

# Revised basic academic requirements to take effect from 2024/2025 school year: govt

Yuki Lei

An executive order signed by Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Elsie Ao Ieong U was published in the Official Gazette (BO) yesterday, announcing that the amended Requirements of Basic Academic Attainments for some subjects at primary, junior secondary and senior secondary levels will be implemented in phases starting in September with the new school year, i.e., 2024/2025.

The order signed by Ao Ieong last Wednesday noted that the revised requirements, covering the subjects of Character and Citizenship Education, General Studies, Information Technology (IT) and Arts for primary schools, and the subjects of Character and Citizenship Education, Social Sciences and Humanities, Natural Sciences and IT for junior and senior secondary schools, will take effect from the first day of the 2024/2025 school year for Primary 1 to 3 and for all primary education levels with effect from the first day of the 2025/2026 school year, as well as at all levels of the junior secondary education with effect from the first day of the 2025/2026 school year and senior secondary education with effect from the first day of the school year 2026/2027.

However, the executive order also stated that schools that are already well prepared to implement the revised requirements may do so for Primary 4 to 6, junior secondary and senior secondary levels from the first day of the coming new school year.

## Requirements focus on 'our country'

According to the executive order, the revised requirements highlight, among other objectives in terms of the Character and Citizenship Education subject, the aim of cultivating in primary school students a sense of love for the country and Macau, by, for instance, being aware of and caring for the national flag and national emblem of their country, understanding their basic meanings, knowing to sing the national anthem, and being aware of the etiquette of singing the national anthem, knowing the nation's territory and understanding that the national territory of the motherland is sacred and inviolable, knowing that Macau is a special administrative region of the People's Republic of China (PRC), being aware of the constitutional provisions on the unity of the motherland, and enhancing their awareness of the need to safeguard national unity, being aware of the nation's security and interests,



This file photo taken last year shows young students accompanied by family members waiting at a traffic light in Rua de Francisco Xavier Pereira. — Photo: Tong Wong

recognising one's national identity and feeling proud to be a Chinese and knowing that Macau has been Chinese territory since ancient times, as well as showing concern for the development, changes and challenges facing "our country", being aware and proud

of "our country's" significant achievements, and having a basic understanding of "our country's" international influence and status.

China's indivisible territory comprises the mainland, the special administrative regions of Hong Kong and Macau, and Taiwan region. ■

## Hamás, Palestinian rivals Fatah to meet in Beijing: officials



Parachutes carrying aid sail down during an airdrop by Jordan's airforce over the Khan Yunis highway in the Gaza Strip yesterday. — AFP

RAMALLAH, Palestinian Territories — Senior officials from the rival Palestinian groups Hamas, which is at war with Israel, and Fatah have agreed to meet in Beijing this month in a renewed bid for reconciliation, Palestinian officials said yesterday.

The Hamas delegation is to be headed by its Qatar-based political chief Ismail Haniyeh, while the Fatah representation will be led by deputy head Mahmud Alul, Fatah sources said.

Hamas had no immediate comment.

The two groups have been bitter rivals since Hamas fighters ejected Fatah from the Gaza Strip after deadly clashes that followed Hamas's resounding victory in a 2006 election.

After seizing control of Gaza in 2007, the Islamist Hamas movement has ruled the territory ever since.

The secularist Fatah movement controls the Palestinian Authority which has partial administrative control in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Several reconciliation bids have failed, but calls have grown since the Hamas October 7 attacks on Israel set off the Gaza war, with violence also soaring in the West Bank where Fatah is based.

China hosted Fatah and Hamas in April but a meeting scheduled for June was postponed.

The representatives are to meet with Chinese officials in Beijing on July 20 and July 21, according to Fatah's central committee

deputy secretary general Sabri Saidam.

Before that, a meeting of the two groups could take place, he added.

The goal, said Saidam, "is to end the state of division with a commitment to past agreements and agreeing on a relationship between the Palestinian groups in the next stage."

