

macao

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TRUTH [Fu]

Many Chinese characters are based on images from nature, making striking, figurative comparisons between phenomena in the natural world and certain qualities inherent in human life.

The character for "truth" shows a pictogrammatic "birds foot" over its young. Just as the bird broods the egg, within which is concealed the germ of life, essential truth, which is concealed, can be discovered by contemplating the universal natural of life.

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Macao Tourism

Growing stronger

By José Carlos Matias

After years of remarkable growth, Macao's tourism industry is facing a number of challenges. It needs to focus on quality in order to extend the virtuous cycle of a city aiming at becoming a world tourism and leisure hub. The question is: how to get there?





If you are in downtown Macao, you see tourists everywhere: on the streets, at the historic sites, in the shops and flocking to casinos and hotels.

As Macao became a service-oriented economy, tourism took centre stage, accounting for the lion's share of the region's economic activity.

The statistics are striking: in just four years the number of visitor arrivals climbed from about 21 million to over 28 million. But beyond the buoyant figures and the region's economic prosperity, the industry is facing a number of challenges.

It all comes down to two major tasks: firstly, how to strike a balance between an ever growing tourism industry and the residents' quality of life; secondly, how to make sure that the quality of service provided does not fall as the number of visitors keeps on increasing.



Macao: “a touching experience”

The director of the Macao Government Tourist Office (MGTO), Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes, who was sworn in as the region’s tourism chief in December 2012, says: “one cannot expect Macao to solve all its problems just like that and transform itself into a world class tourism hub overnight.” The city faces some limitations to the expansion of its tourism industry, due to its small size and high density of population. Given these limitations, Fernandes says that they will look into stabilising the number of visitors, push for a more diverse source of visitors and further engage the local community in the tourism industry through awareness campaigns. “We want tourists to come to Macao and have an experience, a touching moment,” she says, adding that healthy interaction with the local residents is a key component of this aim.

Hidden treasures at hand

There are plenty of reasons to visit Macao: the city’s unique history, its world cultural heritage sites, the local delicacies on offer or the city’s famous casinos and resorts.

But there are “hidden sites” too, which have the potential to become new attractions. “We will continue to work with the Cultural Affairs Bureau and the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau to turn old buildings with historic and cultural value into tourism elements,” she says. In fact, just a stone’s throw away from some of the city’s “honey pots”, there are alleys and streets where visitors can find temples, food stores, and shops to get more in touch with Macao’s way of life. The idea is to channel visitors to zones other than the overcrowded “hot spots”, such as the Ruins of Saint Paul’s or the A Ma temple.



Growing pains

But the success of this strategy and of the overall tourism industry depends on the residents' acceptance. The mass influx of visitors from mainland China, which accounts for about 60 percent of the total number of visitor arrivals, has been a key factor behind the growth of the tourism industry. This influx took off after the implementation of the Individual Visit Scheme, back in 2003, which allows travellers from designated cities in mainland China to visit Macao (and Hong Kong on an individual basis). But some citizens and local associations are growing nervous about the impact of mass tourism on their livelihood.

Glenn McCartney, an expert in tourism, and Professor of Gaming and Hospitality at the University of Macao, warns: "There is a risk of locals reaching a tipping point." He argues that "people from the outskirts of the tourism industry may be annoyed because they feel squeezed out and that they are not getting the economic benefits of the tourism boom".

Helena de Senna Fernandes emphasises that this is a major concern for the government. "We have to keep on assessing the feelings of the local population; if locals do not feel comfortable, we cannot continue to develop tourism." At the end of the day, "the benefit of the population and the people's livelihood is the most important thing".



Glenn McCartney

The office's awareness campaign caters precisely to the local communities, "to let local residents understand why tourism is important and how they are part of it".



Come here, stay here

And locals can play a decisive role in spurring an innovative and creative approach to the tourism industry. Davis Fong, director of the Institute for the Study of Commercial Gaming at the University of Macao, sees plenty of potential in the development of new products by local artists and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs), which "can develop creative products and souvenirs inspired by our rich cultural heritage".

All these elements put together – new products, warm engagement with the local community and new tourist attractions – play an important role in the wider objective to extend the length of stay of visitors. The latest figures show that half of the tourists are actually same-day visitors, and that overnight visitors spend on average 1.8 days in Macao. This happens despite the growing number of hotel projects. With as many as 11 hotels under construction which will add 7200 rooms and another 25 projects under consideration, the supply

is likely to lead to an extension of the length of stay of visitors.

But, stresses Fernandes, to attain the aforementioned goal: "It is necessary to change the perception of many tourists who don't know how to spend their time and think that spending one day in Macao is enough."

However, as Macao further integrates into the Pear River Delta Region (PRD), namely through the transportation network which includes the Guangzhou-Zhuhai intercity railway and the future Hong Kong-Macao-Zhuhai bridge, the number of same-day visitors may skyrocket, anticipates Davis Fong.

"Someone living in Guangzhou may get on the train and within 40 minutes will arrive in Macao to see a show or go shopping, spending a couple of hours here and then returning to Guangzhou," he notes. That's why Fong predicts that "same-day visitors may end up making up for 60 to 70 percent of the overall number of tourists visiting Macao, and will thereby become even more important".

Davis Fong



Diversifying the market source

This brings us to another major challenge: to reduce the dependency on tourists from the greater China region (mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan), who currently account for nearly 90 percent of the total. "If we want to be a world tourism and leisure hub we need to let international visitors know that Macao is a place that they should visit," says the MGTO director. From a strategic standpoint, "the expansion of the source market is a very important consideration".

This entails further promotional activities in markets such as India and Russia, which have not been severely affected by the international financial crisis (as opposed to the US and Europe). MGTO regards Russia as a market that has plenty of room to grow as a source of tourists. "There's a wealthy segment of the Russian population that travels quite frequently, and we believe that there's a lot of potential for Macao to attract more Russian visitors." In terms of diversification within the Asia-Pacific region, South Korea is a case in point. In recent years the country has become the top market after the greater China region.

But the push for an expansion of the market source of visitors is hindered by the shortage of international flights from Macao International Airport.

"The major obstacle is that Macao's Airport is not very international – there are no long haul flights to Europe or the United States," underlines Davis Fong. The same is true for flights to India and Russia, two markets that have been prioritised by MGTO's promotional activities. Fernandes acknowledges that although Macao International airport is attracting new airlines, "There's a limit to the capacity of the airport itself."

The proximity to Hong Kong Airport and transport links to it partially offset the limitations arising from the absence of medium-to-long haul flight connections.

The way ahead

The aim to turn Macao into a world tourism and leisure hub has been spelled out in the nation's 12th Five Year Plan and has been repeatedly mentioned by local officials. This is seen as of paramount importance in the wider goal of promoting a more sustainable and balanced economic model for Macao that is less dependent on the gaming industry. Experts infer that, realistically, Macao will only be capable of embracing a more diversified model through vertical diversification where tourism is a propeller for an upgrade of the city's economic structure. McCartney says: "The government needs to be more proactive in dealing with the challenges faced by the tourism industry." This would imply a more farsighted approach, which should be translated into a master plan.

The Development of a Comprehensive Macao Tourism Master Plan is laid out as the first of the ten strategies, which were included in a report commissioned by the Macao Government to a group of experts appointed by PATA – the Asia Pacific Travel Association. The blueprint spells out the "ten commandments" to achieve the desired positioning as a World Centre of Tourism and Leisure. This will eventually come into fruition as urban planning, regional cooperation (with mainland China and Hong Kong), quality tourism and cultural tourism are taken to a higher level. ■

Photos by Carmo Correia, Eric Tam and Manuel Cardoso



THE 10 COMMANDMENTS OF MACAO TOURISM

A blueprint for Macao Tourism by the Pacific Area Travel Association (PATA)

1. Develop a Comprehensive Macao Tourism Master Plan
2. Make Macao accessible to the world
3. Reposition Macao as a world-class and diversified urban tourism destination
4. Identify and invest in market growth segments and a new marketing/branding strategy
5. Use business events as the platform for Macao and Pearl River Delta cooperation and growth
6. Diversify Macao's tourism products
7. Improve tourism quality standards
8. Ensure adequate human resource capacity
9. Adopt a sustainable tourism development approach
10. Create an umbrella Destination Management Organization

Tourism Statistics (2012)



	Total visitor arrivals: 28 082 292	percentage of the total
Mainland China	16 902 499	(60%)
Hong Kong	7 081 153	(25%)
Taiwan	1 072 052	(3.8%)
Japan	395 989	(1.4%)
Korea	444 773	(1.5%)
Southeast Asia	1 245 622	(4.4%)
Others:	1 996 000	(7%)





Taking Life by the Tusks

Son of poor farmer becomes ivory master in Macao

By Mark O'Neill

A short distance from the ruins of St Paul's Church is a small shop full of exquisite wooden and ivory sculptures. The value of the items on display runs into hundreds of millions of patacas. The ivory comes not from elephants but mammoths who died in the Siberian tundra thousands of years ago.

This is the work of Ng Chi-wai, who was born in 1957 into a poor farming family in the county of Zhongshan, which borders Macao. One day in March 1979, he made a dramatic escape from hardship, swimming for 10 hours, and landed on the shore of Macao with nothing more than his underpants.

Since that historic day, intense work and the training of master craftsmen have turned Ng into Macao's leading sculptor of ivory. Collectors and wealthy businessmen from China are willing to pay tens of millions of patacas for the larger and more intricate pieces. Many go on display at museums in Beijing, Guangzhou and other cities in China.

Most of the pieces are made at a factory he established in his home village in Zhongshan in 1994. He is planning to open a museum of ivory carving there.

He has also trained a large number of apprentices, as part of a mission to pass on this traditional Chinese craft. He belongs to professional associations and makes public speeches about his work and the craft to which he has devoted his life.



Ng Chi-wai in the Zhuhai factory

Harsh childhood

Ng was born in 1957 into a poor farming family in Tanzhou village, a mountainous district of Zhongshan. He was the third of seven children, of whom four made it to adulthood. "Life was very hard; I did not have enough to eat nor shoes to wear," he said in an interview. The only advantage was that, because his family was at the bottom of the social ladder, it avoided criticism in the new Communist order which targeted landlords, the rich and those connected with the former regime.

He was a keen and hard-working student but his education was disrupted by the Cultural Revolution (1966–1976), as was that of millions of other Chinese. "My secondary school had no teacher. Instead, we wrote big-character posters and went into the fields to dig potatoes and plant rice. I graduated in 1974 and was sent to work in a team doing water projects. Since I was the most literate person, my job was to keep a record of the work being done and send it to our superiors."

He saw how hard and difficult life was in the village and that it was not likely to change; those who were able to, found a way to leave. Ng also looked for

a way to escape. He applied to join the People's Liberation Army, and was selected but, at the last minute, was unaccountably not called up; his quota was given to the son of a person with better connections. It was the same story with his efforts to become a cadre and a member of the Communist Party. "I had the right attitude and qualifications – but the privilege was given to others with better connections. I became discouraged; my uncle told me to run away to Macao."

Desperate escape

Today the journey between Zhongshan and Macao takes about an hour on an excellent road. As from 1 January, you can take an express train that takes even less time.

In the 1970s, however, it was a military zone, guarded by regular PLA soldiers and local militia. Crossing in either direction was forbidden. To attempt an escape, to Hong Kong or Macao, was an act of treason, punishable by three months of hard labour. It was a political black mark against you for the rest of your life and could mean that you could never leave your village or find a better job.

To attempt an escape was an act of desperation. The first time Ng tried, accompanied by a friend during daytime, he was caught; the two served the three-month sentence, which aimed to change their way of thinking and persuade them to abandon the idea. Then he was approached by a classmate, a doctor in the village, who asked him to accompany his brother to Macao, where his sister was living. "It was March 1979, just after Chinese New Year. I had a fever and was not well prepared. But my partner had got everything ready and had a boat. We set out, with food and clothes, on the first stage from Tanzhou to Zhuhai, but my friend was seen by the militia and caught. I had nothing to wear but swimming trunks and a life jacket. I could not go back, I could only go forwards." So he slept that night in the open, without food, and made his way to the Wanzai district of Zhuhai, from where he could see Macao. He was a good swimmer. "The waves were strong and moving against me. I plunged into the water, with my life jacket on. I could see the lights of Macao on the other side. I was in the water for 10 hours. Swimming was difficult because the current was so strong." Finally, he reached the shore on the other side. "My legs were completely numb; I had to rub them to bring them back to life." He stood on the beach with no shoes and clothed in nothing but his underwear. He saw a policeman on the hill above him; would he arrest him and hand him back to the mainland? Then a man appeared. "He knew that I had escaped from the other side. He took me to a hotel run by his friend and gave me new clothes and a big meal, including rice, a chicken leg and a mango." This enabled him to blend in with the rest of the population. "I owe that man a debt of gratitude for the rest of my life."

Starting a new life

It was a good moment to arrive in Macao; the city was desperately short of workers for restaurants and factories set up by businessmen from Hong Kong. "You did not need identity papers, and immigration officers did not come to investigate." He found his first job as a painter in a porcelain factory, for seven patacas a day. He stayed there for six months, before applying to become an apprentice in an ivory workshop.



The other apprentices were 17 or 18 years old, and he was 22. At first, the master was dismissive, saying that he was too old. But when Ng painted for him, he liked what he saw and hired him. He paid him 50 patacas a month; the rent for a bunk bed was 30 a month.

Determined to make up for lost time, Ng worked 15–16 hours a day and completed the three-year training in two years. At the end of his three years, he rented a workshop of his own and hired six employees. "I did not want to work for someone else, I wanted to be my own boss. I was the best in my field. Things went very well and many people wanted my work. They queued up for it."

In 1989, he was badly hit by the ban on the use of ivory from elephants. In 1991, he moved for six months to Taiwan, working as a sculptor of wood and doing Buddhist altars and statues. Then he started to use ivory from mammoths as a replacement.

Mammoth relief

The two most important animals to provide ivory for carving are elephants and mammoths. In 1975, trade in the ivory of the Asian elephant was banned between countries which had signed the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. In January 1990, the African elephant was added to the list.

The country worst hit by the ban was China, which had then and still has the largest ivory-carving industry. To replace the elephant came the mammoth – a large animal that appeared on earth 4.8 million years ago and died out at least 3,600 years ago.

The freezing climate of Siberia has preserved these animals; millions are believed to be lying below the tundra. Each year, from mid-June until mid-September, thousands of people scour the earth of

northern Siberia looking for mammoth tusks. Russia exports about 60 tonnes a year to China, the world's largest market, most of it through Hong Kong, where it enters without duty.

Russian businessmen have come to realise the value of this commodity and to control the export. The price has risen ten-fold from US\$180 a kilogram in 2000 to US\$1,800 today, four times more than the price of elephant ivory. Of the tusk of the mammoth, only 20 percent can be used for carving; as a non-renewable resource, it is a precious material.

Delicate art

"Carving is a delicate and time-consuming job," said Ng. "Carving the head of Buddha takes about one to two months."

He uses an electric drill similar to that of a dentist. "Unlike the ivory of an elephant, most of the mammoth ivory is non-standard and more easily broken. The main difficulty of carving is to avoid a damaged or broken section to create different art pieces. Therefore, the first stage of choosing different parts of the tusk for carving is vital."

Once he has selected which part of the tusk to use, he draws on his skill and experience to determine which section should be used for which design. He carves some himself and gives the rest to his colleagues or students in the factory he established in 1994 in his home village in Zhongshan. They follow his ideas and designs; he is responsible for the overall design.

His favourite themes are different kinds of Buddhas and all kinds of animals.

The carving process creates a lot of dust and powder; while they are not harmful, everyone wears masks to prevent them entering the human body.

"I like to work in the morning," he said. "People are most clear and sober in the morning. Most of my designs and ideas come in the morning."

New factory in home village

After returning from Taiwan, Ng invested 200,000 yuan in a joint venture factory in Zhaoqing, Guangdong province, with a local partner. He commissioned work from the partner; then he discovered to his dismay that his partner was selling the work to one of his clients. "He betrayed me. I lost all of my 200,000 yuan."



Mammoth tusks





Workers in the Zhuhai factory carving a mammoth tusk

In 1994, he invested the same amount of money in a factory in his home village in Zhongshan, starting with 20 workers. This has been a great success, creating wood and ivory sculptures; it exports work to Taiwan, the United States and Europe, as well as selling it in the mainland, Macao and Hong Kong. Wood accounts for 70 percent of output and ivory the remaining 30 percent.

Since it opened, Ng has taken on apprentices; he regards training them as part of his mission to pass on this traditional skill to the next generation. He especially selected children of poor families, wanting to give them a chance they otherwise would not have

had. "Five to six have become exceptional sculptors. They have set up on their own." Since 1994, he has spent most of his time in the Zhongshan factory. At its peak, it employed 400 people; now it is about 100. "The good pieces are not the work of one person but of several."

In 2011, he opened a shop in Macao to sell his work. Kam Wa Tong is at 42-A Rua de San Paulo, a short distance from the remains of St Paul's church, one of the city's most famous tourist attractions. He leaves the management of the shop largely to his son Don. He declines to give a figure for the annual revenue of his business.

Most of the clients are Chinese, especially wealthy people from the mainland. Foreigners prefer to buy wooden pieces. The wooden sculptures are the main source of revenue.

He is more selective with the ivory pieces. Some he saves for himself; if a collector wants to buy one, he is willing to sell for the cost of production on condition that the collector will not sell it and will make it available for exhibitions. The larger, more

elaborate pieces are worth tens of millions of yuan. In recent years, Ng has devoted a good deal of his time to representing his profession in art associations in Guangdong province and China as a whole. He speaks at meetings in Shanghai, Urumqi and other cities, and lends his pieces for major exhibitions. He has applied for permission to build a museum for ivory pieces in Zhongshan. ■

Photos by Eric Tam





Wu Bangguo in Macao

Wu stresses
Macao's prosperity and
national sovereignty

By Christian Ritter in Macao



Wu Bangguo, with Chui Sai On, Chief Executive of Macao



Visit to the Macao Tower

Safeguarding China's national sovereignty while preserving the prosperity of the Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR) are core considerations in creating central government policies for Macao, the nation's top legislator at that time said in a speech during a three day visit to the MSAR in February.

They are also guiding principles for the central government in handling Macao affairs, Wu Bangguo, the then chairman of the National People's Congress Standing Committee (NPCSC), said in a keynote speech at a conference marking the 20th anniversary of the promulgation of the Macao Basic Law.

The Macao Basic Law was promulgated on 31 March 1993 and took effect on 20 December 1999, when the city's sovereignty was returned to China. The Basic Law has acted as the cornerstone of the region's political and legal systems.

