



# Observatory expects Macau's sea level at end of century to rise by 0.64 metres

Tony Wong

The Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) said in a statement yesterday it estimates that Macau's sea level in the period from 2081 to 2100 will increase by 0.64 metres compared to the average level from 1995 to 2014.

According to the statement, Macau's observatory has made projections of the city's climate situation for the middle and the end of this century based on the latest models developed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), an intergovernmental body of the United Nations (UN).

The statement said that based on the models laid out by the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report (AR6), the bureau estimates that Macau's overall temperature will continue to rise between the middle and the end of this century, during which the city will also be affected by very hot weather more often.

During the period, the statement said, Macau's overall rainfall and sea level are also estimated to increase.

The statement said that the bureau's projections indicate that regardless



This file photo taken from Small Taipa Hill in 2021 shows Macau's coastal waters. – Photo: Tony Wong

of a scenario of intermediate global emissions of greenhouse gases or a scenario of very high global emissions, Macau's overall rainfall will increase between the middle and the end of this century, during which the city will also be affected by extreme rainstorms more often.

The IPCC Sixth Assessment Report lays out five possible scenarios of global emissions of greenhouse gases, namely very low, low, intermediate, high and very high.

The SMG statement said that in the intermediate emission scenario,

Macau's annual precipitation and annual maximum daily precipitation in the middle of this century (from 2041 to 2060) is estimated to increase by 8.3 percent and 5.8 percent respectively compared to the average level from 1995 to 2014.

In the very high emission scenario, the statement said, Macau's annual maximum daily precipitation at the end of this century (from 2081 to 2100) is estimated to increase by around 30 percent compared to the average level from 1995 to 2014, indicating a significantly increased

frequency of the occurrence of extreme rainstorms.

In addition, the statement said, the bureau's projections indicate that regardless of which emission scenarios, Macau's sea level will increase between the middle and the end of this century.

The statement said that in the intermediate emission scenario, Macau's sea level is projected to increase by 0.31 metres at the middle of this century (from 2041 to 2060) and by 0.64 metres at the end of this century (from 2081 to 2100)

compared to the average level from 1995 to 2014.

The statement said that with the projected increase in its sea level, Macau can expect to be affected by astronomical tides and storm surges more often.

The statement pointed out that the findings are merely the bureau's projections of Macau's long-term average climate situation for different periods of this century based on different scenarios of global emissions of greenhouse gases, rather than short-term weather forecast. Consequently, the city's real climate situation between the middle and the end of this century will be subject to great uncertainty, the statement said.

However, the statement said that with global warming intensifying, various places in the world have already been affected by an increased frequency of extreme weather. Consequently, the statement said, Macau can expect to be affected by very hot weather and extreme rainstorms more often, as well as an increased sea level, between the middle and the end of this century. ■

## Russian Soyuz spacecraft with 2 Russians, one American launches to ISS

MOSCOW – A Russian Soyuz spacecraft carrying two Russians and an American to the International Space Station (ISS) launched from the Moscow-leased Baikonur Cosmodrome in southern Kazakhstan yesterday, live video showed.

Onboard were Russian cosmonauts Alexei Ovchinin and Ivan Vagner, as well as US astronaut Donald Pettit.

The Soyuz MS-26 took off around 7:23 p.m. Moscow time (16:23 GMT), glowing brightly as it soared through the atmosphere, video published by Russia's Roscosmos space agency showed.

An announcer on the video

said the metrics of the launch were "normal", as the crew could be seen sitting in their space suits in the Soyuz descent module.

Their spacecraft later entered orbit, the announcer said.

Once a space-faring pioneer, Russia has faced multiple setbacks since the collapse of the USSR, including the loss of two Mars missions and its first lunar probe in almost 50 years in 2023.

