

Macau preparing digital pataca with PBOC's aid: Ho

William Chan

The Macau Monetary Authority (AMCM), with the support of the People's Bank of China's (PBOC) digital currency research institute, is advancing the research and development of the digital pataca issuance, and it is planning to conduct a public demonstration of the e-Mop's prototype system by the end of the year, Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng said yesterday at the opening ceremony of the 2nd China-Portuguese-speaking Countries Central Banks and Financiers Conference in Cotai.

E-Mop is another name for the digital pataca.

In June last year, the Legislative Assembly (AL) passed a government-initiated bill enabling the issuance of digital currency. Under the new law, Macau's legal tender will encompass digital currency alongside traditional forms like banknotes and coins, granting digital currency the same legal status as physical money.

The patacas is Macau's sole legal tender.

Ho noted that following the global trend of central bank digital currencies, Macau will leverage the nation's cutting-edge technological capabilities to introduce advanced and technological elements suitable for digital economic development



Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng delivers a speech yesterday at the opening ceremony of the 2nd China-Portuguese-speaking Countries Central Banks and Financiers Conference at the Galaxy International Convention Centre in Cotai.



PBOC Governor Pan Gongsheng delivers a speech yesterday at the opening ceremony of the 2nd China-Portuguese-speaking Countries Central Banks and Financiers Conference.

– Photos: William Chan

into Macau's currency system, in line with the long-term development needs of the Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR).

As per a statement released by AMCM yesterday, the government will establish infrastructure conducive to supporting digital financial innovation, aiming to inject new vitality into Macau as a smart city and

economically diverse region.

The statement added that AMCM would outline plans to draft laws and regulations tailored to Macau's market dynamics and to prepare sufficiently for the official launch of the digital pataca. The statement also pointed out that "sandbox testing"* of the prototype system would

be conducted to explore usage scenarios for the e-Mop.

During the conference, Ho also noted that the MSAR government has been dedicated to building the platform for China-Portuguese-speaking countries business cooperation and services, fully showcasing Macau's platform role and international influence. "In

2023, the trade volume between China and Portuguese-speaking countries exceeded US\$220 billion, with the scale of cooperation continuously expanding, providing broad development opportunities for Macau's platform to serve China and the Portuguese-speaking countries," Ho said.

Continued on p.3

World's oceans near critical acidification level: report

PARIS – The world's oceans are close to becoming too acidic to properly sustain marine life or help stabilise the climate, a new report said yesterday.

The report by the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK) details nine factors that are crucial for regulating the planet's ability to sustain life.

In six of these areas, the safe limit has already been exceeded in recent years as a result of human activity.

The crucial threshold for ocean acidification could soon become the seventh to be breached, according to the PIK's first Planetary Health Check.

The safe boundaries that have already been crossed concern crucial – and related – factors including climate change; the loss of natural species, natural habitat and freshwater; and a rise in pollutants, including plastics and chemical fertilisers used in agriculture.

The sustainable level of ocean acidification is now also set to be exceeded, largely as a result of ever-increasing emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) created by burning fossil fuels like oil, coal, and gas.

"As CO₂ emissions increase, more of it dissolves in sea water... making the oceans more acidic," Boris Sakschewski, one of the lead authors, told reporters.

"Even with rapid emission cuts, some level of continued acidification may be unavoidable due to the CO₂ already emitted and the time it takes for the ocean system to respond," he explained.

"Therefore, breaching the ocean acidification boundary appears inevitable within the coming years."

Tipping points

Acidic water damages corals, shellfish and the

phytoplankton that feeds a host of marine species.

This means it also disrupts food supplies for billions of people, as well as limiting the oceans' capacity to absorb more CO₂ and thus help limit global warming.

The only one of the nine planetary boundaries that is not close to being crossed concerns the state of the planet's protective ozone layer.

Man-made chemicals have damaged this shield, causing acid rain, but it has started recovering since a number of these chemicals were banned in 1987.

A ninth threshold – concerning concentrations of minute particles in the atmosphere that can cause heart and lung diseases – is close to the danger limit.

But the researchers said the risk showed signs of receding slightly due to efforts by several countries to improve air quality, such as banning the most pollutant petrol and diesel cars. – AFP

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The Macau Post Daily

Xi calls for accelerating progress in China's space

President Xi Jinping yesterday encouraged personnel in China's space industry to continue to work hard and accelerate progress in space endeavors.

– Story on p. 7

US moves to bar Chinese, Russian tech from connected vehicles

The US Commerce Department moved yesterday to ban the sale of connected vehicles incorporating Chinese and Russian technology, citing national security risks.

