



IPIM chief aims to develop MICE sector 'in sustainable direction'

Yuki Lei

As Macau's target is to hold 1,500 MICE events this year, Commerce and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) President Vincent U U Sang noted yesterday that the MICE industry is about to enter its annual peak season, with large-scale conventions and exhibitions to be held one after another in the coming months, including the annual Macao International Trade and Investment Fair (MIF) as well as Macao Franchise Expo, and U was quick to add that IPIM hopes to develop, expand and strengthen the local MICE industry "in a sustainable direction", further enhancing its competitiveness from quantity to quality.

U also told reporters he was confident that the government's target of 1,500 MICE events could be achieved this year: "We are not chasing quantity for the sake of quantity, there is first a certain quantity on a certain level when the quantity of our MICE industry reaches a certain level, and then we are looking for quantitative changes to qualitative changes, hoping



Commerce and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) President Vincent U U Sang speaks to the media yesterday, the last day of the Guangdong & Macau Branded Products Fair, at The Venetian Macao's Cotai Expo. — Photo: Yuki Lei

to achieve a more sustainable development of Macau's MICE industry".

Macau has been developing its MICE industry in the form of the "fair within a fair" concept in recent years. U pointed out that, as could be seen from the development of the MICE industry in other regions, there was a relatively clear

and definite distinction between "business to business (B2B)" and "business to consumer (B2C)", but in Macau "we hope to significantly enhance the professional elements of the B2B side" while accumulating and collecting successful examples.

According to an IPIM statement early this month, 1,139 MICE events were held in Macau last year,

representing a year-on-year increase of 1.4 times. With more than 1.6 million attendees and visitors, the MICE industry boosted non-gaming revenue by about 6.2 billion patacas, representing a three-fold increase compared to 2022. A total of 307 MICE events were held in the first quarter of this year, representing a year-on-year growth of 31.2 percent, the statement underlined.

U made the remarks while speaking to the media about this year's Guangdong & Macau Branded Products Fair at The Venetian Macao's Cotai Expo.

The four-day Guangdong-Macau fair came to an end yesterday, during which, according to U, nearly 400 business matching sessions were arranged, resulting in 65 contract signings and over 100,000 attendees. "All in all, the number of attendees, the sales of goods and the atmosphere at the venue were all better than expected," U said.

MICE continues to be 'hot trend'

U, who talked to reporters yesterday morning at the event

venue, summed up this year's fair by highlighting its rise in attendance numbers, the increase in its number of features, and the MICE sector's unabated "hot trend": "The rising popularity of the fair was shown in the significant increase in B2B corporate arrangements, with hotel amenities, solutions, and smart equipment among the highlights of the fair. Exhibitors also told us that the fair was well attended, with visitors from the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area (GBA) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) taking the initiative to talk to them. There was also feedback from many local brands that their sales were better than expected, with some mainland businesspeople especially travelling to the event to promote their products". He also said that following the 120,000 visitors to another large-scale event earlier this month – Sands Shopping Carnival, the Guangdong & Macau Branded Products Fair, which kicked off on Thursday, also reached 100,000 attendees, showing the continuation of the local MICE industry's "hot trend". ■

Hezbollah 'evacuates positions ahead of expected Israel raids'

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Hezbollah has evacuated positions in south and east Lebanon after Israeli threats of reprisals for a deadly strike on the annexed Golan Heights, a source close to the group said yesterday.

Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant vowed to "hit the enemy hard" a day after rocket fire from Lebanon killed 12 minors in Majdal Shams, again raising fears that the war in Gaza will spread.

Israel blamed Lebanon's Hezbollah movement for firing a Falaq-1 Iranian rocket but the Iran-backed group — which has regularly

targeted Israeli military positions — said it had "no connection" to the incident.

"Hezbollah has evacuated some positions in the south and in the Bekaa valley that it thinks could be a target for Israel," the source close to the group told AFP, requesting anonymity as they were not authorised to speak to the media.