Another Fatah executive member also said a joint Fatah-Hamas meeting could be held in Beijing before the official agenda starts.

China has positioned itself as a more neutral actor on the Israel-Palestinian conflict than the United States, advocating for a two-state solution while also maintaining good ties with Israel. — AFP (More on p.10)

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### China requests WTO to establish panel regarding dispute over US Inflation Reduction Act

China yesterday requested the World Trade Organization (WTO) to set up an expert panel regarding new energy vehicle (NEV) subsidies under the US Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).

— Story on p. 7

### US Secret Service agrees to review after Trump assassination bid

Under growing pressure for a massive security failure, the US Secret Service yesterday vowed to cooperate with an independent review after a shooter was allowed to open fire on Donald Trump.

— Story on p. 11

### Judge dismisses Trump classified documents case

A Florida judge appointed by Donald Trump has dismissed the criminal case against the former president on charges of mishandling top secret documents, ruling that Special Counsel Jack Smith was unlawfully appointed.

— Story on p. 12



# Mainlander with fake bomb tries to rob casino

William Chan

A mainland man has been arrested for attempting to rob a casino of HK\$2 million by claiming to be carrying a "bomb" in a plastic bag, Judiciary Police (PJ) spokeswoman Lei Hon Nei said during a press conference yesterday.

The 53-year-old suspect surnamed Zhao told the police that he's jobless.

According to Lei, Zhao went to a casino in Cotai at noon on Saturday and placed a plastic bag on a casino cage's counter, telling the cashier that the plastic bag

contained an explosive device. He demanded the staff hand over HK\$2 million in cash.

The staff immediately notified the security guard, who subdued the suspect and discovered that the bag merely contained a power bank. During the altercation, Zhao punched and injured one of the security guards in the eye.

Lei noted that the suspect had gambled away his money in local casinos several years ago.

Zhao has been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), facing robbery and bodily harm charges, Lei said. ■

# Mainlander suspected of murder in Thailand nabbed in Macau

## Suspect pawns fake watch in Macau leading to arrest

William Chan

During the investigation into a case involving a mainland man pawning a counterfeit watch, the Judiciary Police (PJ) discovered that the suspect's identity matched the one allegedly involved in a recent kidnapping, murder and dismemberment case in Thailand, PJ spokeswoman Lei Hon Nei said during a press conference yesterday.

The male suspect surnamed Ma, aged 34, told the police that he's jobless.

According to Lei, the person in charge of a pawn shop in the city centre reported to the police on Wednesday that someone had pawned a fake watch in the shop for 50,000 patacas. The police

soon identified the suspect as Ma and intercepted him at the Taipa Ferry Terminal on Friday while he was preparing to travel to Hong Kong. Lei noted that Ma had been gambling in a Cotai casino after hocking the bogus watch.

During the investigation, the police received notification from the mainland authorities stating that the suspect was believed to have slain and dismembered a mainland woman in Thailand. After comparing the identity information, it was confirmed that the suspect was Ma. Lei noted that Ma was transferred to the mainland police yesterday morning for further investigation. ■



Judiciary Police (PJ) spokeswoman Lei Hon Nei looks on during a press conference yesterday.

- Photo: William Chan

# Indonesian trio steal 50,000 patacas from woman's backpack: police

William Chan

The police have arrested a male Indonesian trio for stealing 50,000 patacas from a woman's backpack, Judiciary Police (PJ) spokeswoman Lei Hon Nei said during a press conference yesterday.

The suspects, in their forties and fifties, are surnamed Andre, Bayu and Santoni. Andre is a fisherman, Bayu told the police that he's a businessman, and Santoni is a worker.

According to Lei, a local woman reported to the police on Saturday that when shopping near the Barrier Gate checkpoint she discovered that 50,000 patacas in her backpack had vanished and

suspected that it had been stolen.

When examining the area's CCTV footage, the police identified the three suspects, with two of them serving as lookouts while one carried out the theft. Afterwards, they immediately left the scene by taxi.

