

Police hold anti-drug publicity campaign with youth trainees

Leong Ian Kio

The Judiciary Police (PJ) launched their annual week-long “Youth Drug Abuse Prevention” publicity campaign in the city’s main square, Largo do Senado, yesterday with young trainees from their “Community Safety Youth Leadership Project” and the “Junior Anti-Crime Pioneers Project”, as well as trainees from the “Weifang City Youth Police School’s Safe and Sound (平安) Pioneers in Shandong Province”.

According to a PJ spokesman, the publicity campaign aims to raise anti-drug awareness through “the influence of peers”. Under the guidance of the PJ Narcotics Division, the trainees will inform the public about the harm of substance abuse and drug prevention strategies.

Furthermore, the PJ also announced that the “Community Safety Youth Leadership Project” and the “Junior Anti-Crime Pioneers Project” will visit recreational areas, parks, sports venues and other places across Macau where young people often gather during the week-long campaign in the hope of disseminating the anti-drug message and preventing the spread



Representatives from the Judiciary Police, depictions of the Judiciary Police’s “Anti-Drug Lado” mascot and Shandong Weifang’s Youth Police School pose together with their young trainees from the Judiciary Police (PJ) “Community Safety Youth Leadership Project” and “Junior Anti-crime Pioneers Project”, as well as the “Weifang City Youth Police School’s Safe and Sound (平安) Pioneers in Shandong Province”, in the city’s main square, Largo do Senado, yesterday afternoon. – Photo: Leong Ian Kio

of substance abuse across the city. To curb drug-related crimes among youths, the Judiciary Police also continue to hold crime prevention talks in local schools,

including “Understanding the Anti-Drug Law and Drug Cannabis” lectures for students and “Drug Recognition Seminars” for teachers, staff and parents. According to the

Judiciary Police, the publicity and educational campaigns not only raise awareness of the harm of drug abuse and its legal consequences, but also promote cooperation



among families, schools and the police to prevent substance abuse among youngsters.

The Judiciary Police urge young people to remain vigilant at all times, resolutely reject the temptation of drugs and call on their peers to do the same. Moreover, the police remind all sectors of civil society to pay attention to the regulations on drugs in different countries and regions, particularly the decriminalisation of marijuana, and avoid breaking the law by mistakenly bringing back products containing controlled substances into Macau. ■

Socialist elected as leader of Spain’s Catalonia

BARCELONA – Salvador Illa of Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez’s Spanish Socialist Workers’ Party (PSOE) was elected as Catalonia’s new leader yesterday, becoming the first regional head not from a pro-independence party since 2010.

The party of wanted separatist figurehead Carles Puigdemont had unsuccessfully requested the investiture vote be postponed after he returned to Spain for a brief rally in Barcelona and slipped away without being arrested. – (Earlier story on p. 11) – AFP

US says Israel revoking Norwegian diplomats’ status ‘not helpful’

WASHINGTON – The United States yesterday criticised its ally Israel for revoking the diplomatic status of Norwegian envoys to the Palestinian Authority, saying Oslo has played an important role in the Middle East.

“Norway has a long history of playing a productive role when it comes to engaging with the government of Israel engaging with the Palestinian Authority,” US State Department spokesman Matthew Miller told reporters.

“We don’t think steps to prevent them from playing that role are particularly helpful,” he said. – (More on p. 11) – AFP



China’s Wang Zilu performing with the ribbon as she competes in the rhythmic gymnastics’ individual all-around qualification during the Paris 2024 Olympic Games at the Porte de la Chapelle Arena in Paris, yesterday. – AFP (More on Olympics on pages 7, 8 & 13-16)

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Xi’s special representative to attend closing ceremony of Olympic Games Paris 2024

BEIJING – President Xi Jinping’s Special Representative and State Councilor Shen Yiqin will attend the closing ceremony and other events of the 33rd Olympic Games in Paris from today to Sunday, foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning announced yesterday. – Story on p. 7

Netanyahu ‘sorry’ Oct 7 attack occurred

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in an interview published yesterday he was “sorry” that Hamas was able to carry out its October 7 attack, without explicitly taking responsibility. – Story on p. 10

Mozambican president says ending 10-year rule with ‘mission fulfilled’

Mozambican President Filipe Nyusi said on Wednesday that he will end his ten-year term as president with a sense of duty fulfilled.

