

MGTO launches second-phase review of tourism master plan

Tony Wong

The Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) has launched the second-phase review of its master plan for Macau's tourism development, for possible amendments to proposed measures listed in the master plan, with the aim of enabling the city to develop its tourism industry in compliance with the sector's current post-pandemic landscape, according to an MGTO statement yesterday.

MGTO announced the final version of its Macau Tourism Industry Development Master Plan in September 2017, covering the period to 2030. MGTO published a report in November 2021 detailing the results of the master plan's first-phase review.

Yesterday's statement said that MGTO has now launched an online questionnaire survey to collect residents' opinions and suggestions on the city's future tourism development, as part of



This photo taken last month shows the Macau Government Tourism Office's (MGTO) Stay Chill Macao Market in the Ritz Building in Largo do Senado, the city's main square. The market is being held until December 1. - Photo: Tony Wong

its process to carry out the master plan's second-phase review.

The statement noted that the local government is vigorously pushing ahead with its 1+4 appropriate economic diversification plan, and

the central government rolled out a string of measures favourable to Macau's development earlier this year, which are together providing a wider space for Macau to develop its tourism industry.

The statement said that with the ever-changing external environment and the city's current tourism developments, MGTO has now commissioned a research institution to carry

out the second-phase review of its Macau Tourism Industry Development Master Plan.

According to the statement, the master plan's second-phase review will study the current post-pandemic landscape of Macau's tourism industry and its current development trends. In addition, the statement said, the review will also summarise the implementation of the action plans listed in the master plan between 2021 and 2024.

Int'l metropolis' 'golden business card'

The statement underlined that MGTO is collaborating with various other public entities and the travel trade to make good use of the central government's preferential measures for Macau, and to deepen cross-sector integration across "tourism +" in compliance with the government's 1+4 appropriate economic diversification plan.

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Xi hails Olympians for winning glory for country

BEIJING — President Xi Jinping yesterday hailed Chinese Olympians for their performance and sportsmanship at the Paris Olympics, saying they have won glory for the country and the people.

Meeting China's Olympic delegation for Paris 2024 at the Great Hall of the People, Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, urged the Olympians to make further efforts to build China into a sports powerhouse.

Team China clinched 40 gold, 27 silver and 24 bronze medals in Paris, marking their best performance at an overseas Summer Olympics.

Xi noted that the Chinese delegation's excellent performance has fully demonstrated the country's strength in the new era.

The fundamental reason why China has joined the ranks of the world's leading sports nations and become a major Olympic player is the country's growing national strength, he said.

He highlighted the importance of sound technological and material support for sports training, as well as a good environment and broad foundation for the development of talent in various sports.

He stressed that the country will continue to promote the deep integration of national fitness and national health initiatives, and move constantly toward the goals of building China into a sports powerhouse and healthy nation.

The Chinese delegation's excellent performance in Paris has carried forward the spirit of Chinese sports, as well as the Olympic spirit, Xi said.

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President Xi Jinping (front) meet with China's Olympic delegation for Paris 2024 at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing yesterday. - Xinhua

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Pakistan's Sindh orders inquiry into monsoon child brides

A Pakistan provincial government has ordered an inquiry into child marriages in areas affected by floods in 2022 following an exclusive AFP story on the subject.

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UN calls Nicaragua crackdown on NGOs 'deeply alarming'

The United Nations yesterday said the closing of 1,500 NGOs in Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega's latest crackdown on opponents - the biggest targeting of NGOs to date - was "deeply alarming".

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Uganda police arrest man after 17 skulls found

Ugandan police arrested a man following the grisly discovery last month of 17 skulls in a shrine west of the capital Kampala, officials said yesterday.

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UM, Fudan students participate in summer learning service programme

Rui Pastorin

The University of Macau (UM) and Fudan University's students and faculty recently took part in a summer service learning programme in Jiangcun, Jiangsu Province that aimed "to inject new wisdom and vitality into the development of rural education and future rural development practitioners", the University of Macau (UM) said in a statement yesterday.

The participating students explored the area with students from Jiangcun Experimental School, conducted field studies, and took part in "interactive exchanges", the statement said.