Wu also stressed the importance of adhering to the principles of the central government's guidelines and policies for Macao. He also said that the Macao capitalist system and the mainland systems of socialism with Chinese characteristics were mutually beneficial to each other.

According to Article 5 of the Macao Basic Law, the mainland's "socialist system and policies shall not be practised in the Macao Special Administrative Region and the previous capitalist system and way

of life shall remain unchanged for 50 years."

The central government has tailored policies regarding Macao based on these principles and the region's conditions, according to Wu.

The focal points of the policies are to resume exercising sovereignty over Macao and maintain its stability and development, while the approach to implementing these policies relies on the principle of 'one country, two systems', he said.

The preamble of the Macao Basic Law explicitly mentions the 'one country, two systems' principle.

The Basic Law is a codified version of that principle and serves as a legal safeguard for Macao's long-term prosperity, Wu said.

Wu also said Macao should extend co-operation with the mainland to strengthen its role as a centre for international tourism and leisure and a business-service platform between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries.

Wu also said Macao people should thoroughly understand the systems in place in the region, as well as the relations between the central government and the local government.

To fully realise Macao's sound governance, its high level of autonomy must be safeguarded and the central government's authority must be supported, Wu said.

Wu said the central government fully recognises the achievements the Macao government has made in the past 14 years.

"Macao has realised that everyone is equal before the law and the people of Macao fully enjoy the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Basic Law and other laws," Wu said.

In accordance with the law, Macao has established its own administrative, legislative and judicial organs and elected a chief executive and legislature for three terms, showing the city's high degree of autonomy, Wu added.

Wu also spoke highly of the unprecedented economic growth seen in Macao, noting that its GDP increased from 49 billion patacas to 292.1 billion patacas from 2000 to 2011, while its per capita GDP rose from US\$14,000 to US\$66,000 during the period, ranking it second in Asia.

A social welfare system covering all Macao citizens has been built and people's living standards have improved in an all-round way, according to Wu.

Wu also attended the opening of a commemorative gallery for the Macao Basic Law and the launch of a book on Macao's historical changes.

Later Wu also visited Rua do Cunha, one of the most popular tourist attractions in Taipa, and greeted local residents and tourists.

Photos by Xinhua News Agency and GCS



Wu Bangguo



Wu meeting the Macao people



Wu Bangguo trusts Macao attain new achievements

National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee Chairman Wu Bangguo at that time said he trusts that Chief Executive Fernando Chui Sai On and his government will continue to manage Macao well and achieve new goals, after his predecessor Edmund Ho Hau Wah achieved sustainable growth for the local economy, improved people's livelihood and made Macao's civil society tolerant and harmonious.

The nation's top legislator said he saw a "bustling, clean and beautiful Macao with high-spirited citizens".

"Macao has a small surface area with not that many people, but it has a special status in the big family of the Motherland," Wu said, adding, "I've always wanted to come and have a look. My dream has finally come true today, and like the saying goes: seeing is believing."

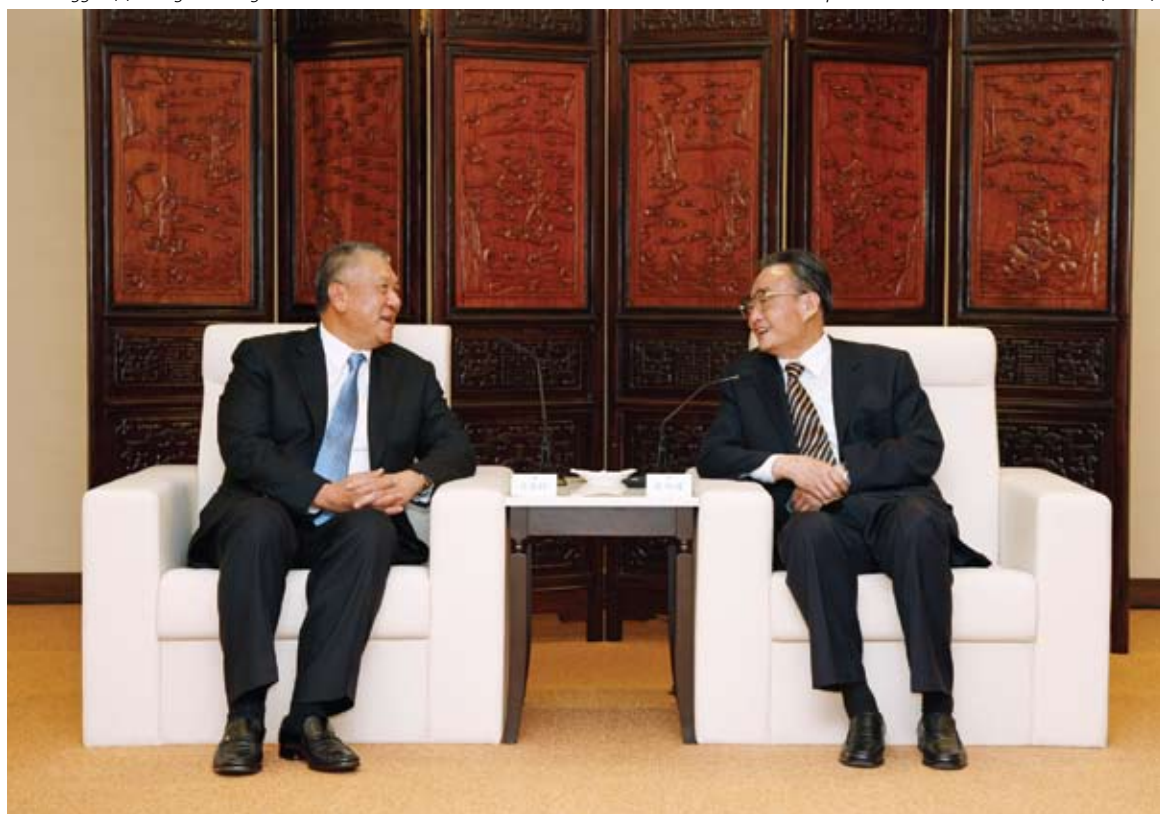
Wu told the banquet of over 300 attendees that he was "happy to see the huge achievements that Macao has made" since its return to the Motherland in 1999, underlining the city's sustainable economic growth, noticeable improvement in people's livelihoods and tolerant and harmonious civil society.

"These achievements are the result of the leadership of the former chief executive and his government, and they are also the result of the great support of the central government," Wu said.

"We believe that the chief executive and his government will continue to lead all sectors of Macao society to manage Macao well, develop it well, achieve new things and create new glory (for Macao)," he said. ■

Photos by Xinhua News Agency and GCS

Wu Bangguo (R) during a meeting with Ho Hau Wah vice chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC)



Wu Bangguo (L) meets with members of the board of directors and the board of supervisors of the Macao Chamber of Commerce

Wu Bangguo listens to an introduction on the city planning



Meeting Venice



Carlos Marreiros is the artist representing Macao on the next Venice Biennale. The Macanese architect will work on concepts such as universal knowledge and information, always with a very personal touch

Many centuries ago, conversation was almost an art. People used to exercise it and improve it. Rhetoric and eloquence had slightly different meanings than the ones we give them today, and the outstanding orators were very much admired. Architect and artist Carlos Marreiros reminds us one of those old conversation masters. It's easy to confirm it once you meet him. And it's also easy to understand why he likes to call himself a renaissance man.

Carlos Marreiros, a proud Macanese, will be the one to represent Macao at the next Venice Biennale. For the first time, Macao Museum of Art decided to choose only one artist, instead of a group of them. And who could be better than Marreiros, a man who perfectly represents the city's cultural melting pot?

This year's Biennale is entitled "The Encyclopedic

Palace", under the direction of Massimiliano Gioni, and will take place from June 1st to November 24th. The theme evokes the artist self-taught Italian-American Marino Auriti. As the Venice Biennale official website explains, on November 16, 1955, Auriti filed a design with the US Patent office depicting his "Palazzo Enciclopedico" ("The Encyclopedic Palace"), an imaginary museum that was meant to house all worldly knowledge, bringing together the greatest discoveries of the human race, from the wheel to the satellite.

Carlos Marreiros finds the theme quite attractive. "It has to do with ordering information and knowledge. In a globalized society, how to organize information? There's a lot of genuine and good information, and there's also a lot of fake information. How do people separate one from the other?" he questions.

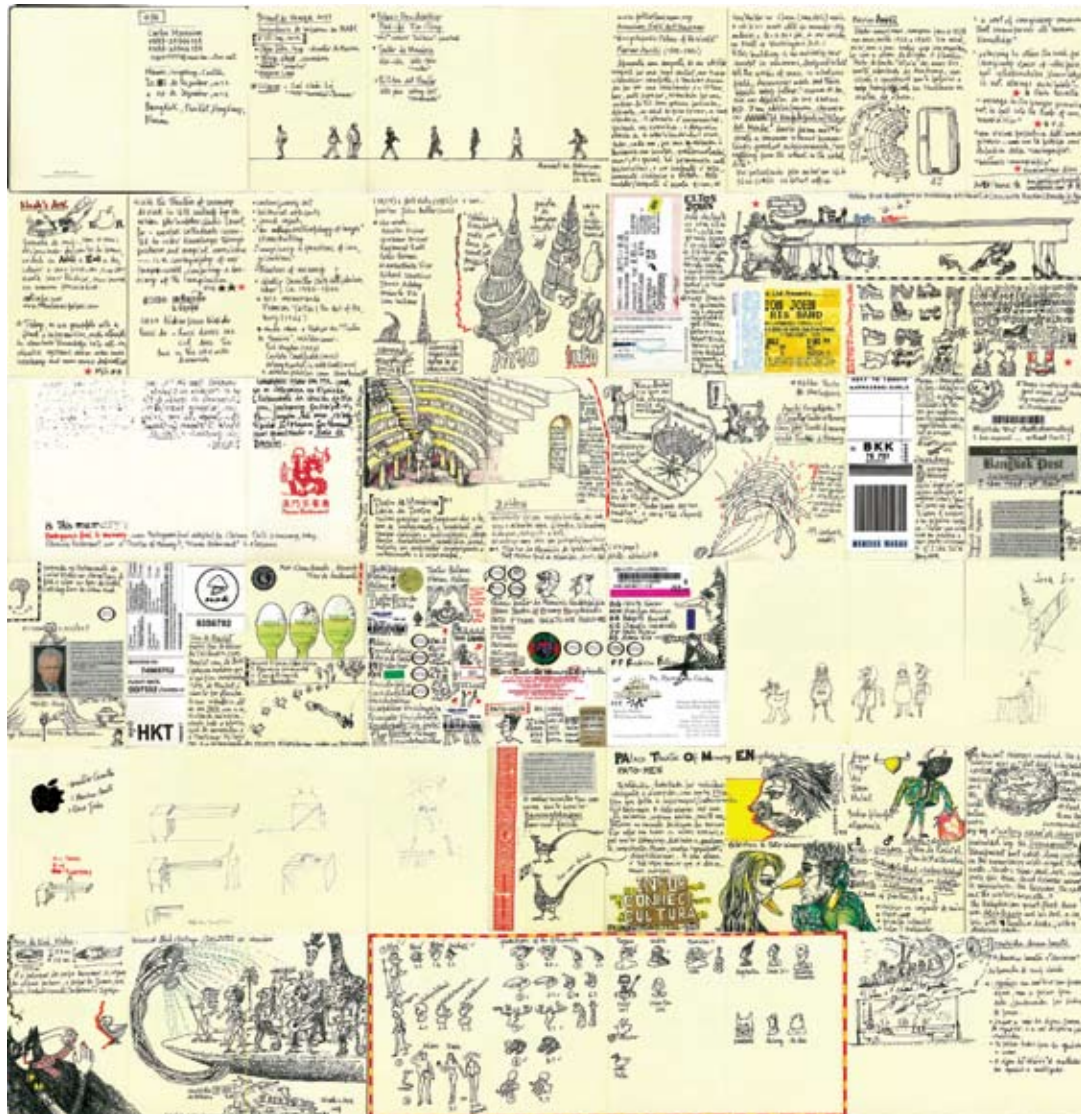
Auriti's plan was never carried out, but the dream of universal, all-embracing knowledge crops up throughout history. To embrace it, Marreiros will move back and forward in the timeline, from "L'Idée del theatre" ("The Idea of the Theater"), a concept forged by the Italian philosopher Giulio Camillo (1480-1544), to Steve Jobs and his personal computer.

"Today, the Internet gives us fantastic windows, brings us knowledge, but it also has an infinite space the user might not control, in terms of authenticity. This space, still not totally discovered, is like the ancient gods", continues the artist.

On the five rooms available at the Macao pavilion in Venice, Marreiros wants to guide the visitors through video screenings, digital drawing and transparent materials. "There won't be paintings or isolated drawings. Everything will integrate a narrative of videos, models and shapes", he stresses. "This is the 4th time Macao participates at the Biennale. On the other three, never an artist was the only one to represent Macao. The pavilion is not big, it has a

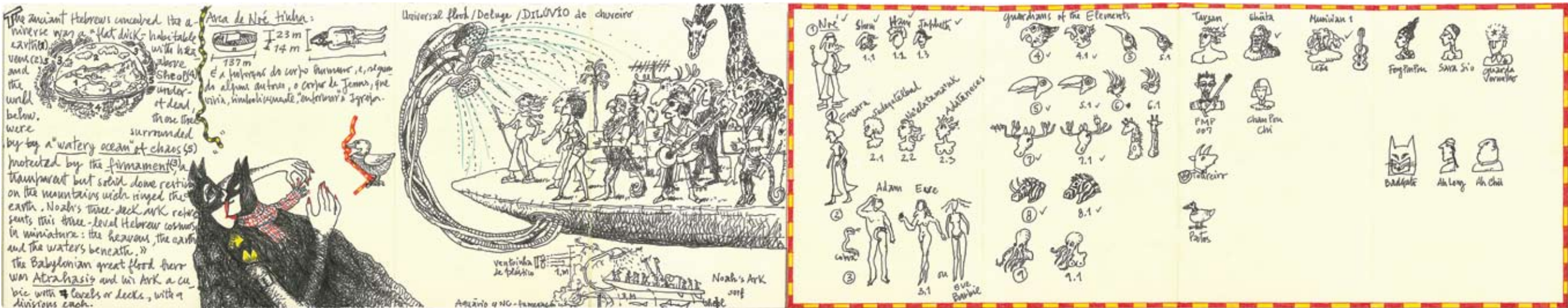
few rooms and a little patio. I'm lucky to be the only one to use it and my idea is to create an itinerary for people to experience what I want to transmit." Carlos Marreiros says he'll be the only one exhibiting in Venice but that's not quite accurate. To show the contemporary city he's imagining black and white images and he'll deliver that task to other local artists. "I'm already thinking on who can do this. It's a way of giving opportunity to more local people. I have the general idea, I'll produce everything, but they'll do it better than me. The videos will have no explanation, no music, only crossed sounds", he explains.

With the videos, Marreiros intend to show Macao's feeling. "Not as a documentary, but as the way we experience the city. The idea is to show Macao on its real dimension, from the heritage to the most unbelievable spaces, people between tradition and modernity, like the old districts in opposition to the super-populated buildings." The ultimate goal? "Show Macao, with the things I like and the ones I dislike."



Carlos Marreiros PATO MEN preliminary studies and sketches (Assembled) December 2012- February 2013 Macao Hong Kong, Bangkok, Phuket, Guangdong





Multiple existences

Marreiros welcomed us for this conversation at the Old Ladies House, a set of buildings in the St. Lazarus district. This is the home for the cultural association he imagined in 2004, Albergue SCM, which he directs nowadays. But this is just one of the many occupation Marreiros has.

Apart of directing Albergue SCM, Carlos Alberto dos Santos Marreiros, born in 1957 and father of two daughters, has one of the largest architectural companies in Macao. He designed over 200 buildings in Macao, Hong Kong, Mainland China and a number of other places. He's also well known by his painting and drawing, having done many solo exhibitions and participated in an uncountable number of collective showcases.

He likes to call himself a renaissance man because he is well educated, cultured and hedonist. Carlos

Marreiros enjoys some guilty pleasures, such as smoking, as much as he enjoys a good meal. His father gave him the Spanish blood from a family that settled in Portugal in the 17th century; his mother shaped his character and his appearance with an Asian touch. She is Eurasian, half Portuguese and half Chinese. She is, as Mr. Marreiros, a truly Macanese.

Raised in Macao, soon Marreiros started to travel the world. He studied Architecture at the Technical University of Lisbon, continued his academic career in Sweden and, in the meantime, had a professional experience in Germany.

At the moment he decided to come back, he was totally prepared to face the challenges ahead. He built his architect career, continued his artistic production – recently he had a major exhibition at Zhuhai Guyan Arts Museum, together with the local artists Ung Vai Meng, Adalberto Tenreiro and Lio

Mau Cheong – and occupied important positions in Macao official structure, such as the Presidency of the Cultural Institute.

Macao's contribution

Carlos Marreiros affection to this city and its History is such that he easily finds a series of reasons why Macao should figure in a list about the biggest contributions to mankind. "First of all? Miscegenation. If Portuguese haven't come to Macao 500 years ago, there would be no miscegenation. This was the first place where that happened. It was a blood miscegenation but, more important, it was cultural as well, with the heritage, with the food." Food is another area where the architect has no doubt about Macao's important role. "Fusion cuisine was not invented in Macao? Yes, it was. Macao is doing fusion cuisine since the 16th century", says

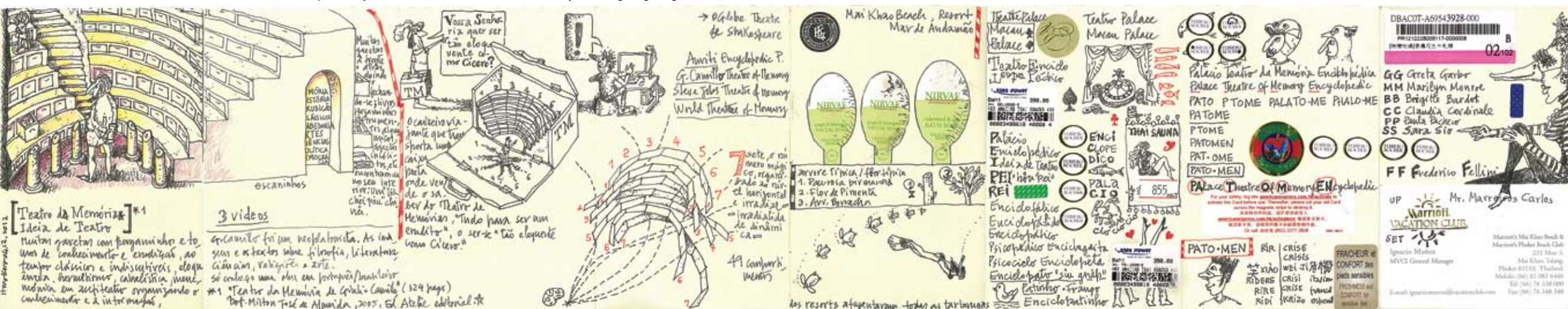
the chef by inclination and founder of the local restaurant Porto Interior (Inner Harbour).