– Story on p. 11

X takes first step toward lifting ban in Brazil

Social media platform X has named a legal representative in Brazil – a first step toward being able to resume service in the country – but its suspension will continue until it meets further requirements, a judge has ruled.

– Story on p. 12

CDF to launch subsidy scheme for cultural & arts admin staff

Ginnie Liang

The Cultural Development Fund (FDC) will launch its “2025 Cultural and Arts Administrative Staff Internship Subsidy Programme” today, with the aim of encouraging local cultural and arts organisations and business owners to provide internship opportunities, fostering talent in areas such as planning, coordination, administration and technical support for cultural activities, according to the fund’s statement.

The programme will accept applications from today until October 18, with a total of 80 places available, including up to 70 for organisations and up to 10 for business owners, the statement said, adding that the fund will also hold a special briefing session on October 3.

Eligible organisations must recommend one applicant who is a permanent resident aged between 18 and 40. The subsidy will cover the internship costs for the qualified administrative staff member in 2025, with a maximum limit of 151,200 patacas per beneficiary, based on the actual total hours worked.

In addition, the second round of this year’s “2024 Revitalisation

Funding Scheme for Historic Areas” subsidy programme will also accept applications from today to November 22, the statement said.

This programme supports property owners in conducting regular structural inspections and maintenance of private heritage buildings and culturally significant properties, which will cover 50 to 80 percent of the budgeted expenses, with a maximum limit of 2 million patacas, the statement said.

The subsidy period lasts for 12 months, with a total budget of 10 million patacas allocated for this initiative, the statement said, adding that the subsidy covers properties that have not yet commenced renovation work prior to the application period, including those that have been assessed or are awaiting evaluation.

For more information about the “2025 Cultural and Arts Administrative Staff Internship Subsidy Programme” and to address any enquiries, the fund will hold a special briefing session on October 3 at 5 p.m. at the Cheng Feng Commercial Centre. Interested individuals can register on the Fund’s website (www.fdc.gov.mo). ■

Police probing ‘robbery’ case nab thief stealing friend’s money

Yuki Lei

In the course of investigating a purported “robbery case”, Judiciary Police (PJ) arriving at a hotel in Cotai discovered that a 32-year-old mainland man had stolen a backpack containing HK\$95,000 entrusted to him by a friend and used the money for gambling, while also lying to the friend by telling him that “an unknown person had entered his guestroom and snatched the backpack,” PJ spokesman Cheong Kim Fong said during a regular press conference yesterday.

Cheong identified the jobless suspect as a man surnamed Wu, while the victim is a middle-aged mainland man. Both were friends who met up a few days ago to gamble in Macau.

The Judiciary Police were notified by the Public Security Police (PSP) about a “robbery case” at a hotel guestroom in Cotai on Sunday night, Cheong said, adding



Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Cheong Kim Fong looks on during yesterday’s regular press conference at the PJ headquarters in Zape.

— Photo: Yuki Lei

that the victim told the PJ officers who arrived at the scene that he had handed over the backpack containing HK\$95,000 to Wu for safekeeping earlier that day, but when he returned to the guestroom at 9 p.m. that day to collect the backpack and the money,

he was told by Wu that “an unknown person had entered the room earlier and taken the bag”.

However, according to Cheong, a further PJ investigation showed that Wu had left the room and went to various casinos after the victim had handed his backpack to him for safekeeping, confirming that Wu had come up with the robbery story to cover up the theft.

Cheong noted that the PJ officers recovered HK\$35,000 from Wu, while concerning the HK\$60,000, he refused to cooperate with the police, claiming that he had used the amount to pay off his gambling debts.

The Judiciary Police have transferred Wu to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) for further investigation, where he faces an abuse of trust charge, according to Cheong, who said that the Judiciary Police were still investigating the whereabouts of the stolen money and any other possible fugitives. ■

11 females cheated out of 52,670 patacas in ticket scam

Yuki Lei

Eleven mainland women have fallen victims to a ticket scam, in which they purchased early this year tickets for a sports event in Macau online for between 2,800 yuan and 8,000 yuan and were instructed to enter the venue through the staff entrance on the day of the event, but were discovered by security guards to have been defrauded during the second ticket check, Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Cheong Kim Fong said during a regular press conference yesterday.

“The Judiciary Police received reports from the 11 victims who said they had been defrauded by someone who sold them tickets online to a

sports event in Macau, reporting a total of 46,350 yuan, equivalent to about 52,670 patacas,” Cheong said.