The statement noted that 17 UM students and faculty were led by its Henry Fok Pearl Jubilee College (HFPJC) resident fellow, Chang Kit Peng, and Cheong Kun Lun College (CKLC) resident fellow Fang Shimin.

The participants received three days of theoretical training at Fudan University in Shanghai, learning education's critical role in rural revitalisation and theories of interdisciplinary problem-based learning, among others, the statement said.

During the programme, participants from both universities and Jiangcun Experimental School were divided into five groups.

An exploration between the connection of Fei Xiaotong* (1910-2005) and Jiangcun was conducted by the "Story of Fei Xiaotong and Jiangcun" group through interviewing villagers,

visiting the Fei Xiaotong Memorial Hall, and studying historical materials, according to the statement. The "Evolution of Education in Jiangcun" group, meanwhile, learnt about the local educational environment and its development through interacting with villagers.

Moreover, the "Exploring Jiangcun's Ancient Bridges" team, which comprised three focus groups, studied the history and culture of Jiangcun's ancient bridges by visiting historical sites and reviewing village records, as well as creating a brochure on bridge preservation, among others.

The statement added that the students and faculty had in-depth discussions on topics such as the relationship between rural revitalisation and education. They shared their field study findings with villagers in the Jiangcun Cultural Hall, which the statement said was well-received.

Moreover, places such as the Jiangcun Elderly Centre and historical sites were also visited by the UM faculty and students, the statement said. ■

* Fei Xiaotong or Fei Hsiao-tung (November 2, 1910 – April 24, 2005), born in Wujiang, Jiangsu Province, was a Chinese anthropologist and sociologist. He was a pioneering researcher and professor of sociology and anthropology; he was also noted for his studies in the study of China's ethnic groups as well as a social activist, according to Wikipedia.



This undated handout photo provided by the University of Macau (UM) yesterday shows a UM student (left) tutoring a student from Jiangcun.

3 men nabbed for DUI, 1 under influence of ketamine

William Chan

Two local men have separately been arrested for drunk driving while a Hong Kong man has been arrested for having taken ketamine and driving under the influence of it, Public Security Police (PSP) spokesman Lei Chan Hong said during a regular press conference yesterday.

The Hong Kong suspect surnamed Seng told the police that he's jobless. He is in his thirties.

According to Lei, on Friday night the police received a report about a traffic accident that occurred on a roundabout in Coloane. When the officers arrived at the scene, they found the driver, Seng, in a daze and unable to explain the accident. The police saw that there was white powder on his nostrils and upper lip, raising suspicions of drug use.

Seng was then taken to the hospital for a urine test, which came back positive for ketamine. Under questioning, Seng claimed to have been partying at nightclubs in Hong Kong on Thursday night, where he bought drugs from a stranger, after which he drove to Macau across the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge.

In the two other cases, Lei noted



This undated handout photo provided by the Public Security Police (PSP) yesterday shows a PSP officer escorting the Hong Kong suspect to a police station.

that one of the suspects, surnamed Ngai in his thirties, who said he is jobless, bumped into another vehicle in Taipa on Sunday morning and a breathalyser test detected his alcohol concentration as 1.55 grams of alcohol per litre of blood.

The other suspect, surnamed Lam, a delivery driver, in his twenties, was riding his motorbike along Calçada do Tronco Velho at a high speed when he lost control and

fell off while making a turn. Police arrived at the scene and conducted a breathalyser test, which revealed his blood alcohol concentration to be 2.04.

The three suspects have been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP). Lam and Ngai face drunk-driving charges, while Seng faces charges of drug taking and driving under the influence, Lei said. ■

PSP warns public about telephone calls from fake police

Ginnie Liang

Public Security Police (PSP) said in a statement yesterday some residents received telephone calls from a "PSP officer" yesterday who falsely claimed that their identity information had been stolen and asked them to make a video call for "investigation", intending to obtain their personal data.

According to the statement, the "PSP officer's" number was 8805 0323, with an ID of "Public Security Police Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau

Bridge Immigration Department", which has nothing to do with the Public Security Police.

Members of the public are advised not to trust the caller ID because fraudsters can alter the caller ID number through software and pretend to be the phone number of a government department or a friend or relative, the statement said, adding that members of the public should report to the police as soon as possible if they have suffered any loss.