– Story on p. 12

CAECE sets up mock polling station

William Chan

The Chief Executive Electoral Affairs Commission (CAECE) has set up a mock polling station at the Macau Forum complex in Zape for the election of the Chief Executive Election Committee members, which will be held this Sunday.

The mock station opened to the public yesterday and is open today from 12 p.m. to 7 p.m.

CAECE President Song Man Lei visited the mock polling station yesterday and simulated the voting procedure.

After the simulation, Song told reporters at the complex that the seven polling stations set up at the three voting locations will all be ready by today.

In addition to the Macau Forum in Zape, the nearby Macao Polytechnic University's (MPU) Multi-Sport Pavilion in Zape and the Luso-Chinese Vocational and Technical School in Areia Preta district will also be used as polling stations for the election.

Song underlined that the use of mobile phones, video recording, audio recording, and other communication devices is prohibited inside the polling stations. Appropriate reminders have been set up inside the venues and voting booths to remind voters to comply with the rules, she said, adding that voters should not intentionally add any words or graphics, or tear the ballot papers, as they would be

considered invalid votes.

According to Song, similar to the 2019 election, Sunday's balloting will also use electronic voting to expedite the vote-counting process. She noted that the process is more mature than the previous election, adding she believed that, therefore, the vote counting process can be completed faster this time.

Song added that the mock polling station provides an opportunity for eligible voters to familiarise themselves in advance with the proper way to mark their ballots, as they could promptly ask for assistance should they face any difficulties. Around 6,200 voters have registered for Sunday's secret ballot of the Chief Executive Election Committee members.

There are 348 candidates for the 344 seats up for grabs. The remaining 56 seats are representatives from a wide range of interests, such as national and local lawmakers and political advisors as well as the religious (Buddhist, Taoist, Catholic and Protestant) sector.

The chief executive election is slated to be held in mid-October. Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng is widely expected to be the only candidate. Informed sources have told the *Post* that he will announce his re-election platform "quite soon". According to the Macau Basic Law, the chief executive can serve no more than two consecutive five-year terms. ■

CE hopes UM can take role supporting country's education development



Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng (central) chaired the Joint Meeting of the University Assembly (UA) and University Council (UC) for the 2023/2024 academic year at the Ho Yin Conference Hall at the UM campus yesterday. — Photo provided by UM

Ginnie Liang

Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng said yesterday that Macau is in a new stage of development, and the University of Macau (UM) should take the role of helping develop the nation into a leading country in education, promote the development of new quality productive forces, and support the country's high-quality development.

According to a UM statement, Ho made the remarks when he chaired the Joint Meeting of the University Assembly (UA) and University Council (UC) for the 2023/2024

academic year at Ho Yin Conference Hall on the UM campus yesterday.

Ho said that UM should fully leverage the resources of the Guangdong-Macau In-depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin to create a high-end platform for attracting, gathering, and utilising talent for Macau and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA).

Ho also pointed out that UM should accelerate industry-academia collaboration and promote the commercialisation of research results in the zone, so as to contribute to the promotion of

Macau's economic diversification.

Ho also expressed hope that UM will strengthen Macau's innovation ecosystem by focusing on talent cultivation, original innovation, and integration into the industry chain of GBA.

Ho suggested that UM should actively explore more innovative ways to attract more high-calibre talent and introduce more high-quality international educational resources, at the same time, encourage its students and faculty to go global and broaden their international perspective. ■



CAECE President Song Man Lei shows the media a ballot paper in the mock polling station at the Macau Forum complex in Zape yesterday. — Photo: William Chan

Govt mulls more e-coupon consumption campaigns: Lei

Tony Wong

Secretary for Economy and Finance Lei Wai Nong said yesterday that the government is reviewing its e-coupon consumption stimulation campaign for the peninsula's northern district, which ended a few days ago, and studying the feasibility of launching similar ones for other districts as well, with the aim of continuing to support community consumption.

Lei made the remarks when replying to oral interpellations by lawmakers during a plenary session in the legislature's hemicycle yesterday.

