

Gender pay gap narrows to within 5 pct: IAS chief

Armindo Neves

Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) President-cum-Women and Children Affairs Committee Vice President Wilson Hon Wai told reporters yesterday that Macau's gender pay gap* has narrowed to within five percent. He did not elaborate.

Hon made remarks during a discussion on achievements at a meeting at the Macau Science Centre (MSC) in Nape.

Yesterday's meeting was also attended by Jiang Zhenyu, deputy director of the Social Affairs Department of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in Macau; Leong Veng Hang, advisor at the office of Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Wallis O Lam; All-China Women's Federation Standing Committee Member-cum-Macau Women's General Association (commonly known as Fu Luen) Permanent Chairwoman Tina Ho Teng Iat; IAS Deputy Director Daniel Tang Iok Wa; and Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ) Deputy Director Wong Ka Ki.

Hon noted that this year marks the 30th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, which adopted the "Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action."

Early this week, China hosted the two-day Global Leaders' Meeting on Women in Beijing.

Hon said that Macau's Women and Children Affairs Committee would continue to actively support women in breaking through barriers in their respective fields, encouraging local women to integrate into



Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) President-cum-Women and Children Affairs Committee Vice President Wilson Hon Wai addresses yesterday's meeting at the Macau Science Centre (MSC) in Nape. – Photo: Armindo Neves

national development and contribute "She Power" to the Greater Bay Area (GBA) and the whole nation, thereby "collectively writing a new chapter in the advancement of women's causes".

Teng introduced the framework of the Second Macau Women's Development Goals, the implementation of which will begin next year and run until 2032, during the two-hour meeting, pointing out that the plan was formulated with reference to internationally recognised issues concerning women's

development and also "The Outline for Women's Development in China."

She stressed that the development goals aim to continuously foster a better environment for the advancement of women.

Han said that the second development goals will focus on four key areas – physical and mental health development, family friendly policies, social participation, and gender equality. Hon said he hopes all sectors of civil society will continue to collaborate in advancing women's development

initiatives in Macau, striving to build a social environment that respects and supports the holistic development of women.

Hon mentioned that in 2018 the committee formulated its first "Macau Women's Development Goals," with the overarching objective of "Gender Equality and Holistic Development."

Over the past seven years, according to Hon, through the active efforts of multiple entities of the local government, as well as the participation of civil society organisations and all sectors of the community, public awareness of gender equality has been widely enhanced.

Hon said that the proportion of women in Macau with higher education qualifications has continued to rise, robust healthcare safeguards have significantly improved women's health outcomes, and equitable labour policies have fostered a fair and upwardly mobile employment environment for women.

These achievements fully demonstrate Macau's solid progress in advancing women's development and gender equality, Hon said.

According to official demographics, females accounted for 53.9 percent of Macau's population of 685,900 at the end of the second quarter. ■

* The gender pay gap is the average difference in pay between men and women who are working. It is typically expressed as a percentage of men's earnings. For example, if women earn 85 cents for every US dollar a man earns, the gender pay gap is 15 percent. – DeepSeek

Portugal sees 3 years of economic growth with falling emissions: INE

LISBON – Portugal recorded three consecutive years of economic growth alongside declining pollutant emissions between 2021 and 2023 for the first time since 1995, the National Statistics Institute (INE) reported yesterday.

The trend demonstrates a "persistent decoupling" between economic growth and emissions, according to the INE.

Portugal's Global Warming Potential, a measure that expresses all greenhouse gases in terms of their equivalent impact compared with carbon dioxide, fell by 8.9 percent in 2023 from the previous year, totaling 52.7 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent, the lowest level since 1995. Meanwhile, the country's gross value

added rose 3.1 percent in 2023.

The institute attributed the decline of pollutant emissions mainly to the energy sector, where renewable electricity production accounted for more than 60 percent of total generation. Favorable hydrological conditions supported this growth, while reduced reliance on natural gas-fired power plants, whose output dropped by more than 40 percent, also contributed to the decrease in emissions.

The closure of coal-fired power plants at Sines, about 150 km south of Lisbon, and Pego, around 130 km northeast of the capital, completed in 2022 and fully reflected in 2023, further consolidated the reduction trend, the institute said. – Xinhua

China grants market access to 15 food categories from B&R countries

SHANGHAI – China's General Administration of Customs (GAC) yesterday granted market access to 15 categories of food products from 10 countries, including South Africa and Belarus, paving the way for more food products from Belt and Road (B&R) countries to reach Chinese dining tables at a faster pace.

The move was announced at a conference on the import and export food safety cooperation mechanism for Belt and Road countries held in Shanghai.

In recent years, the food trade has become a new highlight in China's trade with B&R countries. In the first three

quarters of this year, China's food trade with these countries reached 915.24 billion yuan, up 2.5 percent year on year.

Since the establishment of the Import & Export Food Safety Cooperation Mechanism for the Countries of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in 2023, notable progress has been achieved, said Sun Meijun, head of the GAC, at the conference.

"Thanks to the green channels for fresh and perishable goods, Thai durians can now reach Chinese markets within just 13 hours, while Chinese cold-water salmon can arrive in the Indonesian market in only 39 hours," Sun added. – Xinhua

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Core inflation hits 19-month high, signaling firmer domestic demand

China's consumer prices showed further signs of stabilization in September, as core inflation reached its highest level in 19 months, underscoring a gradual strengthening in domestic demand. – Story on p. 7

UN humanitarian chief says Israel should immediately open Gaza crossings to aid

UN humanitarian chief Tom Fletcher told AFP yesterday that Israel should immediately open crossings into Gaza for humanitarian aid as part of a ceasefire agreement. – Story on p. 10

Portuguese researchers find way to speed up diabetic wound healing

Researchers at the University of Coimbra in northern Portugal have demonstrated that blocking two microRNA molecules can substantially accelerate wound healing in people with diabetes. – Story on p. 12

Police bust cross-border, Taiwan-based 'scam factory' gang, arrest 6 local members

Ada Lei

The Judiciary Police (PJ) have dismantled a cross-border "scam factory"* syndicate that lured locals to Taiwan with the promise of high salaries to engage in telecom fraud, arresting six local members for recruiting at least nine locals to participate in the Taiwan-based fraudulent activities, PJ spokesman Leng Kam Lon said during a special press conference yesterday.