The bureau was adamant that it would not call or send any messages to ask for personal information over the phone and reminded the public to stay vigilant. The statement urged people not to provide any personal information to people they do not know.

The statement noted that those suspecting that they have fallen victim to a scam should call the Judiciary Police's anti-fraud hotline 8800 7777 or crime report hotline 993 for assistance. ■

IAM urges public to stop eating Gourmet Alley egg-flavoured noodles

Ginnie Liang

The Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) urged the public yesterday to cease consuming the pre-packed HONG KONG EGG FLAVOR NOODLE by GOURMET ALLEY as it was found to contain an excessive amount of preservatives.

In response to the recent announcement by the Centre for Food Safety of Hong Kong that the Hong Kong-produced problematic product, which has a net weight of 454 grammes and the best-before-date of June 5, 2026, was found to contain an excessive amount of sulphur dioxide (SO₂), the local bureau said in a statement yesterday that it has issued a food alert to order local retailers to remove the product from their shelves and stop selling it, while also dispatching IAM officials to inspect the food market.

The statement noted that the product was found to contain 96 parts per million of sulphur dioxide, which exceeds Hong Kong's standards concerning the use of preservatives and antioxidants in food.

According to the statement, SO₂, which acts as a preservative and a bleaching agent and is soluble in water, can be used in flour, noodles and other kinds of food.

The statement underlined that although most of the SO₂ can be removed from food by washing and cooking, it may still cause a health risk to asthmatic or hypoallergenic people, who could suffer from headaches, vomiting or shortness of breath.

The Post reported on October 19 last year that a cease consuming order from IAM for the same product was issued. ■



This undated handout photo downloaded last night from WaNaHong online food supermarket shows the HONG KONG EGG FLAVOR NOODLE product that was found to contain an excessive amount of sulphur dioxide (SO₂).

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Macau Weather

MAINLY CLOUDY. SHOWERS, HEAVY AT FIRST. A FEW THUNDERSTORMS. FORCE 3 TO 4 SOUTHWESTERLY WINDS, OCCASIONALLY FORCE 5 WITH GUSTS. RELATIVE HUMIDITY WILL RANGE BETWEEN 75% AND 99%.



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Source: SMG

MJO brings live, danceable music to Regency Art Hotel

William Chan

The Macau Jazz Orchestra (MJO) collaborated with the Regency Art Hotel to present the "Macau Cabaret" live band concert in the hotel's ballroom on Saturday.

The concert showcased a variety of dance music genres such as swing, cha-cha, mambo, tango, and more, delighting around 50 guests in attendance.

Following a pre-dinner cocktail and buffet, the live music dance session kicked off around 8 p.m. The infectious rhythms of the first song encouraged guests to hit the dance floor, and the lively dancing continued until 10 p.m., with guests dancing right through to the last song.

Some enthusiastic guests even approached the band to request specific songs to dance to. The band made adjustments and repeated songs, providing guests with additional opportunities to dance to their favorite tunes. ■



Macau Jazz Orchestra performs at the Regency Art Hotel on Saturday. - Photo: Bill Wong

Visitor arrivals rise by 9.5 pct to 3.02 million in July: DSEC

Rui Pastorin

The Statistics and Census Bureau (DSEC) announced in a statement yesterday that visitor arrivals increased by 9.5 percent year-on-year to 3.02 million in July, recovering 85.6 percent of the figure in the same month of pre-pandemic 2019.

The figure also represented an 18.4 percent rise month-on-month, the statement noted.

The statement said that same-day visitors (1.59 million) rose by 20.2 percent year-on-year while overnight visitors (1.42 million) dropped by 0.5 percent. The average length of stay of visitors shortened by 0.1 day year-on-year to 1.2 days, with overnight visitors rising by 0.1 day to 2.4 days.

The statement added that visitors from the mainland increased by 14.3 percent year-on-year to 2.18 million in July, with those travelling under the mainland authorities Individual Visit Scheme (1.10 million) rising by 1.4 percent. Visitors from nine Pearl River Delta cities in the Greater Bay Area (996,061) increased by 15.1 percent, according to the statement.