On April 21 this year, the 11 victims arrived at a hotel in Taipa for the sports event and met a woman and a man to receive their tickets, who, however, asked them to wait at the ticket gate and instructed them to sneak into the event venue when the security guards checking the tickets at the entrance were distracted, according to Cheong, who noted that in the end, the 11 victims were stopped and searched by the security guards at the event venue as they had no tickets, which revealed the scam.

The Judiciary Police identified

the suspects who had returned to the mainland after the scam, Cheong said, adding that with the assistance of the Public Security Police (PSP), the Judiciary Police arrested a male suspect surnamed Li when he re-entered Macau via the Barrier Gate checkpoint on Sunday evening.

Under questioning, the 28-year-old suspect from the mainland admitted to having cheated the 11 victims, but refused to reveal the whereabouts of his female accomplice and the money fraudulently obtained from the 11 victims.

Li has been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), facing charges of fraud involving a large sum of money. ■

Taiwanese tour guide nabbed for stealing ‘booze’ after losing money

Ginnie Liang

A Taiwanese woman was arrested last Wednesday for stealing a bottle of an alcoholic beverage valued at 3,280 patacas after “feeling down” about recent gambling losses, a Public Security Police (PSP) spokesperson said in a regular press conference yesterday.

The suspect surnamed Hsu is in her fifties and holds an ID document from China’s Taiwan region, where she reportedly works as a tour guide.

According to the spokesperson, the owner of a shop on Estrada do Istmo reported to the police last Wednesday that a bottle of an alcoholic beverage had gone missing, leading him to suspect that it had been stolen.

The spokesperson did not specify what kind of alcoholic beverage the bottle contained.

Upon reviewing the store’s surveillance footage, PSP officers discovered that Hsu entered the shop last Tuesday carrying a shopping bag and subsequently stealing the bottle.



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

Later on Wednesday, PSP officers located Hsu in a hotel guestroom close to the shop, where they discovered the still unopened bottle in her refrigerator.

An investigation showed that Hsu arrived in Macau last Wednesday for leisure but she became upset

after losing money while gambling in local casinos, which may have prompted her to commit the theft, the spokesperson said.

Hsu has been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), facing a charge of theft, according to the spokesperson. ■

Fundo de Desenvolvimento da Cultura
Plano de apoio financeiro para estágios do pessoal administrativo na área cultural e artística 2025

- Quota de apoio financeiro**
No total de 80 beneficiários (máximo de 70 para grupo de associações e 10 para grupo de empresas comerciais)
- Número de horas do estágio**
No total de 1.728 horas e máximo de 196 horas mensais, não podendo o número total de horas do estágio ser inferior a 480 horas.
- Tipo de apoio financeiro**
Subsídio
Despesas elegíveis de 1 estagiário administrativo que reúna os requisitos, enquanto que este estágio não pertence à relação do contrato de trabalho
- Valor a conceder**
Máximo de MOP151.200,00, de acordo com as horas totais de estágio e por forma de pagamento de despesas efectivas
- Prazo de apoio financeiro**
De 1 de Janeiro a 31 de Dezembro de 2025, não há prorrogação

This poster provided by the Cultural Development Fund (FDC) yesterday provides details about its “2025 Cultural and Arts Administrative Staff Internship Subsidy Programme”.

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Macau Weather

CLOUDY. SHOWERS, HEAVY AT TIMES. A FEW THUNDERSTORMS. FORCE 3 TO 4 SOUTH TO SOUTHWESTERLY WINDS WITH GUSTS. RELATIVE HUMIDITY WILL RANGE BETWEEN 80% AND 99%.



22°C~26°C

Source: SMG

Macau preparing digital pataca with PBOC's aid: Ho

Continued from p.1

The conference, hosted by AMCM, Macau's quasi-central bank, was held at the Galaxy International Convention Centre in Cotai. It was also attended by PBOC Governor Pan Gongsheng and nine central bank representatives from Portuguese-speaking countries, namely Angola, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal, São Tomé and Príncipe, and Timor-Leste.

In his speech, Pan mentioned that nowadays the yuan ranks fourth in international payments and second in cross-border trade financing in the world. He expressed his hope to further strengthen cooperation in operational areas with Portuguese-speaking countries and to support eligible Portuguese-speaking banking institutions joining the yuan cross-border payment system.

Pan also noted that digital payment networks have been rapidly developing in China, significantly improving the efficiency and inclusiveness of payments. "This development has led to a substantial reduction in transaction costs. The People's Bank of China [the nation's central bank] is willing to collaborate with the Monetary Authority of Macau to provide technical support and assistance in advancing the nation's financial technology development," Pan underlined.

