

CTS starts accepting foreign permanent residents' mainland travel permit applications

Applicants say process 'quite smooth'

Yuki Lei

China Travel Service (Macao) Limited at Nam Kwong Building in Zape yesterday started accepting applications from non-Chinese, i.e., foreign permanent residents of Macau for special travel permits to enter mainland China on multiple trips for up to 90 days each time within a five-year validity period, and four applicants, comprising Portuguese, Filipino and Canadian nationals, told reporters separately yesterday morning that the whole process was "quite smooth", taking not more than 20 minutes to complete, as long as the required documents were well prepared beforehand.

The foreign holders of the new permits, which resemble Chinese nationals' ID card-like travel permits, shall not work, study or engage in activities such as news reporting while in the mainland.

Speaking to the media yesterday, China Travel Service (Macao) Limited Entry Permit Centre Department Deputy General Manager Conny Chan Kit Mui said that, according to the agency's appointment system, the number of



This photo taken yesterday shows foreign permanent Macau residents, who have made their appointment online, applying for their special mainland travel permits at four dedicated service counters at China Travel Service (Macao) Limited on the first floor of Nam Kwong Building in Zape.

– Photo: Yuki Lei

foreign Macau permanent residents who have made appointments to apply for their mainland travel permit exceeded 400 as of yesterday morning.

"It is estimated that about 30 would turn up today [yesterday]",

Chan added, pointing out that most of the 400 registered applicants were Portuguese and Malaysian nationals, accounting for about 45 and 40 percent of the total appointments, respectively.

Chan underlined that up to

100 appointments per day will be accepted.

According to Identification Services Bureau (DSI) data, there were about 19,500 non-Chinese permanent residents in Macau at the end of last year, some 2.85 percent

of the total population of 683,700 at the end of last year.

According to Chan, in order to meet the requirements of the National Immigration Administration (NIA) and the expected demand for the new permits, China Travel Service (CTS) has increased its human resources, including staff with knowledge of Portuguese and English, to provide assistance to people of different nationalities.

Chan said that all the applicants can now make their appointment by filling in the application form and uploading the required documents, including a photo of their Macau ID card and foreign passport, as well as their "Certificate of Personal Data" issued by the Identification Services Bureau (DSI) within six months prior to the date of application, via its website at www.cts.com.mo, before they can process their application in person at CTS within 28 days from the date of application: "Even if they didn't make an appointment online, if they walk in, we'll help them solve their problems, as long as they have all the documents with them that they need".

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CNN plans to launch paid streaming service, cut 100 jobs

NEW YORK – CNN, which has struggled amid the decline of the US cable broadcasting industry, plans to launch a new paid streaming service and to cut about 100 jobs, the company's CEO said yesterday.

The network, which once set the pace in cable news, aims for its new US\$1 billion-plus subscription news product to launch before the end of 2024, Chief Executive Mark Thompson said in a memo to staff.

"We are creating best-in-class, subscriber-first products that provide need-to-know news, analysis and context in compelling formats and experiences," Thompson said.

"This starts with our first subscription product launching before the end of 2024."

CNN had unveiled a short-lived for-pay streaming service in 2022 before quickly pulling the plug due to the merger between CNN parent company WarnerMedia and Discovery.

About a year later, Chris Licht was replaced as CEO by Thompson, formerly of the BBC and the *New York Times*, following criticism of the network's editorial direction.

Under the new plan, CNN aims for its initial "need-to-know" subscription product to be followed by "want-to-use" paid offerings centered on lifestyle journalism, Thompson said.

CNN also plans to merge three separate newsrooms for US newsgathering, international newsgathering and global digital news into a single organisation. – AFP

Clooney and Democrats pile pressure on Biden



WASHINGTON – US President Joe Biden suffered a stunning blow yesterday when actor and leading Democratic supporter George Clooney urged him to drop his reelection bid, while party heavyweight Nancy Pelosi declined to back his candidacy.

As the 81-year-old tried to show his leadership credentials at a NATO summit in Washington, domestic pressure mounted on Biden to quit following his disastrous debate performance against Donald Trump.

Biden has been trying to stem a growing tide of Democrats saying that he cannot win in November, but Clooney's surprise intervention squashed his efforts to turn the page on the crisis.

The Hollywood star penned a devastating editorial in *The New York Times* just three weeks after hosting a huge fundraiser in Los Angeles that raised nearly US\$30 million for Biden.

"It's devastating to say it, but the Joe Biden I was with three weeks ago at the fundraiser was not the Joe 'big F-ing deal' Biden of 2010," wrote Clooney.

"He wasn't even the Joe Biden of 2020. He was the same man we all witnessed at the debate."

