



The Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) was established on January 1st 2002 to replace the former Provisional Municipal Council of Macao and the former Provisional Municipal Council of the Islands. One of its responsibilities is to sign city twinning agreements and to maintain friendly relationship with Macao's existing sister cities.

Subsequently, the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) was officially established on January 1st 2019 replacing the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM). Since then, the relevant work of the exchanges between the Macao SAR Government and foreign cities was handed over to other government departments.



Signing of sister city protocol with Lisbon

On May 20th 1982, Mr. Roque Choi, the then Chairman of the Municipal Council of Macau and Mr. Nuno Krus Abecassis, the Chairman of the Lisbon Municipal Council, signed the "Sister City Protocol" in Lisbon. The signing of the protocol initiated the exchange programs in cultural, social, educational, informational and tourism areas between Macao and Lisbon. Both cities have been promoting their relationship through exhibitions, exchange of literature, receiving technical staff of the municipal councils and other activities of common interest.



In November 2002, a delegation of the IACM visited Lisbon and paid a visit to the officials to strengthen the subsequent cultural exchange between the two cities. In June 2005 IACM received a delegation from Lisbon. Both parties shared updates on their work and exchanged views on the cooperation and exchange between the sister cities.

In 2007, Mr. António Costa, the Chairman of the Lisbon Municipal Council, visited Macao to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the sister city protocol between Lisbon and Macao. Mr. Costa's visit was marked by the opening of "Lai Ieng Portugal Landscape Watercolour Painting Exhibition", held at the Macao Tea Culture House of Lou Lim Ioc Garden, on October 18th.

In October 2009, the a delegation from IACM visited Lisbon to attend the “Macau Impressions” photograph exhibition co-organised by IACM and the Macao Economic and Trade Office in Lisbon. The delegation paid a courtesy visit to the Lisbon Municipal Council to exchange opinions on the municipal affairs of Lisbon and Macao and the liaison between the sister cities.

Signing of sister city protocol with Porto

On June 26th 1997, Mr. José Luís de Sales Marques, the then Chairman of the Municipal Council of Macao and Mr. Fernando Gomes, the Chairman of the Porto Municipal Council in Portugal, signed the “Sister City Protocol” in Macao. The protocol recognised the intention of the two municipal councils and enterprises of the two cities to maintain long-term ties between them and promote the exchange and cooperation programs in the areas of culture, sport, environment and municipal activities between the two cities.



In November 2002, a delegation from IACM visited Porto and was received by the Vice Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Porto Municipal Council. Both parties exchanged views on the cultural exchange programs between the two cities. In October 2014, a delegation from Porto visited Macao and held an exchange meeting with IACM to reinforce communication between the two cities.

In May 2016, a delegation from IACM visited Porto and was received by Mr. Rui Moreira, President of the Porto City Council, so as to strengthen the friendly relationship between the two cities.

Signing of sister city protocol with Linköping

On November 29th 1997, Mr. José Luís de Sales Marques, the then Chairman of the Municipal Council of Macao and Ms. Eva Joelson, the Mayor of Linköping in Sweden, signed the "Sister City Protocol" in Macao. The signing of the protocol not only reinforced the historical ties and friendly relationship between the two cities, but also commemorated Mr. Anders Ljungstedt, the Ambassador of Sweden in China, for his contribution made during his stay in Macao between 1815 and 1835.



In mid-2002, a delegation from IACM visited Linköping. Both parties discussed the reinforcement of cultural exchange between the two cities in accordance with the content of the sister city protocol. In October 2002, a delegation from Linköping paid Macao a return visit.

In 2004, Linköping and Macao jointly organised the "From Linköping, Sweden, to Macao – A Photography Exhibition", with the purpose of enhancing the historical ties between the two cities. Ms. Eva Joelson, the Mayor of Linköping, and her delegation attended the opening ceremony of the exhibition held in Macao.

Later, the a delegation from Linköping visited Macao in July 2006, March 2009, November 2010 and March 2014, to discuss further exchange programs with the IACM and other government departments and to expand collaboration opportunities in various areas.