The government's e-coupon campaign for the northern district ran between March 18 and August 4. Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng told legislators in April that the government had decided to launch an e-coupon campaign for the northern district first as the district (known in Cantonese as "bak koi") was most affected by Macau's relatively poor post-pandemic local consumption because it's convenient for residents living there to travel to Zhuhai to dine out and shop.

The Economic and Technological Development Bureau (DSED) said in a statement on Wednesday that the government had spent 29.75 million patacas on

its 20-week e-coupon campaign for the northern district, generating consumer spending worth 150 million patacas for businesses in the district.

Lei noted during yesterday's plenary session that the recently concluded e-coupon campaign for the northern district has achieved good results in boosting local consumption in the district as every pataca the government spent had generated consumer spending worth five patacas.

The policy secretary also said that the recently concluded consumption stimulation campaign saw a higher percentage of consumer spending made by non-

Macau e-payment tools compared to similar previous campaigns, indicating that tourists are nowadays more willing to spend money in neighbourhoods other than the city's tourism districts.

Lei said that the government was now reviewing its e-coupon campaign for the northern district and studying the feasibility of rolling out similar ones for other districts as well. If the government decides to launch ones for other districts, he said, they could get off the ground in the next quarter.

Rising non-gaming spending

Moreover, Lei also underlined that nowadays a rising number of visitors to Macau are younger ones, adding that visitors' non-gaming spending is also rising.

The policy secretary also said that currently those visiting Macau to watch concerts and other performances spend the most per capita among different groups of visitors.

Meanwhile, Lei also said that at the end of June this year, 90.3 percent of medium- and high-ranking management members employed by the city's six gaming operators were local residents, higher than the officially required minimum of 85 percent. ■



Secretary for Economy and Finance Lei Wai Nong speaks during yesterday's plenary session in the Legislative Assembly's (AL) hemicycle. — Photo: GCS

Published since Aug 2004

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- Wire services – AFP, Xinhua



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Mainlander robs & kills HK illegal currency dealer at hotel

Ginnie Liang

The Judiciary Police (PJ) arrested a mainland man suspected of killing and robbing a Hong Kong man in a hotel guestroom in Cotai on Wednesday, and a Hong Kong woman suspected of laundering the loot, a Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesperson said at a special press conference yesterday.

According to the spokesperson, the victim was a middle-age man from Hong Kong, who worked as an illegal currency exchange dealer in Macau for at least six months.

The mainland suspect is a 40-year-old man surnamed Yang, and the female suspect is a 48-year-old Hong Kong woman surnamed Tang. Both of them told the police that they are jobless, the spokesperson said, adding that Yang worked for the victim as an illegal currency exchange dealer for at least three months.

The police received a report at nearly 5 p.m. on Wednesday that a dead body had been found in the bathroom of a hotel guestroom in Cotai, with a fatal neck wound of about 20 centimetres in length, an injury to his forehead and various degrees of other injuries, the spokesperson said.

According to the spokesperson, the victim won money in the casino and exchanged his chips for about HK\$2.5 million into cash, after which, he went to his guestroom at around 10 a.m. on Wednesday.

According to the spokesperson, Yang then entered the guestroom and stayed there for about one-and-



The Judiciary Police (PJ) display evidence they seized from the male murder suspect including HK\$1.7 million in cash, bloodstained clothes and mobile phones during yesterday's special press conference at the PJ headquarters in Zape.

- Photo: William Chan

a-half hours, after which he went to a corner of the hotel lobby and handed over a bag suspected of being full of cash to Tang. Yang then returned to the room and stayed there for about three hours before taking a taxi with two bags of things and leaving.

The police found two pieces of a razor blade about six centimetres long and stained with blood in the guestroom, but no complete murder weapon was found, and the crime scene was found to have been cleaned up, according to the spokesperson.

PJ officers arrested the duo in the hotel casino and a nearby street respectively on the same day, and seized HK\$1.7 million from Yang and his rented apartment in Taipa, according to the spokesperson, adding that Yang had changed his clothes twice after the crime to

avoid being found by the police.

PJ officers also discovered bloodstained clothes and two mobile phones belonging to the deceased outside a supermarket in Taipa, the spokesperson said.

Tang, according to the spokesperson, was suspected of having exchanged some of the stolen money into chips and transferring



Judiciary Police (PJ) officers escort the two hooded fraud suspects to a PJ vehicle outside the PJ headquarters in Zape yesterday.