Hezbollah has a strong presence in east Lebanon's Bekaa valley, which borders Syria, and in south Lebanon, where it has been launching near daily attacks on Israeli positions since October in support of ally Hamas. (More on p. 10) — AFP



China's Yang Siqi turns off the top of the wave in the 1st heat of the women's surfing round 2, during the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, in Teahupo'o, on the French Polynesian Island of Tahiti, yesterday. Yang won her heat yesterday. — AFP (More on the Olympics on pages 6, 10, 11, 13, 14 & 16)

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Li Qiang calls for enhanced trade, economic cooperation with Italy

Premier Li Qiang attended the opening ceremony of the seventh meeting of the China-Italy entrepreneurs committee with Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni in Beijing yesterday, calling for enhanced economic and trade cooperation between the two countries. — Story on p. 7

Putin threatens to restart production of mid-range nuclear weapons

Russian President Vladimir Putin yesterday threatened to relaunch production of intermediate-range nuclear weapons if the United States confirmed its intention to deploy missiles to Germany or elsewhere in Europe. — Story on p. 11

Brazil logs world's first Oropouche virus deaths

Brazil has recorded the world's first Oropouche virus deaths, the country's health ministry has announced, after two women died of the illness spread by infected flies and mosquitos. — Story on p. 12

Health Bureau marks World Hepatitis Day

Ginnie Liang

The Health Bureau (SSM) said in a statement on the eve of World Hepatitis Day, which was yesterday, that a series of ongoing activities have been carried out to provide the local population with more knowledge about hepatitis B and C.

Under the theme "It's time for action", this year's World Hepatitis Day highlights the need for collaborative action to expand access to diagnosis and treatment in countries.

In response to the aim of eliminating hepatitis set by the World Health Organisation (WHO), the statement said, Macau has carried out a raft of prevention and control activities on chronic hepatitis B and C, including 17 infectious disease awareness day activities held from March to June in the city's six gaming resort companies that involved over 4,000 participants, and two community infectious disease awareness day activities held by the Macau Federation of Trade Unions (Gung Luen) and the Women's General Association of Macau (Fu Luen) in May, as well as providing free rapid antibody testing services for the hepatitis C virus for the general population in the health centre in Praça do Tap Seac yesterday.

Hepatitis C is mainly transmitted through blood contact, especially through needle sharing, according to the statement, which pointed out that it is a major public health problem worldwide that can cause serious diseases such as cirrhosis and

liver cancer, the statement said.

According to the statement, hepatitis B is mainly spread from mother to baby at birth, or through contact with carriers' blood or bodily fluids. The statement noted that usual social interaction such as dining together, shaking hands and hugging does not spread hepatitis B. The statement also said that studying or working together in business sectors such as hospitality, gaming, banking and F&B will not spread hepatitis B.

The statement noted that hepatitis B can lead to serious sickness, adding that as the virus cannot be eradicated once a person is infected with hepatitis B it will become a chronic disease. The statement underlined that there is no cure for hepatitis B, and in the long term the carrier might suffer from liver infection or even liver cancer.

According to local media reports, the bureau said that the new oral antiviral drugs available nowadays have fewer side effects, which can help cure chronic hepatitis C and prevent it from developing into cirrhosis and liver cancer, which are the most common causes of death. The bureau urged residents to undergo free hepatitis screening at the bureau for those who suspect that they might have contracted the disease.

For more information about hepatitis B and hepatitis C, call the bureau on 2870 0800 or visit the bureau's official website at www.ssm.gov.mo/hepday. ■



This undated handout photo provided by the Health Bureau (SSM) on Saturday shows a community infectious disease awareness day activity held in May at the Women's General Association of Macau (Fu Luen) headquarters on Rua da Barca.

