate, i.e., above the new Government Services Centre, located on the estate's ground floor, that came into service last week, with the aim of inspiring children's creativity and foster their inquisitiveness.

The bureau said yesterday that it expects to start designing the pavilion next year, aiming to complete the project in the fourth quarter of 2028. The two-floor facility will cover a gross area of 6,500 square metres. The pavilion is an indoor children's playground featuring various types of innovative play facilities suitable for kids and adolescents of all ages.

The bureau made the announcement during a press conference at its headquarters in the city centre yesterday.

The new social rental housing estate built on the plot of the former CEM power station on Avenida de Venceslau de Moraes (慕拉士大馬路) is known as Mong Son Building (望信樓).

The social housing estate comprising three blocks has two podium structures separate from each other, with Block 1 built on



Leong Ho Teng from the Municipal Affairs Bureau's (IAM) Design Division (right) speaks during yesterday's press conference at the bureau's headquarters about the future children's exploration pavilion, as other IAM officials, including IAM Administrative Committee member Tam Wai Fong (centre), look on.

one podium, and Block 2 and Block 3 together on the other podium.

The new Government Services Centre, which came into operation on Monday last week, occupies the entire ground floor of the podium on which Block 2 and Block 3 are built.

The future children's exploration pavilion announced yesterday will occupy the entire first and second floors of the podium for Block 2 and Block 3.

Yesterday's press conference was attended by several IAM officials, where details of the bureau's project to build the children's exploration pavilion were presented by Leong

Ho Teng, a public servant of the bureau's Design Division.

Leong said that the bureau expects to start the design for the pavilion next year, adding that the bureau aims to launch a public tender in 2027 for its construction, which is slated to be completed in fourth quarter of 2028.

Leong said that the new pavilion aims to provide children and adolescents with an innovative, diversified and educational all-weather play space.

With an "exploratory play supermarket" as the design concept and through interactive play space with multiple themes and modules,



A female senior citizen walks across a pelican crossing outside the new Government Services Centre on Avenida de Venceslau de Moraes yesterday. — Photos: Tony Wong

Leong said, the pavilion aims to lead children to explore and learn freely.

According to Leong, the first floor will cover a total area of 3,000 square metres, to be divided into six major zones, with play facilities for children aged between 0 and 12. The six zones, Leong said, will comprise low-altitude adventure, rock-climbing and slide zone, mesh climbing, slide and obstacle challenge zone, activity and game zone for babies and toddlers, zone for workshops and multi-purpose rooms, zone for board game rooms and a toy library, and a rest area providing light meals, coffee and other drinks.

The second floor will cover a total area of 3,500 square metres, to be divided into five major zones, with play facilities for children aged between 6 and 18. The five zones, Leong said, will comprise a trampoline fun zone, zone for exploration rope course, recreational challenge zone, innovative recreational sports zone, and zone for board game activity rooms.

Leong also said that while the different play facilities in the pavilion will be for children and adolescents of all ages, from 0 to 18, the pavilion will put stronger emphasis on serving kids aged between 6 and 12. ■



## Commissioner Liu Xianfa Met with New Consul General of the U.S. in Hong Kong

On October 10, Commissioner Liu Xianfa received a courtesy call from new U.S. Consul General in Hong Kong, Ms. Julie Eadeh.

Commissioner Liu urged the U.S. side to stop attacking and smearing Macao with the so-called annual reports, not to undermine Macao's security and stability, and not to hinder Macao's prosperity and development. He hoped to see Ms. Julie

Eadeh act in ways conducive to the exchanges and cooperation between Macao and the U.S., and play a constructive part in the steady, sound and sustainable development of China-U.S. relations.

Ms. Julie Eadeh said that the engagement and cooperation with Macao in trade, investment, and people-to-people exchanges are important to the U.S., in which she would play an active role.

## China's foreign trade up 4 pct in first 9 months

BEIJING — China's total goods imports and exports in yuan-denominated terms rose to 33.61 trillion yuan in the first nine months of 2025, up 4 percent year on year, official data showed yesterday.

The growth rate accelerated from an increase of 3.5 percent registered in the first eight months of the year, according to the General Administration of Customs (GAC).

Goods exports led the overall expansion during the January-September period, surging 7.1 percent year on year to 19.95 trillion yuan, while imports stood at 13.66 trillion yuan, a slight decrease of 0.2 percent.

In September alone, China's goods imports and exports increased by 8 percent year on year to 4.04 trillion yuan — marking the highest monthly increase so far this year.