- Photo: Ginnie Liang

some of the money to mainland bank accounts with the help of other illegal money exchangers.

Under questioning, the duo refused to cooperate.

The duo were transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office

(MP) yesterday afternoon, with Yang facing charges of homicide and aggravated robbery, with Tang facing a charge of money laundering, according to the spokesperson.

Macau's maximum prison term for homicide is 25 years. ■

2 mainland women arrested for 'ghosting' man who lent them 2,200 patacas

Ginnie Liang

Two mainland women in their thirties were arrested on Tuesday after borrowing 2,200 patacas from a local man who lost contact with them before they paid him back, Public Security Police (PSP) spokesperson said in a regular press conference yesterday.



This undated handout photo provided by the Public Security Police (PSP) during yesterday's regular press conference shows two police officers escorting the two female suspects to a police station.

According to the spokesperson, the male victim told police that he lent 2,200 patacas to two women when he was walking along Avenida General Castelo Branco on Sunday, as the duo claimed that they had gambled away all their money and urgently needed some cash, and the duo promised to return the money on the following day.

The duo and the male victim parted after exchanging phone numbers, the spokesperson said. However, the man tried to contact the duo the following day, but to no avail. He suspected that he had been defrauded and reported the case to the police for help.

After scrutinising the police forces' citywide CCTV camera system, PJ officers intercepted the duo at a hotel in the S. Lourenço district on Tuesday.

The duo admitted that they had borrowed money from the victim, but claimed that they could not pay the man back only because they had lost his contact details.

The duo have been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), facing a fraud charge, according to the spokesperson. ■

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This undated handout photo recently provided by Melco Resorts & Entertainment shows the Heart-of-House F&B minibar product roadshow taking place at the staff area in Studio City in Cotai.

Melco hosts Heart-of-House F&B product roadshow

Rui Pastorin

Melco Resorts & Entertainment has recently hosted an F&B minibar product roadshow at Studio City's Heart-of-House staff areas for 18 local small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), the integrated resort (IR) operator said in a statement last week.

Melco Vice President of Supply Chain Augusta Vargas-Prada was quoted by the statement as saying: "A signature event for our colleagues and local SMEs is our regular Heart-of-House Roadshows, where we open our doors and provide rent-free retail space to provide an effective platform for SMEs to share their projects and services with our teams, thereby increasing their revenue and market exposure, as well as prospects for longer-term collaborations".

The statement added that Melco's Housekeeping and

Supply Chain department executives met with the SMEs and held "product tastings of potentially suitable minibar products" to enable long term cooperation. The statement said that this allowed Melco and SMEs a chance to "develop a better mutual understanding through direct dialogue, learning about each another's products, services, business ethics and standards".

The officiating guests comprised the Commerce and Investment Promotion Institute's (IPIM) Director Leong Wa Fong,

Investment Promotion and Commerce Development Affairs Department Senior Manager Ray Chao (周鵬), and Commerce and Business Development Division Manager Sanna Leong (梁禮珊). They met with Melco's Global Supply Chain Director Sylvia Chua (蔡炅花) and Housekeeping Director Kenny Wong (黃家全).

MGM promotes responsible gaming through initiatives

Rui Pastorin

Integrated resort (IR) operator MGM said in a statement earlier this week that it has been promoting responsible gaming (RG) through various initiatives and has recently unveiled its "MGM Financial Education School Tour 2024 - Hero of Egg Waffle".

The tour, the statement said, aims to convey positive messages such as the prevention of problem gaming and financial awareness to students.



This undated handout photo provided by MGM earlier this week shows "MGM Financial Education School Tour 2024 - Hero of Egg Waffle" taking place.

The statement quoted MGM Gaming Operations & Strategic Marketing Executive Vice President Tian Han as saying: "We launched the 'MGM Financial Education School Tour' in 2023, presenting a musical drama every year addressing current social issues such as blind box purchases and online game recharging, helping students develop a proper concept of money and values in a fresh and fun way.

"The school tour visits 20 local primary and secondary schools, helping promote it to more than 3,000 students in every academic year", he added.

The statement noted that the company has also been conveying RG information to university students and has recently signed a memorandum of understanding with City University of Macau (CityU) to inaugurate the "Responsible Gaming Project on Campus".