Space is one of the final areas of US-Russia cooperation amid an almost complete breakdown in relations between Moscow and Washington over the Ukraine conflict. – AFP



President Xi Jinping (left), also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, visits a local apple production base to learn about the development of the modern specialty fruit industry in mountainous areas in Tianshui, Gansu Province, yesterday. Xi inspected the city of Baoji in Shaanxi Province and Tianshui from Tuesday afternoon to yesterday morning. – Xinhua (More on p.7)

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### Premier Li encourages Saudi companies to continuously deepen presence in Chinese market

Premier Li Qiang yesterday urged Saudi companies to deepen their involvement in the Chinese market, and invest with greater confidence. – Story on p. 7

### Harris, Trump ride debate buzz into election sprint

Kamala Harris and Donald Trump set out yesterday to ride the momentum from their high-stakes debate into the final sprint to November as they seek to persuade undecided voters and shake up a presidential election locked in a dead heat. – Story on p. 11

### East Timor says Australia pipeline deal to be struck by November

East Timor President José Ramos-Horta said yesterday a deal with Australia on a vast fossil fuel project seen as crucial to the tiny nation's economic future will be struck by November. – Story on p. 12



# Macau hosts '2024 China Cybersecurity Week' sub-forum

William Chan

Responding to the national "2024 China Cybersecurity Week" which is being held from Monday to Sunday in Guangdong's city of Nansha, the Macau Cybersecurity Incident Alert and Response Centre (CARIC) and the Office for Personal Data Protection (GPDP) organised the "2024 China Cybersecurity Week - Macau sub-forum" yesterday and today at the World Trade Centre Macau in Zape.

The forum featured experts and scholars delivering lectures on a range of cybersecurity and personal data protection topics, spanning digital transformation, risk management, artificial intelligence (AI), cloud computing, software development, incident response, data security, and personal data protection. The audience of 380 included critical infrastructure

operators and professionals from relevant local industries.

Judiciary Police (PJ) Director Sit Chong Meng said in his speech during the forum's opening ceremony yesterday morning that with the development of digitisation, networking, and AI, cybersecurity threats and risks are becoming increasingly complex and variable, underscoring the unprecedented importance of cybersecurity for national security and social development.

Sit noted that cyber attacks, network data leaks, cyber fraud, and other cyber crimes pose serious threats to national security, social stability, and the public interest. He emphasised the necessity to enhance cybersecurity cooperation with the mainland and neighbouring regions, strengthen control over critical risk areas, and



Judiciary Police (PJ) Director Sit Chong Meng delivers a speech during yesterday's opening ceremony of the "2024 China Cybersecurity Week - Macau sub-forum" at the Lotus Room of the World Trade Centre Macau in Zape. - Photo: GCS

protect the public interest in the forthcoming phase of cybersecurity efforts in Macau.

Sit also pointed out that effectively safeguarding cybersecurity not only requires government action but

also relies heavily on the support and proactive cooperation of various sectors of society and the general public. He underscored the importance of collectively enhancing the cybersecurity resilience of the local society, building and sharing an environment conducive to safeguarding national security in order to safeguard economic and social development under high-level security protection.

To this end, Sit said he hoped that by organising cybersecurity forums, deeper exchanges and cooperation between Macau's cybersecurity systems and neighbouring regions can be facilitated. He underlined that governments and the cybersecurity sector across different regions will continue to work together to strengthen cybersecurity defences, supporting the steady progress of building a strong cyber nation. ■

## Mainlander's bank account frozen after illegal currency exchange deal: police

William Chan

A mainlander's bank account has been frozen after exchanging Hong Kong dollars into yuan with an illegal currency exchange dealer at a casino in Cotai last month, resulting in a loss of 340,000 yuan, Judiciary Police (PJ) spokeswoman Lei Hon Nei said at a special press conference yesterday.

According to Lei, the victim is a woman from the mainland, and the suspect is a 43-year-old male mainlander surnamed Jiang who works as a driver.

According to Lei, last Thursday the victim wished to exchange HK\$480,000 into yuan and deposit the amount into her mainland bank account. Therefore, the victim contacted an intermediary, after which Jiang met her in her hotel guestroom.