Robber nabbed in Zhuhai 4 hours after robbery in Macau

Yuki Lei

A pawnshop on Rua de Coimbra in Nape was robbed of HK\$145,000 in cash by a male visitor from the mainland early yesterday morning, and Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Lou Chan Fai said during a special press conference yesterday afternoon that the suspect was arrested in Zhuhai about four hours after committing the crime.

The robbery occurred at about 5:40 a.m. yesterday when the suspect – a 49-year-old surnamed Nan – pretended to be a customer and spoke to one of the pawnshop's two female shop assistants outside for a few seconds, after which he suddenly dashed into the shop and closed the main gate, holding a fruit knife to her neck and forcing her to open the cash register, according to Lou, who quoted the shop representative – a non-local resident – as saying that the man snatched HK\$145,000 in cash and quickly fled the scene. The robbery took just about one minute.

The Judiciary Police received a referral from the Public Security Police (PSP) about the robbery at about 6 a.m. yesterday, Lou noted, when a PJ investigation found that Nan had meanwhile taken a taxi to the Barrier Gate checkpoint to return to the mainland.

The Judiciary Police then activated their police liaison



Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Lou Chan Fai (centre) and two senior PJ investigators look on during yesterday's special press conference about the wee hours' robbery in Nape. – Photo: Yuki Lei

mechanism with the mainland police and notified them of the case, Lou said, adding that under the command of the Guangdong Provincial Public Security Department, the Zhuhai Public Security Bureau (PSB) arrested Nan at about 10 a.m. yesterday, i.e., after just about four hours after the robbery, and recovered about 20,000 yuan and HK\$14,000 in cash from him.

According to Lou, at the time of the robbery, there were two female staff members on duty in the shop. One of them was on the mezzanine and was not injured, while the shop assistant, who was held at

knifepoint, was taken to the public Conde de São Januário Hospital Centre with a minor injury.

When asked whether the suspect had "cased the joint" before committing the crime and whether there were more suspects involved, as well as the whereabouts of the knife he used in the robbery, Lou said that the police forces from the two sides were still conducting an in-depth investigation, underlining that the Judiciary Police announced the case as soon as the arrest of the suspect in Zhuhai to address the concerns of the media and the public about the case. ■

Joint anti-terrorism drill 'achieves desired effect': SPU

Yuki Lei

The Unitary Police Service (SPU), in conjunction with the People's Liberation Army (PLA) General Office of the Macau Garrison as well as several other public entities, their "Coiling Dragon" joint anti-terrorism drill at the Macau East Asian Games Dome in Cotai on Friday, "achieved the desired effect", according to an SPU statement later that day.

According to the statement, the drill lasted about two hours and 40 minutes. In the simulated scenario, six terrorists travelling in two vehicles crashed at high speed into the temporary security checkpoint of a large-scale concert, attacking several people with sharp knives. Subsequently, a gun battle broke out between the terrorists and the arriving police officers, in which one of the terrorists was shot and injured before fleeing with another accomplice in a car. The other four terrorists, after throwing a chlorine bomb, abducted two security guards in order to be able to enter the dome and held the 8,000 audience members hostage during negotiations with the police. In the meantime, several people at the temporary security checkpoint became ill due to the inhalation of toxic gas.

The statement noted that 1,038 officers and officials from the Macau Customs Service (SA),



The "Coiling Dragon" joint anti-terrorism drill takes place at the Macau East Asian Games Dome in Cotai on Friday, simulating half a dozen terrorists forcing their way into a large-scale concert and threatening the audience inside. – Photo: MPDG

Public Security Police (PSP), Judiciary Police (PJ), Fire Services Bureau (CB) and Health Bureau (SSM), as well as 43 PLA officers, participated in Friday's drills, during which the Judiciary Police simulated a crisis negotiation with the terrorists in order to ensure the release of two hostages with gunshot wounds and, ultimately, to arrest the terrorists.

