

'School Village' in Zone A to offer 13,000 school places, incl integrated education: DSEDJ

Yuki Lei

An open tender for the government's "Land for Education" project on lot B1 in the Zone A land reclamation area is now underway, and the Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ) said yesterday that the future "School Village" there was expected to provide 13,000 non-tertiary education places, including integrated and special education classes.

The Public Works Bureau (DSOP) published last Wednesday a tender notice for the foundation and basement works of one of the four Land for Education projects on lots B1, B2, C4 and C5. In response to the launch of the project, the Education and Youth Development Bureau released a statement yesterday evening, quoting the urban development plan for "Eastern District 2" as stating that the four Land for Education lots were set to provide a total of about 13,000 non-tertiary education places, accounting for about 15 percent of the 86,000 non-tertiary students in the Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR). In line with the urban development plan, eight school premises and an educational activity centre are planned to be built on lots B1 and B2, with the basements of the respective schools to be used as carparks and drop-off and pick-up



This undated file photo provided by the Education and Youth Development (DSEDJ) yesterday shows a visit by DSEDJ officials and school representatives to the Guangdong-Macau In-depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, including its director Kong Chi Meng (third from left, facing the camera).

areas for schoolchildren.

Speaking to reporters yesterday, DSEDJ Director Kong Chi Meng said that the "School Village" concept was launched after taking into account the fact that some of Macau's schools are located on residential buildings' podium floors or in relatively overcrowded premises. The project also aims, according to Kong, to make it more convenient for residents in Zone A to attend school in their

neighbourhood and to increase the space for schools there to organise large-scale sporting events and daily physical exercise sessions.

Kong also said that in response to civil society's demands, all the eight schools in the district will provide integrated education, with one of them to run small classes for special education.

According to previous news articles, Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Elise Ao Ieong U

revealed as early as 2022 in the Legislative Assembly (AL) that the eight schools in Zone A comprise Escola dos Moradores (坊眾學校), Escola de Santa Madalena (聖瑪大肋納學校), Escola Sun Wah (新華學校), Escola Choi Nong Chi Tai (澳門菜農子弟學校), Lou Hau High School (勞校中學), Macau Tung Sin Tong Charitable Society (同善堂中學), Escola Hoi Fai (海暉學校), and Escola de Santa Teresa do Menino Jesus (聖德蘭學校).

Kong yesterday highlighted the project's aim to enhance the teaching environment and the quality of teaching: "The number of school places will not be increased... after the relocation of the eight schools, the per capita area per student will be increased by three times as compared with that of the existing schools".

The DSEDJ statement added that the average construction floor area per student in the eight schools will be increased from about four square metres per student in their current schools to about 13 square metres per student in their future schools in Zone A.

In terms of transport infrastructure, according to the bureau, a students' drop-off and pick-up area will be set up in each school's basement for parents and students, in the hope that the ground-level traffic congestion and pressure can be avoided. The bureau added that flyover connections and pedestrianised lanes will also be set up between lots B1, B2 and B3 with the aim of allowing students and parents to access the "School Village" via a slow-moving system.

The government's "School Village" concept refers to the planned cluster of eight schools, including an education activity centre, in Zone A. ■

Israel to launch counter-attack against Iran 'very soon,' state TV reports

JERUSALEM – Israeli Cabinet ministers have been informed that a planned counter-attack against Iran will take place "very soon," Israel's state-owned Kan TV reported yesterday.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed in early October that his country would retaliate after Iran launched around 180 ballistic missiles towards Israel on October 1, in response to the assassinations of Hamas political leader Ismail

Haniyeh in Tehran and Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah in Beirut. However, the timing of the Israeli attack remained unclear.

In a Cabinet meeting on Sunday, ministers were told the attack would be "very soon" and significant, according to the report.

The report came hours after US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin announced the deployment of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense

(THAAD) anti-ballistic missile defense system in Israel in addition to about 100 US soldiers to operate it.