Through the partnership, MGM will host on-campus RG training and lectures, with students who complete the training able to act as RG ambassadors in the company's RG promotional events.

The IR has also recently launched the "Photo Exhibition of Gaming Industry and Responsible Gaming Promotions in Macau - MGM Special Session", which featured three topics - "History of Gaming Industry Development", "History of Responsible Gaming", and "Introduction to MGM's Responsible Gaming Initiatives", according to the statement.

Moreover, the company recently held the "Responsible Gaming City Orienteering Competition" with the Macao New Chinese Youth Association, which had 30 participating teams.

'Rendezvous in Macau Lisboa Culinary Adventure' to take place at GLP

Rui Pastorin

SJM Resorts unveiled its upcoming "Rendezvous in Macau Lisboa Culinary Adventure" at Grand Lisboa Palace's (GLP) Grand Pavilion in Cotai on August 17, with the dining experience to feature nine "master chefs" from eight of SJM's restaurants, according to a statement from the integrated resort operator yesterday.

The statement noted that the evening event, which is an "East-West culinary celebration", will feature global cuisines and live performances. It is priced at 6,288 patacas per person.

The chefs, the statement said, are from the three-MICHELIN-Starred French restaurant "Robuchon au Dôme", two-MICHELIN-Starred Chinese restaurant "The 8", Forbes Five-star rated Cantonese cuisine "Palace Garden", modern Portuguese restaurant "Mesa by José Avillez", Japanese kappo style "Zuicho", Italian restaurant "Don Alfonso 1890", "Hua Ting", which serves Shanghaiese and Huaiyang delicacies, and "La Scala de Palazzo", which serves Italian cuisine.

The statement added that 10 dishes that "integrate the culinary artistry of Chinese, Japanese, Portuguese, French, and Italian cuisines" will be presented with Macau-themed cocktails. Moreover, performances by artists from TVB along with famous singers will also be held.

"Rendezvous in Macau Lisboa Culinary Adventure Hotel Package" is also available in conjunction with the event, the statement noted.

More details on the event can be found by calling 8881 1800 or visiting the website on <https://www.sjmresorts.com/en/happenings/a-tribute-to-macaus-gastronomy>



This poster provided by SJM Resorts yesterday promotes the "Rendezvous in Macau Lisboa Culinary Adventure", which is set to take place at Grand Lisboa Palace (GLP) in Cotai on August 17.

Sands China brings back 'Amazing Summer'

Rui Pastorin

The Sands China Amazing Summer 2024 campaign kicked off on July 19 at The Venetian Macao's Cotai Expo, marking the seventh year of the parent-child activity series for the company's staff and their families, integrated resort (IR) Sands China said in a statement on Wednesday.

The annual campaign is part of the company's "ongoing commitment to the well-being and quality of life of its team members, both at work and at home", having seen more than 2,700 participants over the past six years.

According to the statement, the July-August series features a raft of fun and exciting activities. Among them are the "Sands China Summer Fair", which features games, hairstyling and face-painting booths and cooking, arts and science workshops; Shine Like a Star, where parents learn how to put performance makeup on their kids; and

It's Time to Work, where staff can explore the company's back-of-house areas with their children, the statement said.

Moreover, activities like large-scale parent-child painting, art and science workshops, sport, storytelling, kids book crossing are also featured in the Sands China Amazing Summer 2024 campaign, the statement noted.

Sands China Ltd. Executive Vice Chairman Wilfred Wong Ying-wai was quoted by the statement as saying: "Sands China has always been attentive to the physical and mental well-being of its team members, and is dedicated to promoting work-life balance and family harmony".

He added: "To achieve this, the company regularly plans various activities for its team members and their families, including the Amazing Summer campaign, which has been received very positively by our team members for strengthening their family relationships and interactions".



This undated handout photo provided on Wednesday by Sands China shows participants of the Sands China Amazing Summer playing a game.

Ao Ieong vows to make good use of Macau's 2025 Culture City of East Asia

Tony Wong

Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Elsie Ao Ieong U pledged yesterday that the local government will make good use of Macau's "golden business card" as a culturally renowned city, considering that Macau has been chosen as a 2025 Culture City of East Asia.

Ao Ieong made the remarks when replying to oral interpellations by lawmakers during a plenary session in the legislature's hemicycle yesterday.