Clooney said that Biden would lose the presidential election, and Democrats would also lose in the Senate and House of Representatives. – AFP

Macau's best-selling English-language newspaper – Your trusted source for real news : accurate, balanced and concise The Macau Post Daily

Chinese, Guinea-Bissau presidents hold talks, elevate ties

China and Guinea-Bissau yesterday elevated their relations to a strategic partnership. President Xi Jinping and Umaro Sissoco Embaló, president of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, announced this when holding talks in Beijing. – Story on p. 7

Astronomers spot mysteriously elusive mid-sized black hole

Astronomers said yesterday they have found the strongest evidence yet of a medium-sized black hole, the strange absence of which has been one of the enduring mysteries of the cosmos. – Story on p. 11

UK police hunt crossbow attack suspect after 3 women killed

UK police were searching yesterday for a suspect who may have a crossbow after the wife and two daughters of a BBC radio racing commentator were killed in a suspected "targeted" attack. – Story on p. 12

24 main roadworks to go on during school summer holidays: govt



Transport Bureau (DSAT) Coordination Department Chief Mok Soi Tou (centre), Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) official Leong Chan Weng (third from right), and Public Works Bureau (DSOP) Infrastructure Projects Division Chief Wong Kuok Heng (third from left), as well as other government officials and public utilities' representatives, attend a press conference yesterday at the DSAT headquarters to introduce the city's ongoing and upcoming summer roadworks. Photo: Ginnie Liang

Ginnie Liang

A total of 24 main roadwork projects are to be carried out during this school summer holidays, 21 of which are slated to be finished before the new school year begins in September, Transport Bureau (DSAT) Coordination Department Chief Mok Soi Tou said yesterday.

The bureau held a press conference yesterday on its premises to introduce the city's ongoing and upcoming main "summer roadworks". Various public utilities' representatives also attended.

Mok told the press conference that the projects involve a number of major roads in Areia Preta district, which were expected to cause "very heavy" traffic congestion there, adding that the bureau asked for residents' understanding of and attention to the temporary traffic arrangements.

Mok also appealed to drivers and pedestrians to exercise patience, show understanding to one another, and make detours to avoid entering the area, and travelling safely.

Major roads resurfacing work

Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) official Leong Chan Weng said during yesterday's press conference that resurfacing will be carried out on road surfaces with serious damage and heavy traffic flow during the school summer holidays, including those around Avenida Dr Rodrigo Rodrigues (羅理基博士大馬路), Alameda Dr Carlos d'Assumpção (宋玉生廣場), Avenida Doutor Stanley Ho (何鴻燊博士大馬路), Praça de Ferreira do Amaral (亞馬喇前地), Avenida da Ponte da Amizade (友誼橋大馬路), and Avenida de D. João IV (約翰四世大馬路).

Leong said that the existing road surfaces of the affected areas are in poor condition, with large undulations, posing a certain degree of potential danger to drivers.

Leong added that the works at Avenida Rodrigo Rodrigues had already begun on Sunday, while the rest of the works will commence from mid-July onwards, while some of the resurfacing would be carried out at night.

Sai Van Bridge resurfacing work

Public Works Bureau (DSOP) Infrastructure Projects Division Chief Wong Kuok Heng said that the Macau-Taipa Sai Van Bridge will be resurfaced during the school summer holidays, and the exact time of the work would be announced once it is confirmed.

Wong noted that each direction of Sai Van Bridge has three vehicular lanes, and during the resurfacing period, the bureau will ensure that there will be two lanes available in each direction, stressing that during the resurfacing, motorcycles and cars will share the same lanes.

Wong pointed out that the bridge has been in use for 19 years and the road surface has been worn out in places due to its high usage rate, but the road surface of the whole bridge has never been resurfaced.

Members of the public are urged to plan ahead and make their trips as early as possible, and also browse real-time traffic information and plan their routes in advance through the DSAT mobile app "Macau Smart Go". ■

CTS starts accepting foreign permanent residents' mainland travel permit applications

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Chan reminded all the applicants to bring along their Macau permanent ID card, ordinary passport with a validity period of no less than six months and the DSI's "Certificate of Personal Data", as well as two recent ID photos complying with the NIA guidelines and a receipt proving that their photos were taken no more than six months ago.

Generally speaking, according to Chan, the processing period for acceptance, approval and issuance of the permits is 20 working days.

On the first day of the new measure yesterday, China Travel Service (Macao) Limited welcomed its first non-Chinese Macau permanent resident, Henrique Saldanha, at 9:30 a.m.

Saldanha, a Portuguese national who has been living in Macau for 42 years, told reporters after his application that the measure was a "great opportunity" for him and his family to travel around mainland China without any restrictions: "The fact that I've got this permit now is a plus in terms of my chances of getting to know [mainland] China better".

Saldanha, who works as a lawyer, used to visit the mainland only once or twice a year, mainly on business trips, and his stays were not very long, but now, after obtaining his permit, he can explore the mainland with his family.