Jiang transferred 340,000 yuan and 102,800 yuan separately into the victim's account. After the victim confirmed that the amount had been transferred to her account, she gave Jiang HK\$480,000 in cash.

The victim received a notification from the bank the next day, informing her that a total of 340,000 yuan in her account involved fraudulent funds and, therefore, had been frozen by the bank, leading her to report the case to the police.

Jiang was arrested when he re-entered Macau through the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge checkpoint on Tuesday. He refused to cooperate.

Jiang was transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) yesterday, facing charges of fraud and money laundering, according to Lei. ■



Judiciary Police (PJ) officers escort the hooded fraud suspect from the mainland from the PJ headquarters in Zape to a PJ vehicle yesterday. - Photo: William Chan

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

William Chan

A Hong Kong man was hired by a "guess who I am" telecom fraud gang to travel to Macau to pick up a total of 250,000 patacas separately from a man and a woman, both local elderly, Judiciary Police (PJ) spokeswoman Lei Hon Nei said at a special press conference yesterday.

According to the male victim's report, Lei said, he received last Thursday a call from a man, claiming to be his "son-in-law", on his fixed-line telephone at home, telling the victim that he had been arrested for injuring someone and requested he hand 100,000 patacas in cash as bail to a "legal assistant".

The victim handed the money to a man, the 34-year-old Hong Kong man surnamed Lo, on the ground floor of his residential building in the northern district later that day.

On Friday, the victim received a call from the purported "son-in-law" again, requesting more cash. He gave another 120,000 patacas to another "legal assistant" from the gang.

The victim later called his genuine son-in-law and realised



Cash in Hong Kong dollars and patacas seized from the Hong Kong suspect is displayed during yesterday's special press conference at the Judiciary Police (PJ) headquarters in Zape. - Photo: William Chan

that he had been defrauded, leading him to report the case to the police.

PJ officers reviewed the CCTV footage near his home, and identified Lo as the suspect who picked up the money last Thursday.

Lo re-entered Macau on Tuesday and was placed under surveillance. In the afternoon of the same day, he was intercepted while attempting to leave Macau via the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge checkpoint, where the police found 150,000 patacas

on him. Subsequently, the police discovered that a local woman had fallen victim to the same scam tactics and had handed her money to Lo.

Under questioning, Lo, who told the police that he's jobless, refused to cooperate. Police were still investigating the whereabouts of his accomplice, "the other legal assistant", at the time of the press conference.

Lo was transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) yesterday, where he faces charges of organised crime and fraud. ■

## Redemption of 4 previously-issued banknotes to start Monday

Rui Pastorin

The redemption period for the previously issued Rat, Ox, Tiger and Rabbit Zodiac banknotes will start next Monday at all participating banks, the Macau Monetary Authority (AMCM) said in a statement yesterday.

The period runs until December 6. According to the statement, each registered Macau resident can redeem 15 notes each of the Rat, Ox, Tiger and Rabbit Zodiac banknotes, totalling 120

banknotes worth 1,200 patacas.

The redemption for the four banknotes from Macau's two issuing banks (BOC and BNU) must be carried out in one go, with no provision for separate redemption of any type of the notes, the statement pointed out.

More details can be found on [https://registration.amcm.gov.mo/banknotes/terms\\_pt.html](https://registration.amcm.gov.mo/banknotes/terms_pt.html), while enquiries can also be made on 2856 5071 or 2856 5072. ■



This image provided by the Monetary Authority of Macao (AMCM) yesterday shows the redemption period for certain Chinese zodiac banknotes.

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### Macau Weather

VERY HOT.  
FINE APART FROM CLOUDY PERIODS.  
MIST AT FIRST.  
LIGHT WINDS.  
RELATIVE HUMIDITY WILL RANGE BETWEEN 65% AND 98%.



27°C~33°C

Source: SMG



## China News Service, TDM ink strategic cooperation deal

Ginnie Liang

The China News Service (CNS) signed a strategic cooperation agreement with Macau's public broadcaster TDM yesterday to enhance collaboration in media content, resource sharing, and talent exchanges.