Sun Yat-sen proximity to Macao is another point he highlights. "He got to know the western culture and the republican ideas in Macao. He had Portuguese, English and French friends. Macao, being a small city, was always very cosmopolitan. It was through Macao that Sun Yat-sen managed to develop his revolutionary thesis. Isn't this a contribution for humanity? The one to finish with the feudal China, introducing republican ideas in the country, was Sun Yat-sen."

In Venice, Carlos Marreiros aims to explore these and others Macao's identity hidden corners, showing a land of mixtures and contrasts at one of the biggest art fairs around the world. "With all its contradictions, I do love this city", finishes Marreiros.

Photos by Gonçalo L. Pinheiro

Carlos Marreiros PATO MEN preliminary studies and sketches December 2012-February 2013 Hong Kong, Bangkok, Phuket





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Revolutionary Script Road

By Filipa Queiroz


 rota das letras • 雋文不朽 • the script road
 FESTIVAL LITERÁRIO DE MACAU • 澳門文學節 • MACAU LITERARY FESTIVAL

MARCH • 三月
2013

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Can an event like a literary festival really change the life of a city? The Script Road – Macao's Literary Festival – has returned this year aiming for just such a goal. Organised jointly by the Cultural Affairs Bureau of Macao and the Macao Foundation, this year's festival boasts more venues, more Chinese authors, and an emphasis on the younger generations.



Ricardo Pinto

"I believe it's important for people to get to know how a literary festival can help change the life of a small city," said Ricardo Pinto. Indeed, The Script Road started in 2012 as a civil initiative of the Portuguese newspaper Ponto Final, owned by Pinto. It was the first ever literary festival organised in Macao. Inspired by South America's biggest literary festival – Brazil's Paraty International Literary Festival (Flip), Pinto invited Mauro Munhoz, director of Brazil's festival, to Macao to give his input. "It had to do with our desire for diversification, and of bringing the experience of South America's festival over here," Pinto explained to Macao magazine. It was Munhoz's first time in Macao. With the similarities between Macao and Paraty in Brazil reaching much further than simply festivals, Munhoz was fascinated to discover Macao life for himself. "Like Paraty, Macao emerged as a trading centre for Portugal, creating a history full of parallels despite the geographical distance," he said. From his experience with Flip, Munhoz knows the huge amount of connections and challenges involved

in structuring a festival. He was delighted to have the opportunity to work with Chinese writers with whom he usually had less contact, and rediscover writers who had already featured at the Flip festival, such as the Portuguese Dulce Maria Cardoso and Valter Hugo Mãe, "of whom I am a deep admirer," he confessed. Ricardo Pinto says he believes that this kind of get-together between festival organisers can yield great results, including sharing guests between events. "It is something that can benefit everyone," he said. His Brazilian counterpart agrees. "Surely this is particularly the case with representatives of Chinese literature. We had the presence of Ma Jian and Xinran in 2009, but there is still a long way to go in working on the connection between the two cultures." Flip, founded by British organizer Liz Calder in 2003, was the first literary festival in Brazil and reached its tenth edition in July 2012. It is visited by around 20 thousand people every year. Together with similar events in Shanghai, Beijing, Taipei and India, it served as a vital role model to The Script Road.

"The festival in India (the Jaipur Literary Festival) is maybe the biggest literary festival (in terms of writers of English text, at least) in Asia and it has grown a lot in recent years, not only on the literary side, but also in its music programme. It's probably the festival that's the closest to our Script Road," Ricardo says.

Second Round

The Second Script Road, held this year from 10th–16th March, has brought to the city more than 30 renowned writers, publishers, translators, journalists, musicians, filmmakers, visual artists and more. For Ricardo Pinto, things are "not that different from last year" in terms of scale. There are differences, though, in the number of music shows, activities with educational institutions and the locations of the events. "At the first event, the ideas were there but things were still too embryonic, and it was necessary to consolidate them more effectively. I think we have evolved, and everything encourages us to think that, especially in terms of participation – we'll see a big increase."

This year's programme includes more Chinese authors than last year's. One of them is Han Shaogong, author of *A Dictionary of Maqiao* (1996, translated into English in 2003), whose writing is

influenced by Kafka and the magic realism of Gabriel García Márquez.

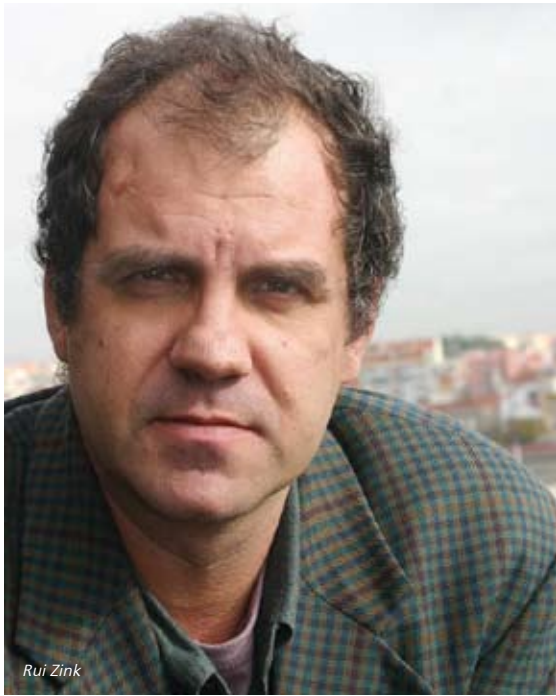
"Writers, publishers and translators are all participants and creators of literature so it's good that everybody can make friends through literature, the interchange of thoughts and the communication of emotions," he said to Macao magazine. Awarded the French Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, Han Shaogong has translated authors like Czech writer Milan Kundera and the Portuguese poet Fernando Pessoa into Chinese.

"Pessoa is a great author, his words touch hearts. It's a style of writing that comes from souls and reaches souls. He had a great imagination, acute insight, great perception and understanding of issues related to humanity, culture, life, history, religion and science," the writer said, confessing that he is also a fan of José Saramago and Eça de Queirós. "Many Chinese readers enjoy their works," he assures us.

The Script Road programme also features other prominent contemporary Chinese writers such as Bi Feiyu, winner of some of the highest literary awards in China; Hong Ying, one of the best internationally known Chinese writers; and Yi Sha, a controversial contemporary poet. "Since the first event in 2012, the Chinese authors' reactions to our invitation has been surprising," said Pinto.

Han Shaogong





Rui Zink

Prose from Portugal

For this year's festival, The Script Road invited Dulce Maria Cardoso, one of the greatest novelists of her generation; Francisco José Viegas, former Portuguese Culture Secretary of State, writer and publisher; Valter Hugo Mãe, recent winner of the Portugal Telecom Prize; writer and journalist Alexandra Lucas Coelho; journalist and translator Carlos Vaz Marques; publisher Bárbara Bulhosa; and novelist Deana Barroqueiro.

Humour is a key theme of the festival, represented by Ricardo Araújo Pereira and Rui Zink.

"We wanted the festival to be alive and grow every year, and for this year's event we chose humor because we find it's important to show its relationship with literature," Ricardo Pinto explained.

Writer, university lecturer and popular agent provocateur in Portugal's cultural scene, among other things, Rui Zink told Macao magazine that the festival's concept of joining together professionals from Asia and Portuguese-speaking countries "is always good, but will we find a common language? Will there be mutual interest? That is the question".

The author of *Dádiva Divina*, awarded Portugal's prestigious Pen Club Award, told us that before the festival he knew two Chinese authors. *Outlaws of the Marsh*, by Shi Nai'an, was given to him as



Ricardo Araújo Pereira

a gift from a friend. The second writer, the "very interesting" poet Li Wei, was someone he met in New York almost thirty years ago.

"We became friends although we never saw each other again. His ability for synthesis fascinated me. Once he wrapped up in a single sentence three hours of a debate about the old question of writing being art or technique," he recalled.

Portuguese-speaking countries

José Eduardo Agualusa from Angola and Luís Cardoso from Timor-Leste are two of the five Portuguese-speaking guests at the festival.

The Angolan author and one of the best-known Portuguese-speaking contemporary African writers, has joined what is probably the most important literary voice from East Timor in their first visit to Macao.

"I was so pleased with the invitation, the chance to get to know Macao and the story of those East Timorese that one day decided to go there to live," Luís Cardoso said to Macao magazine. Finding the event "magnificent", he admitted it would be good to be able to return to East Timor with more knowledge about the literature created in China.

One of the few books by a Chinese author that Agualusa knew before the festival is set in East Timor – *The Redundancy of Courage* (1991), by Timothy Mo.

"Asian literature is still little known in Portuguese-speaking countries," said Agualusa, also contacted by us.

"Despite the presence of China in Angola, there has not been a greater cultural awareness. I believe that the Chinese presence would be better accepted if the Angolans knew more about Chinese culture."

Mozambican writer Paulina Chiziane, Brazilian writer and journalist Vanessa Barbara, the poet Regis Bonvicino, and Paloma and Cecília Amado, daughter and granddaughter of Brazilian novelist Jorge Amado (1912–2001), are other guests at the event. The latter two pay homage to Amado's work by showing a documentary and a fiction film based on his life and his books.

Writers Tong Mui Siu, Chek In, Lou Mou and Wong Man Fai represent Macao authors. And because the festival decided to open up gradually to other Asian and Latin authors, French authors Antoine Volodine and Claude Hudelot made the list this year.

More to do and see

One of the highlights of the festival is the launching of a book of short stories set in the territory in Chinese, Portuguese and English.

"It's our biggest legacy, I believe, a piece of literature about Macao, not only with the contributions of the authors that participated in the festival last year (such as José Luís Peixoto, Lolita Hu, João Paulo

Cuenca, Jimmy Qi and Rui Cardoso Martins) but also from anonymous writers.

This year there is less music – Portuguese fado singer Camané and folk band Dead Combo – but in the movie projections section, two of the movies were filmed in Macao and are premiéres in China: the award-winning film *The Last Time I Saw Macau*, by João Pedro Rodrigues and João Rui Guerra da Mata, and *On The Dragon's Flake*, from Macao-based director Ivo Ferreira.

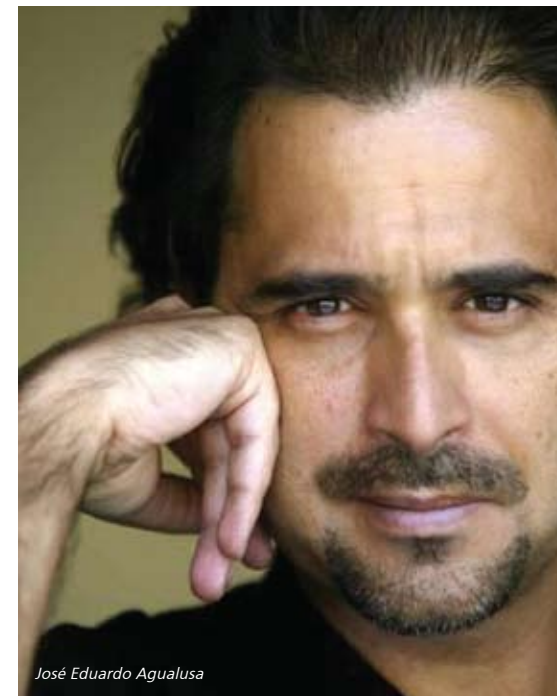
For the first time, two artists have also worked in residence, creating works that reflect their experience of Macao: painters Chen Yu from China, and Theodore Mesquita from Goa.

"Like I said, there has been no huge step forward in terms of ambition, the ambition was already there last year," said Ricardo Pinto, "what has changed is the activities distribution, and the planning, which has been the result of lessons learned from last year's event."

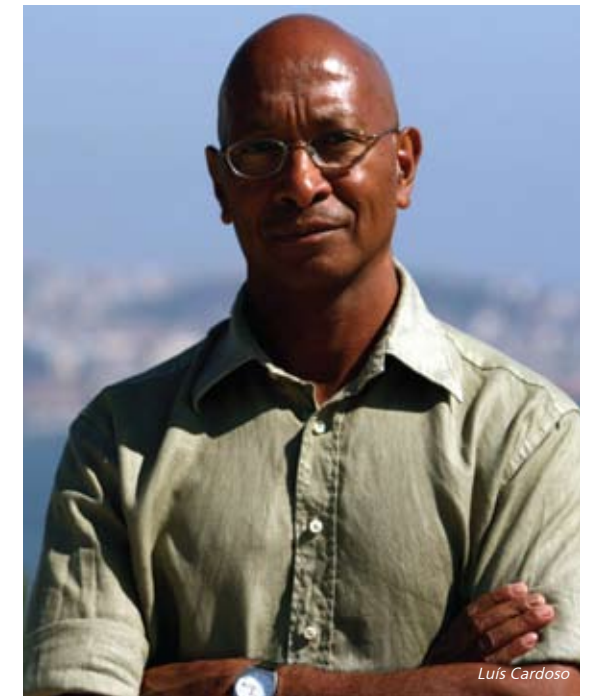
"We were surprised at the lack of participation by students last year so instead of waiting for them to come to us, we have decided to take the festival to them." Chinese schools, Portuguese School and Macao University are some of the places to benefit from this move.

Positive feedback from Macao society to the festival "is a thrill and a consolidation" for The Script Road organisers.

Photos by Gonçalo L. Pinheiro and archives



José Eduardo Agualusa



Luís Cardoso



Macao unveils ambitious water recycling plan

By Ou Nian-le

The government has unveiled an ambitious plan to recycle water and persuade residents and companies alike to use this precious resource more sparingly. In early January, the Working Group on the Development of a Water Conservation Society (WG) outlined a ten-year (2013-2022) plan which calls for construction of two water recycling plants and for such water to account for 10 per cent of the SAR's total consumption by 2022.

"A shortage of fresh water is one of the major crises of the world," said Susana Wong Soi-man, head of the WG and director of the Maritime Administration, which is in charge of the plan. "Macao has a serious shortage of fresh water and our supply sources are constantly under the threat of salt water contamination.

"Due to rapid economic development and a dramatic rise in visitors, water consumption in the past few years has been rising rapidly. While the city is getting plenty of water from the mainland, it is our responsibility to save it and use the natural resource in a more sustainable manner," she said in an interview

at her headquarters, the Moorish Barracks.

The SAR currently uses 240-250,000 cubic metres of water a day. Wong estimates that, by 2022, this will rise to 300,000, because of the growth of the tourist industry and the building of giant hotels and casino resorts.

All of Macao's drinking water comes from the mainland. This is no problem during the rainy season, between March and September; but, in the dry season from October to February, the river water which the Special Administrative Region (SAR) uses has a high level of salt. During this period, it becomes necessary to transfer water. With the assistance and co-ordination of water resources departments in the mainland, water is transferred from reservoirs in Guangdong, Guangxi and Guizhou to help ease the salinity problem in Macao.

"We feel we should do more and find more methods to save water," said Wong. "We should encourage the public to save water, install equipment that reduces consumption and use the price mechanism to make people realize what a precious resource it is."

Research on recycling

From January 1, 2011, the WG implemented a new price system. This fixed the lowest price for the basic supply of water for residents; if they used more than that, they paid more. Businesses paid a higher price than residents, while the top rate is paid by casinos and other users who consume a large quantity.

Last year the WG began research in earnest on recycling. It visited Japan, Australia and Singapore to see their work in this area and paid a Singapore company, CPG Consultants Pte Ltd, to do research for Macao.

"Singapore is the leader in Asia," said Wong. "It calls recycled water 'new water' and treats it to a higher standard than drinking water. Thirty per cent of it goes to industry, including the semi-conductor industry. It saves a great deal of water."

The WG used this research in the plan which it announced in January.

Ten-year plan

The plan calls for an estimated investment of 500-600 million patacas, most of it to be spent on two water recycling plants.

The first will be built in Coloane, with a daily production of 12,000 cubic litres from 2015. This water will supply a new public housing estate at Sec Pai Van and the new University of Macau campus a short distance away in Hengqin. All the housing units in Sec Pai Van are equipped with recycled water pipes, distinguished by their purple colour.

"The recycled and fresh water systems are completely separate and have no connection," said Wong. "The recycled water will only be used to flush toilets, to water plants and grass and in public fountains. It will not be used to drink."

The fact that the recycled water needs an independent pumping and pipeline system means that it cannot be used in existing residential areas; it can only be used in new properties. These will include the giant new casinos going up in Taipa and the buildings to be constructed in the 350 hectares of land which Macao plans to reclaim from the sea over the next 10 years.

The second plant, to go into production between 2020 and 2022, will be built on the Macao peninsula; it will have a daily production of 40,000 cubic metres and supply buildings in the peninsula and the north

of Taipa. It could be built on one of the pieces of reclaimed land

With completion of the two plants, the WG aims to bring consumption of recycled water to 10 per cent of total water consumption in the SAR by 2022.

"We will draw up laws and regulations that will oblige developers to install the equipment for recycled water," said Wong. "For them, it is not such a large investment. We are in contact with them. Environmental protection is good for them and for their brand."

The government expects to complete later this year a by-law to regulate the service to supply recycled water. Then a public tender would be put out next year. The future operator would be regulated by the by-law and would make a profit from selling to residents, businesses and the government.

The WG will be responsible for the supply of recycled water, while the Environmental Protection Department (DSPA) will be responsible for its preparation.

Good response

Wong said that the public had responded favourably to the new pricing system last year. "Over the last two years, consumption by residential users has fallen by one per cent. Average daily consumption in Macao is 150 cubic metres per person, the same as in Singapore and compared to 180 in Hong Kong. The Singapore target is 140."

Older people are more frugal than their teenage grandchildren, who use two or three times as much because they feel no need to conserve.

There has not been a similar reduction among business users. "They do not oppose the higher prices because water amounts to such a small proportion of their total expenses," Wong said.

The WG has invited staff from the city's 30 largest hotels and demonstrated water-saving appliances, for showers, toilets and other uses. "For the hotel, this involves initial investment but brings savings of 30-40 per cent later on. It is a good investment."

Four hotels – Venetian, Melco Crown, Westin Resort and Grand Lapa – have installed water-saving shower faucets, toilets equipped with smart flushing devices and auto-sensing taps which can limit water flow. They use swimming pool water to flush toilets and build water towers to collect rainwater to irrigate the gardens.



Recycled Water Treatment Process Model

Green Task

Macao faces serious challenge to improve environment

By Ou Nian-le

They have also launched publicity and education campaigns to help and encourage their staff in water conservation.