Around 300 senior executives from financial and professional institutions attended the conference. The AMCM signed agreements with several Portuguese-speaking countries' central banks during the conference to deepen cooperation. ■

*Sandbox testing refers to a controlled environment where software applications can be tested in isolation from the rest of the system. - Source: Poe



Press Release

Government launches official commemorative logo for 25th Anniversary of the Macao SAR

The year 2024 marks the 25th anniversary of Macao's return to the motherland and the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR). In celebration of this milestone, the Macao SAR Government has designed an official commemorative logo to be featured on materials related to a series of celebratory events organised by the Macao SAR.

The copyright of the logo belongs to the Cultural Affairs Bureau of the Macao SAR Government. To ensure the proper use of the logo, the Cultural Affairs Bureau has completed a trademark registration in accordance with the Industrial Property Code, and the corresponding registration certificate was issued today.

The official commemorative logo incorporates the number '25' and golden lotus petals as its core elements. It is coloured in gold, symbolising the "Lotus Flower in Full Bloom" sculpture, as well as Macao's prosperity and its deep connection with the motherland. The golden lotus is one of the symbols of Macao, representing prosperity, beauty, and happiness. The new logo blends traditional Chinese culture with the unique characteristics of Macao, exuding an aura of vibrant dynamism. It conveys a blessing for Macao's unwavering progress and further advancement in its urban development towards a glorious future.

The 25th anniversary logo has three versions: 3D, 2D, and image. The official logo is to be used for materials related to commemorative events celebrating the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Macao SAR, including all events organised, co-organised, coordinated, in cooperation with, or supported by the Macao SAR Government, or of similar nature. Public departments responsible for relevant projects must conduct a prior review before being permitted to use the commemorative logo. If the objectives, content, and arrangements of the activities are deemed in line with the overall nature of the commemorative events, practical coordination should be undertaken with the relevant parties to obtain authorisation to use the official logo, ensuring its appropriate use.

Government Information Bureau
Macao Special Administrative Region

'Macau Consumer Grand Prix' brought forward to Sept 30

Yuki Lei

The Economic and Technological Development Bureau (DSED) announced in a statement yesterday that it has brought forward the start of the "Macau Consumer Grand Prix", a large-scale consumer sales promotion campaign, which originally was slated for early October, to the end of this month, with a new budget of up to 110 million patacas.

During the 13-week campaign from next Monday, September 30, to December 29, all authenticated e-wallet users will have three times per week the chance to win e-vouchers for every single purchase of at least 50 patacas between Monday and Friday, whether at online or offline merchants, the bureau said, adding that each authenticated e-wallet account is entitled to up to three lucky draws per week, and each week's three lucky draws will come to an end at midnight every Saturday.

As part of the National Day celebrations, an additional 10 million patacas will be added to the first week of the campaign, bringing the overall event budget to approximately 110 million patacas, the bureau noted, adding that the campaign will cover the whole of the Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR), with the aim of engaging more residents and businesses, further supporting community consumption and boosting small- and medium-sized enterprises' (SMEs) confidence to help them sustain their operations.

According to the statement, the e-vouchers received must be used within the forthcoming weekends and the single purchases must be at least three times the face value of the vouchers. All unused offers will be cleared in the early hours of



Poster of the government's "Macau Consumer Grand Prix" for the upcoming consumption promotion campaign provided by the Economic and Technological Development Bureau (DSED) yesterday.

every Monday morning and will be deemed to have expired after that time.

Every Saturday and Sunday during the campaign period, consumers who make a single purchase of 50 patacas at designated business operators will be automatically entered into the Grand Lucky Draw at the end of the campaign, with total prizes and

awards valued at more than 1.68 million patacas.

The bureau stated that "some business operators expressed their support and expectations for the large-scale citywide consumer sales promotion campaign, believing that the government's launching of the campaign can attract residents to remain in Macau and spend money during weekends". ■

Entries open for Autumn Salon, Orient Foundation Art Prize

Rui Pastorin

Entries are open for both the "Autumn Salon 2024" and the "Orient Foundation Art Prize 2024", with October 31 as the deadline for registration, according to the Art For All Society's (AFA) website.

Now in its 15th year, Autumn Salon is annually organised by AFA in conjunction with the Orient Foundation (FO). The statement on AFA's website notes that the works selected are slated to be exhibited this year, with the date and duration to be confirmed in due course. Autumn Salon, the statement said, aims to continue its mission to create a platform for local artists to showcase their latest works and explore new venues to expand "the diversity of the exhibition space".