The signing ceremony was held yesterday at the TDM Forum II Studio in Zape, with CNS representative Qi Bin and a member of TDM's board of directors, Un Weng Kuai, signing the agreement.

Un highlighted the longstanding and productive partnership between CNS and TDM, as since 2018, both have collaborated on various projects, including the production of the "Spring Melody" cross-border Spring Festival Gala.

Un also noted that in 2019, CNS produced a series of high-quality videos that aired on TDM, and both two jointly created the 30-episode documentary series "The Colourful Life of Macau People," showcasing the lives of Macau residents in the Greater Bay Area (GBA), adding that to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary

of Macau's return to the motherland, TDM and CNS will collaborate once again in launching a new edition of "The Colourful Life of Macau People".

Un underlined that the newly signed strategic cooperation agreement aims to leverage both platforms' strengths to enhance content creation and distribution while deepening coverage of significant national issues.

Qi noted that TDM and CNS's ongoing collaboration – from the provision of video materials to the co-production of the "The Colourful Life of Macau People" series – has allowed both to capture and share the beauty of Macau with the world, adding that the strategic agreement signifies a commitment to deeper cooperation in news reporting, programme production, and talent exchanges across various fields.

CNS plans to utilise its national newswire resources to provide TDM with more high-quality, in-depth news content, while also enhancing coverage of news related to Macau, Qi said. ■



China News Service (CNS) representative Qi Bin (left) and TDM's board member of directors, Un Weng Kuai, shake hands during a signing ceremony held yesterday at TDM Forum II Studio in Zape. – Photo courtesy of TDM

## Mainland woman nabbed for theft-by-finding

Ginnie Liang

A mainland woman in her fifties was arrested for picking up a watch worth 48,600 patacas that had been left behind at the local airport, a Public Security Police (PSP)



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

spokesperson said in a regular press conference yesterday.

According to the spokesperson, the watch was left behind by a mainland tourist during a security check at the airport in April. The tourist had sought assistance from airport staff after realising the watch was missing, prompting staff to review surveillance footage.

However, it was discovered that the suspect had taken the watch after it was left in a tray at the security check, and by the time the incident was reported, the woman had already left Macau, according to the spokesperson.

The suspect was intercepted by police upon her re-entry into Macau through the Barrier Gate Checkpoint last Friday, the spokesperson said, adding that during her interrogation, she admitted to taking the watch out of greed, and took it to her home in mainland China.

The suspect has been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), facing a theft-by-finding charge, according to the spokesperson. ■

## Global Legal & Sustainable Timber Forum kicks off



Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng (front, 11<sup>th</sup> from left) and Secretary for Economy and Finance Lei Wai Nong (front, 14<sup>th</sup> from left) pose with other officiating guests during yesterday's opening ceremony for the Global Legal & Sustainable Timber Forum (GLSTF 2024) at MGM Cotai. – Photo: GCS

Rui Pastorin

The two-day Global Legal & Sustainable Timber Forum (GLSTF 2024) kicked off yesterday at MGM Cotai, marking the second consecutive year that the event is being held in Macau.

The forum is themed this year "Together Towards Reliable and Effective Global Timber Supply Chains" and features around 700 guests from 40 countries and regions, according to a Commerce and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) statement yesterday.

Organised by the Secretariat of the Global Green Supply Chains Initiative (GGSCI) in conjunction with IPIM and the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO), a recent IPIM statement noted that the forum aims to "promote win-win cooperation among all parties and inject new momentum into the sustainable development of the global timber industry".

Among the guests attending

yesterday morning's opening ceremony were Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng, Director of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR), Zheng Xincong, and Acting Commissioner of the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in the MSAR Sun Xiangyang.

Delivering a speech at the event, Secretary for Economy and Finance Lei Wai Nong said that the forum is "the first international forestry and timber conference to be introduced in Macau. This event is a significant part of the International Tropical Timber Organisation's initiatives to promote a legal and sustainable supply chain. Having taken place in Macau for two consecutive years, the forum highlights the international organisations recognition and affirmation of Macau's exhibition infrastructure and capabilities".