Since the beginning of 2025, China's foreign trade has sustained a steady and positive development trend amid a complex external environment, said Wang Jun, deputy head of the GAC, at a press conference.

The expansion of China's goods trade has accelerated quarter by quarter, with the growth rate amounting to 6 percent in the third quarter of this year, following 1.3-percent and 4.5-percent

increases in the first and second quarters, respectively, Wang said. Additionally, Wang also highlighted that China's foreign trade market has become more diversified.

In the first nine months of 2025, China's goods trade with Belt and Road partner countries totaled 17.37 trillion yuan — 6.2 percent higher than a year earlier, GAC data revealed.

Trade with ASEAN, Latin America, Africa and Central Asia grew by 9.6 percent, 3.9 percent, 19.5 percent and 16.7 percent year on year, respectively, while that with other economies in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation increased by 2 percent. — Xinhua

## Exhibition reaffirms China's sovereignty over Taiwan, Nanhai Zhudao in post-WWII order

NANJING — An exhibition on China's resumption of its sovereignty over Taiwan and Nanhai Zhudao opened in Nanjing yesterday, marking the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War.

The exhibition in Nanjing, the capital of Jiangsu Province, recounts the history of the two regions, including the fact that China's Qing Dynasty government ceded Taiwan to Japan under the unequal Treaty of Shimonoseki in 1895. It also highlights that China's resumption of its sovereignty over Taiwan and Nanhai Zhudao — known as the South China Sea islands in English — after World War II, is an integral part of the post-war international order.

Zhu Feng, executive director of Nanjing University's Collaborative Innovation Center of South China Sea Studies, said that China has managed Taiwan and Nanhai Zhudao since ancient times, and the resumption of its sovereignty over the regions was in accordance with international legal documents such as the Cairo Declaration and the Potsdam Proclamation.

Zhu called on all parties to respect and remember history, as certain countries deny China's sovereignty over Nanhai Zhudao and are attempting

to occupy the region, and the United States is exploiting the South China Sea issue to contain China.

"The exhibition aims to encourage more countries to draw experience from history, handle the complex South China Sea issue properly, and work together to promote peace, cooperation and development in Asia," he said.

Wu Shicun, chairman of the Huayang Center for Maritime Cooperation and Ocean Governance, said that countries bordering the South China Sea should work together to uphold the post-war international order, reject external interference, and advance consultations on the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC).

The Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC), which was signed by China and ASEAN member states in 2002, outlines the most important principles in the management of disputes related to the South China Sea. Consultations on the COC involving China and ASEAN member states were launched in 2013. Both the DOC and the COC are aimed at safeguarding peace and stability in the region.

Organized by Nanjing University, the exhibition showcases maps, books, images and other historical materials. Nearly 100 experts and scholars attended its opening. — AFP



# Xi underscores shared global duty to advance women's development at Beijing meeting

BEIJING – President Xi Jinping yesterday underscored the international community's shared responsibility and called for more practical actions to promote women's advancement.

Xi hailed women for "playing an important role in creating, promoting and carrying forward human civilization" while addressing the opening of a high-profile meeting on women affairs held in Beijing.

The Global Leaders' Meeting on Women was convened to commemorate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women held in the Chinese capital.

Seen as a landmark event for global women's cause, the 1995 conference adopted the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which served as guiding documents for global women development and gender equality.

Guided by the spirit of the conference, equality between men and women has become a universal consensus of the international community and has been incorporated into UN development agenda and priority development targets.

A total of 189 countries have ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and nearly 1,600 laws on women's rights and interests have been enacted by more than 190 countries. More and more countries have made national action plans to improve women's well-being.