Moreover, visitors from Hong Kong (589,026) decreased by 10.9 percent year-on-year, while those from Taiwan (75,783) rose by 29.5 percent, the statement said. The visitor numbers from the mainland, Hong Kong and Taiwan in July rebounded to 85 percent, 92.8 percent and 78.4 percent of the



Visitors walk by and take photos at the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Ruins of St. Paul's landmark. - Photo taken recently by Rui Pastorin

corresponding levels in the same month of 2019, according to the statement.

The statement noted that foreign visitors rose by 33.3 percent year-on-year to 172,983, back to 75.5 percent of the figure in the same month in 2019.

With respect to the Southeast Asian market, visitors from the Philippines (42,963), Malaysia (8,965) and Singapore (5,669) hiked by 38.2 percent, 31.4 percent and 13.3 percent year-on-year respectively, while those from Indonesia (13,570) and Thailand (8,294) dropped by 7.4 percent and 14 percent, according to the statement.

Moreover, visitors from South Korea (32,825) and Japan (8,778) leapt by 66.3 percent and 57.9 percent year-

on-year respectively. Visitors from the US (14,869) also recorded an uplift of 52.7 percent year-on-year.

Meanwhile, the number of visitor arrivals by air (277,698) and by land (2.41 million) grew by 24.5 percent and 11.4 percent year-on-year respectively, while visitor arrivals by sea (331,976) decreased by 10.8 percent year-on-year.

The statement added that visitor arrivals in the first seven months expanded by 37 percent year-on-year to 19.7 million, back to 82.9 percent of the level in the same period in 2019. Same-day visitors (10.4 million) and overnight visitors (9.25 million) respectively grew by 51.8 percent and 23.4 percent year-on-year. ■



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10 Fantasia gallery shows 'Innermost' exhibition

Interview by William Chan

Local artist and curator Leong Kit Man told the *Post* in an online interview last week that she is currently showcasing her exhibition “Innermost,” featuring Gongbi paintings, at 10 Fantasia gallery until August 30.

Gongbi (工筆), a meticulous and traditional Chinese painting technique, involves a detailed step-by-step process of creation.

With a doctorate in Fine Arts from the Chinese National Academy of Arts, Leong serves as an Assistant Professor of Fine Arts at Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST). The exhibition comprises eight exquisite Gongbi paintings capturing everyday scenes with an ancient touch, aiming to evoke tranquillity.

Inspired by her studio, Xintian She (Innermost Corner), Leong’s paintings reflect the charm of the Song Dynasty, using mineral colours on silk for an antiquated look. The meticulous process of Gongbi involves sketching, drawing lines on silk, applying colours and water, and layering pigments meticulously for refinement.

“Given the intricacy of the painting process, these stages were occasionally known as sanfan jiu ran (三番九染), which literally means to three layers of alum and nine layers of colour, highlighting the importance of repetitive techniques,” she said. She illustrated with an example of colours being meticulously applied to each leaf multiple times, layer by layer as the previous one dried, underscoring the necessity for patience in this art form.

The exhibition runs from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day except Mondays until August 30. Entry is free for all visitors.

Paintings and poster image provided by Leong Kit Man

MAICC gains 'positive' insight on future development

Yuki Lei

The delegation of the Macao ASEAN International Chamber of Commerce (MAICC) concluded its business trip to Singapore and Malaysia's Johor Bahru yesterday, and MAICC Chairman Kelvin Tan Hai Ching said that he believed that members of the delegation will have gained a "positive" insight on their future development from various angles through the six-day visit to the two nations.

Organised by the MAICC, over 40 Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) enterprise representatives set off from Macau headed to Singapore last Thursday with their visits to government officials, as well as various financial institutions to explore various business opportunities as well as the investment and financing strategies of the high-end financial sector there, including the Chinese Embassy, United Oversea Bank Venture Management (UOBVM) Private Limited, OCBC Bank Wisma Aria and the New Bahru cultural cluster. The delegation ended their fact-finding trip in the Johor state of Malaysia yesterday after gaining an in-depth



Members of the MAICC delegation give the thumbs up at Jewel Mall in Singapore yesterday.