US President Joe Biden had urged Israel to exercise restraint to avoid escalating a broader Middle East conflict, expressing concerns over strikes on Iran's nuclear sites and energy infrastructure.

Iran warned that it would retaliate against any Israeli missile attack. – Xinhua



Israel says struck Hezbollah bunker holding millions of US dollars in cash, gold

JERUSALEM – The Israeli army yesterday said it hit a Hezbollah bunker holding millions of US dollars worth of cash and gold during strikes aimed at the group's financial network.

"The Israeli Air Force carried out a series of precise strikes on these Hezbollah

financial strongholds," said military spokesman Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari. "One of our main targets last night [Sunday] was an underground vault with millions of [US] dollars in cash and gold. The money was being used to finance Hezbollah's attacks on Israel." – AFP

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Central bank conducts first SFISF operation

The People's Bank of China (PBOC) has conducted its first operation of the Securities, Funds and Insurance companies Swap Facility (SFISF), aiming to leverage the role of financial institutions better in stabilizing China's capital market. – Story on p. 7

Alpacas, hecklers & climate warnings: King Charles visits Canberra

King Charles visited Australia's capital Canberra yesterday, where he was sneezed on by a suit-wearing alpaca, heckled by an indigenous senator, and applauded for a speech on the country's climate perils. – Story on p. 11

Lula axes trip to BRICS summit in Russia after injuring head

Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva on Sunday cancelled a trip to Russia for a BRICS summit after injuring his head, his office announced. – Story on p. 12

Govt publishes 'Macao Gazetteer Series Book of Geography'

Ginnie Liang

The government published the two-volume "Macao Gazetteer Series: Book of Geography" yesterday, and Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng underlined that the publication is one of the most important cultural projects since the establishment of Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR).

Ho made the remarks during the book's launch ceremony on the University of Macau (UM) campus, with the attendance of nearly 100 representatives including Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in Macau Director Zheng Xincong, Foreign Ministry Commissioner Liu Xianfa, Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Elsie Ao Ieong U, University of Macau's (UM) Rector Song Yonghua.

The Book of Geography consists of two volumes with a total of eight chapters covering different topics. The Chinese-language book contains 1.3 million characters and 1,500 pages.

The book covers various aspects of the city, including its history, natural environment, demographic transformations, urban planning, transportation, public utilities, and the status of environmental protection.

Ho said that the book's publication underscores the MSAR's respect for the nation's tradition and provides support for developing Macau into a base for exchanges and cooperation where Chinese culture is the mainstream

and diverse cultures coexist.

Ho also noted that the book is the first ever gazetteer of Macau since the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC), showing that the country attaches great importance to the compilation of local chronicles.

During yesterday's ceremony, Song expressed his gratitude to the experts and scholars from Macau and elsewhere who have done in-depth research and have experience in compiling local chronicles, and he also welcomed all interested parties to provide feedback and suggestions for the gazetteer.

The Macao Gazetteer Series entered its formal compilation phase in 2022, and the government is planning to publish seven sections in total in the next few years, covering topics such "overview and major events", geography, law and politics, the economy, culture, civil society, as well as biographies, according to the press conference.

This chronicle aims to document Macau's historical development and current status from ancient times to the establishment of the MSAR, serving not only as an objective record of Macau's history and development but also providing references for governance, historical insights, local education, cultural heritage, cultural exchanges, and the promotion of economic and social development, according to the press conference. ■



This photo taken yesterday shows the two-volume "Macao Gazetteer Series: Book of Geography" displayed at the University of Macau (UM).

– Photo: Ginnie Liang

Extra screening of 'Ryuichi Sakamoto: CODA' added to MIMF

Rui Pastorin

Another screening has been added for the upcoming "Music on the Big Screen: Cinematheque•Passion Ryuichi Sakamoto: CODA", an outreach programme of the 36th Macao International Music Festival (MIMF), due to popular demand, the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) said in a statement last night.

Tickets for the programme, which is to be held at the cinematheque, had previously sold out, according to the statement. The statement noted that the additional screening will be held at 9:30 p.m. this Sunday.