Since implementing the measures, the Venetian has saved 342 million cubic metres, enough to fill 120 Olympic-size swimming pools.

“The hotels are very supportive of our plan, especially the new ones,” said Wong. “They have the expertise. Some install water metres in different sections of the hotel, to see which use the most water and to encourage staff to save it. It is good for the image of the hotel. We will arrange media tours and give a prize.”

She forecasts an annual increase of four-five per cent in water use over the next 10 years.

The biggest single group of users are tourists; last year 28 million came, of whom 25 million were from the mainland, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

Wong said that it was harder to reach the tourists. “At the entry points to Macao, we have publicity, with posters, videos and post-cards, explaining the importance of saving water. But we do not know how effective they are. It is not easy to change one’s habits overnight.”

Negotiating with mainland

Macao buys water from China under a Water

Supply Agreement; it pays 2.07 patacas per cubic metre. Under the agreement, the price of the raw water should be adjusted every three years. This year marks the end of the three-year contract, so the WG will negotiate a new one for the 2014-2016 period.

The price is set according to a number of indices, including the consumer price index and the price of water and electricity in the mainland. “I expect an increase of about 15 per cent in the new contract,” Wong said.

After receiving the water, the plants under the Macao Water Supply Company Limited process it before distributing it to consumers.

They do not pay the full cost of this water, because the government pays a subsidy. Last year it amounted to 1.25 patacas per cubic metre, a total of 95 million patacas for the whole year. Wong said that this policy would continue and that, with a higher price in 2014-2016, the subsidy would increase.

It plans to set the price of recycled water at 85 per cent of that of drinking water, to encourage people to use it. It does not want to set the price too low; it wants consumers to see it as a valuable asset.

The plan will help to make Macao a greener city and its people more conscious of the importance of this resource they use every day. ■

Photos by Eric Tam

Macao is one of the most densely populated cities on earth and receives 77,000 visitors a day. It has one of the fastest growth rates in the world, which will continue with the completion of new hotels and casinos and the opening of the mainland market. This growth brings a flood of buses, cars and litter, filling narrow streets that are already crowded and bursting.

In the face of such pressure, how can the city preserve its fragile environment? How can it improve the cleanliness of its air and water, reduce noise pollution and improve the quality of life of residents and visitors and achieve its target of being a world centre of tourism and leisure?

This challenge has fallen to a new department of the government, the Environmental Protection Bureau (DSPA) that was established in June 2009. It was set up to take over portfolios that were scattered among different official bodies and draw up a long-term plan.

Its most important policy document, unveiled last September, was the blueprint on Environmental Protection in Macao (2010-2020), to be implemented together with the 2008-2020 plan for the Pearl River Delta. It covers management of air and water quality, waste, noise, ecosystems and the environment. It aims to build a green and low-carbon Macao.

DSPA director Cheong Sio Kei said that the blueprint aimed to solve existing and potential problems in

environmental pollution and meet the city’s goal as a world centre of tourism and leisure.

The blueprint sets ambitious goals for treating waste water, clean energy, recycling of special, hazardous and electronic waste and for the promotion of electric cars.

Another major initiative of the department was the establishment of an Environmental Protection and Conservation Fund in 2011. By the end of last year, it had received 2,000 applications and approved 700; it paid out 67 million patacas to them.

In addition, in March each year the department organises the Macao International Environmental Co-operation Forum (MIECF), a platform for the latest inventions and technologies in this field and a way for individuals and companies in the city to learn best practice.

It also arranges educational activities, like seminars and exhibitions, to increase awareness of the issue among the public and persuade them to change their habits – generate less waste and separate what they have, use less water and take public rather than private transport.

Its success will be measured not only in new laws and regulations but also in changing the behaviour of residents and businesses. While the government can enact policies and offer incentives, the quality of life of the city will depend finally on those who live and work in it.





Cheong Sio Kei

Ambitious blueprint

The blueprint has three main objectives – to make the optimal environment for living and travel; promote a society that saves and recycles; and create a green city.

It focuses on 15 areas – improving the quality of air and water, treatment and disposal of solid waste, the control of noise and light pollution and conservation of eco-systems and the environment.

It sets the following goals: to treat 97 per cent of household wastewater by 2015, up from 95 per cent in 2009. By 2015, clean energy, such as natural gas, will account for 25 per cent of local consumption and 35 per cent by 2020.

The blueprint aims to recycle 10 per cent of special and hazardous waste by 2015, up from five per cent in 2012, and 15 per cent in 2020. In 2015, it will start the centralised collection of electrical and electronic waste, aiming for 20 per cent of the total that year and 60 per cent in 2020.

It aims to recycle 30 per cent of waste by 2015 and 40 per cent of solid waste by 2020. By 2015, it aims to recycle 10 per cent of special and hazardous waste, rising to 15 per cent in 2020. And it plans to increase the green area of Macao from 39.1 per cent in 2009 to 45 per cent in 2020.

On gas carbon emissions, the DSPA is studying ways to reduce them, to create a low-carbon environment and ways to cut greenhouse gas emissions.

“The blueprint is designed to stand from the present and be a plan for the future,” said Director Cheong. “We will systematically carry out our work to solve existing and potential problems of pollution in Macao, to meet the development of the city as a world centre of tourism and leisure ... We will build a low-carbon Macao and create a green life at the same time.

“Energy conservation, emission reduction and low-carbon development are policy priorities for the SAR government,” he said.

He said that improving the environment here cannot be done without the joint efforts of neighbouring regions. His department is working with cities in the Pearl River Delta to prevent air and water pollution, recycle water and treat dangerous waste.

Macao and Guangdong province are jointly improving Canal dos Patos (Duck Channel) and jointly monitoring the air quality in the two places.

Electric cars

The introduction of electric vehicles into Macao is a basic policy of the DSPA – and one of its biggest challenges. Cheong said his department

will encourage the use of electric cars through preferential taxes and other policies. In January last year, the Legislative Assembly passed a bill providing tax reductions for electric vehicles, including 50 per cent for up to 60,000 patacas for those that meet government standards.

Currently there are only a handful running on the city’s streets. This is in part because of the lack of the needed infrastructure; the city has only two public stations where people can charge their vehicles.

“It all depends on the willingness of residents to buy electric vehicles,” said Cheong. “The government should lead by example in buying electric and other green vehicles.”

In 2013, the government has allocated 400 million patacas to help finance the replacement of polluting vehicles from the roads. In addition, it is holding consultations with industry on the drawing up of standards on lead-free petrol and light diesel used in motor vehicles.

The government faces the same dilemma as many in the world. While the public is in principle in favour of electric cars, it will only buy them if their price is competitive with that of conventional ones and they are as easy and convenient to use.

Recycled water installations in the Seac Pai Van public housing estate



Environment Fund

One of the major initiatives of the department was the Environment Protection and Conservation Fund, which it established in 2011. It provides subsidies to local businesses and associations that buy products and equipment that saves energy and protects the environment. It has a war chest of 200 million patacas. A successful applicant receives a subsidy equal to 80 per cent of the total value of the products or equipment, with a maximum of 500,000 patacas. He can only apply once a year. Most of the first 200 applications were for energy-saving lighting products, followed by stove extractor hoods, water conservation equipment and electric-magnetic stoves.

By the end of 2012, it had received nearly 2,000 applications and approved about 700, with payments of 67 million patacas. They included energy-saving air conditioners and air-cleaning equipment and hot water systems and equipment for treating the smoke from oil. At the end of last year, the government decided to extend the fund for a further year and widen the scope of applicants to include schools and a wide range of energy-saving projects. Another initiative is the 'Macao Green Hotel Award' which was launched in 2007. As of June 2012, 23 hotels had received the award, up from eight in 2007, accounting for 24 per cent of the number of hotels in the city and 46 per cent in terms of rooms. This reflects the increasing interest of hotels in improving environmental standards.

International forum

One major project of the DSPA is to organise the Macao International Environmental Co-operation Forum & Exhibition (MIECF), which has been held every year for the last five years. It brings state-of-the-art technology from around the world to

Macao, enabling local people and companies to see what is possible. The sixth was held at the Venetian Resort Hotel on March 21-23. It attracted more than 6,500 professionals from 48 countries and regions, including company executives, government policy makers, think tanks, R & D institutions and people in the environmental industry. Senior speakers from the industry in China attended.

In 2012, 398 entities from 28 countries and regions attended the event, also held in March. They included representatives from Europe, the U.S., Asia, mainland provinces and cities in the Pearl River Delta. It attracted a new generation of electric and hybrid vehicles, including the first electrical tourist bus in the mainland and other smart charging stations, battery and storage solutions. It also featured some of the most advanced waste and water management solutions from Europe and cheaper alternatives from the mainland.

The Shenzhen Wuzhoulong Motor company offered new energy buses; thousands are in operation in the mainland, Germany, Holland and the Philippines. Its pure electric bus can run 300 kilometres with a top speed of 140 km an hour; it takes 30 minutes to re-charge half the battery and three hours for a full re-charge. One costs HK\$3.5 million.

The company proposed that the big casinos of Macao replace their fleet of shuttle buses that run on diesel with these green vehicles. A second company, Tong Brothers Electronics from Jiangmen in Guangdong province, offered LED lighting to replace Macao's existing street lights; they would be cheaper and use less electricity. A total of 35 projects were signed during the event, an increase of 13 per cent over 2011. More than 8,500 people attended the event, of whom 6,400 were professionals. ■

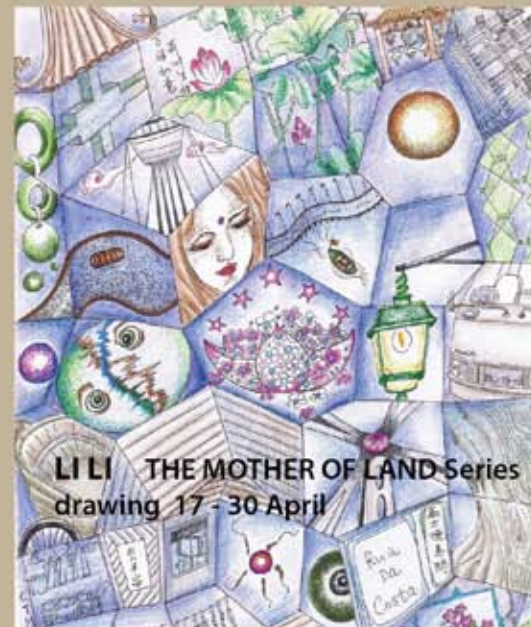
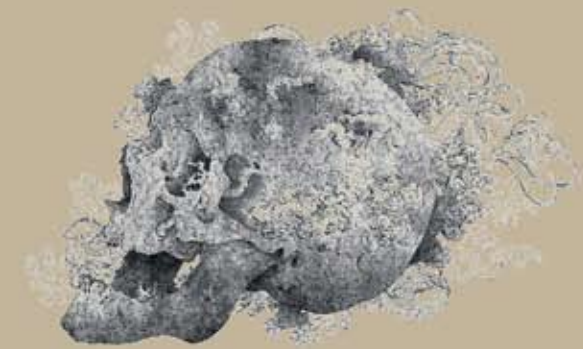
Photo by Eric Tam



TONG CHONG ANGEL AND FAITH
sculpture 22 Mar - 13 April



RUI RASQUINHO SKIN
drawing 17 - 30 April



LI LI THE MOTHER OF LAND Series
drawing 17 - 30 April



SEASON LAO THE SPIRIT OF SNOW
photography 3 - 20 May



CCI is a project of Institute of European Studies of Macau
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Snake Year starts with a push in local tourism

Visitor arrivals during Chinese New Year rise 13.6% to 1.28 million compared to 2012's holiday period.

Macao's seven border checkpoints logged 3.73 million departures and arrivals by locals and visitors from February 8 to 17.

The Barrier Gate checkpoint, connecting Macao to mainland China, recorded nearly two thirds of all Chinese New Year border crossings.

Photos by Eric Tam, Manuel Cardoso and Xinhua News Agency













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 On Set In The City
 Obras de / Works by
 Yu Cheng Ta

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2013/01/03

Macao lawmakers pass income and asset declaration bill

The Legislative Assembly passed the amended income and asset declaration bill drafted by the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) after its second reading and vote.

The bill will take effect after its promulgation in the Official Gazette (BO).

According to the amended bill, principal and senior government officials are obliged to declare their income and assets for public inspection so as to attain a 'clean' government. These officials and senior government members include the chief executive, five policy secretaries, directors and deputy-directors of bureaux and chiefs-of-cabinet as well as the members

of the Executive Council, legislators and senior judicial staff – judges and public prosecutors.

The major change in the final version is the inclusion of unpaid posts in not-for-profit institutions.

According to the bill, only some information about the assets of the officials concerned will be accessible to the public after it takes effect.

The assets that need to be declared include local and non-local real estate, company stocks and other capital investments. Some of the information will be kept confidential, however, such as the location and value of the real estate owned by the senior officials.



macao newslne macao newslne

2013/01/04

Chinese consortium to build artificial island in Macao

A consortium led by the China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC) is due to build an artificial island as part of the new areas of reclaimed land authorised by the central government in 2009, according to Macao's Official Gazette.

The cost of building the island, which will cover an area of around 138 hectares, and a dyke, is 1.88 billion patacas (US\$235 million).

Work is due to take 990 days and to be finished by the end of 2015. The work will be carried out by Companhia de Construção e Engenharia OMAS, the China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC) and the China Harbour Engineering Company, which is part of the same business group, the China Communications

Construction Company. The consortium was awarded the project following a public tender that received eight proposals.



macao newslne macao newslne

2013/01/21

2012 inflation rate hit 6.11 pct – highest since 2008

Macao's inflation rate amounted to 6.11 percent last year, the highest since 2008, the Statistics and Census Bureau (DSEC) announced.

In 2008, the city's inflation rate stood at 8.61 percent. It amounted to 1.17 percent in 2009, 2.81 percent in 2010, and 5.81 percent in 2011.

According to a DSEC statement, last year's inflation was mainly caused by higher prices of fresh food and produce, as well as higher charges for eating out. Reduced charges for telecommunication services and subsidised electricity charges tapered off part of the increment, the statement pointed out.

Last year saw 'significant' increases in the price indices of alcoholic beverages and tobacco (+30.30 percent),

food and non-alcoholic beverages (+8.52 percent), household goods and furnishings (+6.86 percent), and housing and fuel (+6.76 percent).



2013/01/24

More visitors from Guangdong than Hong Kong last year

More visitors from Guangdong than from Hong Kong visited Macao in 2012, according to official data.

Some 7.93 million visitors arrived from Guangdong last year, down 3.2 percent year-on-year.

The number of Hong Kong visitors fell 6.6 percent to 7.08 million last year.

Guangdong visitors accounted for 46.9 percent of Macao's total number of visitor arrivals from the mainland last year.

The neighbouring province accounted for 28.3 percent of the city's overall number of 2012 visitor arrivals, which reached a record 28.08 million, up 0.3 percent. Guangdong has a population of 105 million.



macao newslne macao newslne

2013/01/25

Macao Monetary Authority predicts 'low single digit' growth for 2013

Macao's quasi-central bank predicts 'low single digit' growth for the local economy this year.

"Macao's real gross domestic product (GDP) is anticipated to expand by a low single digit pace in 2013," the Macao Monetary Authority (AMCM) said in its latest Monetary and Financial Review.

"Our prediction, however, is based on relatively optimistic assumptions that economic troubles in advanced countries have passed through the worst of times," the review stressed.

The review also estimated that Macao's GDP grew at about nine percent in real terms last year.



macao newslne macao newslne

2013/01/28

Locals' jobless rate dropped to 2.6 pct last year

The officially estimated unemployment rate for local residents stood at 2.6 percent last year, down 0.6 percentage points from the previous year, the Statistics and Census Bureau (DSEC) said.

The city's overall unemployment rate – comprising local and imported workers – dipped 0.6 percentage points to two percent last year.

Locals' median monthly employment earnings remained unchanged at 13,000 patacas in the fourth quarter from the previous quarter.

The median monthly employment earnings of local and imported workers rose 300 patacas quarter-to-quarter to 12,000 patacas in the fourth quarter.

Total employment reached 350,000 in the fourth quarter.



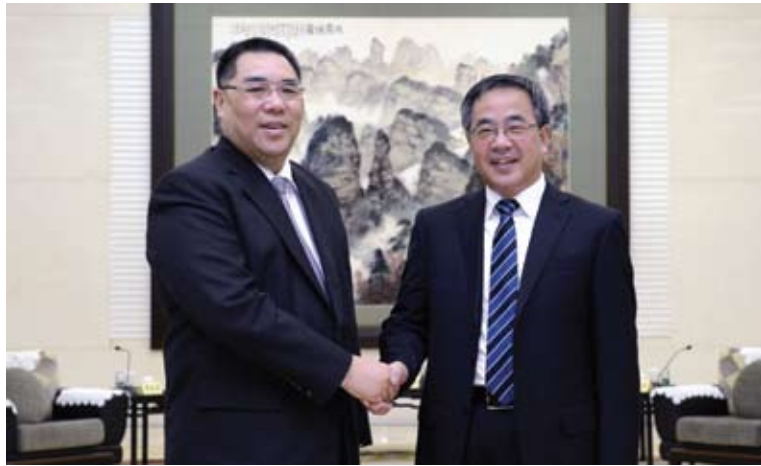
2013/01/29

Macao and Guangdong leaders vow to tighten ties

Chief Executive Fernando Chui Sai On and newly elected Guangdong Communist Party of China (CPC) Provincial Committee Secretary Hu Chunhua vowed to further strengthen co-operation between the two places, according to a statement by the Macao Government Information Bureau (GCS).

The two regional leaders made the pledge during a meeting in Guangzhou. Chui paid a one-day visit to the provincial capital to meet the province's new CPC leader.

The statement underlined both sides' commitment to co-operation in the joint development of Hengqin Island. Both leaders also agreed to co-operate closely on the Duck Channel border checkpoint project.



macao newsl ine macao newsl ine

2013/01/30

Over 217,000 motor vehicles at end of last year

Macao, which measures just 29.9 square kilometres, had a record number of 217,335 licensed motor vehicles at the end of 2012, or 7,268 vehicles per square kilometre, the Statistics and Census Bureau (DSEC) said.

The population of Macao was 576,700 at the end of September 2012.

The total number of motor vehicles, which included 115,623 scooters and other types of motorcycle, rose five percent year-on-year.

New registration of motor vehicles reached 17,621 last year, about the same as in the previous year.



macao newsl ine macao newsl ine

2013/02/05

Legislative Assembly passed Macao's first-ever urban planning bill

The Legislative Assembly (AL) passed the outline of the city's first-ever urban planning bill with votes of 19 lawmakers, while two abstained.