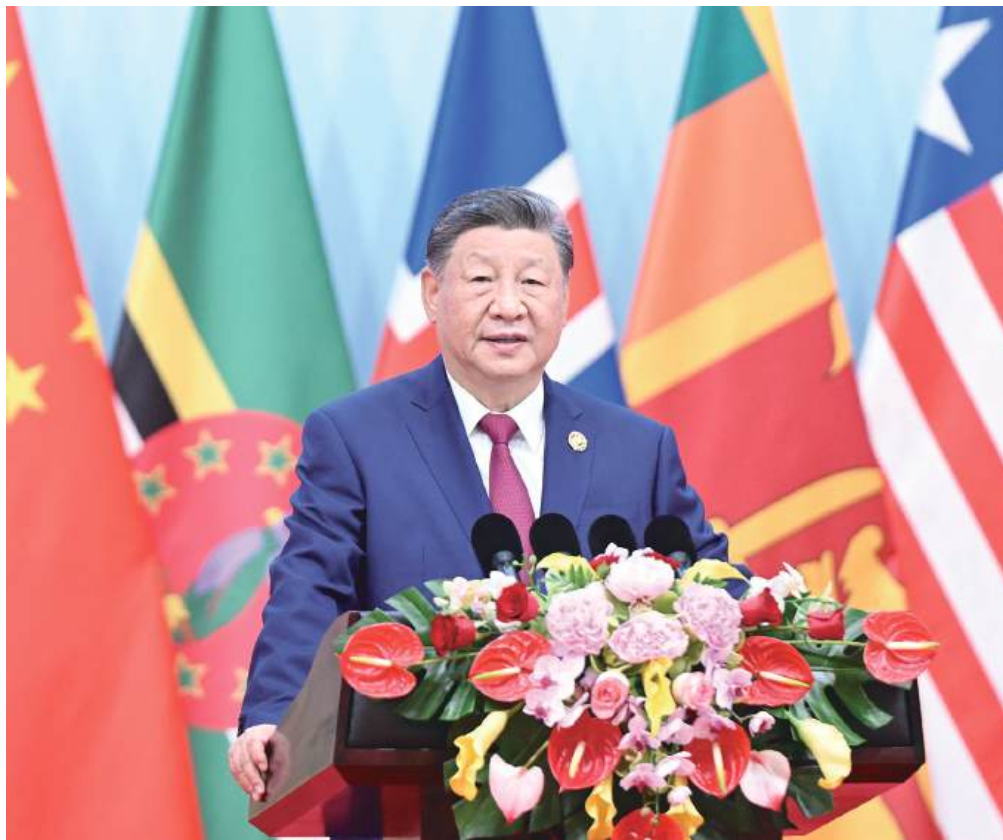
## COMPLEX CHALLENGES

Yet Xi highlighted the "complex challenges" still hampering women's all-round development today.

Over 600 million women and girls around the world are still mired in war and conflict, and around 10 percent of women and girls are trapped in extreme poverty, he said, adding that deep-rooted problems such as violence and discrimination still persist, and the gender digital divide is widening.

"Equality between men and women remains a lofty yet arduous task," said the Chinese president.

The two-day meeting is expected to urge all parties to accelerate the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and inject new momentum into the promotion of global gender equality and the



President Xi Jinping attends the opening ceremony of the Global Leaders' Meeting on Women and delivers a keynote speech at the China National Convention Center in Beijing yesterday. – Xinhua

all-round development of women.

The 2025 Beijing meeting is "not only a commemoration of the past, but also a strategic opportunity to shape the future," said Dilma Rousseff, president of the New Development Bank.

"My expectation is that this summit will not be a ceremonial event, but a catalytic moment -- one that reaffirms past commitments and sets new, concrete priorities for the next generation," Rousseff told Xinhua.

As the world faces economic uncertainty, climate crises, conflicts and deepening inequality, recommitting to gender equality is critical for building a just and sustainable future, said Irina Bokova, former UNESCO director-general.

## ACCELERATING ALL-ROUND DEVELOPMENT

In his address, Xi put forward four proposals to accelerate the process of women's all-round development, in a bid to build a wider consensus, open up broader

pathways and take more practical actions for this cause.

The Chinese president called for joint efforts to foster an enabling environment for women's growth and development, and cultivate powerful momentum for the high-quality development of women's cause.

He also proposed jointly developing governance frameworks to protect women's rights and interests, and writing a new chapter in promoting global cooperation on women.

Efforts should be made to enhance the protection of women and girls in regions struck by war, conflict, poverty or natural disaster, and support the vital role of women in preventing conflict and rebuilding their homes, Xi said, calling for improving mechanisms against violence and resolutely cracking down on all forms of violence against women.

He urged countries to empower women's high-quality development through sci-tech innovation, and support them in playing an even bigger role in green development.

Further tangible and accessible policy measures should be introduced to channel more quality health and educational resources to all women, said the Chinese president, calling for broadening the channels for women to participate in and deliberate on political affairs, and supporting their extensive engagement in state and social governance.

"We must support women in assuming their historic responsibilities, enabling them to play a substantive role in global governance and share in its benefits," Xi said.