The statement added that Macau residents, students enrolled in

Macau and those working in Macau can submit their works created between 2022 and 2024. They can be created through painting, printmaking, ink, sculpture, photography, installation, video and digital art, according to the statement.

Meanwhile, the Orient Foundation Art Prize comprises a total value of 50,000 patacas to be used for its winner's month-long artist residency in Portugal to create artworks, engage in exchanges or receive training at a private or public art institution. Awarded or selected works will also be showcased alongside the selected works for this year's Autumn Salon, the statement said.

Registration for the prize is open to Macau residents, students enrolled in Macau, or those working in Macau, of all nationalities, aged between 18 and 35.



This image downloaded from the Art For All Society (AFA) website last night promotes the upcoming AFA Autumn Salon.

For application details and requirements, one may visit www.afamacau.com. ■



Artists showcase lanterns at Albergue SCM

Rui Pastorin

A variety of lanterns are on display at the Albergue SCM's A2 Gallery on Calçada da Igreja de S. Lázaro, showcasing various works of a number of artists.

Titled "Little Rabbit Lanterns – An Exhibition by Carlos Marreiros and Friends – Part 19, Celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the People's Republic of China", the exhibition kicked off last Tuesday and is showcasing around 20 lanterns. It is organised by CAC - Círculo dos Amigos da Cultura de Macau ("Circle of the Friends of Macau's Culture") and is open until October 29, according to the group.

The exhibition's opening event, the CAC Facebook page noted, was part of the programme of the "Celebration of the Moon – Mid-Autumn Festival 2024" party held at the Albergue SCM patio, which also featured a concurrent Mid-Autumn Festival Calligraphy Exhibition, free festive food and drink, as well as music performances, among others.

The free-admission rabbit lantern exhibition in the gallery is open from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Mondays, and from 12 noon to 8 p.m. the rest of the week. More details can be found on the group's Facebook page.

Albergue is Portuguese for "hospice". SCM stands for Santa Casa da Misericórdia ("Holy House of Mercy"), Macau's oldest charitable organisation.



Photos: Rui Pastorin

Sam officially launches candidacy website

Tony Wong

As Sam Hou Fai has been officially accepted as the sole candidate for next month's chief executive election, his election campaign website was officially launched yesterday.

Sam's election campaign office noted in a statement yesterday that Sam submitted his candidacy nomination form with endorsements from 386 electors of the 400-member Chief Executive Election Committee during the chief executive candidacy nomination period, after which the Chief Executive Electoral Affairs Commission (CAECE) officially accepted Sam as a candidate for the sixth-term chief executive election after completing its eligibility review of his candidature application, the statement noted.

The candidacy nomination period ran between August 29 and September 12, during which only Sam submitted his candidacy nomination form.

The commission announced on Wednesday last week that it had accepted Sam as the sole candidate for the chief executive election on October 13. After no one lodged objections to its decision, the commission announced on Friday

that Sam's sole candidature has been officially confirmed.

Sam, 62, is the former president of Macau's top court, the Court of Final Appeal (TUI). He resigned from his position, which he had held since the establishment of the Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR) on December 20, 1999, in late August so that he could run in the October 13 chief executive election.

Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng announced on August 21 that for health reasons he would not seek a second five-year term. A chief executive can only serve two consecutive terms.

Sam is set to become the MSAR's fourth head of government, i.e., chief executive, after Edmund Ho Hau Wah and Fernando Chui Sai On, each of whom served two consecutive five-year terms, and Ho Iat Seng's single term which ends at midnight on December 19, 2024.

Yesterday's statement said that Sam's election campaign website was officially launched on September 23, adding that members from different segments of civil society can continue to submit their written opinions and suggestions to the election campaign office.

Sam's election campaign website



This screenshot taken yesterday shows chief executive sole candidate Sam Hou Fai's election campaign website.

(<https://www.shfsc-raem.com>), available in Chinese and Portuguese, provides statements about his meetings with electors from different sectors on the Chief Executive Election Committee as well as meetings with associations from various segments of civil society.

The website also provides Sam's declaration of candidacy and curriculum vitae (CV), both available in Chinese, Portuguese and English.

Members of the public can send their written opinions and suggestions about Sam's election campaign manifesto by email to op@shfsc-raem.com. For other

enquiries, they can send their email to sc@shfsc-raem.com.

Sam's election campaign office can also be reached by phone on 2892 0182 and fax on 2878 8392.

Sam's election campaign office is located in unit AB on the 15th floor of Nam Tung Commercial Building in Nam Van, situated on the corner of Avenida da Praia Grande and Avenida de Almeida Ribeiro.