- Photo: Yuki Lei

understanding of the on-going Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone (JS-SEZ) and Rapid Transit System (RTS) joint projects between Singapore and Malaysia.

Wrapping up the delegation's trip, Tan said that it was an important initiative taken by his chamber to expand cooperation and exchanges

with ASEAN countries: "The tour has provided a valuable opportunity for our delegation members to meet directly with key entities such as the Malaysian government without the need to go through a third party, further broadening their network and laying a solid foundation for future implementation and

development. It was also a rare opportunity for them to experience and discover information beyond their own industries, as well as to have in-depth exchanges between other members, which will have a positive impact on their future career development."

The tour has led to a number of

business matching events, covering education, catering, real-estate and other sectors, according to MAICC.

Giving a conclusion to the fruitful outcomes that they have gained from the trip yesterday, MAICC Director General Wong Yuk Sze said that the delegation had achieved the desired effect of expanding knowledge and opening eyes to the development of Singapore and Malaysia, adding: "Apart from exchanges with enterprises [from Singapore and Malaysia], she saw a greatest benefit from the exchange and communication between members of the delegation to better understand each other and seek cooperation opportunities."

As a young local entrepreneur, Edwin Kwok Wai Hang said that the visit has given him an in-depth understanding of the strength and prosperity of Singapore as a developed country in Southeast Asia, as well as the determination of the governments of the two nations - Malaysia and Singapore - to establish their Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone, and their open attitude towards foreign investment. ■

3 HK men hired by 'guess who I am' gang to pick up cash in Macau: police

William Chan

Three Hong Kong men were instructed by a "guess who I am" telecom fraud gang to come to Macau to pick up 150,000 patacas from a local elderly woman and promised a "commission" of 3,000 to 5,000 patacas each, Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Ho Wai Lok said at a special press conference yesterday.

According to the victim's

report, Ho said, she received on Monday morning calls from a man claiming to be her "son-in-law" on her fixed-line telephone at home, telling her that he had been arrested for drunk driving and requesting she hand 150,000 patacas in cash as bail to a "legal assistant".

The victim handed the money to a man, one of the suspects surnamed Tang who is in his thirties, on the ground floor of

her residential building in the city centre later that day. She later called her genuine son-in-law and realised that she had been defrauded, leading her to report the case to the police.

PJ officers reviewed the CCTV footage near her home, and discovered that Tang was accompanied by two men, identified as Choi and Pang, who were assigned to act as lookouts. Pang, a 21-year-old male, travelled to Hong Kong later that day and returned to Macau in the evening, after which he, along with Tang and Choi, stayed in a hotel guestroom in Zape.

Choi said that he is a hairdresser, while Tang and Pang are jobless.

Subsequently, the trio were apprehended at the hotel later that day. They confessed to the crime and stated that they had been promised a "commission" ranging from 3,000 to 5,000 patacas by the gang members. Pang had travelled to Hong Kong on that day to deliver the ill-gotten money to the gang members.

The trio were transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) yesterday, where they face charges of organised crime and fraud. ■



Judiciary Police (PJ) officers escort the three hooded suspects from Hong Kong to a police vehicle outside the PJ headquarters in Zape yesterday. - Photo: William Chan

2 golden snub-nosed monkeys to be returned to mainland: IAM



This undated handout photo provided by the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) yesterday shows two golden snub-nosed monkeys, "Lotus Born" ("蓮生") (left) and his father "Three Blacks" ("三黑").

Ginnie Liang

The Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) announced in a statement yesterday that two male golden snub-nosed monkeys living in Coloane's Seac Pai Van Park will be returned to the mainland to enable them to continue to be part of the authorities' conservation programme.

The two male monkeys, one is named "Three Blacks" ("三黑") and the other is named "Lotus Born" ("蓮生").

"Three Blacks" is "Lotus Born's" father, and the latter was born in 2022 in March, while the former was loaned by the Qinhuangdao Wildlife Rescue Centre for display in Macau in 2017 together with his wife "Eleven" ("十一").

"Eleven" who died of an illness in

October 2022 aged 9-years-old, also gave birth to "Lotus Born's" elder brother "Lian Zi" ("蓮子"), who died of a neck injury in 2023 aged 3.