He added that the local government will "continue to leverage its unique advantages, collaborating with industry stakeholders to attract more market-orientated, professional, and international conference and exhibition projects to Macau, consolidate and enhance Macau's international image and influence, and make Macau's 'Golden Business Card' as an international metropolis shine brighter.

Concluding today, the forum will feature keynote addresses, panel discussions and sub forums, among others, according to yesterday's statement, and will also see the launch of several international collaborative research projects.

The forum is also being attended by the forestry ministers from the Central African Republic (CAR), Fiji and the Republic of the Congo (ROC).

More event details can be found on <http://www.glstf.net/> ■

## CEM EV Trunk Eco Market returns Saturday

Rui Pastorin

The "CEM EV Trunk Eco Market" will take place in Praça do Tap Seac on Saturday, with the one-day event set to feature a raft of activities and a chance to check out electric vehicles (EVs) sold in Macau, among others.

CEM first held its Eco Market featuring EV trunks last year, according to a statement from the utility yesterday.

This year's market will be held from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. and features 30 participating units, the statement noted. It is set to have various free green workshops held by Oxfam in Macau and Shadow Art Macau, with members of the public able to register for them on-site.

The "Let's Get Energised" Street Dance Competition and Children's Electric Go-Kart Experience Camp are also among the activities featured on the Saturday event, where attendees



This poster downloaded from CEM's website last night promotes this Saturday's CEM EV Trunk Eco Market in Praça do Tap Seac.

can also find EVs by brands such as BYD, Tesla and Mercedes, eco-friendly products, and EVs used by the utility in its operations, according to the statement.

Moreover, the market features a lucky draw for an iPhone 15, as well as chances to win souvenirs

through participating in activities, the statement added. Those interested in CEM's E-bill and autopay services can also enquire or apply for the service at the market.

More event details can be found on <https://www.cem-macau.com/en/> ■





# Local dance project explores personal journeys

Interview by Ginnie Liang

A local innovative dance training programme known in colloquial Cantonese as “作動”, (“pre-labour contractions”), directed by local actor Dicky Tsang, alongside local dancer, choreographer and coach Leong Iek Kei, aimed to challenge traditional dance norms through a unique blend of modern dance, tai chi, and personal storytelling.

Tsang and Leong talked with the *Post* about the concept behind the production during a recent interview at their rehearsal venue in Macau.

“作動” is a Cantonese colloquialism that describes the impending birth of a baby from the mother’s womb, signifying the process of nurturing creativity.

## Journey of self-discovery

The recent performance featured nine trainees who embarked on an artistic journey that emphasised self-discovery and emotional expression, inviting the audience into an “open class”, where the trainees initially experienced a traditional, structured approach to dance.

However, as the performance unfolded, the rigidity of this method gave way to a more personal exploration of movement. Tsang explained: “The trainees gradually began to explore themselves with dance, moving beyond the constraints of traditional dance training.”

The ongoing training programme spans two years and will culminate in three performances, Tsang said, adding that it will be evolving into a dance theatre performance that completes the trilogy.

The nine performers were selected through an open recruitment process, each bringing unique backgrounds in various dance forms, including pole dancing, Chinese traditional dance, ballet, and animal flow.

Animal flow is a ground-based, bodyweight movement system designed to improve a range of skills including speed, power, endurance, flexibility, mobility, and stability.

Among the trainees is Felicia Lim, who comes from Malaysia. Having loved dance since childhood but never practised modern dance, she said, “Compared with traditional dance, modern dance has fewer rules, no fixed movements, and higher freedom.”

Lim also said she appreciated that the instructors guided them in creating their own movements rather than just imitating a set routine. “We are more inspired by systematically developing and training in this way,” she said.