On Sunday evening, the police intercepted the trio and recovered a portion of the stolen money and seized the clothes they were wearing when committing the theft.

The trio have been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), facing aggravated theft and organised crime charges, according to Lei. ■

# Mainland duo steal & resell concert ticket

William Chan

A man and woman from the mainland have been arrested for stealing a concert ticket and then reselling it, Public Security Police (PSP) spokeswoman Kong Chi Ian said during a regular press conference yesterday.

The male suspect surnamed Wang told the police that he is a salesman, while the female suspect surnamed Zhou told the police that she's jobless. Both are in their fifties.

According to Kong, while a local resident was waiting to enter a concert hall at a hotel in Cotai on May 11, she felt that someone had bumped into her handbag and then

discovered that two of her three tickets lay on the floor, while one had vanished. She reported the incident to the police.

The police soon identified a man who had used the stolen ticket to enter the concert. Under questioning, the man told the police that he purchased the ticket for HK\$1,800 from Wang and Zhou.

The duo were apprehended earlier this month. They refused to cooperate.

Wang and Zhou have been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), facing theft and fraud charges, according to Kong. ■



This undated handout photo provided by the Public Security Police (PSP) yesterday shows PSP officers escorting the mainland female theft suspect to the a police station in Taipa.

# DSEDJ to host photo contest for youth show

Rui Pastorin

The Student and Youth Show in Celebration of Macao's Return to the Motherland-cum-International Youth Dance Festival Photography Contest will be held by the Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ), with entries from Macau residents to be accepted from August 5 to 26, the DSEDJ said in a statement yesterday.

The student and youth show will run from July 20 to 25.

Targeting Macau residents aged 13 and above, the statement noted that the contest comprises two categories: the Youth Category, which is open to those aged between 13-35, and the Open Category, which is open for those aged 13 and up, according to the event's poster, which adds that the photo contest "takes advantage of the opportunity to record unforgettable moments of the event".

Each category has a Champion, first runner-up and 2nd runner up, as well as 10 merit awards. The Champion of the Youth Category can win 3,000 patacas and a trophy, while the Champion of the Open Category can take home 5,000 patacas and a trophy, the event poster notes.

Entrants can submit up to 10 photos and entries can be in black and white or colour, as well as measure at 8" x 10" (20 cm x 25.5 cm). Composite pictures will not be accepted, the statement underlined.

Those interested in joining the contest, which is organised in conjunction with The Photographic Society of Macao, can scan the QR

code on the event poster or visit the bureau's website for more details and to download the application form.

More details can also be found by calling 2833 2084 or by visiting the bureau's website on <https://portal.dsedj.gov.mo/webdsejspace/site/dance/2024/> or the photographic society's website on <http://www.psm.org/ch/> ■



Judiciary Police (PJ) officers escort the hooded Indonesian theft trio to a police vehicle outside the PJ headquarters in Zape yesterday. - Photo: William Chan

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### Macau Weather

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26°C~31°C

Source: SMG



This cropped poster provided by the Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ) yesterday promotes the 'Student and Youth Show in Celebration of Macao's Return to the Motherland-cum-International Youth Dance Festival' Photography Contest.



# Young entrepreneur strives to set up youth innovation, entrepreneurship base

Interview by Yuki Lei

Being a public servant has long been regarded as the lifelong aspiration of many young people in Macau, however, for Garvie Huang Ka Wai his dream is to become a role model for Macau's young people, by setting up a science and technology company, even striving to establish a Macau Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurship Base, to inspire both Hong Kong and local youths to engage in technological innovation together.

Macau-based Huang, co-founder of Beijing Micro Inspection Technology Co. Ltd., is a second-year student majoring in Energy and Power, Electrical Engineering and its Automation at Tsinghua University in Beijing. He told the *Post* by phone on Sunday: "When I was in high school, my idea of myself was that I wanted to get an advanced degree and then go back to the University of Macau to work as a faculty member and do scientific research, but now I'm thinking that I want to found a technology company," adding that as a "relatively" young entrepreneur raised in Macau, he hopes to utilise resources and set up a platform in the mainland to bring Macau-led hardening technology\* products to Macau and also the Guangdong-Macau In-depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin: "Macau's mission to me is apparent, that is, I hope that more young people like me can boldly go to start up their own business".