Leng identified the suspects as a 22-year-old male night-school student surnamed Ao Ieong and a 37-year-old male salesperson surnamed Lio, both of whom are the alleged core members of the gang; a 22-year-old man surnamed Lo who claimed to be jobless; a 17-year-old female night-school student surnamed Cheang; a 27-year-old male delivery driver; and a 43-year-old male insurance industry staff member.

According to Tang Kam Wa, chief of the PJ Gaming and Economic Crime Investigation Department, the syndicate began operating in September 2024. Ao Ieong and Lio were recruited by



Judiciary Police (PJ) officers escort the six hooded suspects to a PJ van outside the PJ headquarters in Zape yesterday.

— Photo: Ada Lei

the gang as core members and later worked with four additional local members. They enticed nine locals – eight men and one woman, ranging in age from minors to middle-aged individuals – through social media, offering daily wages ranging between 1,000 and 1,500 patacas to travel to Taiwan for "financial investment" or the "transportation of precious metals".

Tang noted that the syndicate arranged Taiwan entry permits, purchased air tickets, and booked

accommodation for the "participants." Upon their arrival in Taiwan, the "participants" were met by local members and checked into designated hotels while awaiting instructions. They were then tasked with contacting victims of "investment scams" and collecting cash obtained from the scams, which was later handed over to members of the syndicate.

Tang added that the nine "participants" were arrested by the island's law enforcement while conducting fraudulent activities. The "participants" received a few thousand to tens of thousands of yuan as illegal "remuneration" for their involvement before being apprehended. Taiwan courts sentenced them to prison terms ranging from three to eight months.

Currently, four of them have returned to Macau after serving their sentences from March to August, while the remaining five are still incarcerated in Taiwan.

The police identified the six local members of the syndicate responsible for recruitment and apprehended them separately in various locations, including the northern district, city centre, and the Qingmao Macau-Zhuhai border checkpoint. The police discovered that the sextet were tasked with recruiting "participants," collecting their identity information to process Taiwan entry permits, and providing information to overseas members for purchasing tickets. The two core members, Ao Ieong and Lio, received illegal "remuneration" amounting to 1.0 percent to 3.0

percent of the total cash fraudulently collected by the "participants" in Taiwan.

The six suspects were transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) yesterday, each facing a charge of being part of a criminal syndicate.

The PJ anti-fraud centre reminded citizens to remain vigilant about online job offers or those recommended by friends, particularly those claiming that no skills, qualifications, or experience are needed for generous pay.

Citizens are advised not to engage in any criminal activities and to avoid participating in illegal acts abroad. They should also refrain from lending out bank accounts or assisting in receiving or transporting funds of unclear origin to prevent being exploited as tools for crime. If suspecting fraud, citizens are encouraged to contact the anti-fraud hotline on 8800 477 or the reporting hotline on 993 for enquiries or to report incidents. ■

**A scam factory, such as a fake call centre, is an organised criminal enterprise that operates like a normal business, systematically producing and executing a high volume of scams. It is characterised by its scale, organisation, and repetitive, often scripted, methods.*

— DeepSeek

More on scam centres on page 8

Police nab non-local worker for sexually harassing tourist

Ada Lei

The Public Security Police (PSP) arrested a male non-resident worker (NRW) from the Chinese mainland on Friday for sexually harassing a female tourist at the Barrier Gate Plaza, PSP spokesman Lei Chan Hong said during a regular press conference yesterday.

Lei identified the suspect as a 40-year-old male surnamed Leung who works as a handyman. The victim is a tourist from the mainland who is in her twenties.

According to Lei, the police received a report last Thursday from the victim who said that a man approached her in the Barrier Gate Plaza and touched her thigh before fleeing towards the nearby checkpoint. Feeling sexually harassed, the victim immediately reported the case to the police.

Through their citywide CCTV surveillance footage, the police identified Leung as the suspect and apprehended him near the Barrier Gate Plaza on



This undated handout photo provided by the Public Security Police (PSP) yesterday shows a PSP officer escorting the sexual harassment suspect into a police station.

Friday. Under questioning, Leung admitted to the offence.

Leung has been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), facing a charge of sexual harassment. ■

Baritone Thomas Hampson to perform Mahler recital at CCM

Khalel Vallo

US baritone Thomas Hampson will perform for the first time today at the Macau International Music Festival (MIMF), aiming to bring a programme dedicated to Austro-Bohemian composer Gustav Mahler's (1860-1911) evocative lieder* in collaboration with German pianist Wolfram Rieger at the Macau Cultural Centre's (CCM) Grand Auditorium in Nape.

Organised by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), the concert "Thomas Hampson sings Mahler" will feature selections from "Des Knaben Wunderhorn" ("The Boy's Magic Horn") and "Lieder und Gesänge aus der Jugendzeit" ("Songs and Arias from Youthful Days"). The performance aims to showcase an immersive journey through Mahler's lyrical universe, rich in humanity, humour and poetic imagery.

Hampson, widely regarded as one of the greatest interpreters of Mahler's works, said during a media gathering yesterday that the programme offers "a picture of Mahler, how he saw life in a two-hour performance." He added that "one thing that is underestimated with Gustav Mahler is his sense of humour. He adored parables and fairy tales and silly conversations between birds and jackasses – we'll have a little bit of everything."



US baritone Thomas Hampson (right) and German pianist Wolfram Rieger pose at the Macau Cultural Centre (CCM) during a meet-the-press session in Nape yesterday.

— Photo: Khalel Vallo

Meanwhile, Rieger, who has performed with Hampson for nearly three decades, emphasised their musical partnership, noting that in Mahler's compositions, "the piano and the singer are never separate parts – they form one complete idea, a joint dialogue between two instruments."

The duo's long-standing artistic chemistry aims to illuminate Mahler's complex reflections on humanity, nature and fate. Hampson said that his goal is simple: "Every song Gustav Mahler wrote is a world in itself. Our greatest aim is for people to identify their humanness

in Mahler's stories and music."