The 2017 documentary film follows award-winning musician Ryuichi Sakamoto* (1952-2023) as he reflects on his over four-decade long career, as well as his life. The movie, according to a summary on Wikipedia, tells his experiences surviving cancer, as well as covers



This undated handout photo provided by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) shows a still from the 2017 documentary film Ryuichi Sakamoto: CODA, which will be screened at Cinematheque•Passion this Sunday.

his environmental activism after the Fukushima disaster, a major nuclear accident in 2011, and his music inspirations.

One can buy tickets for the documentary film screening online or via the cinematheque's ticket office from today. Moreover, tickets for other programmes in the festival are also available, while one can

also register for outreach activities via the Macao One Account. ■

*Sakamoto was a Japanese composer, pianist, record producer, and actor who pursued a diverse range of styles as a solo artist and as a member of Yellow Magic Orchestra (YMO). He passed away due to cancer in March 2023. – Source: Wikipedia

2 men nabbed for currency exchange fraud

William Chan

Two men from the mainland have separately been arrested for their involvement in two currency exchange-related fraud cases, Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Leng Kam Lon said during a regular press conference yesterday.

In the first case, the 45-year-old suspect surnamed Wu told the police that he's a businessman.

According to Leng, on Thursday the victim wished to exchange Hong Kong dollars he had won in a casino into yuan and deposit the amount into his mainland bank account. The victim then contacted Wu for a currency exchange deal, with Wu transferring 211,800 yuan into the victim's account. After the victim confirmed that the amount had been transferred to his account, he gave Wu HK\$229,000 in cash.

The victim received a notification from the bank the next day, informing him that his bank account had been frozen as it had received fraudulent funds. The next day, the victim encountered Wu in



Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Leng Kam Lon looks on during yesterday's regular press conference.

– Photo: William Chan

another casino and immediately contacted the casino security, who intercepted Wu and reported the case to the police.

Under questioning, Wu refused to cooperate.

In the second case, the suspect surnamed Tian is in his forties.

According to Leng, on August 26, in a smoking lounge at a Cotai

casino, Tian approached the victim, an illegal currency exchange dealer, and struck a deal, according to which Tian was to transfer 47,000 yuan to the victim, who was then supposed to pay Tian HK\$50,000 in casino chips.

The victim provided Tian with a QR code screenshot belonging to a friend for the money transfer. Tian scanned the code, displayed a photo of the supposedly successful transaction to the victim, who subsequently handed over the casino chips.

Upon attempting to retrieve the funds from his friend, the victim discovered that no money had been received so he suspected that the "receipt" was fake. Subsequently, he reported the case to the authorities.

Tian was apprehended last week upon entering Macau via the Hong Kong–Zhuhai–Macau Bridge (HZMB) checkpoint. He refused to cooperate.

The two suspects have been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), facing fraud charges, Leng said. ■

Uni student touches bus passenger's arm with his groin: police

William Chan

A university student from the mainland has been arrested for repeatedly touching a female passenger's arm with his groin, Public Security Police (PSP) spokesman Wong Chi Weng said during a regular press conference yesterday.

Wong identified the suspect as a male surnamed Yeh in his twenties.

According to Wong, Yeh and the female local victim, also a university student, got on the same bus on Wednesday near the Hengqin checkpoint, after which the victim sat near the bus door, while Yeh stood beside her.

During the trip, the victim felt

Yeh touching her arm with his groin several times. Subsequently, the victim yelled at Yeh, prompting him to move to the rear of the bus. After disembarking from the bus, the victim reported the incident to the police.

Yeh was arrested on Friday when he re-entered Macau through the Hengqin checkpoint. Under questioning, Yeh denied the accusation and claimed that the bus was crowded at the time and he might have "accidentally bumped" into the victim.

Yeh has been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), facing a sexual harassment charge, according to Wong. ■



This undated handout photo provided by the Public Security Police (PSP) yesterday shows the sexual harassment suspect being escorted by two police officers to a police station in Taipa.