Saldanha's wife, Amélia António, who moved to Macau in 1982 from Portugal, said that the new measure could speed up foreign Macau permanent resident's knowledge of mainland China as the permit would make it easier for them to travel to the mainland anytime "to feel the development" there: "I think that is very useful and I think we'll be very grateful to [the National Immigration Administration] to go ahead with this kind of adjustment and the measures so that we [can] feel more at home, have more space and get more integrated". António, president of Macau's Portuguese community association "Casa de Portugal" ("Portugal's House"), also said that with the new measure, permanent residents from the Portuguese community in Macau can travel to mainland China more easily, quickly and conveniently, anytime anywhere.

A Canadian national surnamed Cheang, who used to travel to the mainland five to seven times a year, said that the measure was very convenient for him as it saves him time and money in visiting his relatives in the mainland: "In the future, it will be more convenient for me to cross the border to the mainland without having to queue up for so long or apply for a visa.... In the past, it took about an hour to cross the border through the Barrier Gate checkpoint, hopefully, it will be reduced to within 15 minutes [with the new mainland travel permit]". Cheang also said he would travel to Zhuhai to visit relatives and friends there as soon as he gets the permit.

John Capuz, a Filipino who has been living in Macau for over 30 years and used to visit the mainland with his family and friends once a week for meals, also said that the permit would make it more convenient for non-Chinese permanent Macau residents to easily access mainland China: "If you use a visa to cross the border, it will take longer and you have to wait for confirmation from the [mainland] Chinese [immigration services], but it will now be more convenient to cross the border if you have obtained a permit, and it will be easier to enter [the mainland as you can cross the border via the checkpoints' e-channels]".

However, Capuz was unable to apply for the permit yesterday as he did not take all the required documents with him.

Hitherto, most of Macau's foreign permanent and non-permanent residents could only enter the mainland by travelling on their passports and after obtaining an entry visa, with the exception of foreign nationals exempted from the visa requirement, such as nationals from Germany, France, Italy and Spain.

The implementation of the new measure aims to further promote extensive exchanges and movement of people between the mainland, Hong Kong and Macau, and facilitate the smooth conduct of business, trade and investment, cultural tourism, education and scientific research activities, according to a recent NIA statement issued in anticipation of yesterday's formal start of the new measure. ■

Local driver smuggles 6.02 grams of ice from HK

Yuki Lei

Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Chong Kam Leong announced yesterday the arrest of a local driver on Tuesday at the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HZMB) Macau checkpoint for smuggling a total of 6.02 grams of methamphetamine (aka ice) with an estimated street value of 18,000 patacas from Hong Kong to Macau.

Chong said during yesterday's regular press conference: "The Judiciary Police had received intelligence that a local man would go to Hong Kong to buy drugs on July 9, 2024, and bring them back to Macau for sale and, therefore, the Judiciary Police conducted the relevant investigation and successfully identified the 43-year-old man surnamed Wong, before

putting him under surveillance. The Judiciary Police found the man returning to Macau via the HZMB checkpoint at 7 p.m. on the same day and intercepted him, on whom the officers discovered 6.02 grams of ice. The officers also found drug-taking paraphernalia at his home."

Wong, who works as a driver, only admitted that he had begun to sell drugs early this year, but refused to further cooperate with the police, according to Chong, who noted that Wong was taken to the public Conde de S. Januário Hospital Centre for a urine drug test, where he tested negative for drugs.

The Judiciary Police are continuing their investigation into the case, Chong said, adding that they transferred Wong to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) yesterday for further questioning, where he faces charges of taking and selling narcotics and psychotropic substances, as well as possessing drug-taking paraphernalia. ■



This photo taken yesterday shows China Travel Service (Macao) Limited staff explaining to a non-Chinese permanent Macau resident how to apply for a special travel permit to enter mainland China. Photo: Yuki Lei

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Macau Weather

CLOUDY APART FROM SUNNY INTERVALS.
A FEW SHOWERS.
FORCE 2 TO 4 SOUTH TO SOUTHWESTERLY WINDS.
RELATIVE HUMIDITY WILL RANGE BETWEEN 65% AND 95%.



27°C~32°C

Source: SMG

Local journalists attend 10th Nishan Forum on World Civilisations in Qufu

US scholar Jeffrey Sachs praises China's global development strategy

Maria Cheang Ut Meng in Qufu

JINAN – Macau's 11-member English- and Portuguese-language media delegation, organised by the Central People's Government Liaison Office in the Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR) attended yesterday the first day of the 10th Nishan Forum on World Civilisations in Qufu, the birthplace of Confucius, in the northeastern province of Shandong, with the theme of Traditional Culture and Modern Civilisation.

The forum's official aim is to provide solutions to better address global challenges and promote the progress of human civilisation.