Manifesto presentation to last 3 hours

Sam is scheduled to announce his election campaign manifesto on the coming Saturday, September

28, i.e., the first day of the chief executive election campaign period, at the Services Platform Complex for Commercial and Trade Cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries (aka Forum Macao Complex), where the session is scheduled to be held between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., during which he will present his candidacy platform and answer questions from members of the 400-strong Chief Executive Election Committee.

The session will be open to the media and broadcast live by public broadcaster TDM. In addition, the session will be live-streamed on the government portal website (<https://www.gov.mo>), the chief executive election's website (<https://www.ece.gov.mo>) and the website of the Macau Government Information Bureau (GCS) (<https://www.gcs.gov.mo>), as well as on the GCS YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/macaogcs>) and Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/macaogcs>).

The October 13 chief executive election will also be held at the Forum Macao Complex, located near Macau Tower.

The chief executive election campaign period will run between September 28 and October 11. ■

17th Universal Productivity Forum to be held in Hengqin on Friday

Ginnie Liang

In response to the national strategy for innovation-driven development and to promote technological and economic exchanges between the two sides of the Taiwan Strait, as well as Hong Kong and Macau, the 17th Universal Productivity Forum will take place on Friday in the Guangdong-Macau In-depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, according to a statement from the Macau Productivity and Technology Transfer Centre (CPTTM) yesterday.

Organised by the China Association Of Productivity Promotion Centres (CPPC), the Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC), and the Macau Productivity and Technology Transfer Centre (CPTTM), this year's forum is themed "Developing New Quality Productivity to Create a New Future for the Greater Bay Area", with two hundred representatives from productivity centres, experts, scholars, and outstanding entrepreneurs from across the Taiwan Strait, Hong Kong, and Macau will be invited, the statement said.

Participants will discuss the



This banner provided by the Macau Productivity and Technology Transfer Centre (CPTTM) yesterday promotes the upcoming 17th Universal Productivity Forum to be held in Hengqin on Friday.

transformation and upgrading of productivity promotion initiatives and explore pathways to accelerate the development of new quality productivity, thereby facilitating technological and economic exchanges and promoting high-quality development in the GBA, the statement said.

The organisers will invite leaders from productivity organisations across various provinces and cities, researchers from scientific institutions and universities, industry leaders, and industry talents to share insights and opportunities within the sector to give speeches and presentations, covering topics such as the role

of new quality productivity in the development of traditional Chinese medicine industries, the promotion of innovation and development, and how new quality productivity can facilitate high-quality development.

The Universal Productivity Forum was initiated in 2006, and has served as a professional platform for the productivity promotion system and industrial development across both sides of the Taiwan Strait, as well as Hong Kong and Macau, ever since, the statement said.

For enquiries regarding the event, interested parties may contact CPTTM on 8898 0828 during office hours, or email ecm@cpttm.org.mo. ■

Macau Bridge walk to provide 7,000 more places

Tony Wong

The Sports Bureau's (ID) event for participants to walk across the soon-to-open Macau Bridge this coming Sunday, September 29, will have 7,000 additional places available for individual participants to sign up in response to the event's registration having been met with much enthusiasm.

The activity was initially to provide 10,000 places, comprising 5,000 places for those participating individually and 5,000 places for those joining the event in groups.

The online registration ran between 10 a.m. on Thursday last week and 9 p.m. on Saturday last week for those joining the event in groups. All 5,000 places were swiftly snapped up.

The registration for up to 5,000 individual walkers, which started at 10 a.m. on Sunday, was initially slated to run until 9 p.m. today, but the 5,000 places were taken before the deadline.

A statement by the bureau on Saturday said that since the registration started on Thursday last week, it had been met with a great deal of enthusiasm, because of which the bureau decided to provide 7,000 more places for individual participants to sign up.

The registration period for the additional 7,000 places will start at 10 a.m. today and is scheduled to end at 12 noon tomorrow.

Due to the new measure, the event will have up to 17,000 participants.

Only Macau residents are eligible to sign up for the six-kilometre walk, which is free of charge.

On the day of the walk on September 29, the organisers will start at 7 a.m. calling for groups' participants to arrive at the walk's starting location before their walk is scheduled to start at 8 a.m.

The organisers will start at 8:30 a.m. calling for the first 5,000 individual participants to arrive at the walk's starting location before their walk is scheduled to start at 9 a.m.

Following the increase in walkers, the organisers will start at 9:30 a.m. calling for the additional 7,000 individual participants to arrive at the walk's starting point before their walk is scheduled to start at 10 a.m. ■



This poster in Chinese released by the Sports Bureau (ID) on Saturday last week shows the location of the walk's entrance outside the Taipa Ferry Terminal.