In recent years, Macau has been actively promoting its "1+4" strategy of ensuring the local economy's appropriately diversified development, which emphasises technological innovation, continues to strengthen basic research and encourages the development of industry-academia-research fusion, in the hope of integrating more innovative resources and gathering more innovative elements, thereby bringing more opportunities for Macau's technological development, Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng said in a speech in 2023.

Huang, who is in his twenties, first started to participate in various innovation and entrepreneurship competitions when he was a Form 3 student. According to his awards and honours, among others, Huang won a prize in the "2023 Macau Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurship Competition", by Parafuturo de Macau (a local company) and The Association for Promotion of Science and Technology of Macau in conjunction with the Macao Young Entrepreneur Incubation Centre, for his micro-inspection technology for electrical machines, which integrates 5G, Internet of Things (IoT) big data, AI inspection and automation.

Huang, director of the Macao Innovation and Invention Association and president of Lou Hau Science and Technology Society, said that he was currently striving to set up a Tsinghua University Macau Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Base, the core members of which will be a "multidisciplinary undergraduate internationalisation team from Tsinghua University and Peking University", with the plan that 70 percent of them will be Macau students.

According to Huang, the project, which is now underway, aims to combine the output of university innovation and the training of top talents with the needs of Macau's economic and social development, to improve the quality and efficiency of the transformation of scientific and technological achievements, and to realise the common goal of developing Macau's first new quality productive forces involving science and technology, cultivating talents as the first resource, and enhancing Macau's first driving force of innovation, with the launch of project roadshows and industry research projects, as well as the setting-up of a mechanism of "unveiling local demands", in which the base will regularly identify development difficulties

and technical demands from enterprises in the industry under Macau's jurisdiction and submit them to Tsinghua University.

As a post-00s entrepreneur, Huang has been subjected to a lot of doubt, and he also had a few times when he wanted to give up his dream of becoming an entrepreneur, but his thoughts were quickly dispelled: "Macau has a very good business environment, including its tax policy, to encourage, young people in particular, to launch their own business, but very few young people say that they want to go into the science and technology industry, which I think is a shortcoming in Macau but already well developed in mainland cities, such as Beijing and Shenzhen, where we [Macau students studying in the mainland] can learn, develop and transform projects there, and take them back to Macau".

When asked about Macau's Introduction of Admission Schemes for Talents, Professionals and Entrepreneurs, Huang said: "We are not afraid of this challenge



This file photo taken in May shows Garvie Huang Ka Wai posing on the sidelines of a public event.

— Photo: Maria Cheang Ut Meng

as we don't think it will create competition, on the contrary, we can maximise the use of resources in both places." ■

\*Systems hardening is a collection of tools, techniques, and best practices to reduce vulnerability in technology applications, systems, infrastructure, firmware, and other areas. The goal of systems hardening is to reduce security risk by eliminating potential attack vectors and condensing the system's attack surface. — Source: BeyondTrust

## MGTO to launch more Macau-Hengqin study tours

Ginnie Liang

The Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) said in its recent reply to a written interpellation submitted by directly-elected lawmaker Wong Kit Cheng that the bureau will launch more Macau-Hengqin study tours to promote "Tourism + Education".

Wong asked in her interpellation about the government's cooperation plans with Hengqin in organising study tours, which was submitted on May 31, and the reply from MGTO was made on June 27, which was sent to the media last week, now being available on the Legislative Assembly's (AL) website.

MGTO said in the reply that the mainland's new policy allows mainland Chinese visitors joining Hengqin-Macau tours to make multiple round trips between Hengqin and Macau via the Hengqin checkpoint within seven days using the same group travel permit, giving the bureau further opportunities to explore news aspects of study-orientated tourism.