According to the bill, there would be two types of urban planning – an overall plan and a detailed plan. The goals of the former include how to use the city's land resources, how to choose the right locations for infrastructure projects and how to decide on the functions of each urban area, while the latter's goals include setting up criteria for the city's buildings and how to protect Macao's valuable and scarce land resources.

The bill also states that there would be a mechanism in place to guarantee public participation in drafting urban planning projects. According to the bill, there would be a government-appointed advisory urban planning council, which would be regulated by a future by-law.



2013/02/05

Macao's balance of trade deficit increased by 13.5 pct in 2012

Macao's balance of trade posted a deficit of 62.77 billion patacas in 2012, which was a rise of 13.5 percent against the 55.32 billion patacas in 2011, the region's Statistics and Census Bureau (DSEC) said.

The deficit was the result of exports totalling 8.16 billion patacas, or a 17.1 percent rise compared with 2011, mainly due to a rise of 28.2 percent in re-exports, and imports that totalled 70.93 billion patacas, a year-on-year rise of 13.9 percent.

As a result, the rate of coverage of imports by exports rose by 30 basis points year-on-year from 11.2 percent in 2011 to 11.5 percent in 2012.

In 2012, the value of exports to Hong Kong (4.10 billion patacas) and to mainland China (1.37 billion patacas), rose 31.7 percent and 24.7 percent, respectively, whilst exports to the United States (507 million patacas) and the European Union (316 million patacas) fell 8.7 percent and 17.7 percent, respectively, against 2011. In their turn, imports from mainland China and the European Union (EU) totalled 23.20 billion patacas and 16.65 billion patacas, respectively, with year-on-year rises of 21.2 percent and 7.4 percent, respectively.



macao newsl ine macao newsl ine

2013/02/13

36 new hotels being built or awaiting building permits

There are currently 11 hotels under construction and another 25 hotel projects awaiting official building permits, involving a total of 25,500 guest rooms and 17,200 parking spaces, the Lands, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT) said in a statement.

The number would nearly double the amount of existing guest rooms.

According to the statement referring to the fourth quarter of last year, the 11 hotel construction projects involve about 7,200 guest rooms, comprising eight hotels with a total of 653 rooms in the Macao Peninsula and three hotels with a total of 6,635 rooms in Cotai. The 11 construction projects involve a total

construction area of 590,000 square metres and 3,700 parking spaces.

The 25 hotel projects awaiting their official building permits involve 17,900 guest rooms, of which 17 projects with a total of 2,500 rooms are in the Macao Peninsula, two projects with 800 rooms in Taipa and five projects with 14,000 rooms in Cotai, as well as a 300-room project in Coloane.

According to the latest available official statistics, Macao had 100 hotels and guesthouses with 26,055 guest rooms as of last November.



macao newsl ine macao newsl ine

2013/2/13

Chui Sai On pledges to support tourism development

The government will steadily push ahead with the development of Macao as an international tourism and leisure hub, Chief Executive Fernando Chui Sai On said in his annual Lunar New Year address.

In his remarks celebrating the Year of the Snake, Chui pledged further wealth sharing with the people, alongside continuing economic growth.

The chief executive also said he believed that Macao would make new headway in the Year of the Snake, building on the progress made on the economic, social and political fronts in the past year.





Three decades of China-Angola cooperation

Deep mutual trust fostered

By António Escobar and Ana Correia da Silva



Chinese workers building railways

At a time when China and Angola are celebrating the 30th anniversary of their diplomatic relations, the two countries are now preparing to start a new phase in their relationship that will undoubtedly be of great benefit to both Beijing and Luanda.

The People's Republic of China and Angola are undergoing a transformation, and new routes for cooperation are opening up. These include more direct action by large Chinese companies in Angola – in the oil production sector and growing food, for export and domestic consumption. But there are also more opportunities for joint involvement in new international markets. And to give culture a greater role to play in two-way relations.

“Chinese development” for Angola

These days it is undeniable that China is changing the entire Angolan 'landscape', via the large construction projects such as railways, roads, and large housing areas like the city of Kilamba Kiaxi. But it is also apparent in schools, hospitals and other aspects of Angolan daily life.

In every corner of the cities, towns and villages across Angola's 18 provinces there are now Chinese companies and products, as well as small Chinese factories, Chinese restaurants and Chinese shops.

“The Chinese in the interior speak the national

languages, they are living as part of the neighbourhoods and communities, and they are the country that offers the second-largest number of scholarships,” said Ana Alves, a researcher at the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA), for the Portuguese-speaking countries and China. “They want to take root and to get to know the Angolans so they can focus their strategy in the country.” The Chinese have brought competition to the retail sector and in the job market, but they have also brought new schools, roads, trains, cheap construction and opportunities for importing and exporting products.



Luanda the capital of Angola

The focus of the Angolan economic model in the post civil war era has been 'Chinese development'. As Ana Alves explained, "It is the same system: solve infrastructure problems, macroeconomic problems and then solve social problems. First you feed people, and then you give them rights."

According to Ana Alves, "the President (José Eduardo dos Santos), wants to leave a legacy to history, he wants to be seen as the President who did something for Angola. The plan for reconstruction and development of the country follows the Chinese model."

From a social point of view, the most important projects for Chinese diplomacy are in the education sector. An example of its influence is the Escola de Amizade Angola-China (Angola-China Friendship School), the first stone of which was laid on 2 February in Huambo province. On that occasion, the Chinese ambassador to Angola, Gao Kexiang, noted that Beijing "has always given great importance to the development of an amicable relationship with Angola".

"Although it is still a developing country, China has done everything possible to assist Angola, particularly in the areas of construction of infrastructure and training Angolan staff, with a

view to helping Angola to increase its capacity for self-development."

Via the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, China has exempted the Angolan government from paying back interest-free loans, has offered Zero Tariff Treatment to 95 percent of Angolan goods exported to China, has gifted construction of a rural primary school and a National Centre for Malaria Control, has donated anti-malarial medication on six occasions, has sent three agricultural specialists and a total of 35 Chinese doctors to provide free medical assistance to the Angolan population, and has trained 682 Angolans in China in a variety of areas. It also plans to build a pilot agricultural centre.

"Angola-China friendship is already deeply rooted between the two populations and two-way cooperation has had fruitful results," said Gao Kexiang. In the 30 years since diplomatic relations were established between China and Angola there have been many and frequent high level visits between the two countries as well as economic and trade cooperation. "We hope and believe that in the near future, the two governments and populations will continue to make efforts to promote two-way cooperation in all areas to a greater degree, injecting new vitality into

developing a greater friendship between the two countries," the ambassador said.

"The dynamics of China's presence in Angola are changing," said an Angolan professor of political science who asked not to be named. "The Chinese want to ensure a long-term presence in Angola, so they have a 'soft power' approach, which is attractive not only from a commercial point of view, but also in terms of culture, education, and in living alongside and interpreting the way of life of the populations."

Funding reconstruction and development

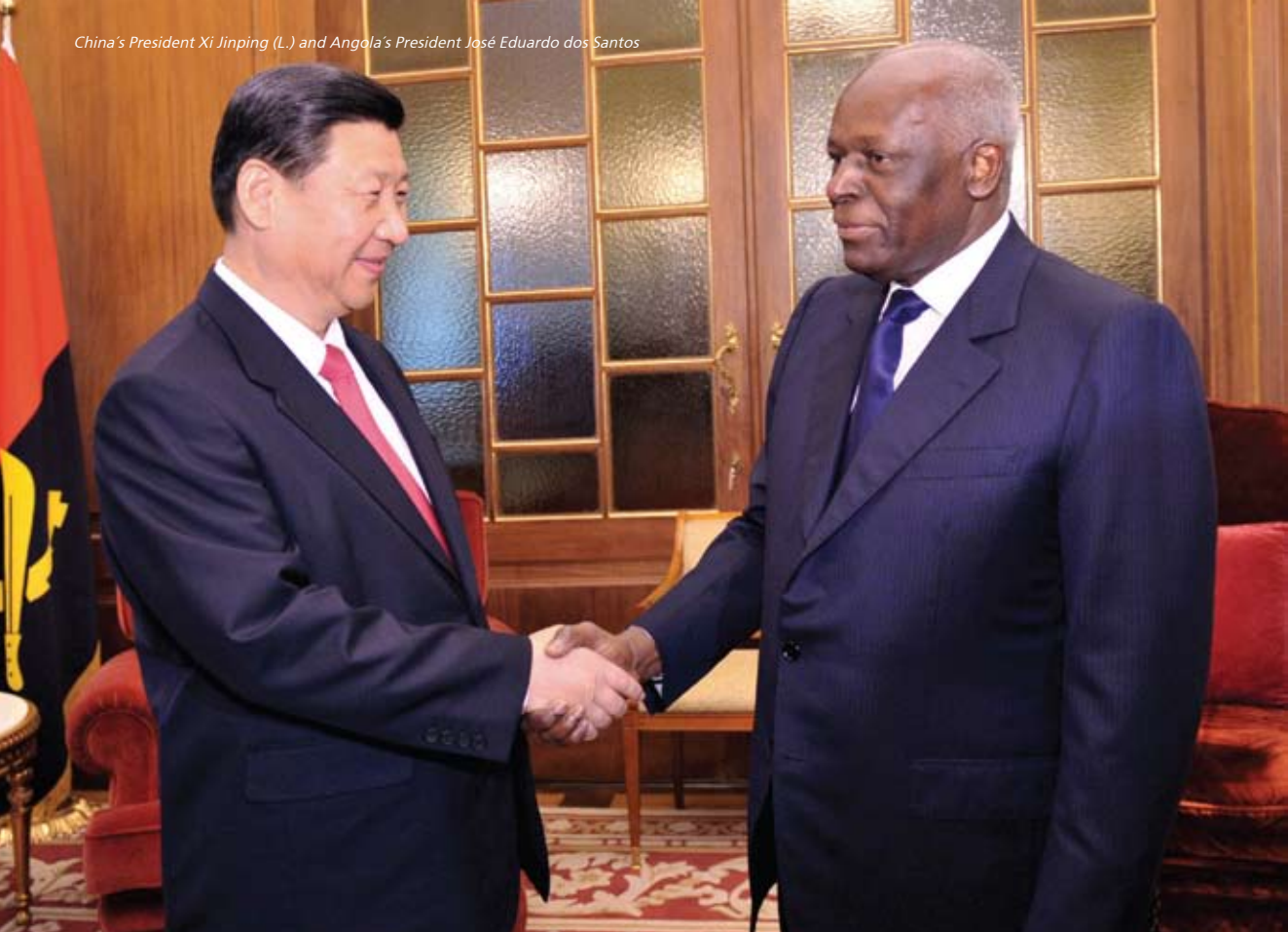
On 12th January 1983 China and Angola signed the Joint Statement on establishing diplomatic relations. In the 1980s, the People's Republic of China redesigned its political strategy by prioritising trade relations rather than ideological relations, recognising the Angolan government, which at that time was led by the MPLA party. However, it was at the end of the armed conflict in Angola, in 2002, that Beijing had the opportunity to enter the Angolan market thanks to its 'non-interference' policy and based on pragmatic and strategic cooperation.

Months after the peace agreements were signed in April 2002, ending 27 years of fighting, the Angolan government organised a donor conference to collect funds to finance its national reconstruction programme. At the time Luanda considered the demands being made in terms of governance to be excessive.

These were the circumstances under which China approached the Angolan government. "The launch of the Chinese expansion policy coincided with the end of the war in Angola, allowing China-Angola economic relations to expand in the years that followed," said Ana Alves.

Following the end of the civil war, reconstruction of infrastructure became the government's first priority. The national reconstruction programme, which was implemented in 2003, was designed to rebuild roads, railways, hospitals and schools as quickly as possible.

Beijing provided funds for strategic infrastructure projects in the post-conflict phase that Western donors would not finance without conditions. The Chinese funding proposals offered better commercial loans at lower rates of interest and longer repayment periods, without imposing conditions of a political nature.



General manager of Sinohydro Angola Company (L.) hands over to Angolan government officials the key of the Andulo Agricultural Centre



According to the Angolan ambassador to the People's Republic of China, João Garcia Bires, this cooperation allowed Angola to become a more modern country. Speaking at the official reception of the Angolan embassy to celebrate 30 years of China-Angola cooperation, on 12 January, Bires said that loans provided to Angola without conditions and repayable over long periods, kick-started a vast programme of reconstruction that allowed the country to overcome the effects of the war. "Other loans were provided by the Exim Bank and later by the Development Bank of China and by the China International Fund, and the results are plain to see," the ambassador noted.

The dynamics of the China-Angola relationship are driven by trade, particularly exchanging products for services, as President José Eduardo dos Santos said during a visit by Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao to Angola in 2006, "China needs natural resources and Angola wants development."

"In the post-conflict period a platform of complementarities appeared; a Chinese thirst for oil, its gigantic financial capacity, the Angolan government's need to implement a national reconstruction programme and an increase in oil production undoubtedly brought the two nations together," said Ana Alves.

In 2003 the Chinese government proposed a loan, without any conditions attached, based on principles of non-interference in state affairs, directed at infrastructure projects and repaid in oil. In 2004 the China Exim Bank opened up a line of credit worth US\$2 billion to the Angolan Finance Ministry for over 150 construction projects in the Health, Education, Energy and Roads sectors. In 2007 two more agreements worth US\$500 million and US\$2 billion were signed.

The China-Angola Strategic Partnership established in November 2010 led to new dynamics and expanded cooperation. In 2011 a fourth agreement worth US\$3 billion were signed and is due to be implemented this year.

In 2011 the China Development Bank opened up a commercial credit line, without oil guarantees, worth US\$1.5 billion, focused on development projects, particularly in the agricultural sector and with programmes in Malanje and Lubango provinces.

In total China has loaned the Republic of Angola over US\$9 billion to fund large infrastructure projects.

Funds are released on a project by project basis in a relatively transparent way between the bank and the Angolan Finance Ministry.

This year Angolan oil company Sociedade Nacional de Combustíveis de Angola (Sonangol) took out a 1 billion euro loan from the China Development Bank. The loan, which was taken on via Sonangol Finance Limited, will be repaid over a period of 10 years at an agreed interest rate of 3.5 percentage points on Libor (London Interbank Offered Rate). "This is a demonstration of the robustness of Sonangol's long-term financing model, which over the last seven years has allowed it to take on loans of around 18 billion euros, of which 50 percent have already been repaid," the oil company said.

China at the oil industry's door

According to the Chinese embassy in Angola, there are currently over 450 state and private companies involved in the construction or reconstruction of housing, ports, railways, roads and other facilities. These include large Chinese multinational companies such as CITIC, the China Railway Corporation, Huawei and Camac. Between 60,000 and 70,000 Chinese expatriates live in Angola.

China may currently be considered to be the biggest player in the global market, both in terms of production and in demand for raw materials to support its economy and Africa, in which Angola is increasingly a key country, and one of the markets into which China is thirsting to expand.

China, which is the world's most powerful emerging economy, with a yearly rate of growth ranging between 8 and 10 percent per year, has become one of the biggest importers of energy. China's demand for oil has risen so suddenly that in 2004 the country became the world's second-largest importer of oil, after the USA. According to the International Energy Agency, in 2030 China's demand for oil is expected to exceed that of the United States. With 58 percent of its imports coming from the volatile Middle East market, China has focused on Africa to diversify its list of suppliers.

At that time, the relative social and political stability of Angola, which is Africa's third-largest oil producer, after Nigeria and Libya, attracted Beijing. In the first half of 2010 Angola overtook Saudi Arabia to become China's main supplier of oil.



Xi Jinping now President of the People's Republic of China visited projects by CITIC in Angola

According to Ana Alves, at a time when it is already buying one third of Angola's total oil production, "China's main interest is to explore its own blocks that will allow it to control exploration and ensure a supply of Angolan oil in the long and medium terms."

In 2004 Chinese state oil company, the China Petroleum and Chemical Corporation (Sinopec), was granted exploration of half of Block 18, which it shares with BP. At the time Shell had agreed to sell its stake to Chinese state company ONGC Videsh, but Sonangol, as the concessionaire, blocked the transaction and established a joint venture with Sinopec, called Sinopec-Sonangol Internacional (SSI), to explore its part of the block.

In 2006 Sinopec secured funding of US\$1.4 billion from several Chinese banks to develop its part of block 18 on SSI's behalf. In May the joint venture was awarded three stakes in ultra deep water blocks operated in partnership with Italy's Eni (Agip), France's Total, and Brazil's Petrobrás. The proposals were the highest ever made for oil blocks. China dominated the negotiations and is believed to have paid around US\$2.2 billion for two blocks.

Despite these steps forward, China has not made

a significant move into the Angolan oil industry, the main reason being its lack of technology for and experience of ultra deep waters, in which most Angolan oil is found.

Since 2002 trade between the two countries has risen by 2,500 percent from US\$1 billion to US\$25.3 billion in 2008 and since then China has become Angola's largest trading partner, overtaking the US, which had been the biggest partner for practically the entire post-independence period.

From 2006 Angola became one of China's biggest trading partners in Africa. However, the China-Angola balance of trade continued to grow and in November 2012 it had already exceeded the figure for the previous year, with a record of US\$34.5 billion, or almost 1,000 times more than 30 years ago.

In 2012 Angola became one of China's biggest trade partners, vying with Saudi Arabia for the role of biggest supplier of oil to the Chinese market. In November 2012, Gao Kexiang, the Chinese ambassador in Luanda, said at the end of a meeting with the Angolan vice president, Manuel Domingos Vicente, that, "cooperation has reached its best point because there is mutual political trust, with

notable economic and trade development, including personal exchange." The diplomat also said that there were, "other great business opportunities" that are being assessed by both sides.

According to Flávio Inocêncio, a lawyer with Angola's investment agency ANIP, China-Angola relations still have potential to grow due to synergies between the two countries and the fact that Angola needs Chinese know-how and access to capital, whilst China needs Angolan oil. "The city of Kilamba Kiaxi, in Luanda, built and funded by the Chinese, is an example of a project that the Angolan government hopes to replicate in different provinces," he said.

Chinese private investment in Angola reached a peak in 2009 when the Angolan National Private Investment Agency (ANIP) approved 66 projects worth 16.373 billion kwanzas (UDS\$170 million), mostly focused on the civil construction sector, according to a recent presentation in Beijing.

The figures, which were included in a document drawn up by ANIP economist Lello Francisco and lawyer Flávio Inocêncio, showed that out of a total of 56 projects focused on construction, six were for the industrial sector and the remainder were for retail, agriculture and telecommunications.

According to the same figures, which were presented at a conference to commemorate the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations, between 2008 and 2012 foreign direct investment (FDI) in

Angola was led by Portugal with a total of 739 projects, followed by China with 180, Lebanon with 99 projects, and Germany with eight.