In early June, Macau was chosen as one of the two Chinese 2025 Culture Cities of East Asia (CCEA).

The other Chinese 2025 Culture City of East Asia is Huzhou City in Zhejiang Province.

The Culture City of East Asia project is an arts and culture naming programme jointly launched by China, Japan and South Korea about a decade ago. Each of the three countries had chosen and designated one city as their respective Culture City of East Asia every year since the first and 2014 CCEA, but since the 2021 CCEA, China has named two Culture Cities of East Asia every year, with Japan and South Korea each continuing to designate one.

Until Macau's designation as a 2025 Culture City of East Asia, other Chinese cities winning the title since the project's launch are all mainland cities.

Ao Ieong said during yesterday's plenary session that the local government is now planning and organising a raft of cultural activities and events to be held next year marking Macau as a 2025 Culture City of East Asia.

The policy secretary said that the various activities and events to be launched next year will include cultural exhibitions, international conferences, exhibitions and shows of intangible cultural heritage, as well as various other large-scale cultural, sporting and tourist activities.

Ao Ieong underlined that in addition to continuing with its branded large-scale activities and events next year, the local government will organise such events with stronger emphasis on cultural exchanges between China, Japan and South Korea.

Ao Ieong also said that the local government will study the possibility of launching promotional campaigns in various cities in the mainland, Japan and South Korea next year.

Location for open-air performance venue is good

Meanwhile, Ao Ieong also said that the government's chosen location for setting up its Macau Open-Air Performance Venue in Cotai is a good one because it is close to large hotel resorts so that it would be convenient for spectators to walk to the nearby resorts to dine out, as well as those who have checked into the nearby hotels to return to their rooms after watching performances.

The government earlier this year launched its project to set up a temporary open-air venue for hosting concerts and other performances with a capacity of 50,000 spectators, to be located on a large plot next to the Lisboeta Macau resort in Cotai.

The government expects the temporary Macau Open-Air Performance Venue to start operating early next year.

The 94,000-square-metre government plot in south-east Cotai is located east of the Lisboeta Macau resort, and south of the Grand Lisboa Palace Resort Macau complex.

Ao Ieong also said that it will be a relatively short walking distance between the open-air performance venue and a Light Rail Transit (LRT) station in the area.

She said that the government will also plan the launch of special public bus routes serving the venue whenever a performance is held there.

Ao Ieong also said that the government plans to invite singers and performers from places such as the mainland, Hong Kong, Japan and South Korea for concerts to be held at the open-air venue. ■



Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Elsie Ao Ieong U addresses yesterday's plenary session in the Legislative Assembly's (AL) hemicycle.

— Photo: GCS

Foreign visitors talk about their experiences getting around Macau: vox pop

Rui Pastorin

There are several ways for visitors to get around Macau. Some may choose to take public buses, catch a taxi or even hop on the city's Light Rapid Transit (LRT), while information on how to get around is available around the city and its different tourist attractions. For foreign tourists, what has the experience been like for them as they navigate Macau? To find out, the *Post* interviewed several of them in the city centre yesterday.

Visitors in their twenties John and Eugene, who are from the Netherlands, are on a trip to see different parts of the mainland, but also want to see Macau as they were curious to know more about the city, a place they had visited when they were younger. Remarking on their experience with transport, both said that they have so far found it to be easy and that the bus ride they took to the city centre was okay, with Eugene noting that the only downsides they had experienced was that there wasn't too much air conditioning while the bus ride was slow at times. "We had to stop a lot of times, [but] the rest was pretty good, very cheap, [and it is] easy to get by", Eugene noted.

John can speak Cantonese, while Eugene speaks Putonghua, underlining that they can get around Macau just fine. Though some information is not available in English, Eugene said he found general information in English in places like buses and the airport to be sufficient. John added that there was enough information in English at the airport, but "the more we got into the city, the less English there was". Overall, he said it was adequate to navigate the city, which Eugene, who looked forward to visiting some of the city's integrated resorts, echoed.

Meanwhile, a 36-year-old visitor named Johan said that upon arriving in Macau from Hong Kong yesterday, he found it easy to catch a cab. "There might be a language



Tourists take photos on the steps of the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Ruins of St. Paul's yesterday afternoon.