Tickets for the 37th Macau International Music Festival are available via Enjoy Macao (ticketing.enjoymacao.mo) with various discounts. Full programme details can be found at www.icm.gov.mo/fimm. ■

**Evocative lieder can refer to the classical German art song tradition which uses music and poetry to evoke deep emotions and imagery, or to modern songs that are similarly emotionally resonant and evocative, regardless of genre. The German word "Lieder" means "songs".* — Google AI overview

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Macau Weather

FINE APART FROM CLOUDY PERIODS.
FORCE 3 TO 4 EAST TO NORTHEASTERLY WINDS.
RELATIVE HUMIDITY WILL RANGE BETWEEN 60% AND 95%.



26°C~32°C

Source: SMG

CAC encourages kids to showcase creativity in drawing contest

Rui Pastorin

CAC – Círculo dos Amigos da Cultura de Macau (“Circle of the Friends of Macau’s Culture”) is calling on Macau’s children to submit works for a drawing contest it is hosting titled “Vision of the World”, with submissions accepted until October 31.

Open to Macau students aged between four and 12, participants will take on the theme “In my eyes”, with a CAC statement released on its Facebook page last Thursday noting that they are “encouraged to express their unique perspectives, observations, and experiences”.

They are also urged to unleash their creativity and imagination through their original works and showcase their “unique world”.

Entries, according to the contest guidelines, must be on A3 drawing paper, with no restrictions on materials, allowing the participants to use mediums including watercolours, crayons, colouring pencils, among others. The works can be in black and white or colour, the statement said.

The winner stands to receive a prize voucher of 1,000 patacas and a trophy, while a prize voucher of 800 patacas and 500 patacas are up for grabs for the first and second runners-up respectively in addition to trophies.

Moreover, there will be 20 merit awards and a Special Jury Prize featuring a 200 pataca voucher and trophy, the statement said.

The competition guideline noted that winners will be announced in mid-November.

The participants can submit their works until 5:30 p.m. on October 31. More details can be found by visiting the CAC Facebook page. ■



This poster downloaded from the CAC – Círculo dos Amigos da Cultura de Macau Facebook page last night shows details of their “Vision of the World” drawing competition.

Kai Fong to host Flag Day this Sunday

Armindo Neves

The Macau General Union of Neighbourhood Associations (UGAMM – widely known as Kai Fong, its short name in Cantonese) held a press conference yesterday about a Flag Day for elderly people living alone this Sunday.

The press conference was held at the Kai Fong headquarters in Toi San district.

According to Kai Fong Vice President Chao I Sam, the fundraising will be held this Sunday, with 175 donation boxes to be set up across Macau and approximately 2,500 volunteers mobilised for street collections.

In addition to cash donations, electronic payment methods will be available, as the fundraising aims to raise funds for services supporting solitary elderly individuals, aligning with the government’s elderly care initiatives and upholding the tradition of respecting and caring for seniors, Chao said.

Leong Hao Mui, who heads Kai Fong’s Elderly Caring Services Network, said that her team provided support to 5,231 isolated elderly and two-member households in the previous four months. During a care initiative carried out from June to September, according to Leong, volunteers performed mental health screenings for 2,220 seniors, revealing that 6.0 percent showed moderate and 2.0 percent severe emotional distress.



Macau General Union of Neighbourhood Associations (Kai Fong) Vice President Chao I Sam (centre), Kai Fong Elderly Caring Services Network Chief Leong Hao Mui (left) and Kai Fong Social Service Committee Chief Kong Wai long pose during yesterday’s press conference at Kai Fong’s headquarters in Toi San district. – Photo: Armindo Neves

Leong recommended turning such screenings into regular services.

Leong underlined that last year’s fundraising set a record with over two million patacas donated. Future efforts will focus on continuously improving services and promoting community-based elderly care, she said.

Kong Wai long, who heads Kai Fong’s Social Service Committee, said that in order to build on the success of previous years, preparations for this year’s Flag Day fundraising event

have been underway since March, with early outreach to businesses, banks and corporations to secure sponsorships. Distribution of Flag Day materials – including collection bags and stickers – to schools and co-organising units is currently in progress, Kong said. She urged the public to donate generously in support of services for solitary elderly individuals, Kong said.

According to official demographics, 14.6 percent of Macau’s population at the end of last year was aged 65 and above. ■

Bacillus cereus found again in bottled fermented bean curd: IAM

Armindo Neves

The Macau Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) announced in a statement on Tuesday that it has been informed by the Hong Kong Centre for Food Safety that a certain brand of bottled spicy fermented bean curd with chili oil contains excessive levels of *Bacillus cereus*.*

According to the statement, the bureau has immediately issued a food alert to the local food industry and dispatched personnel to conduct market inspections to prevent the affected batch from circulating.

The bureau urged citizens to stop consuming the problematic product and advised the trade stocking the items to cease their supply and sale.

The product is Giant Tree Brand’s “Salted Bean Curd Cubes in Brine With Chili (With Sesame Oil)”, sourced from the Chinese mainland, with best-before-day of August 19, 2027. The sample was tested and found to contain 180,000 *Bacillus*

cereus per gram, which fails to comply with both the local microbial guidelines and the relevant standards set in Macau’s “Microbiological Guidelines for Ready-to-eat Food,” the statement said.

IAM had issued a statement about the same product on October 3 when it warned that it was possibly contaminated with *Bacillus cereus*, urging the public to stop consuming it.

According to the statement, *Bacillus cereus* is widely present in the natural environment. Improper handling or storage of food during production can increase the risk of its growth and toxin production. Generally, consuming food contaminated with excessive *Bacillus cereus* or its heat-stable toxins may cause gastrointestinal discomfort, such as vomiting and diarrhoea. ■

*Its Latin name describes the bacterium as a tiny, rod-shaped organism that has a waxy appearance. – DeepSeek



This undated handout photo downloaded last night from the “wellcome” online supermarket shows the Giant Tree Brand’s “Salted Bean Curd Cubes in Brine With Chili (With Sesame Oil)” product that was found to contain 180,000 *Bacillus cereus* per gram and, consequently, has been ordered by the authorities in Hong Kong and Macau to be taken off the shelves.

Clickers present works at ‘Halftone Exhibition ‘25’

Rui Pastorin

A total of 23 of the HALFTONE Photographic Association’s members are showcasing their works in an exhibition at the Rui Cunha Foundation (FRC) gallery, which kicked off on Tuesday evening.