The 10th edition of the two-day forum has attracted nearly 400 international guests from 63 countries and regions, participating in various activities including interviews, keynote speeches, and parallel dialogues.

Prominent US scholar Jeffrey Sachs, director of the Centre for Sustainable Development at Columbia University, was one of the key speakers. He strongly criticised the US administration's anti-China policies. In a media interview on the sidelines of the forum's opening ceremony, Sachs praised this "very important forum because it is bringing together people from all over the world to pursue shared ideals, peace and to learn about China's great culture, to learn about Confucianism and Confucius's wisdom, and the beauty of this civilisation."

Sachs also said the world's main challenge right now was "to live together peacefully. We have eight billion people in the world. The world is crowded, and there's a lot of tension and many wars."

Sachs, 69, an economist and public policy analyst, also said that "these wars come from a misunderstanding, a lack of true knowledge, a lack of true ethical knowledge." He also said that many people in the US "don't know the wonders of this [Chinese] civilisation. They don't understand that China is not an enemy of the United States or any other place in the world. And so, this is a misunderstanding that's very serious. And our political leaders in my country and in many others are not very responsible. They're not very knowledgeable [either]."

Sachs added: "And they are more oriented towards war than peace. So this is the most



Jeffrey Sachs delivers his keynote address during the opening session of forum in Qufu yesterday morning.

important problem in our world today is having a mutual understanding, harmony in diversity, as Confucius said, and the ability to solve problems through diplomacy rather than through war."

Sachs also said that the West's claim that China's global investment "is a way of dominating is, of course, absurd. I would say in any logical terms, China's investment raises the incomes in poor countries. I was recently in Ethiopia where China has expanded the power supply tremendously, and I visited many poor farmers who are now making higher incomes because they had electricity. And they could actually transport their goods to market, in that case, to a market in the Middle East because China had helped to build a fast rail [link] between Addis Abeba and Djibouti. So people who make such statements that what China is doing in developing countries is somehow harmful simply don't understand what they are talking about. They are repeating propaganda coming out of Washington."

Sachs also pointed out that "countries need long-term finance because development



US scholar and China expert Jeffrey Sachs talks to reporters, including several from Macau, on the sidelines of the opening session of the 10th Nishan Forum on World Civilisations in Qufu, the birthplace of Confucius, in the north-eastern province of Shandong yesterday. Sachs delivered a keynote address on the first of the two-day forum in which he criticised the US administration for its hegemonic anti-China stance.

– Photos: Maria Cheang Ut Meng

is a long-term process. If you're poor today, you're going to be poor next year, but maybe a little bit less poor and then a little bit less poor afterwards. In the case of China, China was an extremely impoverished country in 1980. Now it's a very, very successful economy, but that's more than 40 years. So the key is to give long-term finance for long-term development. This is what I like to explain when I'm in China, what I'd like to explain when I'm in China, what I like to explain when I'm in Washington, when I'm in Brussels, when I'm at the IMF or the World Bank or at the United Nations, which is make the finance match the needs."

Sachs also said he believes "that China is very keen on promoting successful development in all parts of the world. The Belt and Road Initiative is an extremely positive and important initiative. It should be welcomed by Europe. It should be welcomed by the United States. Instead, in English we say 'they trash talk it.' They try to turn it into a negative. It's extremely positive and important. And the United States, if it had honesty and clarity, it would say, we will partner with China. We'll help to spread electrification. We'll help to spread schools. We'll help spread fast rail. I wish we had some in the United States, by the way, fast rail. We don't have any fast rail in the United States."

Sachs also said that "the US elections won't change almost anything about US policy towards China, which is very misguided, based on misunderstandings and based on lots of propaganda.... The problem is in our political class right now. The problem is getting an understanding that the United States is not the leader of the world. It can't have its say. What it can do is cooperate peacefully with China, with Russia, with other countries, not only demand that it has its say, unfortunately, our political class is still unaware of this basic reality that the world has moved on."

Sachs also said that "the world looks at the United States in amazement what is going on there, not in any kind of respect right now, because everyone is shocked. And so, this is the real situation. But the key is to get to that understanding without more intervening wars."

Sachs concluded the group interview by pointing out that the "best thing that China is doing diplomatically is talking about peace and talking about sustainable development in the world. And if the US and Europe are talking about war, the more China talks about peace and harmony and diversity and sustainable development, the more the rest of the world runs in this direction to say, yes, that's what we want. We don't want war. We don't want to choose sides. It's not us versus them. We want safety, security, peace, and sustainable development. There's just been a successful meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.... Most of the world wants to get on, solve the climate crisis, solve the environmental crises and poverty, benefit from the new technologies and not be told, oh, you can't deal with this one. You can't deal with that one. This one's good. That one's evil. That's the American approach, which is completely out of date and completely dangerous. And we need a new approach. And the best way for China is to promote that what it's doing through initiatives like the Global Civilisation Initiative and the Global Development Initiative and the BRICS and others, and the Belt and Road Initiative, very important, which is to say we want peace, cooperation, the UN Charter, the international rule of law and sustainable development. And that will inspire the whole world."