The Public Security Police evacuated people in the venue in an orderly manner after a terrorist threw an explosive device that released toxic gas, and conducted contamination tests and

decontamination triage on them, while the Macau Garrison and Fire Services Bureau carried out sampling, investigations, residue disposal, and cleaning inside and outside the venue.

The drill, the statement pointed out, aimed to strengthen the information notification and command and coordination capabilities between the police and the participating entities in responding to unforeseen incidents, and through cooperation with the Macau Garrison, to enhance the coordination capability and tactical level of the public security forces. ■

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Source: SMG

Pakistani sexually harasses subordinate while inspecting building

Tony Wong

A Pakistani, a non-permanent Macau resident who works as a supervisor for a property management company, allegedly sexually harassed his female subordinate while they were inspecting a residential building together, on three occasions starting last month, Public Security Police (PSP) spokeswoman Lai In Hong said during a regular press conference on Friday.

The victim, a non-resident worker in her twenties from the mainland, also sustained minor injuries on her right arm as the result of the third sexual harassment earlier this month.

The victim did not report the case to the police after the first and second harassments, but decided to report it to the police after the third incident, after telling her husband about it.

The suspect, surnamed Tayyab who is in his thirties, refused to answer any questions from PSP officers, but the police decided to transfer him to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) based on CCTV footage and the victim's hospital injury report.

3 harassments

Early last month, Lai said, while Tayyab and the victim were inspecting the residential building in Lam Mau Tong district together, he suddenly put his hand inside her collar and touched her left shoulder. Around the middle of last month, Lai said, Tayyab abruptly grabbed the victim around her waist when they were patrolling.

After the two harassments last month, the victim did not report them to the police as she was gripped by fear, Lai said.

On July 18 when they were inspecting the building together again, Lai said, Tayyab again suddenly put his arms around the victim from behind and touched her breasts, during which he repeatedly pressed himself against her buttocks.

Frightened, the victim struggled with Tayyab during which she sustained injuries on her right arm. After leaving the scene, Lai said, the victim underwent examinations at a hospital, which confirmed her injuries.

'Just fooling around'

Afterwards, the victim angrily questioned Tayyab on a messaging app about what he had done to her, where he apologised to her and said that "he was just fooling around at that time", according to Lai.

Lai said that after telling her husband about the incident, the victim decided to report the case to the police. Accompanied by her husband, she went to a police station on Tuesday last week to report the case.

Later that day, the police told Tayyab to report to a police station for questioning, where he, however, refused to answer any of the PSP officers' questions.

Lai said that based on the evidence they had gathered such as the building's CCTV footage and the victim's hospital injury report, the police assume that Tayyab had sexually harassed the victim while also injuring her.

'Aggravated circumstances'

The suspect has been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office where he faces charges of sexual harassment under aggravated circumstances and causing bodily harm.

According to Article 137 of the Macau Penal Code, a charge of causing bodily harm carries a prison term of up to three years.

A sexual harassment suspect, according to the code's Article 164-A, faces a prison term of up to one year. However, according to the code's Article 171, a sexual harassment offender faces an aggravated circumstance charge if he or she is the victim's job superior where the prison sentence is increased by a third. ■

Macau records highest single-day number of visitors for July: MGTO



Visitors gather in the city's main square, Largo do Senado, yesterday, with an installation of Macau's tourism mascot MAK MAK on the top of the Ritz Building. - Photo: Tony Wong

Tony Wong

The Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) said in a statement yesterday that earlier this month Macau recorded its highest single-day number of visitor arrivals for July, at 135,575 on July 20.

In annual terms, Macau recorded its highest single-day number of visitor arrivals, 226,326, on February 7, 2019,

i.e., the third day of Chinese New Year (CNY) of pre-pandemic 2019.