The collective exhibition, titled “Halftone Exhibition ‘25’”, commemorates the association’s fourth anniversary and allows exhibitiongoers to look through the lenses of the participating photographers specialising in different disciplines, each presenting their own styles and approaches to the art form.

Works comprise everything from studio and street photography to landscapes and wildlife, presenting images in both colour and black and white, with works coming from multidisciplinary photographers

and artists from Macau and elsewhere in China, as well as from Portugal, according to a statement by the association displayed at the gallery.

The works highlight the diversity that photography enables, the statement said, and affirms its “decisive role in contemporary artistic and visual practice”, particularly in Macau.

The works can be viewed at the free admission gallery, located on Avenida da Praia Grande (澳門南灣大馬路), until next Saturday, October 25, with exhibitiongoers able to visit from Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 2:30 to 7 p.m., as well as on Saturday from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. It is closed on Sundays. ■

More photos in an upcoming page 4.



Photos of the ongoing “Halftone Exhibition ‘25’” taken yesterday by Rui Pastorin

Art Macao host 'Since it is The Future: Media Art Exhibition'

William Chan

On Saturday evening, the opening ceremony of the Art Macao Collateral Exhibition, titled "Since it is The Future: Media Art Exhibition," was held at the Cardinal Newman Centre for Culture and Arts Performance of Macau (CCCN).

Part of "Art Macao: Macao International Art Biennale 2025", the exhibition is co-curated by local curators Willa Chan (陳穎藍) and Ha Tin Cheong (夏天翔). It brings together the works of four local artists under the narrative framework of "post-apocalyptic cultural archaeology," creating a reverse timeline that reimagines the present by looking through the lens of a speculative future.

The curators explained that the exhibition is rooted in a simple yet thought-provoking question: "Hey! What brings you here?" This daily greeting opens a space for reflection between Macau's past and future. The exhibition seeks to explore how a city, when constantly questioned by outsiders, can find its voice between "passive acceptance" and "active creation."

Using media art as the primary medium, the curators said, the exhibition draws inspiration from Confucian wisdom in the Analects: "Since it is here, let it be settled." It examines how Macau, amidst globalisation and digitalisation, maintains its calm and inclusive urban character, transforming external challenges into sources of creative energy.

At the opening ceremony on Saturday, the four local artists took turns to introduce their artwork to visitors.

Ng Man Cheng (吳文政): RE:BIRTH

Ng Man Cheng's work RE:BIRTH features retro television installations that conduct futuristic archaeology on the memories of civilisation. The artist uses artificial intelligence (AI) to generate media, which is then reinterpreted with a futuristic aesthetic. Ng reflects on how civilisations can grow anew by transforming historical memories into creative processes.

His work draws parallels to Macau, a city shaped by its cultural evolution from colonial times to the present, emphasising resilience and creativity. The artwork is inspired by Matteo Ricci, symbolised by six fictional "heroes" who embark on a journey through a crystallised memory palace, exploring themes of cultural preservation and transformation in a modern context.



Television installations display Ng Man Cheng's AI generated videos.

Cheong Ka Kit (張嘉杰): Re:lections

Cheong Ka Kit's Re:lections creates a dialectical space between perception and reality using delayed projection technology. Several projectors and cameras are used to display visitors' own reflections with a delay of several seconds. This interactive artwork explores



This photo shows myself taking this photo a few seconds earlier.



Curator Ha Tin Cheong performs experimental music on Saturday at the Cardinal Newman Centre for Culture and Arts Performance of Macau (CCCN).
– Photos: William Chan

the concept of time inflation, asking how humans perceive and interact with the elusive fourth dimension – time.

The installation disorients visitors by juxtaposing their present selves with delayed reflections of their past. This creates a distorted sense of time and space, encouraging audiences to question their relationship with the temporal flow. Visitors are invited to engage in introspection and dialogue as they navigate this altered reality.

U Ka Kit (余家杰): Resolve

U Ka Kit's artwork Resolve constructs a deforming mirrored landscape that reflects the endless cyclical dialogue between cities and their visitors. The installation features projections onto the floor, a silver pillar, and a wall. These projections display the same video of a man perpetually walking through doors on a globe.

Depending on the viewer's angle, the movement can be perceived as walking forwards or backwards, creating an optical illusion. This work symbolises the cyclical nature of Macau as a tourist city and explores the tension between passive reception and active creation. By immersing themselves in this distorted spatial environment, viewers are prompted to reflect on the motivations and interactions of those who traverse the city.



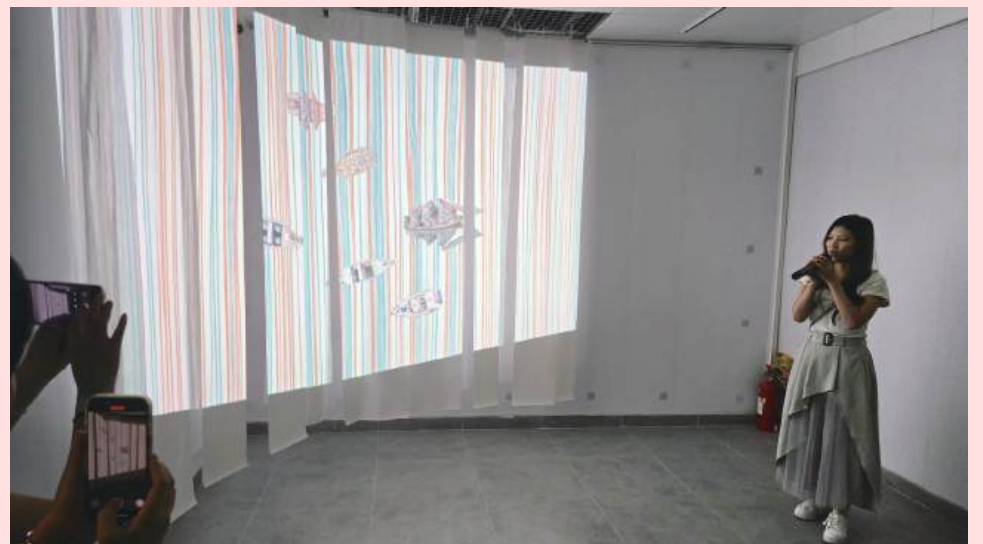
U Ka Kit's Resolve display projections on the floor, a silver pillar, and on a wall.