## Integrating tradition and innovation

Tsang highlighted the differences in body movement influenced by cultural backgrounds. Tsang noted: “The physique and skeleton of Westerners are more suited for ballet, they search upward, while Eastern people often bend downward in their movements.” He attributed this to historical experiences and cultural practices that emphasise grounding.

Leong elaborated on the programme’s foundation, saying that tai chi is used for body training to ensure that each dancer’s lower body is solid. “There’s a natural connection between tai chi and modern dance. We also invited guest instructors [to the first performance] to introduce tumbling movements and comprehensive modern dance training.”



Among the other students is Chan Man Hun, who grew up practising Chinese traditional dance. She wanted to explore what it would be like to move outside the constraints of traditional dance.

Her piece starts with her own story, particularly her experience with surgery. “It was when I had my first surgery done in my life, I took sleeping pills, and then received anaesthesia and fell asleep,” she recounted, adding that she wanted to express a feeling of lack of control over her body during the post-anaesthesia period.

To enhance the first performance’s visual impact, the team incorporated lines into the dancers’ costumes, emphasising the transition from points to lines in their movements. Tsang explained: “This design enhances the feeling of visual flapping and complements the choreography for each dancer.”

## Power of personal narratives

As someone who primarily works in theatre, Tsang has been crucial in structuring the show. “My job was to design the segments in a way that allows the audience to connect with the dancers and understand their stories,” he noted. Each student’s personal narrative was transformed into an individual dance piece, with minimal spoken language. “We let the stage elements – like lights and music – do the talking,” he added.

In the interview, Leong gave insights into the lives of the performers, most of whom have day jobs and dedicate their free time to training. “Though this is not advanced modern dance, it requires a level of technical skill and personal expression,” she noted. “The simplicity of the dance can be deceiving, as it demands excellent power control and natural movement to resonate with the audience. And the dancers often face physical challenges – bruises from training – yet their persistence is truly inspiring,” Leong reflected.

Both Tsang and Leong view this project as an experimental dance work, diverging from traditional, technique-orientated performances. “We hope to provide the audience with a fresh feeling. Even though I am not a dancer myself, I am presenting dance through a theatrical lens,” Tsang remarked, adding that he and Leong are curious about the audience’s reception as they continue to push the boundaries of conventional dance performance.

“作動” was staged last Saturday and Sunday by Macau Space for Dance Idea at Va Nam Industrial Building in Taipa. Interested individuals can view more details on its official social media page at <https://www.facebook.com/MacauSpaceforDanceIdea>.

All photos provided by Macau Space for Dance Idea



## Barometric visit indicates pressure on ties easing

### China Daily Editorial

Australian Treasurer Jim Chalmers' upcoming China visit is a further sign that the two countries are continuing their efforts to inject vitality into bilateral ties through frequent high-level interaction. Such exchanges are instrumental in anchoring the overall bilateral ties to a stable and healthy terrain after years of tensions and estrangement.

Speaking to Australian Broadcasting Corp on Sunday, Chalmers said his visit, dubbed a "strategic economic dialogue", is scheduled for the final week of September and will include talks on the remaining trade restrictions on imports of Australian lobster as well as Australia's foreign investment rules covering sectors such as critical minerals.

This will be the first visit by an Australian treasurer in seven years, indicating the positive trend that has developed in bilateral high-level communication since the Anthony Albanese government took office. As a barometer to gauge the temperature of bilateral ties, it marks the easing of the pressure that had been building up under the previous Australian government. As long as the two sides engage with each other with mutual respect and mutual understanding, they can work together to facilitate trade and economic cooperation, which is significant and has yielded various benefits for both countries.

The symbiotic economic relationship that had been fostered was unnecessarily put under stress by the previous Australian government under the influence of Washington.

Since taking office in 2022, Prime Minister Albanese's government has made a significant departure from his predecessor's hostile policy toward China, and pushed instead for easing tensions and building a rapport with China. In response, China has lifted a slew of trade restrictions on Australian products, which have effectively put bilateral trade and economic cooperation back onto the right path.