Signing of sister city protocol with Coimbra

On November 30th 1998, Mr. Joaquim Madeira de Carvalho, the then Chairman of the Municipal Council of the Islands, and Mr. Manuel Machado, the Chairman of the Coimbra Municipal Council in Portugal, signed the "Sister City Protocol" in Macao. The protocol reinforced the exchanges in educational, cultural and sports areas between the two cities.



In November 2002, a delegation from IACM visited Coimbra and was received by the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Coimbra Municipal Council. They exchanged views on how to

expand the exchange and cooperation between Macao and Coimbra. On January 6th 2012, the Consultative Committee of the Coimbra Municipal Council visited the IACM. Both parties provided updates on their work, through which the friendly relationship between the two sister cities was strengthened.

Signing of sister city protocol with São Paulo

On the 19th of June 2000, a sister city protocol was signed in São Paulo by Mr. José Luís Sales Marques and Mr. Celso Pitta, who were the then chairmen of the former Provisional Municipal Council of Macao and mayor of São Paulo, Brazil respectively.



The two cities came to an agreement for enhancing friendship and promoting cultural and economic interactions through information exchange on cultural, tourism, sport, political and social activities. Furthermore, contacts among enterprises and organisations are to be facilitated in order to achieve the goal of the bilateral agreement.

Signing of sister city protocol with Praia

On December 4th 2007, Mr. Tam Vai Man, the then Chairman of the Administration Committee of the IACM and Mr. Felisberto Vieira, the Chairman of Praia Municipal Council of Cape Verde, signed the "Sister City Protocol" in Macao.

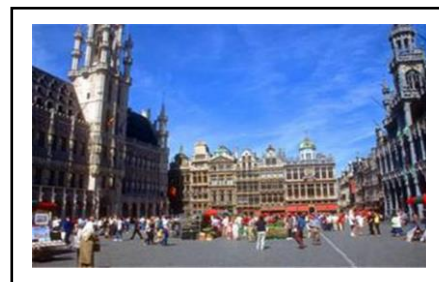


The two cities pledged to offer mutual assistance through their respective strengths, and to establish a close, stable and friendly relationship on the basis of mutual benefits.

On September 28th 2009, the IACM received a delegation of Praia. Both parties met to exchange views on the cooperation in cultural areas.

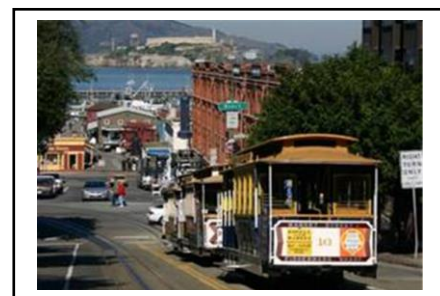
Signing of friendship agreement with Brussels

On December 11th 1991, a friendship agreement was signed in Brussels by Mr. José Maneiras and Mr. Ferbé Brouhon, who were the then chairman of Macao Municipal Council and mayor of Brussels respectively, for strengthening friendship and promoting cooperation between the two cities.



Signing of cultural memorandum of understanding with San Francisco

On November 2nd 2001, during the Mayor of San Francisco, Mr. Lewis Brown Jr.'s visit to Macao, the Provisional Municipal Council of Macao signed a "Cultural Memorandum" with the Asian Art Museum, the Economic Development Group of Chinatown, the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, and the Chinese Cultural Center of San Francisco.



Soon after in February 2002, the Macao Museum of Art organised a Shiwan ceramics exhibition in San Francisco under the theme of "The 108 heroes in Water Margin". Mr. Lau Si Io, the then Chairman of the Administration Committee of the IACM and Mr. Willie Brown, the Mayor of San Francisco, attended the opening ceremony. Since then, IACM has participated in the Chinese New Year celebration activities of the Chinatown in San Francisco every year.

In 2003 and February 2004, a delegation from IACM visited San Francisco and held exchange activities with the personnel of the San Francisco government. In addition, Macao received the San Francisco delegations in December 2007, November 2009 and April 2013, so as to strengthen the friendly relationship between the two cities and sustain the effective cooperation and cultural exchange.