Lo Hio Leng (羅曉瑩): Reframe

Lo Hio Leng's Reframe uses dynamic symbols to deconstruct layers of history, releasing new narrative possibilities. The artwork responds to the question, "Where are we going?" by examining Macau's current state amidst global flows and regional transformations. Lo employs non-thematic elements inspired by local accounts and incorporates them into a visual narrative that reinterprets the city's identity.

Through dynamic forms and abstract visuals, the work challenges audiences to reconsider their understanding of Macau's cultural and historical complexity. Lo's approach highlights the interconnectedness between the city's past, present, and future, encouraging viewers to engage with the artwork's layered meanings.

The exhibition runs until November 2, and is closed on Mondays. Visitors can explore the artworks daily from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Cardinal Newman Centre for Culture and Arts Performance of Macau (CCCN) on Calçada da Vitória.



Artist Lo Hio Leng presents her work Reframe.

Mathematicians to explore role of maths in modern world at UM tomorrow

Khalel Vallo

The University of Macau (UM) will host a special session of its University Lecture Series tomorrow, featuring Fields Medal laureate Efim Zelmanov and Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) academician Zhang Jiping, who will give insights into the influence and applications of mathematics in today's world, according to a UM statement on Tuesday.

Zelmanov, chair professor at the Southern University of Science and Technology (SUSTech) in Shenzhen, will deliver a talk titled "Welcome to the New Beautiful Mathematical World", while Peking University's Boya Chair Professor Zhang Jiping will present "Numbers and Algebra," the statement said.

The statement noted that the two scholars will discuss how mathematics shapes modern civilisation, from artificial intelligence (AI) and communication technology to medical imaging, highlighting its role in driving innovation and unifying the sciences. According to UM, Zelmanov, a world-leading mathematician and 1994 Fields Medal recipient, holds honorary doctorates from top universities and is a member of several national academies, including the US and Chinese academies of sciences.

Meanwhile, Zhang Jiping, a renowned algebraist, has received major honours such as the State Natural Science Award and the



This poster provided by the University of Macau (UM) on Tuesday promotes "Mathematics in the Modern World", slated to be held tomorrow at the Lecture Hall of the UM Research Building N21 (N21-G013), featuring Efim Zelmanov, chair professor at Shenzhen's Southern University of Science and Technology (SUSTech), and Boya Chair Professor at Peking University Zhang Jiping.

Shiing Shen Chern Mathematics Award, and is recognised for cultivating top mathematical talent in China, the statement added.

The lecture will take place at 3 p.m. tomorrow in the Lecture Hall of UM Research Building N21 (N21-G013), conducted in English and Putonghua. Registration details are available via UM's website (<https://isw.um.edu.mo/evmapp/register/ULSmathsinmodernworld>). ■

G-Bear, NBA collaboration sees 40 themed statues on display

Rui Pastorin

The Londoner's "No.1 Ambassador and Chief Experience Officer G Bear" has teamed up with the NBA for an exhibition featuring 40 themed statues at key locations of The Venetian Macao and The Londoner Macao until October 31.

Among them, 30 reflect G Bear's love of the game, two are large-scale inflatables, and eight "capture his stylish personality and interests", according to a Sands China statement on Tuesday.

The exhibition is among the highlights of the integrated resort operator's recently concluded week of activities and events for The NBA China Games 2025, which saw the Brooklyn Nets and the Phoenix Suns battling it out at The Venetian Arena last Friday and Sunday night and included performances from South Korean dance crew Team BEBE and singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Henry Lau (劉憲華).

Outside of the games, Macau's first NBA House took place from October 8 to 12 and featured a raft of other activities, with the immersive fan event headlined by NBA legends including Tim



This photo provided by Sands China on Tuesday shows some of the statues that are displayed at The Londoner Macao for the ongoing G Bear Exhibition.

Hardaway Sr., Stephon Marbury, Shawn Marion, Shaquille O'Neal, Mitch Richmond, and Deron Williams.

The NBA Fan Day also took place on October 11 featuring NBA champion Shaquille O'Neal, Nets and Suns players and their dance teams, as well as performances from hip-hop artist MC Jin, and Hong Kong boy band MIRROR members Keung To (姜濤), Edan Lui Cheuk-on, and Stanley Yau Sze-chun. The day also saw the

opening of the 900 square metre NBA Flagship Store at The Londoner Macao.

The following day, "Pivot Point: How Sports Ownership Is Reaching Global Communities" roundtable was held, with Las Vegas Sands Corp President and Chief Operating Officer Patrick Dumont, Sands Global Ambassador David Beckham, and Alibaba Group Co-founder and Chairman Joseph Chung-Hsin Tsai tackling the topic. ■

Transport Bureau gets new chief

Tony Wong

The government has appointed Chiang Ngoc Vai, who had been a deputy director of the Transport Bureau (DSAT) since its establishment in 2008, as the bureau's director effective from yesterday.

Chiang's one-year appointment has been formalised through an executive order by Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raymond Tam Vai Man published in the Official Gazette (BO) yesterday. Tam signed the order on October 3.

The bureau has two deputy directors in its organisational structure.

Since Kelvin Lam Hin San, who headed the bureau for 10 years, left the post of the bureau's director in July this year, the bureau's director position had been left vacant before Chiang's appointment to his new post started yesterday. During the interim period, Chiang, one of the bureau's two deputy directors, was the bureau's acting director.

Lam's appointment as the bureau's director was not renewed when it expired on July 21.

Lam became the bureau's director on July 22, 2015 when his appointment, made by the government's then secretary for transport and public works Raimundo do Rosário, was scheduled to last one year. Since then, Lam's appointment had been renewed every year for a year, with the last renewal of his appointment made by Rosário in July last year.

The government did not renew Lam's appointment "upon his personal request", according to a notice published in the gazette at that time.

The Transport Bureau was established on May 13, 2008 when Wong Wan was appointed as the bureau's first director while Chiang was appointed as a deputy director. Lam succeeded Wong in 2015 when the latter resigned from the position.