According to the reply, MGTO had organised about 50 senior high school students from 28 Hong Kong secondary schools in February to participate in the study tour groups, so that the students

could experience Macau's history, scientific development and enrich the "tourism + learning" elements.

MGTO also organised a cultural and research exchange museum tour between Macau and the mainland during the 12<sup>th</sup> Macau International Travel (Industry) Expo (MITE) in April to facilitate mainland tourism enterprises and cultural institutions to connect with the local tourism sector and share their experience in setting up research tour routes.

In addition, the bureau also launched a tour routes competition in April to enhance the potential of the tourism industry to research the feasibility of new tourism products, and further promote the cross-border integration of "tourism +".

The bureau said in the statement that it will continue to explore new research projects and provide diversified learning and experience opportunities based on the advantages that Macau can provide in terms of group travel resources in Macau and the mainland by highlighting the unique characteristics of Macau's culture, history, architecture, cuisine, Chinese medicine and patriotic education based on the "One Country, Two Systems" principle. ■

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Photo and text provided by the organisers & co-organisers

## Nature and Me - Part 2

Organised by the Macau Professional Speaking Association (MPSA) and co-organised by Language Exchange & Cultural Promotion Association, Society of Food & Environmental Health (Macao), and Sustainable Development Association, the Macao-wide English Essay Competition (MEEC) wrapped up its 2023-2024 competition with an award ceremony on March 16, 2024, at the Macao Science Centre. A lively panel discussion led by the emcees with the student representatives explored what they had written and their thoughts on the theme: 'Nature and Me'.

This week, we share quotes for winning essays about peace, justice, and strong institutions, gender equality, climate change, life below water, life on land, and visions for the future.

### Our Future

- "Our actions today will determine the legacy we leave behind for the generations to come." (Liang Jia Hao, Pui Ching Middle School)
- "This striking reality serves as a chilling reminder that our actions, whether deliberate or unintentional, possess the power to reshape the destiny of our planet." (Feng Du Wen, University of Saint Joseph)
- "Humanity can still salvage a long-lost harmony with nature and prevent our planet from going up in flames, albeit under limited time." (Chao Pak Hou, University of Macau)
- "These objectives are resolute commitment by nations across the globe as a testament to our collective responsibility towards Mother Earth, an obligation that we all must bear as stewards of this planet." (Bryan Lee, Macao Anglican College)

### Life on Land

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 15 is about sustainably managing forests, combat desertification, and halting biodiversity loss. Promoting a sustainable use of our ecosystems and preserving biodiversity is not a cause. It is the key to our own survival.

- "Humans have been living in a modern metropolis for too long, forgetting the feeling of a leaf dropping onto their heads, forgetting the melody of birdsong, forgetting the euphoric sensation of nature." (Cheong Lok Ian, Premier School Affiliated to Hou Kong Middle School)
- "We inhabit this cerulean [greenish-blue] planet, and nature forms the very fabric of our survival." (Tan Jiaqi, Escola dos Moradores de Macau)
- "What you do makes a difference, even if the impact is small." (Leong Wai Lam, Sacred Heart Canossian College English Section)
- "My vision of a sustainable world is simple yet challenging to implement: to halt deforestation and desertification." (Eugenia Lok, Santa Rosa de Lima English Secondary School)
- "If trees disappear, the ecosystem and the food chain will collapse, causing humans to die from a lack of food. Deforestation will also cause many other detriments. If this continues, there is no way we can

achieve our Sustainable Development Goals." (Ho Sam Iao, Sacred Heart Canossian College English Section)