The forum also features six sub-themes, including Civilisational Exchange and Mutual Learning under Global Challenges. For the first time, the forum includes a sports culture forum and a family culture symposium. It will also host a Sino-Italian classical civilisations dialogue.

The Nishan Forum on World Civilisations focuses on dialogues among world civilisations and contributing to the building of a community with a shared future for mankind. The forum integrates academic, international and open dialogues as a platform for international culture and thought exchanges.

The local media delegation will return to Macau tomorrow after an almost weeklong visit to Shandong, which also included the port city of Qingdao. ■

– (More on p. 6)



Members of the Macau press delegation are posing for a snap shot while attending yesterday's opening session of the forum.



COLLECTIVE EXHIBITION FEATURES 45 DIFFERENT ARTWORKS

Rui Pastorin

A collective exhibition kicked off earlier this week at the Rui Cunha Foundation (FRC) gallery that is showcasing 45 works of Chinese calligraphy and painting, as well as watercolours, oils and acrylics, all of which are on display until July 20.

The free-admission exhibition, titled “2024 Flower and Colour”, is organised by the foundation in conjunction with Chinese Artists Exchange Association – Macau, with the support of Macau Arts, Painting and Calligraphy Friendship Association. It is a biannual event.

According to a recent statement from the gallery, the works were created by 38 students who participated in adult and youth classes under the guidance of local teachers and artists Lee Chau Ping, Hong Ka Yan and Wong Ceoi Lam.

The statement quoted Lee as saying that this platform allows the students to “share

their creative achievements and hand-painted works with others. I also hope that senior calligraphy and painting artists can provide more valuable opinions so that teachers and students can strive for artistic excellence”.

Lee is also the founder and president of the Macau Arts, Painting and Calligraphy Friendship Association.

He added that it is hoped that students “can communicate with each other, observe and learn, cultivate cultural literacy, express sentiments, enrich spiritual life, and promote traditional Chinese culture to achieve the purpose of passing the torch from generation to generation”.

The gallery is open from Monday to Friday between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. and between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Saturday.



Matthew Bourne's 'Romeo + Juliet' now showing at CCM



Romeo + Juliet's Resident Director Alan Vincent (from left to right) and performers Hannah Kremer, Jackson Fisch and Bryony Pennington pose after yesterday's meet-the-media event at the Macau Cultural Centre (CCM). — Photo: Rui Pastorin

Rui Pastorin

Matthew Bourne's "Romeo + Juliet" will take to the stage for four shows from today through Sunday at the Macau Cultural Centre's (CCM) Grand Auditorium, with the award-winning British choreographer's reimagining bringing a contemporary twist to the classic story of star-crossed lovers.

Presented by New Adventures, the 110-minute dance theatre's Resident Director Alan Vincent, Jackson Fisch, who plays Romeo, and Hannah Kremer and Bryony Pennington, who both play Juliet, met with media at CCM yesterday to talk about the performance, each expressing their excitement of bringing the show to Macau for the first time.

Vincent told reporters that the show has been touring different parts of the world for around a year. "It will be interesting to see how the Macau audience will be different to the other audiences we've had".

With a reimagined era, setting and characters, performers also told the *Post* that the show, which premiered in 2019, has many aspects that make it different, with Pennington pointing out: "It's Romeo and Juliet, but not as you know it". She said that the classic story has had many adaptations, but this take on the classic story brings something different.

"I think we are telling it in a very new, current and different way. It's raw and it just feels like it's important to tell the story of forbidden love", while it also feels amazing to bring new life to old characters, which each actor does, according to Pennington.

Speaking on the preparations for the show, which they described

as physically and emotionally demanding, Fisch told reporters that in general, they have a month of rehearsals, always practicing and having note sessions throughout the tour. "The show is always developing and growing, not so much depending on where we are, but just where we are with the show at the time. Always trying to improve it and make it better".

Moreover, Vincent said that all company members take on at least two roles. There are also three pairs of Romeos and Juliets, each of whom bring something different to the role while giving it their all. "You always get a different Romeo and Juliet bringing something to that story".

Most of the performers in their group, according to Fisch, were dancers first, but learnt to emote on stage and the techniques behind it through Bourne's direction, as well as from their residents, dance captains, and the people around them.

Meanwhile, the interviewees also mentioned what they hoped audiences could take away from watching the performance. Vincent said he hopes that audiences will find it to be thought provoking given its heavy subject matter, while Pennington, who notes that the show has an important message, hopes that audiences can take away something from young people facing adversity in the show.