– Photo: William Chan

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Macau Weather

VERY HOT. MAINLY FINE. HAZE DURING THE DAY. FORCE 3 NORTHEASTERLY WINDS, BECOMING FORCE 5 TO 6 NORTHERLY WINDS WITH GUSTS. RELATIVE HUMIDITY WILL RANGE BETWEEN 45% AND 90%.

25°C~33°C

Source: SMG

Registration open for 'Starry Symphony at the Lawn'

Rui Pastorin

The Macao Orchestra is slated to have its "Starry Symphony at the Lawn" concert on Saturday, November 16, for which ticket registration is open until 11:59 p.m. tomorrow, according to a Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) English-language statement yesterday.

The upcoming concert slated to start at 7:45 p.m. on that day, will mark the orchestra's first outdoor concert at the Macao Cultural Centre Plaza lawn, the statement noted.

With a combination of pop classics and jazz, the free-admission concert, held under the baton of the orchestra's Music Director and Principal Conductor Lio Kuokman and featuring Grammy Award winning trumpeter from the US Chris Botti, is part of the Macao Orchestra 2024-25 Concert Season, the statement said.

The statement said that Botti, who is also a composer, began his career as a professional musician while he was still in high school, and plays various genres aside from jazz. He has won numerous awards since making his debut in 1995, with a Grammy Award in the Best Pop Instrumental Album category for his album "Impressions" among them.

Registration for the tickets, two at most, can be done on www.macaoticket.com/enrollment/zh-hant/programme/P-055166.

Tickets will be distributed through registration and lucky draw, for which the first-round balloting results can be checked from 12 noon on Friday. More details can be found on the website or on www.om-macau.org, the orchestra's Facebook or WeChat accounts, or by calling the Macau Ticketing Network hotline on 2855 5555. ■

Wynton Marsalis's big band receives mixed feedback

Review by William Chan

The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, led by renowned US trumpeter Wynton Marsalis held a series of performances in China earlier this month, with shows in Beijing, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, as well as on Saturday in Macau where they performed at the Macao Cultural Centre's (CCM) Grand Auditorium.

Throughout their tour, the big band garnered mixed reviews on mainland social media. In Shenzhen, where they collaborated with a symphonic orchestra—a rather unconventional choice—opinions were particularly polarised among jazz enthusiasts. While I was unable to attend the Shenzhen performance, the concept of combining a big band with an orchestral ensemble may have seemed questionable to some.

Fortunately, local listeners had the opportunity to experience the big band's performance in Macau, and I found it to be exceptional. Live music often surpasses the controlled perfection of studio recordings, showcasing the raw talent and skill of the musicians. In a world dominated by artificial intelligence (AI) and technology, witnessing unaltered live music at such a high calibre, save for basic audio equipment like microphones and mixers, was truly awe-inspiring.

Admittedly, no concert is flawless. I personally would have welcomed fewer Chinese-themed compositions, which I found to be lacklustre at times, and wished they had more solos which many of us had



The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra plays an encore at the Macao Cultural Centre's (CCM) Grand Auditorium on Saturday night, with Wynton Marsalis in the second row. — Photo: William Chan

been expecting. Overall, the reception was largely positive, with attendees thoroughly enjoying the show and revelling in the presence of the music legends.

Despite this, a few disparaging comments surfaced, notably from a prominent local jazz musician who faulted the band for what he perceived as a subpar performance in Macau. Additionally, he insinuated that international performers may not always deliver their best for audiences they consider less musically discerning and mocked those who found merit in their performance as lacking an understanding of "quality music".

While the performance could have been more energetic, I would not go as far as to say it was underwhelming. Wynton Marsalis not only showcased his musical prowess but also displayed a gracious demeanour by interacting with fans backstage, posing

for photos, and engaging with them. His unwavering dedication to music education, demonstrated through resources he shares on YouTube, underscores his mission to cultivate a deep appreciation and love of music among audiences of all backgrounds, prioritising enjoyment and comprehension over the somewhat simplistic perception of "good music".