Open to new exports

Reconstruction of Angola's infrastructure has brought an end to the isolation of vast tracts of the country. New roads and railways now provide access from the rural interior, where there is a wealth of land for agriculture or mining, to the main cities, and from there for export. Large Chinese companies are showing signs of being particularly interested in agricultural potential, whilst new public projects are being launched in this area.

After finishing work to repair the Benguela Railroads, construction company China Ferrovia (CR20) plans to implement agricultural projects in Moxico province in 2013, according to the Angolan press.

Two technicians from the company, including a prospecting engineer, travelled to site of the future Camaiangala agricultural project, over 70 kilometres north of the city of Luena, where they collected soil samples. The soil samples will be analysed in Chinese laboratories and a contract is due to be signed with the Ministry for Agriculture and Rural Development in the next few months, outlining production of rice, potatoes, beans and other products that are essential to the local population.

Chinese leader received in Angola by Chinese workers



China Ferrovia CR20 built the Luanda Railroad. At the moment it is refurbishing and modernising the Benguela Railroad and has carried out a number of building projects in the country, including multipurpose pavilions, swimming pools and other facilities.

The China CAMC Engineering Co., Ltd. (CAMCE) is also carrying out the Longo agro-industrial project in Angola's Kuando Kubango province, which aims initially to produce 15,000 tons of rice per year, according to the Angolan press. The project, which is estimated to cost 7.66 billion kwanzas (US\$61.5 million), is being carried out as part of an agreement signed in 2010 with the Ministry for Agriculture and Rural Development and is funded by a credit line from the China Development Bank. It has created 800 direct jobs and will produce almost 15,000 tons of rice a year. This amount may be tripled as new fields are worked on in the Longa and Masseca region, in the Kuito Kuanavale municipality. As well as large scale rice production, the Longa agro-industrial project also involves construction in the same location as a centre for training local rural workers in agro-livestock techniques, as well as building a weather station, services to supply mechanised agricultural methods and other services for the workers and the population in surrounding areas.

Chinese business group CITIC is also supporting agricultural development in the Angolan provinces of Uíge and Malanje by setting up agricultural study and research centres, according to the chairman of the group, Chang Zhenming. In the case of Malanje province the project is at a more advanced stage, as a modern agricultural research centre has already been built, which is being run by Chinese technical staff. The chairman of the CITIC group also said that a group of 28 Angolan technicians, who had already been selected, would travel to China for training over a period of two years.

At government level, Angola and China have signed a cooperation deal for construction of an agricultural research centre in Mazozo, Luanda province, around 40 kilometres from the centre of the Angolan capital.

The Angolan Secretary of State for Agriculture, Amaro Tati, and China's deputy Trade Minister, Li Jinzao, signed the agreement, which will make it possible to test rice and wheat varieties in different regions of Angola.

Tati said the agreement was very important as the agricultural testing and research centre is essential for agricultural growth.

Angola plans to produce 25 million tons of food including grains, cereals and tubers, said the director of the Angolan Office for Studies and Analysis of the Foreign Relations Ministry, Francisco da Cruz. At the conference to commemorate the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Angola and China, ambassador Francisco da Cruz said that the figure included 20 million tons of cassava, 2.5 million tons of grains, 1.5 million tons of potatoes and 1 million tons of legumes (beans, peanuts and soy).

The ambassador said that agricultural production would be based on boosting public-private partnerships for projects that have already been identified, such as the Capanda, Cubal and Quizenga agro-industrial projects. He mentioned the Camabatela development plan, the agricultural projects of Cacanda, in Lunda Norte province, Cangandala and Pedras Negras, as well as the Agricultural Project for Cereal Production in Vale do Longa, Malanje province, and the second phase of refurbishment of the Cotton Project.

According to the secretary of state for the Foreign Affairs Ministry, Manuel Augusto, there is currently a "diversification of cooperation mainly in technology transfer", which "will benefit not only Angola and China but also the whole of southern Africa ... such as the Benguela Railroad, for example, built with Angola-China aid, and which will benefit several countries near Angola, like Zambia and the DRC".

According to the Angolan ambassador to China, João Garcia Bires, the Angolan government is analysing, along with the Chinese government, the possibility of exporting Angolan mining products, which could "increase and diversify" trade between the two countries. Angola is also looking into exporting iron and copper ore, amongst other mining products, and in exchange will receive from China machinery and other instruments useful for "carrying on with Angola's development programme".

The ambassador noted that as Angola was undergoing reconstruction, there was a need for cooperation both with China and with other countries, adding that Luanda would "very soon" focus its attention on developing agriculture, which would help to make use of a lot of the available workforce in this area, in the agro-industrial and mining sectors.

A place for culture

The new phase in the relationship between Angola and China is not limited to the economy. In 2008 when Angola's president, José Eduardo dos Santos, visited China, the two governments signed an agreement to outline China-Angola cultural cooperation. In 2012 the implementation programme for 2012 to 2014 was signed. It outlines an exchange of cultural and artistic delegations, holding art and writing exhibitions, training qualified staff, cooperation in terms of heritage preservation and management and cooperation in the editorial and intellectual property sector.

According to the Chinese ambassador to Luanda, China and Angola "are human and cultural cooperation partners. "Continued development of two-way relations has made our communications popular."

The Chinese government offers scholarships to hundreds of Angolan students to study in China. At Expo Shanghai 2010, Angola's presence was

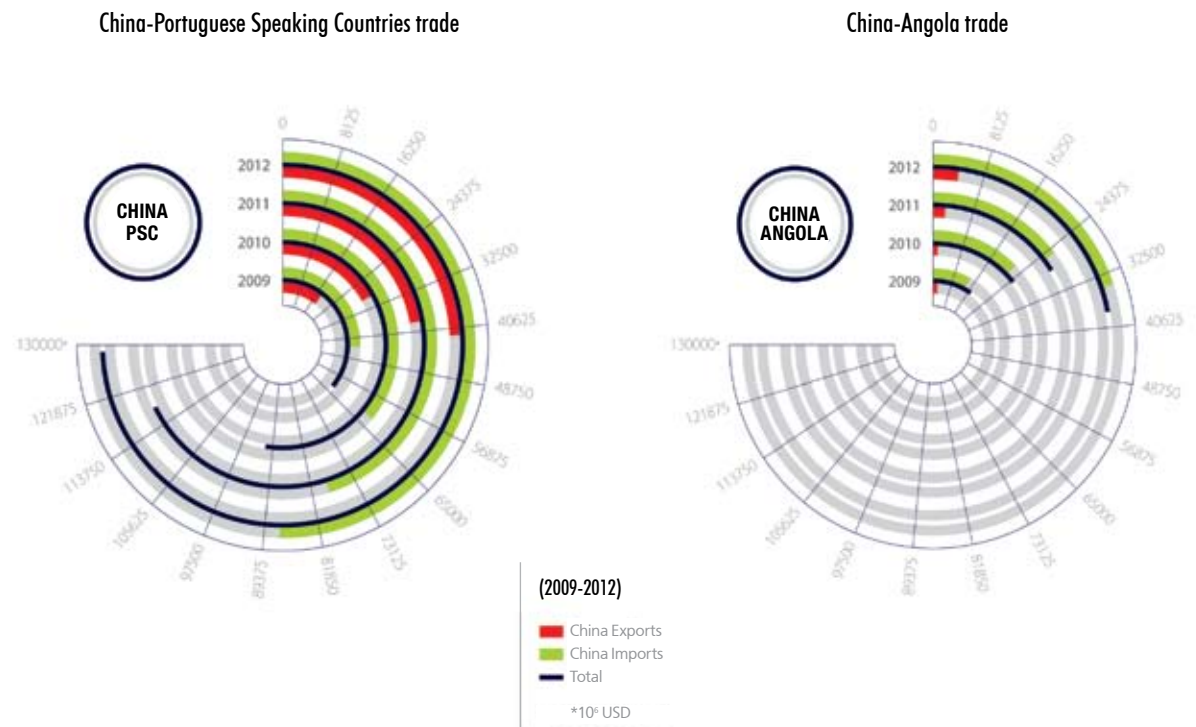
notable, and the Angolan capital is soon expected to become home to a Confucius Institute, which will promote Chinese language and culture in Angola. "Human and cultural exchanges between China and Angola are increasingly improving contact between the two populations, boosting friendship, and are the most valuable part of developing China-Angola relations," said Kexiang. "Angola and China have become goods friends, good brothers and good partners," the diplomat said at the 30th anniversary Reception Dinner.

The two countries have achieved "excellent results in decisive areas such as trade, finance, energy, and construction projects" and relations "are at a new historical starting point, and facing future opportunities and challenges".

"China is willing to expand its cooperation in all areas, to incessantly explore new areas for growth in cooperation, in order to offer benefits to the two populations and make way, hand in hand, for a new and more exuberant chapter in China-Angola relations in the next 30 years," said Gao.

Photos by Xinhua News Agency

CHINA-ANGOLA TRADE RELATIONS





Ambassador of the Republic of Angola in China, João Garcia Bires

Photo by Carmo Correia

João Garcia Bires, Angolan Ambassador to China

"Angola wants to develop diamonds, copper, iron, manganese and agribusiness with China"

How important has the Sino-Angolan commercial partnership been to Angola?

Firstly, I must recall how this partnership began, where we are and where we're headed. As you know, the country experienced a long war that devastated part of the infrastructure. Bridges, roads and entire cities were destroyed, besides having claimed the lives of many young people, mutilated many others and separated countless families.

Having established peace in 2002, the country needed to take very concrete steps within the framework of national reconstruction. At that stage, came People's Republic of China as a privileged and unconditional partner for Angola. As a starting point, in March 2004, the Chinese government, through Exim Bank, provided a loan of two billion dollars.

These resources were vital to the recovery of our economy. They were used in the construction and reconstruction of infrastructure such as housing, schools of various levels of education, hospitals, bridges, roads, ports and airports, essential projects for sustainable development and improvement of living for our people. They're equally important as we are thinking of beginning the country's industrialization, thereby fulfilling the government program.

It was in this scenario that the strategic alliance between Angola and the People's Republic of China was born. An alliance that has proved and will continue to prove valuable to Angola in the short, medium and long term.

Besides infrastructure, which sectors are considered priorities in the cooperation process with the People's Republic of China for the next ten years (agriculture, industry, fisheries...)?

For now, I would like China to continue to be our country's best partner and for its participation in development projects to be higher. Angola is going through a rebuilding process and there is always a basis for mutual cooperation. The Angolan government is aware of this aspect and aims to usher in the near future new areas of cooperation. The main agricultural products such as sugar cane, cotton and coffee for which the country is also known (fourth largest producer in the world in the 70s) are commodities to be taken into account because the country has privileged conditions, such as large water resources and mild average temperature between

19 and 26 degrees centigrade. Mining, in particular diamonds, copper, iron and manganese are also other areas that Angola would like to develop together with the People's Republic of China which would help occupy much hand labor in agribusiness and mining.

What are the main advantages in cooperation with the People's Republic of China?

One big advantage is that it is a new model of cooperation based not only on lines of credit, but also on trade. The West, with few exceptions, always based cooperation in financial aid coupled with enormous constraints, although lately changes can be seen.

Therefore, to Angola, China is a key partner in the construction of the country in training and development. Angola has obtained from China large trade surpluses, technical co-operation in various areas, loans on favorable terms, and consequently the realization of a large number of infrastructure projects that directly impact the living condition of the populations.

In short, the partnership with China has helped to overcome the challenges inherited from the atrocities of war, has improved the economy by reducing inflation, the budget deficit and its debt and has raised its GDP per capita.

The People's Republic of China is implementing mechanisms for import of products produced in Africa. What are the major commercial products, outside the energy sector, which Angola will export to China?

It is no secret that a major problem in China, due to its need for intensive growth is access to raw materials of all kinds, from oil to arable land. China has industrialization in its five-year development plan. The recently completed XVIII Congress of the Chinese Communist Party emphasized that need, and outlined goals in clear and unambiguous terms. For its accomplishment, everything will go through a growing demand for raw materials. Although the country is vast and rich, the volume of raw material is not sufficient to achieve this aim.

In this context, China will have to seek this raw material in other countries, other continents. Africa holds this raw material in quantity and quality still not sufficiently researched. It is therefore natural that, with Angola as its strategic partner, that in addition to oil the People's Republic of China can be interested in other commodities such as copper, iron, uranium, gas, manganese and others. Wood, its derivatives and others may be on the list of what eventually will be discussed with the Executive.

Avant-garde bookshop opens new page in Guangzhou's cultural life

By Mark O'Neill In Guangzhou





Jaimy Tan

In the basement of an upmarket shopping mall in Guangzhou, one of China's most remarkable bookshops has just celebrated its first birthday.

In the year since it opened on 25 November 2011, Fangsuo has sold half a million books and earned additional income from the sale of clothes, designer houseware and other items.

"We have not made a loss, which is very good," said Jaimy Tan, director of operations, from Taiwan. "Fangsuo wants to change Chinese people. When people come here, they cannot believe that it is a Chinese shop. Mao Jihong (one of the founders) says that Chinese people can make their own brand."

Fangsuo is less a bookstore than a cultural experience. It occupies a spacious open-plan room. Visitors are greeted at the entrance by an exhibition of art work; then on the left is a section selling high-end women's designer clothes, on the right are shelves full of books and in the centre is a coffee shop. The interior design materials are all natural – wood, bamboo and stone.

It was the brainchild of three people. The first was Mao Jiheng, founder and president of Mixmind Art & Design Company, which he set up in 1996 along with the brand Exception for designer ladies wear: the brand has 98 shops across China and an annual turnover of 600 million. He invested the entire 60 million yuan in Fangsuo.

The other two are Stanley Wong, a Hong Kong graphic designer and founder of 84000 Communications, and Liao Meili, one of the founders of the Eslite Bookshop in Taiwan and now president of Flaneur Culture Lab.

Fangsuo occupies 1,800 square metres of space in Taikoo Hui, a large office building and shopping mall developed by Swire of Hong Kong in the Tianhe district of Guangzhou. It shares the mall with global brands like Louis Vuitton, Chanel, Salvatore Ferragamo, Gucci and Lacoste.

"Mao wanted to let people know about the cultural spirit of people in the East and started to sell books in his Exception stores in 2007," said Tan. He met Liao the next year; the two began to plan the new store. They wanted to give people a new cultural experience and show that Chinese people can create something original and innovative of their own and not simply copy foreign models. They chose the name from the words of Xiao Tong, a crown prince and devout Buddhist, in the Southern Sung dynasty: it means 'to put your heart here and enjoy things of beauty'. In 2012, Fangsuo won the Store Design of the Year Award at the World Retail Awards ceremony in London, beating 51 other firms from 22 countries. It was the first Chinese firm to win this award. "This store is game-changing," said a judge of the association.

A national brand

The three founders wanted to make Fangsuo a national brand. At first, they tried to set up in Beijing but could not find a location with the right terms and conditions.

Then they signed a six-year lease with Swire Properties of Hong Kong, which owns Taikoo Hui. By choosing such a partner, they were selecting their niche in the market – at the very top, for consumers with a great deal of spare money and the time and leisure to spend on the products they were selling. Swire chose them because they would enhance the value of the mall and bring additional traffic.

"We must go to Beijing, Shanghai and other big cities," said Tan. "We are looking now at Chengdu and Chongqing, Wuhan and Changsha. Or we could open in secondary cities. We will have to check out the conditions."

Books from around the world

Fangsuo has 120,000 books, of which one third come from Taiwan, Hong Kong and overseas; the rest are from the mainland.

It takes two months to gain approval for the Taiwan books. The customs department must approve every single one; it also sends officers to the store to check what is being sold. If they find anything they consider offensive, they will confiscate it, without paying compensation. The company must pay the inspection fee. After paying these fees and import taxes, the books from Taiwan and Hong Kong cost double the amount of those from the mainland.

"We do not import books on history, politics or sensitive topics," said Tan. "The Taiwan books are about living, health, art and subjects like that." The mainland uses simplified characters, less complicated than the traditional ones used in Taiwan and Hong Kong.

"Some of our clients are not used to the traditional characters but they like the layout and photographs of Taiwan books and the quality of translation, which they consider better, so they buy them," she said.

The foreign-language section includes books on tourism, interior design, architecture, music, film, performing arts, clothes design, art history, cookery, food and drink, and selected business books. There are no books on the lives of film or pop stars or textbooks to prepare you for exams.





Selling books in Guangzhou – and China as a whole – is extremely competitive. Several well-known bookshops in the city have closed, including branches of Joint Publishing, because revenue cannot cover rising rent and personnel costs. Xinhua, the state-owned national chain, is only kept open by generous government subsidies.

E-commerce platforms sell books with reductions of up to 40 percent; they treat them as sales points, to attract customers who buy other products on which they make a profit. If you order a book online, it will be delivered to you the next day at home or in the office and you pay on delivery. In addition, many people read electronic, not printed, books.

Tan believes that, overall, sales of books have not fallen – what has changed is the variety of ways through which people buy them.

Books account for 40 percent of Fangsuo's income, clothes 35 percent and houseware and other items the remainder.

The clothes are made by Exception, the brand created by Mao Jihong. When he launched it, it was almost the only Chinese designer brand. The clothes sell for 3,000–4,000 yuan a piece.

The shop also sells houseware and designer brands, including porcelain, teapots and cooking utensils, from Japan, France, Germany and other countries. A Japanese steel tea pot, for example, sells for 6,800 yuan. A French porcelain set of tea cups and pot sells for 880 yuan.

There is an import tax of up to 50 percent on the houseware items. Of the wooden pieces, they have to donate some of the items for the customs to destroy, to see if they contain dangerous or illegal materials; the shop has to pay for this service.

Events

Events and exhibitions are a key part of Fangsuo. Each month it organises six–eight speakers, from the mainland, Hong Kong, Taiwan and overseas, to talk about their books, products and designs.

People to feature among them so far have included Irish novelist and poet Colm Toibin, British architect and designer Henry Holland and French scientist Jean-Francois Picimbon. The shop always displays their work at the same time as the talk.

These events play an important role in bringing people

to the shop and making it a centre of cultural life.

One event attracted 5,000 people – so many that they spilled out onto the floors of the shopping mall; Tan had to make an apology to the local Public Security Bureau because she had not anticipated such a crowd and the possible safety risks.

At the entrance to Fangsuo, they exhibit copper, bronze, wood and other art work – but not paintings or photographs. The exhibition changes each month. The current one shows tin pieces by Japanese artist Yoshihide Nosaku.

For the entrance, Mao bought a 400-year-old tree in Foshan that had been lying on the ground for 80 years. He needed a tree of this thickness so that the entrance could be made from a single piece.