Kremer, who said that this is her first principal role, added: "I think I want audiences to feel moved. Young love, it's very passionate and you'll experience a whole range of emotions watching it". Beautiful and tragic, she notes that there is a great story at the show's core. ■

Macau to be hit by extreme weather more often: weather chief

Tropical cyclone possible later this month

Tony Wong

Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) Director Leong Weng Kun said yesterday that Macau can expect to be affected by extreme weather more often due to global climate change.

Leong also said that a tropical cyclone is likely to form in the South China Sea before the end of this month, but the level of its possible impact on Macau was still to be estimated.

The weather chief made the remarks when attending yesterday's current affairs phone-in programme hosted by Ou Mun Tin Toi, the Chinese-language radio channel of public broadcaster TDM.

Yesterday's topic of the programme was about the bureau's measures to improve its weather forecasting and the impact of climate change on Macau.

Leong said that his bureau "did not see abnormalities" in Macau's weather conditions over recent months, but its temperature was on a rising trend compared to the same period of previous years.

The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) has confirmed that 2023 was the hottest year on record, Leong pointed out, adding that the world can expect to be affected by extreme weather more frequently due to climate change. Correspondingly, Leong said, Macau can expect to be affected more often by super typhoons, extreme rainstorms and extreme temperatures.

Leong also said that in recent years his bureau has been applying big data analytics more often with the aim of increasing its ability to forecast tropical cyclones, storm

surges and rainstorms.

Leong said that the observatory was also improving its strategies to announce its latest weather forecasts to members of the public with the aim of enabling them to be better prepared for adverse weather conditions as soon as possible.

Leong also noted that that his bureau's tropical cyclone and storm surge warning services have been awarded International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) 9001 Quality Management Systems, recognising his bureau's commitment to providing the public with better-quality and standardised weather forecasts.

Leong noted that his bureau signed an agreement with the China Meteorological Administration (CMA) in Beijing as well as one with the public University of Macau (UM) last year according to which the two entities are respectively helping his bureau strengthen its application of artificial intelligence (AI) with the aim of raising its weather forecasting ability.

70-pct accuracy rate in forecasting rainstorms

Leong also said that in the past few years his bureau was able to accurately forecast about 70 percent of the rainstorms that affected Macau every year. He underlined that accurate rainstorm forecasting has been a major challenge all over the world, adding that this challenge is even more prominent for Macau compared to other cities because of its small land size.

The weather chief pledged that his bureau will continue to use the newest technologies with the aim of achieving a higher accuracy rate in its rainstorm forecasting.



Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) Director Leong Weng Kun speaks during yesterday's phone-in programme hosted by public broadcaster TDM's Chinese-language radio channel. — Photo courtesy of TDM

Meanwhile, Leong also said that a tropical cyclone is likely to form in the South China Sea late this month, but the level of its possible impact on Macau is still yet to be seen, he said.

Leong noted that Macau has so far hoisted tropical cyclone warning signals once this year, the period between late May and early last month during which Macau hoisted a No. 1 signal and a No. 3 signal.

Leong said that Macau's typhoon season normally runs until October every year. However, he said, Macau has been affected by super typhoons more often over the past few years because of ocean warming. He noted that Macau hoisted a tropical cyclone warning signal even in December a few years ago, the one in December 2021. ■

13 Indonesians cheated out of 124,000 patacas in job-referral scam

Yuki Lei

A mainland man was arrested on Tuesday when re-entering Macau via the Barrier Gate checkpoint for cheating 13 Indonesians out of a total of 124,300 patacas by claiming that he could introduce them to employers to work as kitchen staff, delivery workers or cleaners in Macau, Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Chong Kam Leong said yesterday, adding that the 27-year-old suspect had gambled away all the victims' money.

The suspect surnamed Chen, who worked as a horticulturist until June last year, is currently unemployed, according to Chong.

The Judiciary Police, Chong said during yesterday's regular press conference, received separate reports from the victims — 12 males and 1 female — on June 4-21 last year about their

respective losses of between 6,000 patacas and 10,000 as "referral fees" in a job-hunting scam, saying that they had been introduced to Chen, a man who claimed to be able to introduce them to employers for jobs in the kitchen, delivery and cleaning sectors in Macau. The victims also told police that they paid Chen a total of 124,300 patacas for the purported referral fee according to their preferred occupation, adding that Chen did not introduce any employers to the victims and finally cut any contact with them, after receiving the money.

Under questioning, according to Chong, Chen admitted that he was unable to arrange any job referrals for the victims, insisting that he gambled away all the money he had obtained by deception.