"We should support the central role of the UN, urging it to pay more attention to the needs of women in developing countries and create broad cooperation platforms for women from all countries," he added.

Xi also announced fresh measures to further support the global cause of women. In the next five years, China will donate another US\$10 million to UN Women, and earmark a quota of US\$100 million in China's Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund for implementing development cooperation projects for women and girls in collaboration with international organizations.

The country will support 1,000 "small and beautiful" livelihood programs that take women and girls as priority beneficiaries, invite 50,000 women to China for exchange and training programs, and establish a Global Center for Women's Capacity Building, according to the Chinese president.

Leaders from Iceland, Dominica, Ghana, Mozambique, and Sri Lanka, as well as senior UN officials, spoke at the opening ceremony.

The international community should take this meeting as a new starting point to advance the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and promote new progress in the global advancement of women, they said.

Xi and his wife Peng Liyuan also hosted a welcome banquet for international guests at noon yesterday.

Senior Chinese officials including Cai Qi, Wang Yi and Yin Li attended the events.

– Xinhua

*N.B. The full text of President Xi Jinping's keynote address at opening ceremony of the Global Leaders' Meeting on Women is available on our website <https://www.macaupostdaily.com/news/26265>*

## Philippines' claim on Huangyan Dao completely untenable

### Commentary

BEIJING – The Philippine government appears hellbent on stirring up trouble and destabilizing the South China Sea, persistently advancing baseless claims on territories that are an inherent part of China, while repeatedly seeking to infringe further on China's sovereignty.

Recently, the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs issued a statement on the South China Sea, distorting the treaties that define Philippine territory and asserting sovereignty over Huangyan Dao and parts of the Nansha Qundao, both of which are indisputably inherent territories of China.

A review of fundamental historical treaties easily exposes the falsehoods in the Philippine claims. According to the 1898 Treaty of Peace between the United States of America and the Kingdom of Spain (the Treaty of Paris), the 1900 Treaty between the United States of America and the Kingdom of Spain for Cession of Outlying Islands of the Philippines (the Treaty of Washington), and

the 1930 Convention between His Majesty in Respect of the United Kingdom and the President of the United States regarding the Boundary between the State of North Borneo and the Philippine Archipelago, the western limit of the Philippine territory is 118 degrees east longitude. Huangyan Dao and Nansha Qundao are located west of the 118 degrees east longitude. The Philippine claim is therefore entirely baseless and constitutes a clear violation of international law.

Before 1997, the Philippines had never challenged China's sovereignty over Huangyan Dao, nor had it made any territorial claims to the island. Philippine Official Map No. 25 shows Huangyan Dao apparently outside the territorial boundaries of the Philippines. On February 5, 1990, Philippine Ambassador to Germany Bienvenido A. Tan, Jr. stated in a letter that, "According to the Philippine National Mapping and Resource Information Authority, the Scarborough Reef or Huangyan Dao does not fall within the territorial sovereignty of the Philippines."

Huangyan Dao is an inherent part of China, over which China has consistently and effectively exercised sovereignty and jurisdiction. This status is widely recognized by the international community. China's recent approval for the establishment of the Huangyan Dao national nature reserve is an important and responsible step to strengthen the governance of its territory and safeguard the land and marine ecosystem in the area.

Starting in the 1970s, the Philippines forcibly invaded and illegally occupied several islands and reefs of China's Nansha Qundao, raising baseless territorial claims. In recent years, the Philippines has further escalated its infringements on China's maritime rights and interests, with its vessels deliberately intruding into the waters of Huangyan Dao, Xianbin Jiao, Ren'ai Jiao, and other Chinese reefs, at times even causing collisions with China Coast Guard ships.

These dangerous moves by the Philippines are carried out under the pretext of fishing, but their true aim is "sadbaiting," portraying

themselves as victims before invited journalists, smearing China and drawing attention to serve Manila's political interests. These provocations also pose a serious threat to the environment and to peace and stability in the South China Sea.

China's sovereignty over Nansha Zhudao, including Huangyan Dao, and its rights and interests in the South China Sea, have been established over the long course of history and are firmly grounded in both history and law. The Philippines' attempts to distort history and misinterpret the law are weak and untenable, collapsing under even the slightest scrutiny.

As the saying goes, he who recklessly troubles others will ultimately be troubled by his own misdeeds. In the same spirit, the Philippines would do well to heed this Chinese proverb, respect and remain faithful to history, and abide by international law before further undermining peace in one of the world's most vital waterways.

– Xinhua