STOCK MARKETS

Hang Seng Index closes 0.06 pct lower

HONG KONG – Hong Kong's stock market ended down 0.06 percent to close at 18,247.11 points. The Hang Seng China Enterprises Index rose 0.12 percent to end at 6,389.08 points, while the Hang Seng Tech Index fell 0.15 percent to end at 3,698.27 points. – Xinhua

August visitor arrivals set monthly record of 3.65 million

Rui Pastorin

The Statistics and Census Bureau (DSEC) said in a statement yesterday that a new monthly record of 3.65 million visitor arrivals was set during the August summer holidays, representing a year-on-year increase of 13.3 percent and a rise of 0.8 percent from the same month in pre-pandemic 2019.

Last month saw 3,651,731 visitor arrivals, while in the same month of pre-pandemic 2019 the previous monthly record figure stood at 3,623,116.

The statement noted that same-day visitors (2.041 million) and overnight visitors (1.61 million) grew by 23.4 percent and 2.7 percent year-on-year respectively. Meanwhile, visitors' average length of stay shortened by 0.1 day year on year to 1.1 days, with overnight visitors rising by 0.1 day to 2.3 days.

Mainland visitors rose by 18.5 percent year on year to 2.75 million in August, with those travelling under the Individual Visit Scheme (IVS; 1.46 million) rising by 9.3 percent; visitors from the nine Pearl River Delta cities in the Greater Bay Area (GBA; 1.34 million) rose by 21.3 percent.

Meanwhile, the statement said that visitors from China's Taiwan region (73,629) rose by 26.7 percent year on year, while those from Hong Kong (663,449) dropped by 6.8 percent.

The number of mainland



This photo taken last month shows tourists crowding in the city's main square, Largo do Senado. — Photo: Rui Pastorin

visitors in August showed a 4.0 percent increase compared with the same month in 2019, while the numbers of visitors from Hong Kong and Taiwan rebounded to 99.6 percent and 77.3 percent of the corresponding levels in August 2019, according to the statement.

The statement added that last month foreign visitors increased by 25.5 percent year on year to 162,331, back to 75.3 percent of the August 2019 level.

The foreign visitor segment included 36,923 South Koreans, up by 61.4 percent, and 35,180 Philippine nationals, up by 31.7 percent year on year. Among Macau's long-haul markets, US visitors rose by 18.2 percent to 10,295 last month.

Moreover, the statement said

visitor arrivals by air (282,733) and by land (2.98 million) increased by 24.7 percent and 16 percent year-on-year respectively, while visitor arrivals by sea (382,864) decreased by 9.2 percent year on year.

In the first eight months of 2024, the number of visitor arrivals expanded by 32.7 percent year on year to 23.3 million, corresponding to 85.3 percent of the figure in the same period in 2019.

The statement added that the number of foreign visitors (1.5 million) returned to 68.9 percent of the level in the first eight months of 2019. Same-day visitors (12.5 million) and overnight visitors (10.8 million) grew by 46.3 percent and 19.8 percent year on year respectively. ■

Guangzhou establishes int'l Ficus research center

GUANGZHOU — The Guangzhou International Ficus Research Center was established in the southern Chinese metropolis of Guangzhou yesterday, offering a platform for global research exchange and cooperation on the Ficus plant genus.

Located in the Dafushan Ficus Park, the center integrates research, conservation efforts and cooperative foundations related to the Ficus genus, bringing together more than 30 experts from 14 institutions across eight countries, including France, the UK, and Malaysia.

During the launch ceremony, expert representatives signed a memorandum of cooperation, reaching a consensus on research,

sustainable utilization, innovation and information exchange related to the genus.

Ficus species are crucial natural resources that play a key role in maintaining urban biodiversity and ecosystem functions. The timely establishment of the center provides a platform for domestic and overseas experts and scholars in the field to promote academic exchange and technology, said Finn Kjellberg, a professor at the French National Center for Scientific Research.

There are currently 877 Ficus species around the world, with 102 found in China. As an important component of Guangzhou's ecological foundations, Ficus trees play a significant role in urban greening, which enhances

living environments and regulates regional climates.

There are currently 241 tree species lining streets in Guangzhou, totaling about 586,000 individual trees. Ficus species make up a significant part of that number, accounting for 276,200 trees, or 47.13 percent of the total, according to Cai Sheng, director of the Guangzhou Municipal Forestry and Landscaping Bureau.

"We have collaborated with the South China National Botanical Garden and the Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden to conduct collection surveys in regions where Ficus resources are distributed, clarifying the distribution of Ficus genetic resources further," Cai said.