Chen was transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP)



Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Chong Kam Leong looks on during yesterday's regular press conference at the Public Security Police (PSP) pressroom. — Photo: Yuki Lei

yesterday, facing fraud charges involving a large amount of money, Chong noted. ■

STOCK MARKETS

Hang Seng Index closes 0.29 pct lower

HONG KONG — Hong Kong's stock market ended lower yesterday with the benchmark Hang Seng Index down 0.29 percent to close 17,471.67 points.

The Hang Seng China

Enterprises Index fell 0.39 percent to end at 6,251.18 points, while the Hang Seng Tech Index dipped 0.01 percent to close at 3,600.49 points.

— Xinhua

IAM to move 'hak jai' to Guangzhou Zoo

Ginnie Liang

The Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) said in a statement yesterday that it will send a northern white-cheeked gibbon (aka *Nomascus leucogenys*) named "hak jai" ("Black Boy") living in the Seac Pai Van Park, to Guangzhou Zoo within this month.

"Hak jai" has been living in Seac Pai Van Park since 1995 after being abandoned. He is 30 years old now.

The statement said the bureau will transfer "hak jai" to Guangzhou Zoo for him to join the conservation of national rare wildlife and promote rare wildlife protection, restoration and sustainable development.

According to the observation and analysis by a team of mainland animal experts, "hak jai" has an excellent genetic heritage, which is of great significance to promoting the conservation of his species in the nation, the statement said.

"Hak jai" has already passed the health check and quarantine process, and is scheduled to move

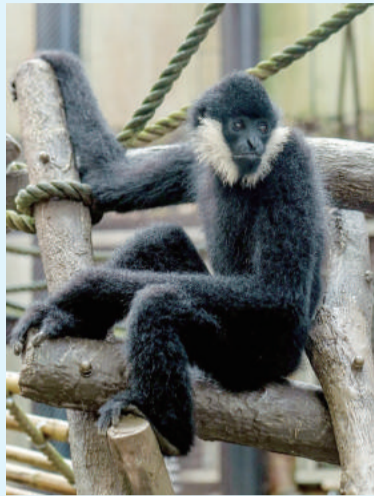
to Guangzhou Zoo later this month to live with "new friends" of his species, the statement noted.

The bureau and experts from Guangzhou Zoo will continue to monitor "hak jai's" adaptation to the new environment and his physical condition, with a view to promoting the conservation and development of the northern white-cheeked gibbon population.

Northern white-cheeked gibbons are first-class national protected animals in mainland China, while they are also listed as a critically endangered (CR) species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

According to the National Geographic website, there are over a dozen recognised species of gibbons ranging from north-eastern India to southern China to Borneo.

IUCN is an international organisation working in the field of nature conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. CR species denotes the type of animals



This undated handout photo provided by the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) yesterday shows the 30-year-old northern white-cheeked gibbon named "Black Boy" living in Seac Pai Van Park.

that are at an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild.

According to scientific reports, the estimated life span of gibbons varies between 20 and 40 years, with a reported longevity maximum in captivity of 60 years. ■

Public Security Forces websites hit by 'overseas' cyberattacks: Wong

Tony Wong

Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak confirmed in a statement last night that due to cyberattacks "from overseas", the websites of several entities under his portfolio could not be accessed from 8 p.m. yesterday.

As of midnight, however, all of the affected entities' websites could be accessed again, as tested by the *Post*.

According to the statement, which was issued by the Secretariat for Security (GSS) at 10:30 p.m., the websites were hit by distributed denial-of-service attack (DDoS attack) from overseas.

According to the statement, the entities whose websites could not be accessed last night comprised Wong's office (GSS), Public Security Police (PSP), Fire Services Bureau (CB), Macau Public Security Forces Affairs Bureau (DSFSM), and Macau Public Security Forces Academy (ESFSM).

Last night's statement said that the authorities were working

with telecom operators to carry out emergency response tasks with the aim of restoring the websites' services as soon as possible.

Criminal investigation

The statement said that the Judiciary Police (PJ) have meanwhile launched a criminal investigation to identify the source of the cyberattacks.

As tested by the *Post* last night, the websites of the other four entities under Wong's portfolio, namely the Unitary Police Service (SPU), Macau Customs Service, Judiciary Police (PJ), and Correctional Services Bureau (DSC), were not affected by cyberattacks so that all of them could be accessed last night.

According to specialist websites, a distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attack is a malicious attempt to disrupt the normal traffic of a targeted server, service or network by overwhelming the target or its surrounding infrastructure with a flood of internet traffic. ■

How the Nishan Forum bridges civilizations through dialogue and exchange

Analysis

In 2021, during the China-Greece Year of Culture and Tourism, a sculpture titled "Divine Encounter" was placed at the foot of the Parthenon on Acropolis Hill in Athens, Greece. It depicts a dialogue between Socrates and Confucius, symbolizing the profound exchanges between Chinese and Greek civilizations. The timeless conversation between these two sages portrayed in the artwork illuminates the historical bonds that bridge Eastern and Western cultures.