It is undeniable that local music may not always meet the same standards, but harbouring an elitist attitude does little to uplift Macau's music community. Segregating listeners into categories of "knowing good music" versus those who do not does hinder the collective appreciation of music in all its forms. Instead, we should strive to promote inclusivity and encourage all music enthusiasts to embrace and enjoy diverse musical experiences without prejudice. ■

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'Ascendance' exhibition blends new tech, traditional culture

Rui Pastorin

On the third floor of The Parisian Macao in Cotai, a shop venue houses works of local artist Kit Lei Ka Ieng for her latest exhibition, where visitors can find several moving images featuring traditional cultural elements created through new media technology.

Entitled "Ascendance - Kit Lei Ka Ieng's New Media Art World", the near month-long exhibition kicked off on Friday and comprises 13 digital animations and interactive installations. It is the second part of Art For All Society's (AFA) annual "Artificial Landscape: New Media Art Exhibitions" series.

Lei is a lecturer at the Macao Polytechnic University's (MPU) Faculty of Art and Design, whose multimedia practice focuses on video art, sound installation and new media art, according to information board displayed at

the gallery. For her current exhibition, the statement said that new media technology is being utilised as the artist's "artistic language".

Each of the works displayed at the exhibition combines traditional Chinese mythology and folklore with contemporary technological elements, the statement noted.

Among the works showcased is a piece entitled "8 Immortals Crossing the Sea", which uses elements like sound and artificial intelligence (AI), featuring the eight immortals (八仙)* in Chinese mythology reimagined as enlightened stray cats and symbolising Macau's "ongoing pursuit of breakthrough and development amidst the tides of change".

"Lotus Pond" and "Dragon and Flower - Portuguese Tile" are also among those on display, with these particular

works exploring geometric forms and the "essence of vitality", the statement said.

The exhibition, the statement pointed out, is "a profound dialogue on technology, culture, and belief", with exhibitiongoers invited to "reconsider the relationship between humanity and technology, tradition and modernity, and the role and value of art in contemporary society within a world interwoven with the virtual and the real".

Open daily, one can visit the free-admission exhibition from 12 noon to 7 p.m., with more details available at www.afamacau.com.

*The eight immortals, according to Wikipedia, are a group of xian (immortals) in Chinese mythology. Each immortal's power can be transferred to a vessel (法器) that can bestow life or destroy evil. ■

Photos taken yesterday by Rui Pastorin

DSSCU may greenlight villas on Lisboa Gardens plots

Yuki Lei

The Lands and Urban Construction Bureau (DSSCU) drafted in 2019 an urban condition plan for six lots near Estrada de Sete Tanques (七潭公路) in Taipa, for one of which it received last year a hotel development proposal – and according to the bureau’s latest urban condition draft plan, it now estimates that a number of villas will be developed on two of the six lots.

The six plots, namely M2A, M2B, C, M3, A4 and D, which had been zoned for new phases of the Lisboa Gardens new residential development, were the subject of controversy in 2011 when the project developer applied to change the contract for the development of a residential project that would have blocked the visibility of the 110-metre Small Taipa Hill, as the residential towers were planned to have a height ranging between 139 and 154 metres above sea level.

In 2019, the bureau issued its first urban condition draft plan for the six plots with a total area of 15,431 square metres, stipulating the uses of lots M2A, M2B and C for villas, M3 for hotels, A4 for clubhouses and D for residential buildings, with permissible heights set at 81.5 metres, 80 metres, 78 metres and 81.5 metres above sea level.