- "We and nature are linked together, and our relationship may improve in the future if we unite and repair all the cracks between us." (Li Elodie Yue, Pui Ching Middle School)
- "Biological diversity, or biodiversity, is the variety of life on Earth, in its every single form, from genes to bacteria and to plants and animals. I believe that biodiversity is the greatest blessing of humanity." (Sara Win Sandar Maung, Sacred Heart Canossian College English Section)
- "Envision a world where barren land is transformed into a green paradise. By planting trees, we are not merely placing seeds in the ground; we are sowing hope, health, and happiness for future generations." (Lam Weng In, Our Lady of Fátima Girls' School)
- "On a local field trip to the wetlands, the instructor told us one thing, 'Snakes attack to protect themselves when feeling disturbed. Nature is their home, and people are visitors.'" (Cintia Leong Ian Ut, Pui Ching Middle School)
- "The relationship between us and nature is forever beautiful and binding." (Tian Chi Ip, Premier School Affiliated to Hou Kong Middle School)

### Clean Water and Sanitation

SDG 6 aims to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. This includes improving water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimising release of hazardous chemicals and materials, and lowering the proportion of untreated wastewater.

- "The effects of inadequate water sanitation are profoundly affecting both human and animal lives" (Wan Hei Lam, Macau Baptist College)
- "Water is a finite resource on our planet, and it is our responsibility to care for it." (Rafael Khan Si Hon, Pui Ching Middle School)

### Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure

SDG9 urges us to build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster

innovation. This helps to meet future challenges and helps support economic development and human well-being.

- "By merging our creative prowess with the wisdom of nature, we can break free from traditional thinking, uncovering new and sustainable pathways to construct a unique and beautiful vision for the shared future of humanity and the Earth." (Chen Ziyi, University of Macau)
- "To rebuild the harmonious relationship between humankind and nature, governments and enterprises must integrate innovation and technology into their environmental protection strategies." (Willie Yeung Hio Ieng, Santa Rosa de Lima English Secondary School)

### Responsible Consumption and Production

SDG12 is about ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns. How can we use and produce in sustainable ways that doesn't harm our planet in the long run?

- "By making informed choices and demanding sustainable alternatives, consumers can influence businesses to adopt more responsible packaging practices." (Lou Pui Lam, University of Saint Joseph)
- "As we face unprecedented environmental challenges, it is crucial that we recognise our responsibility as individuals to protect nature and become active participants in its preservation." (Ding Xi, Macao Polytechnic University)
- "We must become responsible for our consumption and production, making sure to use only what we need, reuse all we can, and recycle almost religiously." (Chen Baoyi, Premier School Affiliated to Hou Kong Middle School)
- "We are inherently born within the realm of nature, yet we persistently contribute to the degradation of our environment." (Xiao Sok Tan, Santa Rosa de Lima Secondary School Chinese Section)
- Aquaponics [cooperation between plants and fish] allows us to rethink our relationship and interdependence with nature." (Cheong Ieng Sam, Hou Kong Middle School Primary Section)
- "Recycling helps to sustain the environment for both the present and future generations. Sorting and reusing process contribute to sustainable waste management. Donating items reduces waste and support the people in need." (Hong Hoi Tong, Colégio Diocesano de São José 5)
- "By being more thoughtful about what we buy and how much we buy, we can make a positive difference for the environment." (Lei Seng Hin, Chan Sui Ki Perpetual Help College)

### Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

SDG16 is about promoting peaceful

and inclusive societies, providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

- "Local communities and indigenous peoples also need to participate in environmental decision-making. These people have extensive knowledge and experience of the local environment so that they can effectively protect local natural resources." (Lo Hou In, Choi Nong Chi Tai School)
- "From my perspective, nature is more closely related to the achievement of worldwide peace and prosperity." (Cheong Chi Hun, Pui Ching Middle School)

### Sustainable Cities and Communities

SDG 11 challenges us to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable. For all of us to survive and prosper, we need new, intelligent urban planning that creates safe, affordable and resilient cities with green and culturally inspiring living conditions.