Building on the spirit of cross-cultural dialogue, the 10th Nishan Forum on World Civilizations begins on Wednesday in Qufu City in east China's Shandong province. The forum, themed "Traditional Cultures and Modern Civilizations," continues to promote mutual learning and common development among different civilizations.

The forum is named after the Nishan Mountain, formerly known as the Ni Qiu Hill, about 30 kilometers southeast of Qufu – the birthplace of the great Chinese thinker and educator Confucius.

Nishan is a major platform for exchanges and mutual learning between Chinese and foreign civilizations. It promotes cultural inheritance and development while sharing China's stories with the world, Xi Yanchun, deputy head of the Publicity Department of the CPC Shandong Provincial Committee, told CGTN.

"Today, Nishan, which is confident, open and inclusive, has become an important platform for dialogues among diverse civilizations around the globe. It is an important window for countries around the world to gain insights into Chinese culture," she said.

This year's forum brings together nearly 400 international guests, including foreign dignitaries, representatives from international organizations, ambassadors to China and global experts to explore ways to integrate diverse cultural perspectives and find solutions to common global challenges. The 2024 edition, featuring keynote speeches, high-level interviews, sub-topic discussions and parallel forums, will see the largest number



Members of the local press delegation, including senior representatives from the Liaison Office in the MSAR, Deng Le (right) and Han Chao (left) and the Macau Government Information Bureau (GCS), Elena Au Son Wa (second from right) pose in front of a giant statue of Confucius in Qufu yesterday.

– Photo: Maria Cheang Ut Meng

of participants in the forum's history and be hosted on the largest scale to date as it welcomes attendees from 63 countries, over 50 percent of whom are international scholars.

"Even in today's highly technological society in Japan, Confucianism still exists and continues to develop," said Yasuo Fukuda, chairman of the International Confucian Association and former Japanese Prime Minister, during the opening ceremony.

"The essence of Confucianism lies in its focus on societal and national stability, guiding us on how to live. Its principles are universal, applicable across the world and in any era. This demonstrates that Confucianism can become a globally popular philosophy and way of thinking," he said.

Confucius is believed to have lived from 551 to 479 BCE. Throughout his life, he emphasized morality, social harmony and education. His teachings, recorded in the "Analects," laid the foundation for Confucianism and continue to inspire people worldwide.

This year's forum discussions highlight Confucianism's deep connections with human

civilization and its relevance in addressing modern challenges. For instance, there will be an in-depth dialogue between the classical civilizations of China and Italy and discussions on how ancient Chinese wisdom and the ideas of contemporaneous Western philosophers can help address contemporary issues.

"The Confucian notion of harmony without uniformity is the best interpretation of the current era," said Jeffrey D. Sachs, a professor of economics at Columbia University and president of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network. "No country is supreme on its own. We are bound together and share the world's oceans, air, biodiversity, fuel supply and food. That is why harmony is essential."

"Ancient Chinese and Western philosophers both addressed ethical issues in their respective regions and sought the best ways to govern. In today's interconnected world, we need to jointly explore a global ethical framework," he said.

"Chinese traditional civilization, including Confucianism, offers solutions to modern problems," said Minister of Culture and Tourism Sun Yeli. "We are committed to

deepen exchanges and mutual learning with civilizations from around the world through Nishan Forum and to continuously enhance our cultural cooperation."

International scholars wearing Mamian skirts participate in the 10th Nishan Forum on World Civilizations in Qufu City, east China's Shandong province, July 10, 2024. The Mamian skirt, also known as the horse-face skirt or Mamianqun in Chinese, is a traditional Chinese Hanfu garment characterized by its pleated structure and overlapping front and back panels.

In addition to discussions on exchanges among civilizations amid global challenges, other discussion topics include the ethical integration of AI into society and the modernization of traditional medicine by combining ancient practices with modern scientific research, potentially leading to breakthroughs in healthcare.

This year's forum will also include sessions on sports and family culture for the first time. The sports forum focuses on the connection between traditional Chinese culture and the Olympic spirit, emphasizing shared values like moral excellence, respect and harmony.

"The Olympics aim to build bridges and foster understanding among different cultures. The Nishan Forum shares this goal, deepening understanding through respectful dialogues and exchanges," said International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach at the opening ceremony.

"Civilization needs to adapt to new circumstances as times, lifestyles and production methods change. It must continually reflect and evolve," noted Dong Ping, a professor at the School of Philosophy, Zhejiang University.

In line with this, the Nishan Forum continually broadens the scope of cultural exchanges, prioritizing dialogue on major issues, such as religion, ecology and societal change. Established 14 years ago in response to a United Nations initiative, it continues to serve as a vital platform for fostering international dialogue and cultural understanding.

– Courtesy of CGTN

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