Lam joined the Macau Civil Aviation Authority (AACM) in 1995 where he had been working until July 2015 when he was appointed as the Transport Bureau's director.

According to Tam's executive order published yesterday, Chiang, who holds a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering, joined the civil service in 1990 when he started to work for the then Lands, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT), where he

was promoted to the chief of its Transport Department in 1995, a position he held until May 2008 when he became a deputy director of the then newly established Transport Bureau.

Chiang also holds a bachelor's degree in Cadastral Surveying and Land Planning.

DSSOPT was replaced by the current Lands and Urban Construction Bureau (DSSCU) in April 2022.

While the transport function of DSSOPT was taken over by the then newly established Transport Bureau, its name, containing the word "transport", remained unchanged at that time.

As Chiang has now become the Transport Bureau's director, one of the bureau's two deputy director positions has been left vacant. The currently serving deputy director is Lei Veng Hong, who took up the post in June 2022. ■



This file photo shows Chiang Ngoc Vai (right), the Transport Bureau's (DSAT) then acting director, addressing a press conference last month about the government's arrangements for the peninsula-Taipa Macau Bridge to remain open during the hoisting of the Tropical Cyclone Signal No.8 (T8). Chiang became the bureau's director yesterday.

— Photo: Tony Wong

Flu cases rising: Health Bureau

Tony Wong

The Health Bureau (SSM) said in a statement last night that according to its latest monitoring data, influenza viruses in Macau have been becoming increasingly active since last month, urging residents to strengthen their vigilance against influenza.

Since the middle of last month, the statement said, the number of patients seeking hospital treatment for influenza-like illnesses has been rising, with a more noticeable increase in adults' cases. The weekly number of patients seeking treatment for influenza-like illnesses at hospital emergency departments for adults increased to 274 last week (October 5 to 11) from 206 during the same period last month, an increase of over 30 percent, while the weekly number of patients seeking treatment for influenza-like illnesses at paediatric emergency departments increased from 352 to 454 during the period, an increase of nearly 30 percent.

According to the bureau's laboratory test results, the statement said, the positive detection rate for influenza viruses has recently



Image courtesy of WHO – Western Pacific Region

risen, increasing from 8.6 percent during the same period last month to 12.2 percent last week, already approaching the alert threshold level of 13.1 percent. This indicates that community influenza viruses are becoming increasingly active, predominantly influenza A (H3 subtype) viruses (accounting for 61.1 percent) and influenza B viruses (accounting for 16.7 percent). ■

Macau Red Cross marks 105th anniversary



Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai addresses the 105th anniversary reception of the Macau Red Cross at the Macau Tower Convention and Entertainment Centre yesterday. The event was also attended, among other dignitaries, by the Edmund Ho Hau Wah, the first chief executive (1999-2009) of the Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR). — Photo: GCS

A reception was held yesterday at the Macau Tower Convention and Entertainment Center to mark the 105th anniversary of the Macau Red Cross.

Addressing the celebratory event, Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai said the local government and the Macau Red Cross had long worked hand-in-hand to advance emergency relief, humanitarian assistance, and the protection of life and human dignity.

He praised the organisation's

courage and compassion in disaster response and daily service, encouraging the Macau Red Cross to align with the city's high-quality development goals, promote patriotism, enhance service capabilities, and deepen collaboration with the Red Cross Society of China.

Sam also called for leveraging Macau's role as a bridge between China and the rest of the world to advance humanitarian cooperation.

— Xinhua, MPD

Innovation, smart tech take center stage at 138th Canton Fair

GUANGZHOU — The 138th edition of the China Import and Export Fair, also known as the Canton Fair, started yesterday, with the number of exhibitors exceeding 32,000, a record high.

Scheduled to take place from October 15 to November 4 in the southern Chinese metropolis of Guangzhou in Guangdong Province, this edition of the fair has also attracted a record number of buyers. As of Monday, over 240,000 buyers from 218 export markets had pre-registered, reflecting a 10-percent increase compared to the previous edition.

Among them — the number of buyers from the European Union, the United States and countries participating in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has increased significantly. Meanwhile, more than 400 leading purchasing companies will attend the fair.

According to surveys conducted ahead of the fair, over one million new products developed in the past year will be showcased at this edition of fair, while around 800,000 items will make their debuts at the fair.

This edition of the Canton Fair will, for the first time, feature a smart medical zone — which has attracted 47 companies showcasing products such as surgical robots, intelligent monitoring systems and wearable devices. It will continue to feature a service robot zone, which has drawn 46 leading industry players to display their humanoid robots, robotic dogs and other innovations.

"I have been to many fairs all

around the world, but the Canton Fair has something different. Even though it is held two times a year, every six months, you are able to find something different, something innovative," said Canyigit Atay, chief product officer at Arzum Electrical Home Appliances from Turkiye.

As Turkiye's leading home appliances and electrical sales company, Arzum has expanded its business to over 90 countries and regions worldwide. Since 1990, the company has worked closely with Chinese suppliers.

The Canton Fair, according to Atay, is not merely a trading event, but also a window to observe China's latest innovations. This year, the company is focusing mainly on coffee machines and related products.

"This time I'm able to see some new products, especially the service robots. I'm impressed by the robot coffee machines, and we have already started cooperation with one of these companies," Atay said.

The 138th Canton Fair brings together 46 leading service robot companies showcasing humanoid robots, robotic dogs and other advanced robotic technologies.

A robotic arm precisely cutting a model under the operator's command drew crowds of overseas buyers to Yuanhua Tech's booth. Founded in 2018, the company holds over 100 invention patents.

"Our surgical robots can achieve precise operations with dynamic correction technology. They have performed over 5,000 clinical

surgeries in hospitals in the Chinese mainland and Hong Kong," said Li Aili, founder and chairman of Yuanhua Tech, Perception and AI Technologies Limited.

The company, Li added, aims to reach more international partners and deliver safer, more precise surgical solutions worldwide by participating in the Canton Fair.

According to the organizer, over 10,000 of the exhibiting companies hold national-level titles such as national high-tech enterprises or "little giant" enterprises, a record high number.