- "Being a student in Architectural Design, I believe that the designs that integrate the environment and architecture to address climate change have a role to play in helping to promote a sustainable future, ensuring the creation of healthier communities, and improving the overall quality of life." (Cho Junhui, University of Saint Joseph)
- "Urban trees and forests provide shade and cool the air through evapotranspiration, through which trees pull water from the soil and release it through their leaves into the air, which in turn reduces the risk of heat-related illness and makes cities more comfortable." (Ravindran Jaden Jude Justinian, University of Saint Joseph)
- "Although many view urban development as a sign of progress, it is, in reality, causing major setbacks in the connection between nature and our well-being." (Lai Chi Ian, Premier School Affiliated to Hou Kong Middle School)
- "We can participate in local conservation projects, plant trees, and organise awareness campaigns to foster a deeper connection with nature" (Leong Weng Hei, Tong Nam School)

Conversations about our relationship with nature are important for youths as they hold the key to our future. Read all the 61 winning works in MEEC's Essay Collection Volume 3: Nature and Me, available online through their website: [www.essaymacao.com](http://www.essaymacao.com).

N.B. An exhibition showcasing quotes from the winning works is also being held at the Universal Gallery & Bookstore in Praça do Tap Seac until July 19, which is open daily from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Explanations provided within square brackets provided by the Post.



## W Macau – Studio City among the world's most beautiful hotels

Rui Pastorin

The W Macau - Studio City in Cotai was recently named one of the World's Most Beautiful Hotels according to UNESCO's World Architecture & Design Award, Prix Versailles, Melco Resorts & Entertainment said in a statement on Friday.

The Prix Versailles, according to its website, is "a series of architectural competitions that shine a light on the finest contemporary projects worldwide". It has been announced annually at UNESCO since 2015. Prix Versailles Secretary General Jérôme Gouadain was quoted by the Melco statement as saying: "The World's Most Beautiful Hotels are ambassadors for intelligent, sustainable tourism rooted in culture".

The 557-room property at Studio City opened in September 2023 and is among the 16 recently opened or reopened hotels that have "left an extraordinary imprint", the statement noted. It is the company's second property to be honoured by the Prix Versailles, with the first being City of Dreams' Morpheus last year. Both were designed by Zara Hadid Architects (ZHA).

Morpheus was also the first hotel in Macau to win a Prix Versailles regional award in the Hotels,



This undated handout photo provided by Melco Resorts & Entertainment on Friday shows W Macau – Studio City in Cotai.

Central and Northeast Asia category in 2019, the statement said, with the newest award bringing the total number of prizes to three.

Melco Resorts & Entertainment Chairman and CEO Lawrence Ho Yau-lung was quoted by the statement as saying that the awards underline the company's "dedication to creating iconic and culturally significant landmarks.

Ho added: "We will continue to strive to position ourselves as a global premium brand and to raise

the bar in luxury hospitality by offering the best in innovative and world-class offerings".

The Prix Versailles (Versailles Prize; Versailles is a city in the western suburbs of Paris) was established in 2015 by UNESCO and the International Union of Architects (UIA). The competition aims to promote and celebrate excellence in commercial, retail, hotel, and restaurant architecture and design around the world, according to its website. ■

## Over 5,000 old residential buildings pose potential fire safety hazards: GSS

Ginnie Liang

The Secretariat for Security (GSS) said in a statement yesterday that there are about 5,000 old residential buildings built over 30 years ago in Macau, most of which lack effective management and maintenance, posing potential fire safety hazards to old neighbourhoods.

The statement noted that a number of old residential buildings in Macau have no building owners' committee, no residents' organisation, and no property management company hired to carry out the day-to-day management of these buildings, making it difficult

to carry out maintenance and repairs in a timely manner, which may easily lead to the dilapidation of and damage to the building structure and facilities.

The statement stressed that most of the city's old low-rise buildings have ageing internal and external facilities, the construction design is not fully compliant with modern fire safety standards, and often have miscellaneous objects piled up in the staircases and corridors.

The statement pointed out that fire safety problems such as insufficient maintenance or complete failure of fire service

equipment, poor ventilation, blockage of escape routes, propped open smoke doors, ambiguous instructions for escape, as well as ageing of wires, might occur.