Enthusiastic response

The shop has received extensive coverage from the mainland media, in print, television and on the Internet. It seems to have tapped in to the desire of people in Guangzhou to see their city move up the value chain, from a city of production and commerce to one of culture and creativity.

Huang Ying-hong, a secondary school teacher, said that Fangsuo was a different kind of store. "It aims to change the image of bookstores as dull places only for bookworms. This is cool and fashionable, a place you would like to be seen in. It has been very active in arranging events and inviting outside speakers. These events are well attended. People who go to Taikoo Hui are wealthy. Spending 100–200 yuan on a book is easy for them.

"It is a niche bookshop. Its selection is not very wide – many titles are from Taiwan and Hong Kong, mostly on light subjects, nothing too serious. They are on art and lifestyle and are easy to read," he said. "To survive, bookshops must have a niche. Xinhua bookshops are losing customers every day, with their bad service and poor selections of books."

Liang Mei, a student from Shenzhen browsing the shelves, said that she first read books in electronic form. "If I really like them, I buy them. That is what most young people do. Most people rent apartments now and have to move. Where do you store so many books and what do you do with them when you move?"

Photos by courtesy of Fangsuo

Chinese Diaspora

Museum remembers the tragedy and success of migrants

By Luo Xunzhi in Jiangmen





Picture this: A piece of red paper hangs on a wall, announcing the sale of a baby for 80 yuan. On the paper is written a contract documenting this extraordinary transaction whereby a pedlar of melon seeds sells his baby son to donate to the war effort against Japan.

The parents of one Zheng Chaojong were killed by a Japanese air raid in his native Jiangmen. Living as a wandering pedlar in Malaya, he determined to take revenge.

When his fourth son was born, he offered him, against the wishes of his wife, to a Chinese family in Sandakan in Sabah. "If we win the war, he will be a Chinese man, whoever raises him," said Zheng. "If we lose, he will be the slave of a dead nation."

The contract is one of the many remarkable exhibits in the Jiangmen Wuyi Museum of the Overseas Chinese, in this city in western Guangdong. The museum opened in November 2010, after years of planning and preparation. The city government says it is the best museum in China devoted to the diaspora.

The district of Jiangmen, which includes five counties (the meaning of Wuyi), has produced more emigrants than any other part of China. Its current population is 4.2 million, and there are about the same number of people from the district (and descended from their ancestors) living in 107 countries and regions across the world.

Most emigrants went to Southeast Asia and North America, and some to Europe and Africa. There is a large community of Jiangmen people in Hong Kong and Macao.

The idea of the museum was first proposed in 1992, but the conditions were not right and funding was unavailable. In January 2002, the city government decided to go ahead; in 2004, it appealed for people to make donations and sent staff around the world to contact the migrants.

The response was overwhelming – they received over 30,000 items, including photographs, maps, letters, family trees and records, passports, bank transfers and other documents. The majority of them were donated free of charge. It is these items that make up the treasures of the museum.

Tragic beginnings

Jiangmen's diaspora began life in the middle of the 19th century. The population was growing faster than the land available to feed it; the economy was devastated by the Taiping rebellion of 1850 to 1864. Those at the bottom of the social ladder – landless farmers and the unemployed – were desperate for an escape.

Australia and North America needed workers to mine gold, iron ore and other metals; Malaya needed hands for its tin mines and rubber and banana plantations.

The poor of Jiangmen sold what few possessions they had and borrowed money from family and friends to buy their passage: some went with contracts, some without. They often signed them with agents and middlemen without knowing what they were signing: most were illiterate. They spoke

their local dialect, not Mandarin. On arrival, they had to learn the language of their new country.

The museum has a photograph of an agent from Taishan, a district of Jiangmen: he is stout and self-satisfied, twice the size of the workers he has hired. He is the 19th century equivalent of the snakehead who smuggles Chinese people today into Europe and North America.

The migrants travelled in primitive wooden ships, driven by sails, with no toilets and or washing facilities; they were packed in like animals. The journey to Southeast Asia took up to three months, and that to North America up to six. Many did not survive the trip: they died en route and their bodies were tossed into the ocean.

The life that awaited them was little better than slavery. In the most dramatic image in the museum a man stands in a field of sugar cane in Peru. His feet are manacled so that he cannot escape; he is cutting the cane beneath the hot sun.

"He worked a 14–20-hour day," said Xiong Yaling, the museum guide. "He signed an eight-year contract and at the end of it was forced to sign another one. He never returned home. The average life expectancy of these men was 30–40 years old."

There is also a photograph of a banana plantation in Malaya. "The workers had to get up at about three in the morning and complete the work before sunrise," she said. The plantation managers – Europeans in their white suits – stand stiff and self-satisfied in front of a truck packed with their Chinese workers.

Building the railroads

Migrants from Jiangmen played a major role in building the Pacific railroads across the United States and Canada. The construction companies liked them because they worked hard, for little money, and did not complain.

But they were not welcome by the white workers, who saw them as cheap competition who threatened their jobs.





"They helped to complete the building of the US railroad in seven years, instead of the planned 14," said Xiong. "But no Chinese person was invited to the opening ceremony. They found 20,000 Chinese corpses along the track. Of the 17,000 Chinese people who worked on the Canadian Pacific railway, 4,000 died."

Between 1851 and 1860, some 40,400 Chinese migrants arrived in California for the Gold Rush. Over the next three decades, the arrivals numbered 64,301, 123,201 and 61,711 respectively. They came to build the railroads and work on the farms and fisheries of California. Ninety percent were men; they hoped to return home afterwards to get married and start a family. There were very few Chinese women in the United States.

But such was the opposition of ordinary white people, including leaders of the church, that in 1882, the US Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act, which prohibited immigration for 10 years. It was the only US law ever to prevent immigration and naturalisation on the basis of race.

This law was extended and broadened. The Chinese

were not allowed to bring their wives and children from home – as other migrants could – and laws in many states prevented them from marrying white women. In 1924, all Asian immigrants were excluded by law, denied citizenship and prevented from owning land; the only exceptions were Filipinos, whose country was under US control.

Only in the 1940s, when the US and China were allies in World War Two, were these restrictions lifted, with immigration permitted in 1943.

The museum has a reconstruction as well as photographs of Angel Island in San Francisco, where immigration officers examined young Chinese men. Some migrants sold the birth certificates of their sons to others at home; the examination tested the new arrivals to see if they were the children of those they claimed to be. Because of the restrictions, many spent years on the island waiting for entry; they lived on bunk beds in prison conditions.

It also has models of the restaurants, barber shops and tailors that the migrants established in their new home.

A turn for the better

Life improved for later generations of migrants. They received an education in their new country and joined the mainstream, to work in business, the professions, the government and the military. Prejudice and exclusion diminished.

The museum records the success of some of the migrants. Private Chin G. Ngew was the first Chinese-American to receive a Purple Heart for bravery, while serving in Europe in 1944. He was one of about 20,000 Chinese-Americans who served in the US military during World War Two. A large proportion of the Flying Tigers were migrants from Jiangmen. They were a unit of the Chinese Air Force, under American General Claire Lee Chennault, which helped to defend China against Japanese forces during World War Two.

There was also Edward C. Loo, a doctor who served as a medical consultant to Presidents Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon.

The museum records the enormous efforts made by the migrants to help their country during World

War Two. It has cheques and documents showing the money sent back to help the war effort and a letter of appreciation from Song Mei-ling, the wife of President Chiang Kai-shek.

Pedlar Zheng was the most noteworthy migrant, with his exceptional story. He not only gave the 80 yuan from the sale of his son, but over several years he also collected 180,000 yuan for an overseas Chinese association. Meanwhile, he and his family lived in great poverty.

The museum also had a wax figure of Zheng made, which earned the praise of his children when they came to visit from Singapore. "He is a national hero," said Xiong. "His wife is 104 and living in Singapore. A good person has a good destiny."

In the same room is a replica of the first airplane built by a Chinese person. Feng Ru, born in Jiangmen in 1882, emigrated to California at the age of 12. He founded an aircraft manufacturing company in 1908 and, in September the following year, became the first Chinese person to fly in America.

He moved back home and built another plane. In 1912, in a test flight over Jiangmen, he was killed in a crash; he was just 30 years old.





Giving back

The migrants gave a great deal back to their native places. They funded schools, libraries, bridges and other public facilities. When they came home, they did not want to live in the poor villages they had left behind; so they built new ones, with good planning, wide roads and a proper water supply. They combined Western architecture and traditional Chinese culture. Many buildings and structures are still standing today.

The most famous of these are the 1,833 watchtowers of Kaiping, which were named by UNESCO in 2007 as a World Heritage Site. "They display a complex and flamboyant fusion of Chinese and Western

structures and decorative forms," wrote UNESCO in its citation.

The first buildings were built in the Qing dynasty, reaching a peak in the 1920s and 1930s, when there were more than 3,000. They were structures of four-five storeys, which the migrants built for their families, whom they could not bring with them; they were designed to resist floods and bandits.

They are the most dramatic symbol of the marriage of East and West caused by the emigration of so many people from the Jiangmen area.

Another remarkable project built by a migrant was the first privately funded railway in China. Chin Gee Hee left Jiangmen in 1860, at the age of 16, for the United States, and worked on railroads for 40 years.



In 1905, he returned home. He sold his house for US\$70,000 and raised money from other overseas Chinese people to fund the construction of the Sunning railway; it ran across 133 kilometres through the Jiangmen district and did much to promote the prosperity of the area. The museum has a replica of a station, the steam engine and a carriage.

The first section began operations in 1909.

But the story did not have a happy ending. Guangdong warlords forced Chin to give up control and took it over; the new managers stole the money and the line ceased to operate. Chin died on 18 May 1930, at the age of 86, a broken man.

Bringing investment

In the era of reform and open-door policies since 1980, the migrants of Jiangmen have played a key role.

They have been major investors, putting millions of dollars into factories, shops, hotels and property and helping to make the city a major industrial and commercial centre.

It is a major producer of textiles and garments, sugar and other foodstuffs, machinery, electronics and petrochemicals. It is the second largest river port in Guangdong, dealing in flourishing commerce with other cities in the provinces as well as Hong Kong and Macao.

Photos by Luo Xunzhi in Jiangmen



澳門

Macao

理想的會議展覽舉辦地
THE IDEAL MICE DESTINATION

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A World Tourism and Leisure Centre Equipped with World-class Convention and Exhibition facilities
- 位處大珠三角地區，地理位置優越
Advantageous location in the Greater Pearl River Delta region
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The Government provides preferential policies to encourage the development of the convention and exhibition industry
- 貿易投資促進局提供會展競投及支援“一站式”服務
IPIM provides “One-Stop Service” for MICE Bidding and Support in Macao

會展競投及支援“一站式”服務 “One-Stop Service” for MICE Bidding and Support in Macao

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招攬、引進會展活動在澳門舉辦	◆ Attract and introduce convention and exhibition projects to Macao
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“一站式”會展資訊	◆ “One-stop” Convention and exhibition updates
委派專人協助跟進落實澳門舉辦會展項目	◆ Designated staff to provide follow-up service and assist in organising events in Macao
協助申請會展活動激勵計劃	◆ Assist in the application for the Convention and Exhibition Stimulation Programme
協助於本局參與之活動（澳門境內外）進行宣傳推廣	◆ Provide publicity and promotion opportunities in local and overseas events participated by IPIM
協調與本澳相關政府部門聯繫	◆ Co-ordinate and liaise with Macao government departments
協助在澳成立公司開展會展項目	◆ Assist Macao Companies to develop MICE projects
提供會展合作配對服務，協助尋找合作夥伴	◆ Provide MICE cooperation matching service in search for potential partners

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Rising from the Ashes

Reconstructed Summer Palace in Zhuhai looks for new lease of life

By Ou Nian-le in Zhuhai

It was one of the architectural marvels of the world and had the best collection of art on the planet. But, over three days in October 1860, British soldiers burnt down the Old Summer Palace of Beijing and it has never been re-built.

In the 1990s, the city of Zhuhai decided to build the first reconstruction of the palace, over an area of 1.4 kilometres, complete with Ming, Qing and western palaces and a big lake. It was the only royal garden in southern China and aimed to

attract visitors who wanted a mix of history and amusement park. It charged a high admission fee of 130 yuan.

Over the last two years, however, the numbers of visitors faltered as other attractions opened in the city and elsewhere in Guangdong; the New Summer Palace (NSP) fell into the red. In an ambitious attempt to turn it around, the owners abolished the entrance fee, as from October 2012; the fees accounted for 75 percent of the revenue.

They hope to more than triple the number of visitors to three million a year and earn money from performances, restaurant trade and sales of goods and services within the palace.

Their model is the park around the West Lake of Hangzhou, which abolished its entrance fee in 2002. Since then, its income has risen four-fold as visitors spend more on attractions within the park. The city government is providing a subsidy of 53 million yuan over two years to ease the transition.

It is a gamble. If the revenue does not increase, the biggest tourist attraction in Zhuhai could close. Huang Xin, general manager of the Jiuzhou Tourism Group which runs the park, said that it had always wanted to cut the entrance fee. "The government subsidy is helping us to do this. As the old tourism models have become out of date, the trend is for experimental and interactive products. After two years, the NSP must make its own way. We must explore and be brave."

Future promise

As from 17 October 2012, the NSP has been open to the public free of charge, with a daily limit of 15,000 people. The owners aim to increase the annual number of visitors from 700,000 to three million. To accommodate the larger numbers, they will build a new car park with 2,000 spaces.

They will increase the number of performances, including a large-scale production called the 'The Burning of the Summer Palace', which will present the former glory of the site and its decline and destruction. In Hangzhou's West Lake Park, the most popular performance, done eight times a day, earns 200 million yuan a year; its troupe has 100 artists.

The owners will turn an open space in front of the NSP, of 80,000 square metres, into Zhuhai's largest cultural square and performance venue.

They will also invest 20 million yuan into a 'water dream city', to make the site more competitive and keep pace with its rivals. They will double the space of the water attractions to 80,000 square metres. They will invite foreign designers and architects to take part in the project.

He Jingtang, a well-known architect and member of the China Academy of Engineers, heads a team that drew up a plan for the renovation of the Gongbei area of Zhuhai where the palace is situated. "Zhuhai is a beautiful coastal city. If we want to turn this beauty into an attraction, we must raise its cultural profile."

He said that the decision to make entry into the NSP free would add to the city's cultural value. "This and the opening of the large square in front is an opportunity to put Zhuhai in the top rank of cultural cities in the world. The palace is becoming a park for popular culture. The square will complement it, adding cultural and commercial value," he said.

"Zhuhai has many small parks but lacks a large public square. This new square must preserve the traditional cultural character of the palace and have a modern, romantic flavour," he said.

The decision has been warmly welcomed by retailers, restaurant and hotel owners and others in the tourism industry in Zhuhai. They see the decision as bringing more visitors to the city and boosting their income.



Building a palace

The NSP cost 600 million yuan and took four years to build. It opened on 2 February 1997, one of the largest tourist sites in Zhuhai. The owner is the Jiuzhou Development Company, a state-owned company that listed on the Hong Kong stock market in May 1998. It is an important investment vehicle of the Zhuhai city government in raising money in Hong Kong and abroad.

It is the city's largest tourism company, which, along with the NSP, operates hotels, villas, an international travel agency and 13 high-speed boats that transport 1.8 million passengers a year from Zhuhai to Hong Kong and Shenzhen.

The NSP covers one sixth of the area of the original one built in the Qing dynasty, with 18 of its 40 buildings. They are of the same size as the originals. It has three main parts – the imperial garden of the Ming and Qing dynasties, the classical garden of South China and buildings in the western style designed by two Jesuits resident in Beijing during the Qing dynasty.

It has a lake of 80,000 square metres and a water city with many attractions, including waterfalls, fountains,

rapids, a children's swimming pool and waterways of different kinds. There is a shopping street with stores, restaurants, hotels and tea houses.

The site also offers stalls and attractions, as well as large-scale song and dance performances on big stages, many with historical themes. In effect, it offers visitors both a glimpse into China's history and an amusement park with many things to do.

Since it opened, it has attracted more than 10 million visitors and been designated as a base of 'patriotic education'. The central government has classified it as a 4A tourist site.

Old Summer Palace

The Old Summer Palace was one of the architectural wonders of the world, covering an area of 3.5 square kilometres, almost five times the size of the Forbidden City and eight times the size of the Vatican City.

Located eight kilometres northwest of the Forbidden City, it was built in the 18th and early 19th century as the place where the Qing emperors lived and managed state affairs. They used the Forbidden City for formal ceremonies.





The New Summer Palace in Zhuhai with Macau in the background

On the ground stood hundreds of structures, such as halls, pavilions, temples, galleries, gardens, lakes and bridges. Thousands of masterpieces were stored there, making up one of the largest art collections in the world. Many dated to the Shang, Han and Zhou dynasties; some were more than 3,000 years old.

A majority of the buildings were of Chinese design, of the Ming and Qing period; a few were in Mongol and Tibetan styles, to reflect the size and diversity of the empire. Emperor Qianlong also invited two Jesuits, Guiseppe Castligione and Michel Benoist, to design European-style palaces, fountains and gardens.

Construction began in 1707 and continued through the rule of six emperors and several expansions for over 150 years.

During the second Opium War of 1860, the Anglo-French army entered Beijing. On 29 September, two of their diplomatic envoys and an escort of 37 British and Indian soldiers went to negotiate a truce with a royal prince. They were surrounded, taken prisoner and tortured.

After two weeks, 18 of the party were released; the other 21 were killed, their bodies barely recognisable.

On 7 and 8 October, British and French soldiers entered the palace, unopposed by Imperial troops

in the area, and plundered the items they wanted. On 18 October, Lord Elgin, the British High Commissioner to China, ordered the destruction of the palace, in retaliation for the torture and killings.

It took 3,500 British troops to set the whole palace ablaze; it took three days to burn. Only 13 royal buildings survived. The soldiers were each given prize money of 48 pounds sterling.

“You can scarcely imagine the beauty and magnificence of the places we burnt,” wrote Charles Gordon, then a captain in the British Army who later became a national war hero. “These places were so large and we were so pressed for time that we could not plunder them carefully.”

The soldiers preferred to loot porcelain – much of which can be found today in country houses in Britain and France. The Chinese government estimates that the soldiers stole at least 1.5 million pieces, including enamel, sculptures, furniture and silk paintings.

Wang Kaixi, a history professor at Beijing Normal University, said that the French army was against the burning and its soldiers played no part in it.

In an open letter, French author Victor Hugo denounced the looting as a crime and demanded that the stolen items be returned to China.

In 1900, many of the buildings that had survived or been restored were burnt by soldiers of the eight-power Allied forces sent to put down the Boxer rebellion. It became completely ruined.