Yesterday's statement also said that according to its provisional data, Macau recorded 2.39 million visitor arrivals between July 1 and 25, or a daily average of 95,979, a year-on-year increase of 9.5 percent, returning to 85.6 percent of the same period of 2019. ■

Jobless rate drops to pre-pandemic 1.7 pct in Q2

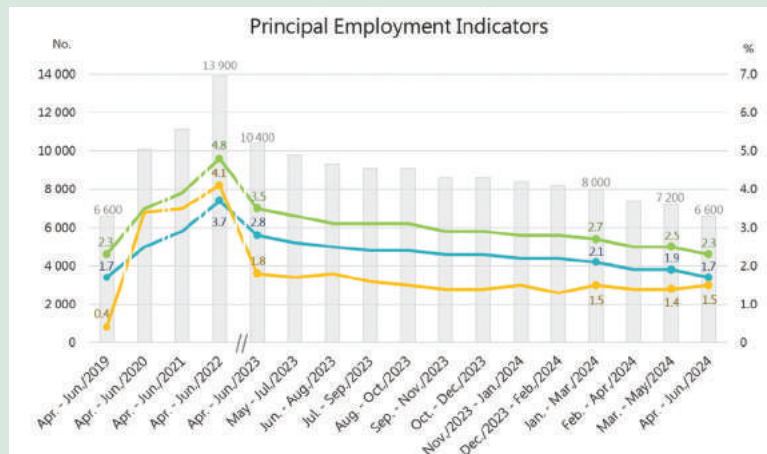
Ginnie Liang

Macau's general unemployment rate, which comprises local and non-resident workers, dropped by 0.4 percentage points to 1.7 percent compared to the first quarter of this year, returning to the corresponding levels in the same quarter of pre-pandemic 2019, the Statistics and Census Bureau (DSEC) announced on Friday.

According to a DSEC statement on Friday, local residents' jobless rate decreased by 0.4 percentage points in the second quarter to 2.3 percent, which is also the same level as that of the same quarter in 2019. Meanwhile, the underemployment rate (1.5 percent) remained unchanged.

According to the statement, the labour force living in Macau stood at 383,000, while the total employed population (376,400) and employed residents (287,000) increased by 5,300 and 3,000 quarter-on-quarter.

Macau's median monthly employment earnings of local



This chart provided by the Statistics and Census Bureau (DSEC) on Friday shows the principal employment indicators from April 2019 to June 2024.

and non-resident workers stood at 17,900 patacas, 100 patacas less than the first quarter. Locals' median monthly employment earnings amounted to 20,000 patacas, a decrease of 500 patacas quarter-on-quarter, which was mainly due to double pay and bonus payments in the first quarter in some sectors.

Employment in retail trade (46,600) and the hotel and F&B

sector (51,000) rose by 1,400 and 1,600 respectively quarter-to-quarter, while that in the gaming sectors (70,300) dropped by 1,100 quarter-on-quarter.

The Employment Survey covers all residential units in the Macau Peninsula, Taipa and Coloane, excluding collective living quarters such as dormitories and care homes for the elderly, the statement said. ■

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35 paintings on display in Zheng Xiaojun's 'She-Realm'

Rui Pastorin

The works of artist Zheng Xiaojun (鄭曉君) are being showcased at the Rui Cunha Foundation (FRC) gallery, with 35 paintings of women and children created in the artist's style on display until Saturday.

Zheng, a member of the Macau Artist Society, is a PhD Associate Professor at Jinan University's School of Journalism and Communication and is also its Artificial Intelligence (AI) and New Media Art Research Centre's director, according to a recent statement from the gallery.

Her works have been showcased in over 30 "important" exhibitions and competitions, as well as collected by professional entities and academic institutions.

In creating the art works presented at the free admission exhibition, the statement said that Zheng used her "sensibility and linear thinking to explore the essence and meaning of life", and also to capture moments of life and reflect her perspectives and thoughts.

The characters depicted in the paintings, meanwhile, transcend the clamour of the world while embodying her delicate perception of individual life, "deep gaze" and "tender understanding", recreating a "world of goodness and beauty", according to the statement.