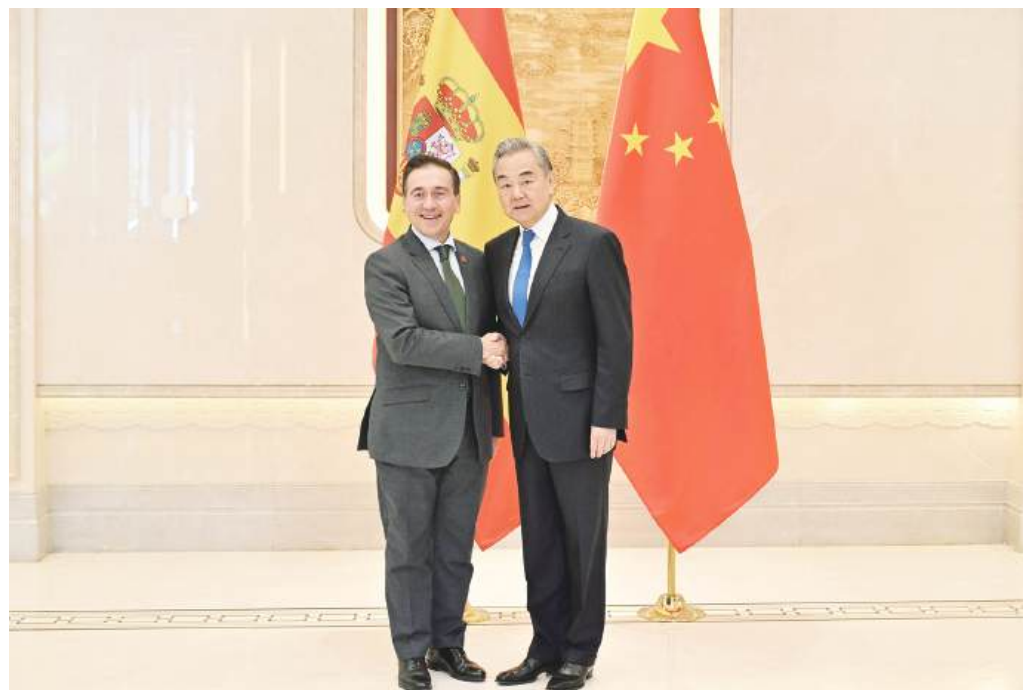
Hamat Tofiq Ahmed, a buyer serving customers in the Middle East, said he was drawn to products from Gree Electric Appliances, a Chinese home appliance giant. He is looking for air conditioning products capable of withstanding high temperatures in countries across the region.

According to Zeng Fanlong, a director of sales for East Europe area at Gree, the company will display more than 130 products at the 138th Canton Fair, including 50 new models.

"We are deepening cooperation with clients in Europe and America while introducing competitive products to emerging markets in Latin America and Africa," Zeng said.

Established in 1957, the Canton Fair is held twice a year. It is the longest-running of several comprehensive international trade events in China, and has been hailed as the barometer of China's foreign trade.

— Xinhua



Foreign Minister Wang Yi (right), also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, shakes hands with his Spanish counterpart José Manuel Albares Bueno in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, yesterday. — Xinhua

Provocations, threats in S China Sea will not succeed: FM spokesperson

BEIJING — China is firmly committed to safeguarding its territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests, and emphasizes that maritime disputes should be resolved peacefully through negotiations and consultations by countries directly concerned, a foreign ministry spokesperson said yesterday.

"Any provocations or threats

are futile and will never succeed," Lin Jian said at a press briefing when asked to comment on recent remarks made by a US State Department spokesperson about the South China Sea.

He said that all available facts and evidence indicate the Philippines provoked first. The United States, disregarding the facts, smeared China's legitimate

actions to safeguard its own rights, and even attempted to leverage the US-Philippines Mutual Defense Treaty as a threat.

This once again exposed the US side's malicious intention to deliberately stir up confrontation and destabilize the South China Sea, showing that the United States is the biggest source of risk undermining regional stability, he added. — Xinhua

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US experts urge dialogue, cooperation in US-China ties



Charlene Barshefsky, former US trade representative and board chair of the National Committee on US-China Relations (NCUSCR), speaks at the annual Gala Dinner of the NCUSCR in New York City on Tuesday. Speakers at the annual gala called for continued dialogue, practical engagement and increased collaboration between Washington and Beijing to stabilize the world's most important bilateral relationship. — Xinhua

Analysis by Xinhua writers Yang Shilong, Shi Chun

NEW YORK — Speakers at the annual gala of the National Committee on US-China Relations in New York City on Tuesday called for continued dialogue, practical engagement and increased collaboration between Washington and Beijing to stabilize the world's most important bilateral relationship.

PROGRESS AMID CHALLENGES

Committee President Stephen A. Orlins opened the event with a note of guarded optimism.

Both sides should “unite all forces that can be united,” said Orlins. Even amid global turmoil, “we at the National Committee know that at times of great challenge, we can make progress,” he said.

Orlins highlighted the committee's ongoing track-two dialogues on healthcare, the digital economy and artificial intelligence (AI) governance, emphasizing that “progress on these issues will benefit Americans and Chinese alike.”

COMMUNICATION OVER CONFLICT

Committee Board Chair Charlene Barshefsky, a former US trade representative, acknowledged that 2025 has been a “tumultuous time.”

Still, she noted several positive signs — a bipartisan Congressional visit to China, a presidential call and the announcement of a TikTok deal — as evidence that channels remain open.

“There's no question we won't find common ground on every issue,” she said. “But I take great encouragement in the notion that leaders of great countries recognize the value of communication over conflict.”

Barshefsky said the world “depends on stable US-China relations.”

INTERDEPENDENCE IS A FACT

“Neither country can credibly seal itself off from the impacts of the other... We will remain bound together through our economies and ultimately our shared existence on this planet,” said Evan G. Greenberg, executive vice chair of the committee and chairman of Chubb Insurance.

He called for renewed strategic thinking and risk-reduction efforts, warning of a “deficit” in both.

Greenberg also underscored the stabilizing role of business ties, saying, “Business and private-sector leadership have an important and strategic role to play.”

He said that two-way trade and investment remain in the interest of both countries, acting as a “stabilizing force.”