Signing of cooperation agreement with Da Nang

On October 10th 2006, Mr. Lau Si Io, the then Chairman of the Administration Committee of the IACM and Mr. Van Huu Chien, the Vice Chairman of the Da Nang People's Committee of Vietnam, signed a "Protocol of Cooperation" in Macao, with the purpose to consolidate the friendly relationship and mutual interests of the two cities. The two cities pledged to offer mutual assistance through their respective strengths, and to establish a close, stable and friendly relationship on the basis of mutual benefits.



On 26th to 28th of October 2006, a delegation from the Da Nang People's Committee of Vietnam visited Macao whereas a delegation from IACM paid a reciprocal visit on November 29th to December 4th 2008. Through the mutual visits and exchanges between Macao and Da Nang, the communication between the friendly cities was strengthened.



Participation of IACM in UCCLA activities

The Union of Luso-African-American-Asiatic Capital Cities (UCCLA) was founded in 1985, with its headquarters located in Lisbon. It is an international non-profit association of municipal organisations which aims to strengthen the understanding and cooperation between member cities, promote the development of communities and improve the welfare of citizens through cultural and technological exchange. The UCCLA member cities include cities in Africa, Latin America, Asia and Europe, and it has various supporting enterprises and organisations.



Macao is one of the founding members of UCCLA and has been appointed Vice Chairman of the Executive Committee for several times. The meetings of the General Assembly and the Executive Committee have been held in Macao multiple times.

The 13th and 17th General Assembly of UCCLA were held in Macao in 1997 and 2001, respectively. Mr. João Soares, Chairman of the General Assembly, presided over the two meetings.

In 2007 UCCLA held its meetings of the Executive Committee and the General Assembly in Macao. On October 18th, the meeting of the Executive Committee was held in the Grand Hall of the Civic

and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) Building. It was presided over by Mr. António Costa, the representative of Lisbon and Chairman of the Executive Committee. The 23rd UCCLA General Assembly was held on October 19th in the Macao Cultural Centre. In addition to the representatives from municipal organisations of member cities, Ms. Florinda Chan, the then Secretary for Administration and Justice, and Mr. Tam Vai Man, the then Chairman of the Administration Committee of the IACM, were also in attendance. The meetings fostered and strengthened the communication and exchange between Portuguese-speaking countries and regions.

Mr. Tam Vai Man, the then Chairman of the Administration Committee of IACM, led a delegation to Lisbon and paid a courtesy visit to the UCCLA headquarters to understand its operations on October 22nd 2009. The delegation was warmly welcomed by Mr. Miguel Correia, Secretary-General of UCCLA and other personnel. Both sides discussed the cooperation and exchange in the municipal affairs of Portuguese-speaking cities.

On May 16th 2012, the meeting of UCCLA's Executive Committee was again held in the Grand Hall of the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) Building in Macao, and Mr. Graciano Domingos, Chairman of the Executive Committee and Vice Provincial Governor of Luanda, presided over the meeting. Mr. Tam Vai Man, representative of the Macao Special Administrative Region, who was Vice-Chairman of the Executive Committee and the then Chairman of the Administration Committee of IACM, was also in attendance. Delegates discussed internal affairs and the projects to be launched in the year during the meeting. The delegates who attended the meeting also paid a visit to Ms. Florinda Chan, the then Secretary for Administration and Justice, when they were in Macao.

On September 14th 2015, the second annual meeting of the Executive Committee was held in Macao at the Grand Hall of the IACM Building. Mr. David Simango, representative of Maputo and Chairman of the Executive Committee presided over the meeting. Mr. Vong Iao Lek, the then Chairman of the Administration Committee of IACM, who is also Vice-Chairman of the Executive Committee, was also in attendance. The delegates discussed internal affairs and passed the working outline of the year. During their stay in Macao, the Executive Committee members were received by Ms. Chan Hoi Fan, Secretary for Administration and Justice.

Furthermore, the representatives of Macao have also attended UCCLA's General Assembly and Executive Committee meetings, which were held in other regions.

The relevant work of UCCLA has already been handed over to the Delegação Económica e Comercial de Macau, em Lisboa since 2017.