— Photo: Rui Pastorin

barrier, but it was quite quick [for the cabbie] to see where I wanted to go, so it's easy", he said. But he also noted that from his research that people might sometimes struggle to get a taxi, especially at peak hours.

He also mentioned that he initially did not know about Macau's Light Rapid Transit (LRT), but would love to learn more about it and see how it works as he explores the city, where he said he looked forward to seeing places like Jardim de Luis de Camões.

Claudine, a Filipino who works in Dubai, was satisfied with her trip to Macau, remarking that she was in awe of its infrastructure and the mix of Portuguese and Chinese cultures that make the city unique. Travelling to Macau with her mum for a day, the 30-year-old said that they had someone show them around the city, which made navigating it easier.

"That's why we found it easy, but maybe if it were only us [her and her mum], I don't know if I could do it", she said, noting that some places can get a bit confusing, and she did not know if Macau had any dedicated apps for getting around like Hong Kong. However, she said that if there was more time to explore, they would try to do so on their own and see "the beauty of Macau".

Portuguese visitors Ana and Pedro, aged 35 and 44 respectively, travelled to Macau from Vietnam. Though their

first impression of the city was that it is noisy and chaotic, Pedro said that he loved Macau. Both praised the city's cleanliness and the street art present in certain areas, while also finding the city's Chinese and Portuguese influences interesting, along with the city being multicultural. They did not have an opinion on getting around using public transport yet, but pointed out that they found it easy to move around given how everything seemed "relatively close".

Meanwhile, unlike other interviewees, Joshin and Manny, aged 17 and 18, found that although Macau is a nice place to go around, moving from attraction to attraction may not always be that easy. "When we came here, we didn't know where to go and the transportation was really hard because it's all in Chinese and we got lost a lot", Joshin said, with Manny adding that their family got lost five times.

Visiting from Hong Kong, the siblings recommended that there could be more posters in English that could also specify how to get to main attractions that tourists want to go to. "They could include more directions, that could help them [visitors] out better", while Manny emphasised that putting more pictures of tourist attractions on maps on buses could also help those who may not know the specific name of an attraction. ■

HK chambers of commerce study spirit of President Xi's letter to entrepreneurs

HONGKONG—Seven chambers of commerce in Hong Kong have jointly held a seminar to study the spirit of President Xi Jinping's reply letter to representatives of Hong Kong entrepreneurs of Ningbo ancestry in Zhejiang Province.

Zheng Yanxiong, director of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), said at the seminar that Hong Kong's business community should assume the roles of a stakeholder, trailblazer, contributor and innovator, mindful of Hong Kong's mission and responsibilities in further deepening reform comprehensively and advancing Chinese-style modernization.

Financial Secretary of the HKSAR government Paul Chan

Mo-po said the HKSAR government will strive to unite the strengths of patriotic, Hong Kong-loving and hometown-loving communities, and give full play to their respective advantages to integrate into national reform and development.

Ningbo is well-known for its large number of overseas Chinese entrepreneurs like Pao Yue-kong and Run Run Shaw. Descendants of the pioneering generation of Ningbo-born Hong Kong entrepreneurs including Pao Pui-hing and Chao Kee-Young recently wrote to Xi to report on their efforts to support national development and express their commitment to the motherland's modernization drive.

"Hong Kong's prosperity and stability rely on the support of the motherland. We must bear in mind

President Xi's entrustment and make new contributions to realizing the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation," said Pao Pui-hing.

Representatives of seven chambers of commerce, comprising the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong, the Chinese Manufacturers' Association of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce, the Federation of Hong Kong Industries, the Real Estate Developers Association of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Chinese Enterprises Association and the Hong Kong Chinese Importers' and Exporters' Association, said they will study and implement the spirit of the reply letter, grasp opportunities and play their part in the country's continued reform and opening up. — Xinhua

STOCK MARKETS

Hang Seng Index closes 0.08 pct higher

HONG KONG — Hong Kong's stock market ended higher yesterday with the benchmark Hang Seng Index up 0.08 percent to close at 16,891.83 points.

The Hang Seng China Enterprises Index climbed 0.14 percent to end at 5,941.47 points, while the Hang Seng Tech Index dipped 0.47 percent to close at 3,366.68 points. — Xinhua