One can view the works from Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday until August 3.



Daily bus passenger average rises 8 pct in H1



Passengers catch a No. 3X bus on Avenida de Almeida Ribeiro, the city's main thoroughfare, en route to the Barrier Gate checkpoint yesterday. – Photo: Tony Wong

Tony Wong

The Transport Bureau (DSAT) has announced that Macau recorded a daily average of 611,000 public bus passengers in the first half of this year, a year-on-year increase of about eight percent.

The bureau announced the data in a statement on its WeChat account on Friday.

The statement also said that during the first six months of this year, Macau saw the highest daily number of public bus passengers on May 3, at around 755,000.

Macau's population stood at 686,400 at the end of March, according to the latest official demographics.

According to DSAT data on its website, last year Macau saw the

highest daily number of public bus passengers on September 23, at 695,963, while 2019's highest daily numbers of passengers stood at 762,710, on October 4, 2019.

Friday's statement also said that in the first half of this year, around 95 percent of public bus passengers paid their fares by e-payments.

The statement also said that at the end of the second quarter, 885 public buses were new energy vehicles (NEVs), accounting for about 85 percent of the city's total number of public buses of 1,043 at that time.

According to DSAT data, at the end of the first quarter of this year Macau had a total of 1,057 public buses, of which 830 were NEVs, accounting for 78.5 percent of the total. ■

Airport passengers rise 91 pct in H1

Tony Wong

The Macau International Airport recorded 3.73 million passengers in the first half of this year, a year-on-year increase of 91 percent, airport operator CAM has announced in a statement.

According to the statement on Friday, the local airport recorded a total of around 29,000 aircraft movements in the first six months of this year, a year-on-year increase of 72 percent.

According to the statement, the number of passengers and aircraft movements recorded during the first half of this year both returned to around 80 percent of the levels recorded during the same period of pre-pandemic 2019.

The statement said that passengers on mainland China routes accounted for 46 percent of the total passenger numbers during the first half of this year,



This undated handout photo released by CAM on Friday shows passengers walking past duty-free shops in the local airport's boarding area.

while passengers on routes serving China's Taiwan region represented 17 percent of the total. The remaining passengers, 37 percent of the total, took international flights.

In addition, the statement also

said that between January and May this year, the number of passengers arriving at the local airport with a foreign passport stood at 230,000, a year-on-year increase of 280 percent. ■

China makes progress in hepatitis prevention, control

Analysis

BEIJING – As this year's World Hepatitis Day was marked yesterday, Chinese officials and experts highlighted the country's significant progress in the prevention and control of hepatitis, an inflammation of the liver that causes severe liver disease and cancer.

Infections from hepatitis have shown a steady decline in China thanks to enhanced monitoring and comprehensive interventions, said Chang Jile, deputy head of the National Disease Control and Prevention Administration.

Data showed that the prevalence rate of hepatitis B surface antigen has fallen continuously in the country particularly among children under 5 years old, where it has been controlled below 1 percent. Hepatitis B is one of the most burdensome infectious diseases globally and considered a significant public health issue in China.

When people discuss hepatitis, they typically refer to the highly infectious and harmful forms of viral hepatitis. There are five main strains of the hepatitis virus, categorized as types A, B, C, D and E.

The incidence rate of hepatitis A in China had dropped from 55.69 per 100,000 individuals in 1991 to 1.06 per 100,000 in 2020, and the incidence rate of hepatitis E remained relatively low, at 1.85 per 100,000 in 2021, said Li Jian, an expert with the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention (China CDC).

Treatment for viral hepatitis has also improved in China, with more patients now being able to receive standard treatment, said Chang. The antiviral cure rate for hepatitis C patients has exceeded 95 percent.

According to the National Cancer Center, China added approximately 367,700 new cases of liver cancer in 2022, with a standardized incidence

rate of around 15.03 per 100,000 individuals, indicating a downward trend.