COOPERATION PREVAILS OVER CONFRONTATION

Pfizer Chairman and CEO Dr. Albert Bourla, honored at the gala, described the health sector as a model for bilateral cooperation.

“Trade tensions continue to simmer,” he said, “but we must continue to place our confidence in dialogue and connection to provide the productive path forward.”

Bourla praised China's rapid advances in biopharma, calling them “remarkable,” and pointed to Pfizer's nearly 40-year presence in China and partnerships with local firms as examples of how collaboration benefits both sides.

“In health, the enemy is only one — the disease,” he said. “Cancer, heart disease, Alzheimer's — they don't recognize borders.”

“The cures of tomorrow will come from collaboration, from science, and from the belief that global problems demand global solutions,” said Bourla.

MUSIC AS A BRIDGE

During the event, Abigail Washburn, an American banjo player, and Wu Fei, a Beijing-born guzheng artist, performed a duet that fused Appalachian banjo with the ancient Chinese zither, showcasing how art transcends borders.

The performance and friendship, rooted in two decades of musical and personal exchanges, conveyed a simple truth: In song and emotion alike, we are all the same.

Orlins said at the end of their show that he hoped the two countries could one day get along as harmoniously as the two musicians had played together.

— Xinhua

Core inflation hits 19-month high, signaling firmer domestic demand

BEIJING — China's consumer prices showed further signs of stabilization in September, as core inflation reached its highest level in 19 months, underscoring a gradual strengthening in domestic demand.

According to data released by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) yesterday, the core consumer price index (CPI), which excludes food and energy prices, rose 1.0 percent year on year — marking the fifth consecutive month of acceleration and the biggest increase since February 2024.

Notably, gold jewelry prices surged 42.1 percent from a year ago, household appliances and items were up 5.5 percent, and communication devices increased by 1.5 percent. The costs of medical and domestic services climbed 1.9 percent and 1.6 percent, respectively.

The headline CPI also showed a positive trend -- logging a 0.1 percent month-on-month increase from a flat August and narrowing its year-on-year decline to 0.3 percent -- compared with a 0.4-percent drop in August.

NBS statistician Dong Lijuan attributed the year-on-year decrease in the headline CPI mainly to “base effects” from last year, emphasizing that the influence from this year's price changes has been positive.

“The consumer market

remained broadly stable in September,” Dong said.

These encouraging signs in consumer prices reflect a sustained recovery in domestic demand, supported by a raft of pro-consumption measures introduced this year.

The trade-in program for consumer goods, one of the major initiatives, has proved to be highly effective. From January to August, 330 million consumers claimed trade-in subsidies, driving over 2 trillion yuan of sales in related products ranging from smartphones and home appliances to electric bicycles nationwide.

China recently allocated another 69 billion yuan to local governments to fund consumer-goods trade-ins, resulting in the full-year central funding of 300 billion yuan being completely disbursed.

In addition to goods consumption, services spending has also accelerated. NBS spokesperson Fu Linghui has noted that strong demand for travel and leisure activities has continued to drive service consumption this year.

During the eight-day National Day and Mid-Autumn Festival holiday in early October, domestic trips reached 888 million — up by 123 million from the seven-day holiday in 2024. Total domestic tourism spending rose to 809.01 billion yuan, an increase of 108.19

billion yuan from last year.

Meanwhile, experts also highlighted the rapid rise of new consumption trends — including digital, green and health-oriented spending, as emerging engines of growth. For instance, retail sales of new energy passenger vehicles grew by more than 20 percent in the first eight months of 2025.

Despite this consumption momentum, Fu acknowledged that price levels remain subdued, and consumer confidence and purchasing power still need strengthening.

Looking ahead, more efforts will be made to further implement special initiatives to boost consumption, promote stable employment and income growth, improve the consumption environment, and expand the supply of quality goods and services in a bid to unleash greater domestic demand, Fu said.

Wednesday's data also revealed improvement in industrial prices in September — as the decline in the producer price index (PPI), which measures costs for goods at the factory gate, continued to narrow.

The PPI went down 2.3 percent year on year in September, narrowing by 0.6 percentage points from the previous month — suggesting an improvement in industrial demand amid government efforts to bolster economic growth. — Xinhua

China's export controls on rare earths consistent with int'l practice: FM spokesperson

BEIJING — China took export controls on rare earths and related items in accordance with the law, which are consistent with international practice, foreign ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said yesterday.

Lin made the comment in response to US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer's remarks saying that whether the additional 100 percent tariffs on Chinese goods kick in on Nov. 1 or sooner depends on what China

does. Greer also said Chinese officials made contradictory statements about the latest rare earth export restrictions.

Lin said competent authorities have made clear China's position on the export control measures on rare earths and related items, noting that China took the measures to better safeguard world peace and regional stability, and fulfill non-proliferation and other international obligations.

“China's position has been

consistent and clear,” the spokesperson said, adding that it is the United States that asks for talks while threatening high tariffs and new restrictions, which is not the right way to deal with China.

China urges the United States to correct its wrong approach as early as possible and address relevant issues through dialogue and consultation on the basis of equality, respect and mutual benefit, Lin said.

— Xinhua

Mainland urges US to stop sending wrong signals to 'Taiwan independence' separatists

BEIJING — A Chinese mainland spokesperson yesterday urged the United States to stop interfering in China's internal affairs and stop sending wrong signals to separatist forces seeking “Taiwan independence.”

Chen Binhua, a spokesperson for the State Council Taiwan Affairs Office, made the remarks in response to the new National Defense Authorization Act that was recently passed by the US Senate, which allocates US\$1 billion of

military aid for Taiwan and seeks to invite the island to participate in a military exercise.

“The Taiwan question is purely China's internal affair and brooks no external interference. We firmly oppose the inclusion of Taiwan-related content in relevant bills of the US Congress, and we firmly oppose any form of military contact between the United States and China's Taiwan,” said Chen.

When answering a media query about the inclusion of three US

firms on China's unreliable entity list, Chen said these companies, in disregard of strong opposition from China, have engaged in so-called military technology cooperation with Taiwan, seriously undermining China's national sovereignty, security and development interests.

“We firmly oppose such actions and hold these companies accountable in accordance with the law,” Chen said.

— Xinhua