According to the agreement between IAM and Qinhuangdao Wildlife Rescue Centre, the monkeys should be returned in groups to the mainland in 2022, however, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the return schedule was delayed, the statement said.

The statement said that the bureau's animal husbandry team and experts from the Shenzhen Safari Park will continue to monitor and assess the condition of the two monkeys, and after completing the accessing and quarantine, the two monkeys will be transferred from Macau to the Shenzhen Safari Park. ■

STOCK MARKETS

HK Hang Seng Index closes 0.33 pct lower

HONG KONG - Hong Kong's stock market ended lower yesterday with the benchmark Hang Seng Index down 0.33 percent to close at 17,511.08 points. The Hang Seng China Enterprises Index fell 0.49 percent to end at 6,195.58 points and the Hang Seng Tech Index dropped 0.54 percent to 3,498.08 points. - Xinhua

Gaming staff wages up 8.2 pct in June

Tony Wong

The average earnings (excluding irregular remuneration) of full-time employees in the gaming sector amounted to 26,750 patacas in June, up by 8.2 percent year-on-year, the Statistics and Census Bureau (DSEC) announced yesterday.

Casino dealers' average earnings rose year-on-year by 6.5 percent to 21,660 patacas.

At the end of the second

quarter, the gaming sector's total number of full-time staff stood at 52,518, an increase of 825 year-on-year, but the number of dealers fell by 208 to 23,467.

At the end of June, the sector had 498 job vacancies, up by 385 year-on-year. The bureau attributed the year-on-year surge of 340.7 percent to the city's further recovery of its tourism-related sectors driven by the constantly rising number of visitor arrivals.

The sector's job vacancy rate stood at 0.9 percent at the end of the second quarter.

In the second quarter, the number of new recruits and staff members leaving their employment totalled 1,492 and 1,143 respectively. The employee recruitment rate (2.9 percent) rose by 1.0 percentage point while the employee turnover rate (2.2 percent) dropped by 0.2 percentage points. ■

MGTO launches second-phase review of tourism master plan

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The statement said that the second-phase study will review and make possible amendments to the action plans listed in the master plan, with the aim of promoting the continuous development of Macau's integrated tourism and leisure industry, consolidating the city's positioning as a World Centre of Tourism and Leisure, and making Macau's international metropolis "golden business card" shine even brighter.

Questionnaire until Sept 21

As part of the master plan's second-phase review, the statement said, an online questionnaire survey has now been launched to collect residents' opinions and suggestions where they can complete the questionnaire (https://www.macaotourism.gov.mo/en/tr/masterplan_survey_2024) until September 21.

The statement said that the survey aims to enable MGTO to gain a better understanding of residents' views on Macau's tourism development in recent

years and for the future.

The statement noted that after the first-phase review was carried out in 2021, the master plan lists 91 action plans comprising 77 phased plans (slated to take one to five years to achieve) and 14 long-term plans (slated to take six years or more to achieve).

Driven by the concerted efforts of MGTO, various other public entities and the travel trade, the statement said, all the 77 phased plans had been launched as of last year, 68 of which had reached their target goals at that time, representing an implementation rate of 88 percent, an increase of two percentage points from 2022.

Yesterday's statement also summarised last year's implementation of certain action plans listed in the master plan.

The statement said that the government has been enriching the city's offerings as a World Centre of Tourism and Leisure. By fostering cross-sector integration across "tourism+", the government has been extending the chain of the city's tourism industry to spur its overall economic growth, the statement said.

The statement said that the government is continuing to improve the city's tourism products and facilities, such as the continuous setting-up of new facilities at the Macau Grand Prix Museum in Zape, as well as last year's opening of the Macau Cultural Centre's (CCM) Black Box Theatre and a revitalisation area of Coloane's Lai Chi Vun shipyards.

According to the statement, various other measures implemented last year in line with action plans listed in the master plan included advancing quality tourism and collaboration with the city's integrated resorts, launching online-offline strategic marketing campaigns, advancing transport infrastructures and facilities, applying smart technology aiming to improve tourists' experience, and enhancing regional and international cooperation.