The WHO's global hepatitis elimination strategy aims to reduce new infections of viral hepatitis by 90 percent and deaths by 65 percent between 2016 and 2030, while increasing the diagnosis rate to 90 percent and the treatment rate to 80 percent.

CHINA IN ACTION

In recent years, China has adopted a prevention-first approach, integrating prevention and treatment, with the entire society working together to eliminate hepatitis, Chang told a convention held earlier this month to promote both World Hepatitis Day and actions designed to eliminate hepatitis.

The country aims for a comprehensive disease control system by 2030, with disease control and prevention institutions as the backbone, medical institutions as the support, and community-level medical and healthcare providers as the final safety net, according to a document released in December 2023.

Additionally, the prices of antiviral medications for the treatment of hepatitis have been lowered through bulk procurement and negotiations. Antiviral medications for hepatitis B are now covered by the country's basic medical insurance, and antiviral medications for hepatitis C have been added to the national list of essential medicines, significantly reducing the financial burden on patients.

ENHANCED SCREENING

Despite this progress, elimination of hepatitis viruses remains a challenging quest for China.

Experts attribute the situation to several factors, including a significant population of hepatitis virus carriers and patients,

insufficient capacity of grassroots medical and healthcare services, social stigma concerning hepatitis patients, and low public awareness of hepatitis prevention and control.

Approximately 75 million people are living with chronic hepatitis B in China, according to China CDC researcher Yin Zundong.

Experts have called for efforts to step up diagnosis and treatment to more quickly identify those who are undiagnosed and untreated, saying this is crucial to reducing the incidence of severe liver diseases.

The diagnosis and treatment rates for hepatitis B in China fall significantly short of the WHO's 2030 targets, according to Li.

Zhang Wenhong, head of the National Medical Center for Infectious Diseases, emphasized the importance of grassroots medical services, integration of hospitals with disease prevention and control institutions, and multidisciplinary cooperation.

Wang Yu, chairman of the Chinese Foundation for Hepatitis Prevention and Control, called for enhanced management of hepatitis patients throughout the course of the disease as well as early liver cancer monitoring among those with chronic hepatitis.

According to the latest reform resolution adopted earlier this month at the third plenary session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, efforts will be made to improve the country's public health system, promoting collaboration and integration between hospitals and disease prevention and control institutions.

The country will also boost capacities for disease monitoring and early warning, risk assessment, epidemiological investigation, testing and inspection, emergency response, and medical treatment.

– Xinhua

IAM urges public not to feed babies 'Risotto Légumes Petits Pois Poulet'



This undated file photo downloaded from the official website of "HiPP Biologique" last night shows the problematic baby food "Risotto Légumes Petits Pois Poulet (18 mois)".

BY Ginnie Liang

The Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) urged the public in a statement on Friday not to feed babies a made-in-France baby food named "Risotto Légumes Petits Pois Poulet (18 mois)"*, which may contain black nightshade.

According to the statement, the bureau was informed by the Rappel Conso, a French public service that shares information about product recalls in France, about the problematic foodstuff – a 260 gram baby food product, batch number B31599 and a barcode number of 4062300081758 under the brand of "HiPP Biologique", and its best-before date is March 12, 2025.

According to the statement, black nightshade (*Solanum nigrum*) is a herb that does not normally pose acute health risks to infants,

children or adults, but may cause nausea and abdominal pain when consumed in large quantities.

Various baby food products of the brand are sold widely in local pharmacies. The brand name "HiPP Biologique" translate as "喜寶" in Chinese.

The bureau immediately issued an alert to the local food trade and dispatched officials to inspect the market, in order to prevent the continued circulation of the affected batch of the product in Macau, adding that shops should also immediately cease supplying or selling the product if they have it on their shelves.

Anyone who has food-related enquiries may call the IAM's Food Safety Hotline on 2833 8181. ■

*Risotto Vegetables Peas Chicken (18 months)

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