Modern era

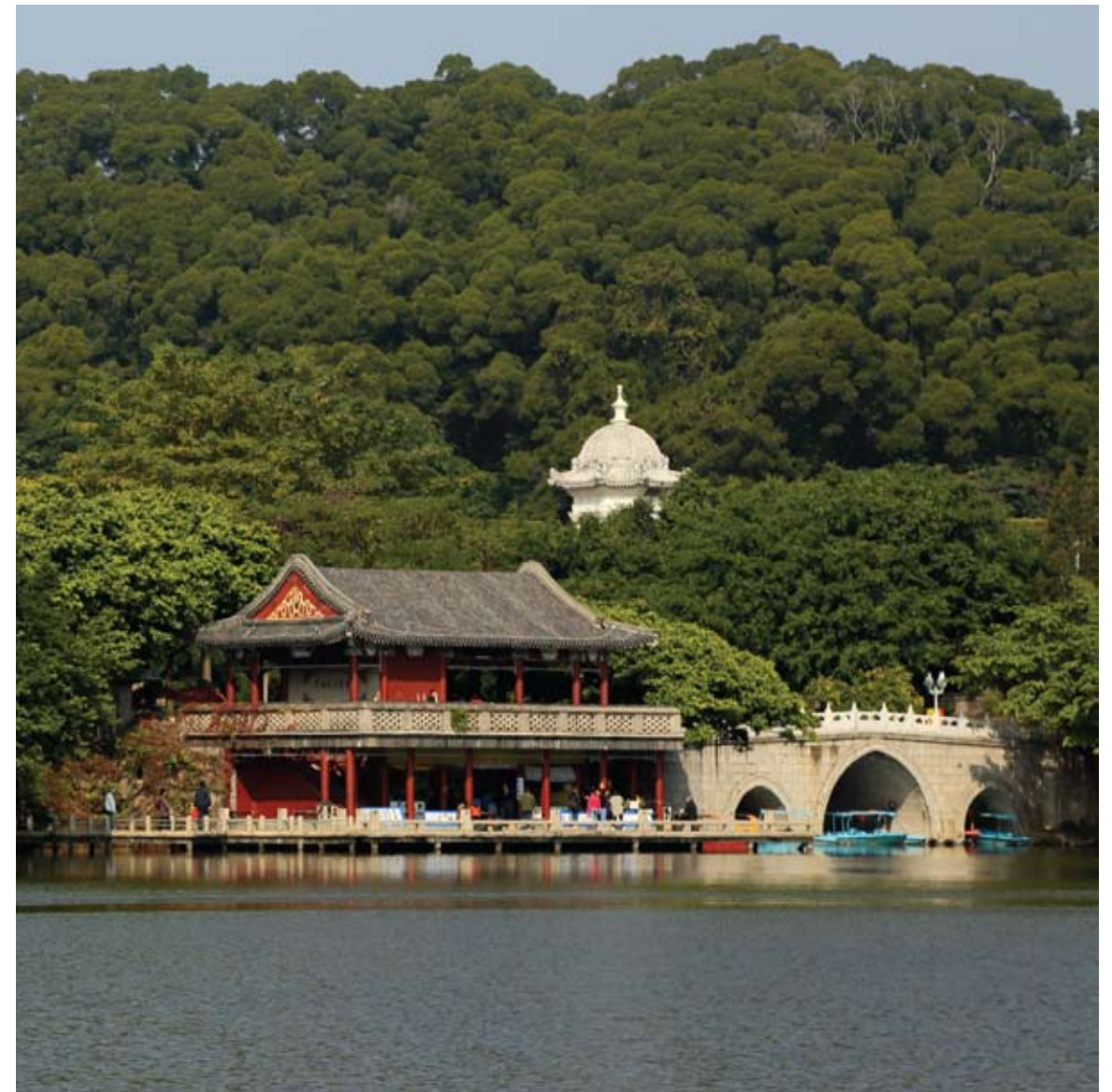
Most of the site was left abandoned and used by farmers as agricultural land. In the 1980s, the land was reclaimed by the government and turned into a historical site.

But no move has been made to restore the palace. This would be a colossal undertaking and cost billions of yuan. Many oppose it on the grounds that it would destroy an important relic of modern Chinese history.

They say that the site serves as a reminder to the tens of thousands of visitors every year of the barbarism of foreign armies against a weak China, and a lesson for the present. Most of the relics stolen from the palace remain in foreign museums and private collections. Despite the best efforts of the government, only a few have been returned.

On 17 December 2012, a French auction house sold for 1.1 million euros a green jade seal from the Qianlong period (1736–95), despite a protest from the Association of Chinese Art in Europe which said it was pillaged from the palace. The auction house said that it came from the personal collection of a French family which had owned it since the end of the 19th century.

Photos by Manuel Cardoso



Unique Architecture



Walled villages of Fujian are
UNESCO heritage site

By Mark O'Neill in Fujian



In the mountains of Fujian in southeast China stand one of the country's architectural gems. In 2008, they were classified as a World Heritage Site by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

In the 12th century, the Hakka people began to build walled villages as places for their community to live in safely against the hostility of the people around them. They were like huge buildings, round in shape, with a single door and no windows at ground level. They were self-sufficient, with wells, living spaces for people and animals, store rooms for food and weapons, canteens, schools and ancestral halls. They had room for up to 800 people and could store six months' supply of food.

The largest structures covered over 40,000 square metres; many of those which survive have more than 10,000. This style of architecture is unique not only to China but in the world. The traditional house in China has no more than two stories.

Construction involved a high level of craftsmanship. They are 'green' buildings, using natural materials like earth and wood, without the use of steel or concrete. They were built to withstand earthquakes and fire, resist damp and keep out wild animals and hostile neighbours.

People live in them today, enjoying the friendship and mutual assistance of living in a large community.

"The walled village is the best way to create a harmonious society," said Xu Songsheng, 59, who was born and grew up in one. A builder and designer, he was one of the prime movers in earning the UNESCO designation.

"When something happens, people help each other and are concerned for each other. If a child is not filial to his parents, others will criticise him. People praise the good and criticise the bad; it serves as a constraint, like education."

Hakka people

In China, Hakka means 'guest people'; they speak their own dialect. The ancestors of those who live in Fujian and other parts of southern China moved from the centre of the country centuries ago. Many emigrated overseas, especially to Southeast Asia and Mauritius, Reunion and Jamaica. Worldwide, the number of Hakkas is estimated to be 80 million, but not all speak their ancestral language.

Now they mainly live in Guangdong, southwest Fujian, southern Jiangxi, southern Hunan, Guangxi, south Guizhou, southeast Sichuan, Hainan and

Taiwan. Of Macao's population of 550,000, up to 20 percent are Hakka. Those who live in Guangdong account for over 60 percent of the total Hakka population, with the heaviest concentrations in the Meizhou and Heyuan districts. Of the overseas Hakka, 95 percent came from Guangdong.

Ethnically, Hakka are Han Chinese; they follow the same religious practices as other Chinese, including worship of their ancestors. What distinguished them was their language, their cuisine and their way of living; for example, Hakka women did not bind their feet, which was widespread among other Chinese people.

The migration of the Hakka people from Shanxi and Henan provinces in central China began in the late years of the Northern Sung and Southern Sung dynasty (1127–1279). The walled village first appeared in the 12th century, developed from the 14th–16th centuries – the early and middle Ming dynasty – and reached their peak between the 17th and first half of the 20th century.

In Guangdong and Fujian, the existing inhabitants resented the newcomers and pushed them out of the fertile land where they lived; the Hakka settled in remote and mountainous areas. During the 19th century, there was a series of armed conflicts

between the Cantonese and the Hakka.

When the Hakkas migrated, there was often little land left for them to farm. Many men turned to a career in the military or public service. They developed a variety of martial arts.

Their distinct architecture was a result of the need for self-protection when they settled into areas that were already well populated. Also, they needed to use local materials; living in remote places, they could not easily acquire building materials or other goods from elsewhere.

Development of buildings

The first walled villages were small, square or rectangular, plainly decorated and without stone foundations. In the 15th and 16th centuries, as agriculture improved, so the wealth of the area grew, attracting bandits; the structures became larger.

From the 17th century, tea and tobacco became important crops for southeast Fujian; in their size and decoration, the villages reflected the wealth derived from them. They were mostly built and owned by one powerful individual; he provided communal housing for members of his family clan.



In the early years, the Hakka earned their wealth from land and agriculture, like rearing ducks and cattle; in the 17th century, it was tea and shipping and later the processing of tobacco. The Hongkeng cluster was built by Lin Yong-song, a descendant of two brothers who settled in the area in around 1290. The Zhencheng village, built in 1912, was paid for by descendants of Lin in the 21st generation; these were two brothers who had made a fortune from the Sunrise cigarette cutter factory and spent 80,000 silver dollars on the building.

In the 20th century, funding often came from overseas Chinese, such as one in the Gaobei cluster, which local clansmen built with money provided by an overseas relative of theirs, after whom it was named. Building these large structures took a long time – a minimum of three years and, in the case of the biggest ones, dozens of years; it required the painstaking work of generations of craftsmen. They used enormous quantities of timber, with the walls thick at the base and thin at the top. They were built

to withstand fire, floods and earthquakes. In the basement, they had water tunnels which could also be used to escape during an emergency. One, built in the Hukang township in 1693, survived several earthquakes over a period of 300 years. The most severe was the Shantou earthquake of 13 February 1918, with a magnitude of 7.3 on the Richter scale; it caused a fissure of 50 centimetres between the third and fourth floors and shook the foundations. But the building remained standing. Since the late 1960s, construction of walled villages

has stopped. Improvement in transport has made it easy to bring steel, concrete and other modern building materials; most people prefer to live in a modern house rather than an old one.

World Heritage Villages

The Hakka built the walled villages in southwestern Fujian and adjoining areas of Jiangxi and Guangdong provinces. UNESCO chose a representative group of 46 buildings in Fujian as a World Heritage Site.



In Chinese, they are called 'tu lou', meaning 'earth structure'. Earth was the most common building material, followed by brick and stone. The external wall was one metre thick, made of earth crushed together, and the whole building was three or four stories high.

The first floor contained a well and living space for the animals. The second floor was to store food, weapons and other necessities. The residents lived on the third and fourth floors. The large storage area allowed the residents to withstand a long siege; they had their own food and a source of

water. The villages also often had a sophisticated sewage system.

Since the village was basically a defensive structure, turrets were built on the top floor and battlements to place muskets. The gate was the most vulnerable point; it was reinforced with stone and iron.

The buildings chosen by UNESCO are in Yongding, a county of 400,000 people in the southeast corner of Fujian; 99 percent of its people are Hakka. Like other parts of Fujian, it is mountainous – 80 percent hills and mountains, 10 percent water and rivers and only 10 per cent land that can be cultivated.

It has a high rainfall of 1,200–1,500 millimetres per year.

It is famous for its rice and tobacco, which is found in many of China's most famous brands. It is also rich in coal deposits and hydro-electric power, thanks to the abundant rainfall and mountainous terrain.

Yongding has 360 clusters of walled villages. They have a kitchen and canteen on the first floor, storage space on the second and living quarters on the third and fourth floors. In the central space on the ground is a hall to honour the ancestors; there are also washing and massage rooms and a well.

The walls are up to three metres thick; they keep the temperature warm in winter and cool in summer.

UNESCO citation

UNESCO picked 46 of the walled villages, built between the 15th and 20th centuries over 120 kilometres in southwest Fujian, as a World Heritage Site.

The organisation announced the decision at its 23rd Heritage Meeting in Quebec, Canada, on 6 July 2008. Its citation said: "...in their highly sensitive setting in fertile mountain valleys, they are an extraordinary reflection of a communal response to settlement which has persisted over time. They reflect the emergence, innovation and development of an outstanding art of earthen building over seven centuries.

"The elaborate compartmentalised interiors, some with highly decorated surfaces, met both their communities' physical and spiritual needs and reflect in an extraordinary way the development of a sophisticated society in a remote and potentially hostile environment. The relationship of the massive buildings to their landscape embodies both Feng Shui principles and ideas of landscape, beauty and harmony.

"The villages bear an exceptional testimony to a long-standing cultural tradition of defensive buildings for communal living that reflect sophisticated building traditions and ideas of harmony and collaboration, well documented over time.

"In terms of their form, they are a unique reflection of communal living and defensive needs and, in terms of their harmonious relationship with their environment, an outstanding example of human settlement. Their authenticity is related to sustaining the villages themselves and their building traditions as well as the structures and processes associated with their farm and forest landscape setting. The integrity of the village is related to their intactness as buildings but also to the intactness of the surrounding farm and forest landscape," it said.

King of the villages

The finest example is the Cheng Qi in Yongding. It has 384 rooms and accommodates more than 800 people. Construction began in the Ming dynasty and was completed in 1709, in the 48th year of the reign of Kang Xi during the Qing dynasty (1644–1911).

For the next 50 years, there was a conflict between three families, until one named Jiang prevailed.

It is 73 metres in diameter, with an external circumference of 1,915 metres and corridors as long as 229 metres. It has four floors, with a total of 400 rooms. It has three main doors, two wells and a total built-up area of 5,376 square metres. Over 60 families live there – a total of more than 600 people. In the centre, on the ground floor, is the hall for the ancestors.

It has been featured on Chinese Post Office stamps.

While the walled villages in Yongding are still occupied, many of the young people have left to find work in Shanghai, Shenzhen and other big cities. Many residents are elderly; they retain the warmth and fine cuisine of their ancestors.

The UNESCO designation has made Yongding and the other areas with walled villages major tourist

attractions. It means that residents can make money from the visitors, selling them tea, paintings and other objects.

Xu Songsheng is apprehensive about the future of this unique form of architecture. "It is a high form of art. But I fear that the skills to build them will be lost. The number of people like me are few and we are old. At the moment it only involves repair and maintenance of existing buildings."

His hope is that people in other parts of China will follow the example of the Hakka and keep the tradition alive. "I hope that, in the future, people will build walled villages, especially in remote, mountainous areas. The cost in raw materials is low, and they are safe and friendly. The recent repair of a walled village cost 180,000 yuan; if they had used modern building materials, it would have cost 500,000 yuan." ■

Photos by Xinhua News Agency



MACAO YEARBOOK 2012

Macao Yearbook 2012 is the regional almanac published by the Government Information Bureau of the Macao Administrative Region (MSAR)



The richly illustrated book aims to provide its readers with a comprehensive and objective record of the progress of Macao's political, economic, social and cultural developments in 2011. The well-edited Yearbook is meant to provide detailed and accurate information, in-depth analysis and concise data to all those who wish to know more about and better understand Macao.

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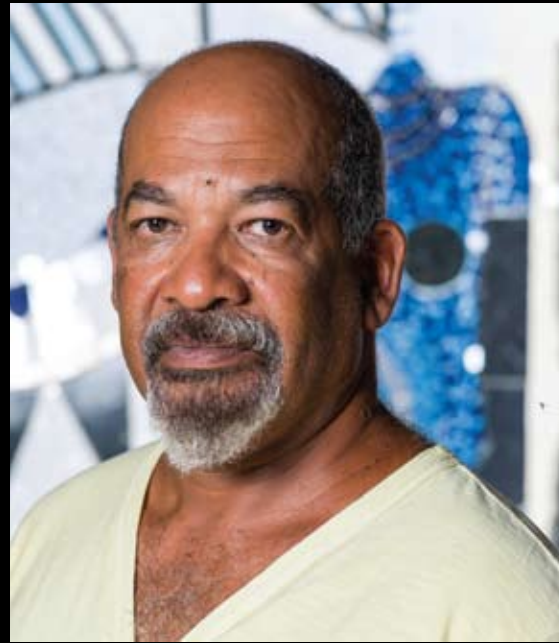
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Chinese from Macao brought tea to Brazil in 1809



Future of Chinese newspapers in Portugal looks bright



Mozambique Naguib Elias the independence artist




Yingge museum honors history of ceramics in Taiwan

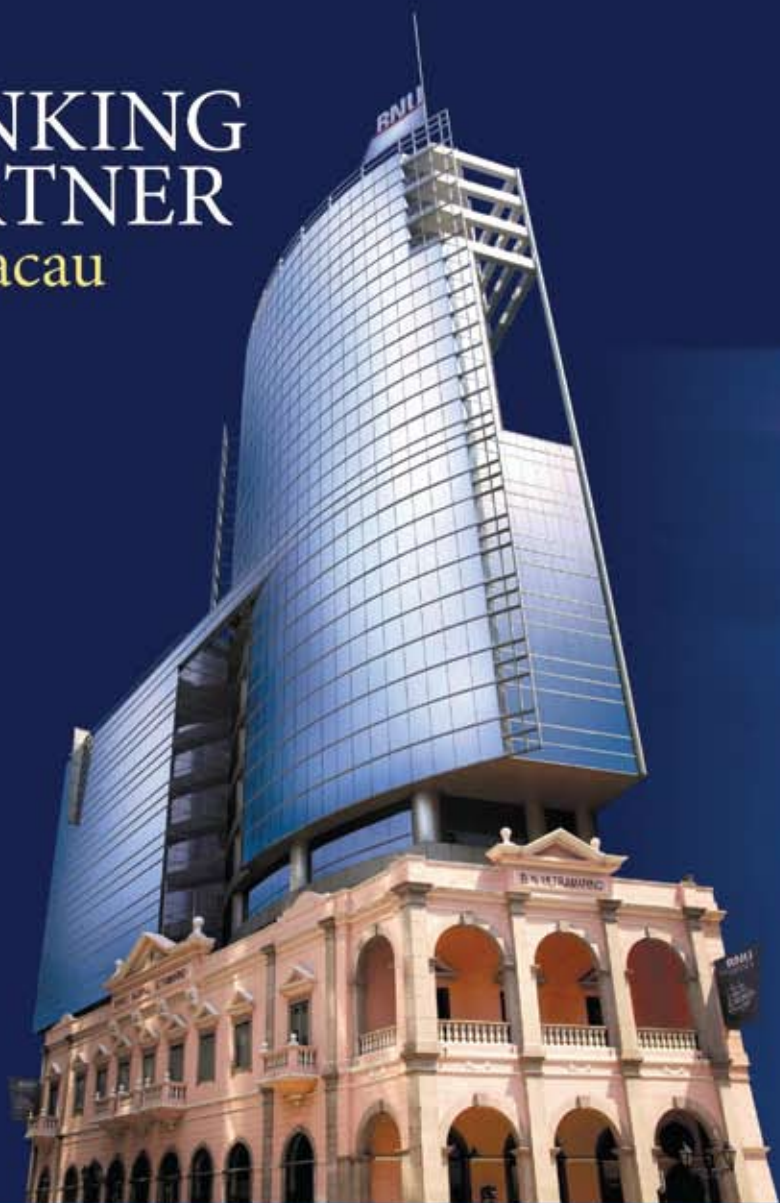


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