All details about the Macau Tourism Industry Development Master Plan, including the report on its first-phase review published in 2021, can be accessed on: https://masterplan.macaotourism.gov.mo/2021/index_en.html. ■

Mainland's new rules target red tape to unburden grassroots officials

BEIJING – The mainland has issued its first intra-Party regulations aimed at reducing burdens at the grassroots level by addressing unnecessary formalities.

A document, released by the General Office of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and the General Office of the State Council, includes 21 relevant rules across seven chapters.

These rules focus on a wide range of issues, including reducing the number of meetings and documents, as well as clarifying the rights and responsibilities of primary-level governments.

A senior official from the CPC Central Committee's General Office highlighted that this marks

a significant step in strengthening the systems for exercising full and rigorous Party self-governance. The new regulations establish enduring rules akin to the CPC's landmark eight-point decision on improving Party and government conduct, adopted in late 2012.

According to the official, the document features concise and straightforward provisions, with prohibitive and restrictive measures designed to address prominent issues that burden grassroots officials.

These new rules also consolidate effective practices from recent efforts to cut red tape and reduce burdens, elevating them into institutional norms. Furthermore, the rules are carefully aligned with existing

Party regulations to ensure consistency.

The CPC leadership has prioritized addressing pointless formalities and freeing primary-level officials from unnecessary workloads. The third plenum of the 20th CPC Central Committee held last month called for further efforts to refine the long-term mechanisms for reducing grassroots burdens.

The regulations were formulated to expand the progress made in easing burdens on grassroots officials, contributing to the broader goals of deepening comprehensive reforms and advancing Chinese modernization with improved Party and government conduct, according to the official. – Xinhua

Xi hails Olympians for winning glory for country

Continued from p.1

He praised the athletes for showing the world the profound heritage of traditional Chinese culture, displaying an open, inclusive, vibrant and enterprising image of modern China, and demonstrating the ambition, courage and determination of the Chinese people.

"The motherland and the people are proud of you and applaud you," he said.

China's delegation has been committed to winning gold medals for morality, conduct and integrity, and has demonstrated sportsmanship and earned broad respect and

recognition, Xi said.

Noting that preparations for the next Olympics have started, Xi urged the country's Olympians to remain humble while improving their performance in training and competitions.

They should continue to excel in competitive sports, and help promote national fitness and the development of youth sports, he added.

The meeting was also attended by Zhao Leji, Wang Huning, Cai Qi and Li Xi, all members of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, as well as Vice President Han Zheng. – Xinhua



This video screenshot shows the Chinese navy's first sailing training ship Po Lang ready to set sail at a military harbor in Dalian, Liaoning Province, yesterday. The ship yesterday embarked on a voyage to conduct midshipmen ocean-going training and visit multiple countries, including Vietnam, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Singapore.

Setting off from a military harbor in Dalian, Po Lang carried midshipmen and military personnel from the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Dalian Naval Academy, who will undergo a series of skills training activities.

Po Lang will make a technical stop in Hong Kong, during which activities such as a vessel open-day and deck reception will be held. – Xinhua

Conference on promoting China's peaceful reunification held in HK

HONG KONG – The 2024 Overseas Chinese World Conference for Promoting Peaceful Reunification of China was held yesterday in Hong Kong.

Wang Huning, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, sent a congratulatory letter to the conference.

Wang said in the letter that compatriots in Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan as well as overseas Chinese have long been opposing "independence" and promoting reunification. They have contributed to fostering exchanges across the Taiwan Strait in various fields, deepening the international community's commitment to the one-China principle and working toward China's peaceful reunification.

Wang encouraged compatriots in Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan

as well as overseas Chinese to keep pace with the trends of history, safeguard the overall interests of the Chinese nation and join hands in opposing "Taiwan independence" and promoting reunification.

Shi Taifeng, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and head of the United Front Work Department of the CPC Central Committee, attended the event, stressing that the conference, gathering compatriots at home and abroad, will help advance the cause of opposing "independence" and promoting reunification.

Themed "Unswervingly promoting China's peaceful reunification and striving to achieve the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation," the conference was hosted by the Hong Kong Association for Promotion of Peaceful Reunification of China and attended by over 1,200 representatives.

The conference adopted the 2024 Hong Kong Declaration. – Xinhua