— Xinhua

Dunhuang Academy celebrates 80th founding anniversary

LANZHOU — China's Dunhuang Academy, a comprehensive national institution for the conservation, management and research of the world-famous grottoes in Gansu Province, held a meeting yesterday to celebrate the 80th anniversary of its founding.

The meeting reviewed the history of the Dunhuang Academy over the past eight decades and

called for the future high-quality development of the academy.

While delivering remarks, Xie Bing, deputy head of China's National Cultural Heritage Administration (NCHA), praised the academy's contributions to cultural heritage protection, academic studies and education.

Xie also urged efforts to promote the innovative transformation

and development of Dunhuang's cultural sector, as well as efforts to foster more talent capable of providing intellectual support to this high-quality development.

Attendees at the meeting included representatives of the NCHA, relevant government departments in Gansu, and higher education and cultural heritage institutions. — Xinhua

Consultations facilitate good governance

Commentary by Li Feng

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. Over the past decades, the CPPCC has played a significant role in promoting sound decision-making in China, bringing together wisdom from various sectors, both within and outside the Communist Party of China (CPC)

Consultative democracy is a form, and the strength of, socialist democracy, and the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) is a special consultative body and an important channel for promoting socialist consultative democracy, which in turn promotes whole-process people's democracy.

In its resolution on "Further Deepening Reform Comprehensively to Advance Chinese Modernization", the third plenary session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China vowed to advance whole-process people's democracy and introduce measures to improve the mechanisms for consultative democracy.

First, consultative democracy plays a significant role in public policy formulation and implementation. Theoretically, making consultation a part of the public policymaking process will increase administrative costs. But mistakes and repetitive efforts can be avoided, and making scientific decisions will become easier if all stakeholders' opinions and needs are taken into consideration in the beginning.

A practical, socialist consultative democracy can facilitate innovative decision-making. Consultative democracy follows the principle of conducting consultations before and during policymaking. Consultations help policymakers to better understand the needs and opinions of different groups of people, reduce social conflicts and build social consensus. Consultations can also help policymakers reach the greatest common ground based on the wishes and needs of the people, modernizing the national governance system and governance capacity in the process.

Socialist consultative democracy stresses that since citizens are affected by public policies, they have the right to participate in the decision-making process. Their participation in the process allows groups with different interests to voice their opinions and give their suggestions, so as to help the policymakers make better informed and balanced decisions.

Second, socialist consultative democracy with Chinese characteristics in the new era pursues self-improvement to build a virtuous circle of a sound system design, technological innovation and effective governance, and integrate the whole-process democratic mechanism and high-efficiency governance tools.

For example, socialist consultative democracy can meet the needs of cyber-politics and introduce new technologies in public works.

The Party and the government adhere to a people-centric philosophy, put people first, and introduce innovative technologies such as online governance service platforms, "internet+e-government" and online surveys to promote consultative democracy in the realm of cyberspace.

Third, socialist consultative democracy reflects the feasibility, effectiveness and efficiency of whole-process people's democracy, and can help solve many real-life problems, and more effectively and efficiently transmit and collect information.

In fact, socialist consultative democracy is a manifestation of whole-process people's democracy. It facilitates consultations among political parties, different levels of people's congresses, government departments, and different committees of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, and social organizations. China practices whole-process people's democracy through a combination of elections, consultations, decision-making, management and oversight, that is, it covers all aspects of democracy and sectors of society. And that is precisely why it is people-centric and effective.

This institutionalized arrangement of socialist consultative democracy ensures orderly consultations while making the consultation results public. Consultative democracy has a unique advantage and function in the development of whole-process people's democracy, not least because it upholds the Party leadership, ensures law-based governance, and follows socialism with Chinese characteristics.

This form of democracy can help meet the people's need to lead a better life, by pursuing common prosperity, promoting high-quality economic development, and helping build China into a great modern socialist country that is prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced, harmonious and beautiful.

Therefore, more efforts should be made to strengthen the Party's leadership in the consultation process, because the Party's leadership is the most essential attribute of socialism with Chinese characteristics and a guarantee for the development of socialist consultative democracy.

So it is essential to improve the mechanism of consultative democracy and facilitate consultations among political parties, and people's congresses and the CPPCC at different levels, and ensure the consultations are more efficient and result-oriented, as well as introduce rules and policies to provide an institutional guarantee for the development of socialist consultative democracy.

*The author is an associate professor of politics and law at the Party School of the CPC Central Committee. The views don't necessarily reflect those of China Daily.

— Courtesy of China Daily