In the first six months of this year, a strong bounce-back in Australian coal exports resulted in them accounting for a large proportion of China's total imports of coal, with exports of coking

coal from Australia to China jumping from 2.16 million tons in the first half of 2023 to 6.56 million tons in the same period this year, according to BigMint's ship-tracking data.

After the two countries resolved their trade dispute over wine in May, major Australian wine producers are now looking to reclaim their leading position in the Chinese market, with statistics from the Australian side indicating that in just one month after the duties were removed on bottled wine, Australia exported more than HK\$86 million worth of quality wine to China.

During his visit to Australia in June, Premier Li Qiang announced that China would grant visa exemptions to Australian citizens, a move that immediately saw a surge of interest in China-bound tourism in Australia, a healthy development that can contribute to deepening people-to-people understanding.

Since 2009, China has remained Australia's largest trading partner, export market and import source for 15 consecutive years. In 2023, bilateral trade in goods increased 4.1 percent year-on-year, while Australian investment in China increased 11.7 percent compared to the previous year.

The trade relationship has also facilitated the exchange of technology and best practices between the two countries, while collaborative initiatives in research and development, renewable energy, and other high-tech sectors have enabled both nations to benefit from each other's expertise.

It is essential that both countries work together to manage any challenges that may arise and continue to maintain their mutually beneficial economic partnership that supports sustainable growth and cooperation in the long term.

As long as Canberra respects Beijing's core interests, treats it as an equal partner, not a threat, and steers clear of Washington's disruptive designs, the prospects of their meaningful, pragmatic cooperation will be even brighter in the future.

This would also contribute to regional stability and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific, as their economic cooperation and interdependence play a crucial role in maintaining peace and stability in the region.

— Courtesy of China Daily

## Sam meets with lawyers' reps

### Tony Wong

Potential chief executive candidate Sam Hou Fai yesterday met with top representatives from the Macau Lawyers Association (AAM), his election campaign office said in a statement yesterday.

This came after Sam on Tuesday morning submitted nominations endorsed by 383 electors of the 400-member Chief Executive Election Committee, representing 95.75 percent of the total.

Once reviewed and approved by the Chief Executive Electoral Affairs Commission (CAECE), Sam will be the only candidate for the Chief Executive Election on October 13, as no other candidate can possibly garner at least 66 nominations from the 400-strong Chief Executive Election Committee, each member of which can only endorse one candidate.

During yesterday's meeting with the AAM representatives, Sam was accompanied by lawyer Lei Wun Kong, the trustee of his election campaign, and educator Chan Ka Leong, the election campaign office's deputy head.

The meeting was held at Sam's election campaign office in Nam Tung Commercial Building in Nam Van.

According to the statement, the AAM representatives who attended yesterday's meeting with Sam included the association's president, lawmaker Vong Hin Fai.

According to the AAM website, Lei currently chairs the association's



This handout photo provided by the Sam Hou Fai Election Campaign Office yesterday shows Sam (front, centre) posing on the sidelines of yesterday's meeting at his campaign office in Nam Van with representatives from the Macau Lawyers Association (AAM) such as its president Vong Hin Fai (front, third from left) and secretary Oriana Inácio Pun (front, second from left).

supervisory board.

According to the statement, the AAM representatives raised opinions on topics such as young lawyers' career and development prospects, the possible impact of Macau's economic transformation on its legal sector, and measures aiming to increase incentives for local lawyers to practise law in the Guangdong-Macau In-depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin.

Meanwhile, Sam's election campaign office said in a separate statement yesterday that Lei and Chan met with representatives from local think tank Macau Collective Wisdom Association at the campaign office on Tuesday afternoon.

Sam did not attend the meeting with the association representatives,

who raised opinions on topics such as the revitalisation of the city's old quarters, non-gaming attractions, modern finance, the development of the sports sector, enhancing young local people's competitiveness, improving the public administration system, and e-government.

On Tuesday afternoon, Sam also met with representatives from an association representing retired public servants at his election campaign office, a statement later that day said.