Therefore, the statement said, the Fire Services Bureau has specially equipped emergency vehicles and equipment such as small ambulances, small pumps, fire engines with 18-metre ladders, fire-fighting motorcycles and motorcycle ambulances, according to the needs of the actual environment in Macau's narrow streets and alleys.

Besides, in the first half of the year, firefighters conducted 7,271 fire safety inspections, involving 1,683 buildings, among which 642 inspections were made in 1,209 low-rise old residential buildings in the city's old quarters, in which 10 were fined for placing miscellaneous items, shoe racks and motorcycles in evacuation routes, the statement pointed out.

In the future, the Fire Services Bureau will continue to carry out fire safety inspections and carry out publicity and promotional work in the community, so as to motivate residents to attach importance to buildings' fire safety. ■



This undated file photo downloaded from the Secretariat for Security (GSS) website last night shows its headquarters in Calçada dos Quartéis.

## Govt announces oath-taking schedules for CE election committee members

Tony Wong

The Chief Executive Electoral Affairs Commission (CAECE) announced yesterday that the Chief Executive Election Committee members, 344 of whom will be chosen by an election on August 11, will be required to submit their respective oath-taking declaration forms to the commission between August 19 and 24.

The commission made the announcement on the chief executive election's website (<https://www.ece.gov.mo>) yesterday, when the Macau Government Information Bureau (GCS) also issued a statement on the matter.

A total of 344 out of the Chief Executive Election Committee's 400 members are elected by registered association representatives, while the other 56 members are chosen by a variety of other methods.

This year's election of the Chief Executive Election Committee members will be held on August 11.

Yesterday's GCS statement noted that according to the newly amended oath-taking law, which took effect in late May, the Chief Executive Election Committee members are also required to take an oath when taking office. However, the amended law only requires the committee's members to take their oaths by signing a declaration, unlike all the others such as the chief executive, principal officials, legislators, judges, and prosecutors, who are required to take their oaths of office in person at special ceremonies.

The commission announced yesterday that members of the Chief Executive Election Committee can collect their oath-taking declaration forms at the electoral service counters in the

Public Administration Building on Rua do Campo from August 12, i.e., the day after the Chief Executive Election Committee election.

The GCS statement noted that the members must sign their oath-taking declaration forms in compliance with their signatures on their ID cards, after which they will be required to submit the forms to the electoral service counters between August 19 and 24.

The GCS statement said that while members of the Chief Executive Election Committee can choose to collect their oath-taking declaration forms in person or ask a representative to collect the forms for them, they will be required to submit the signed forms in person.

The GCS statement noted that according to the oath-taking law's amended version, those who intentionally sign a declaration in which the terms of oath have been tampered with are regarded as refusing to take the oath.

According to the amended law, those who are disqualified from taking office after refusing to take an oath of office, or being regarded as refusing to take their oath, will not be allowed to take an oath again, the statement noted.

Before its new amendments took effect on May 28 this year, Macau's oath-taking law covered the chief executive, principal officials, the president of the Legislative Assembly (AL), the president of the Court of Final Appeal (TUI), the public prosecutor-general, members of the government's top advisory Executive Council, legislators, judges, and prosecutors. The newly amended law has added members of the Chief Executive Election Committee to its oath-taking requirements. ■



A woman takes photos of the list of accepted candidates for next month's Chief Executive Election Committee election on Friday last week after the list was posted on the ground floor of the Public Administration Building on Rua do Campo earlier that day. The final list of accepted candidates was posted there on Sunday. The two lists are identical. – Photo: Tony Wong

## STOCK MARKETS

### Hang Seng Index closes 1.52 pct lower

HONG KONG – Hong Kong's stock market ended lower yesterday with the benchmark Hang Seng Index down 1.52 percent to close at 18,015.94 points.

The Hang Seng China Enterprises Index lost 1.70 percent to end at 6,421.67 points, while the Hang Seng Tech Index fell 2.90 percent to close at 3,672.58 points.

– Xinhua



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