On Tuesday morning, Lei and Chan met with representatives from the Macau Dancers Association.

On Monday afternoon, Sam met with members of an association representing the city's higher education sector. ■

## Shared Sino-US history can help shape future

### Commentary Wang Yiwei

After Japan launched the infamous attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941 during World War II, the United States retaliated with a massive air raid, known as the "Doolittle Raid", on Japan in April 1942. The daring operation ended with several dozen crew members from 16 US bombers parachuting into Zhejiang, Jiangxi, Anhui and Fujian Provinces in China, where they were heroically rescued by Chinese civilians and soldiers.

This profound act of solidarity not only saved lives but also forged a lasting friendship between the peoples of the US and China, a legacy that has endured for decades. In retaliation to the "Doolittle Raid" and the assistance provided by the Chinese people for the US soldiers, the Japanese military launched a brutal attack on Zhejiang and Jiangxi a month later, killing about 250,000 Chinese civilians, and bombing the airport in Quzhou, Zhejiang Province, after most rescued US pilots were escorted away from the city.

The documentaries and exhibitions about the rescue operation poignantly highlight the heroism of the Chinese people who risked their lives to save the US airmen. The story evokes memories of the Hollywood production, Saving Private Ryan, and suggests that a Sino-US collaborative movie perhaps titled "Saving Doolittle Airmen" would be a fitting tribute to those unsung heroes who deserve to be included in both nations' school syllabuses as an example of the global

fight against fascism.

The historical chapter raises many pertinent questions, prominent among them being: Are China and the US locked in a permanent strategic competition, or are they bound by a shared destiny? The question reflects the fundamental differences in the two sides' understanding of the nature and future direction of Sino-US relations. The notion that the relationship is a zero-sum game, often referred to as "strategic competition", is outdated and pits the leading global power against a rising power. This perspective is as obsolete as it is unhelpful.

In the digital age, the world has transcended the clear-cut boundaries of primary, secondary and tertiary industries that defined the industrial era. Since we are helping build a community of cross-border integration and innovation, it is imperative that we foster a shared historical view of the US and China to chart a mutually beneficial future.

Historically, Ge Kunhua (a Chinese poet who spearheaded Chinese language teaching in Boston in the 1870s) and John Dewey (who helped promote China's modern education as a visiting scholar at Peking University and other higher education institutions) have built joint memories and shaped joint narratives for the two countries.

If the Flying Tigers symbolize the wartime alliance against fascism, the city of Quzhou, Zhejiang Province, represents the enduring friendship between the American and Chinese peoples. When US

airman James H. Doolittle embarked on his perilous Tokyo raid, he did so with the resolve to give the ultimate sacrifice. Little did he know that Chinese civilians would come to his aid and write a cherished chapter of Sino-US shared history.

International relations rest on the closeness of peoples of different countries, and this closeness comes from mutual understanding. A poignant inscription at the UNESCO Headquarters reads, "Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defenses of peace must be constructed." This statement elevates diplomacy beyond mere interactions among countries, highlighting its role in fostering global peace through the exchange of ideas.

Although relations between China and the US have deteriorated of late, the two sides do share hopes and dreams. What happened in Quzhou all those years ago was beyond public diplomacy; unwittingly, Chinese people and the US airmen were crafting a shared historical perspective and building fortresses of peace.

Let's hope the "Doolittle Raid" inspires some filmmaker to make a feature film someday, establish a theme park, and create a museum dedicated to this shared Sino-US history. These initiatives could serve as a test bed for forging China-US ties in the future.

— Courtesy of China Daily

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The views don't necessarily represent those of China Daily.

## STOCK MARKETS

### Hang Seng Index closes 0.73 pct lower

HONG KONG — Hong Kong's stock market ended lower yesterday with the benchmark Hang Seng Index down 0.73 percent to close at 17,108.71 points.

The Hang Seng China Enterprises Index fell 0.73 percent to end at 5,982.55 points, while the Hang Seng Tech Index rose 0.01 percent to end at 3,450.92 points. — Xinhua