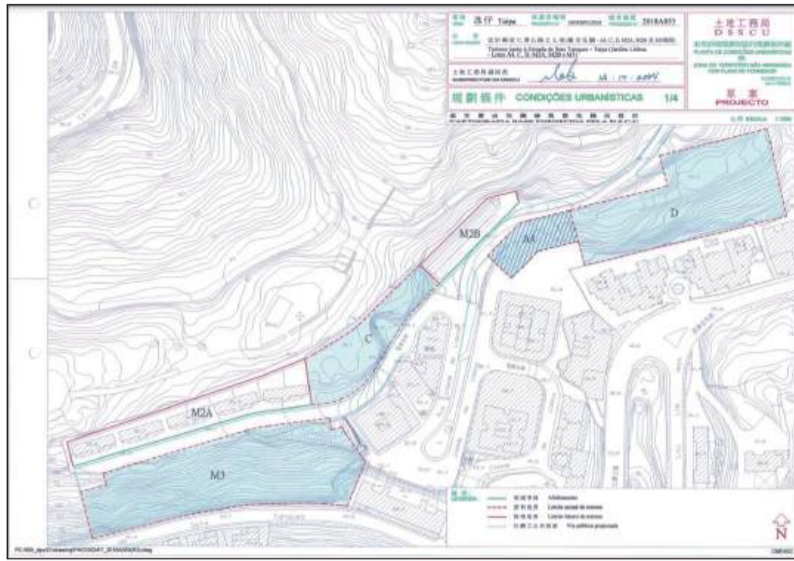
Last year, the government-appointed Urban Planning Council (CPU) discussed the development plan of lot M3 at its regular plenary meeting, of which the hotel project at the Lisboa Gardens drew council members’ attention. At that time, the design team of the project briefed the meeting about its four-star hotel of about six storeys, underlining



Photo provided by urban planner Lam Iek Chit yesterday.

that the exterior design of the hotel would be based on the slope direction of the hillside, supported by a number of pillars set into the hillside. During the meeting, according to several Chinese-language media reports at that time, several members wanted to know whether the excavation of the hill for the construction of the hotel would give rise to disputes over conservation, how the buildings to be constructed on the slope of the hill would be maintained in the future, apart from the landscape issue of building multiple pillars on the hill, as well as the hillside’s drainage, ancillary facilities for the development of the peripheral areas of the lot, and tour coaches’ access to and from the area.

According to the latest draft plan signed by DSSCU Deputy Director Mak Tat Io last Monday, the sites



The Lands and Urban Construction Bureau’s (DSSCU) latest urban condition draft plan for six lots near Estrada de Sete Tanques (七潭公路) in Taipa, which originally had been zoned for several new phases of the Lisboa Gardens residential development project, is shown on this map downloaded from the bureau yesterday.

planned for the construction of villas, namely M2A and M2B, with an original land area of 15,431 square metres, of which lots M3, C and A4 covering 12,412 square metres will be returned to Macau’s future land use, leaving 3,019 square metres for the development of villas, with the maximum permitted building height remaining unchanged at 81.5 metres above sea level, and a maximum permitted plot ratio of 2.7 times.

Same as the plan drafted in 2019, the lessee will be required to provide a communal area of no less than 3.5 metres in width around each group of villas to provide access by the respective authorities for carrying out hill maintenance and, at the same time, the lessee will also be responsible for the design and construction of slope stabilisation works and the construction of necessary retaining walls within

the lot boundaries, with the aim of maintaining the natural green atmosphere of the area through appropriate greening measures.

Commenting on the government’s decision to take back lot M3, former CPU member Lam Iek Chit told the *Post* yesterday that “this time around is undoubtedly a helpless outcome for the grantee of the land, as the development and use of this piece of land is fraught with difficulties”, pointing out two challenges for the development of the lot: “A topographical feature such as M3 raises two major issues, including potential environmental impacts. As mentioned in the discussion, the development of lot M3 may bring about environmental damage, especially in terms of greening; secondly, from the architectural point of view, it would be extremely difficult and costly to utilise the land

without excavating the hill”.

Speaking to the *Post* over the phone yesterday, Lam, an urban planner by profession, said he believed that the development of villas on lots M2A and M2B would not have any significant impact on greening: “There are some half-finished buildings on the land [lots M2A and M2B] already so the project would not have much of an impact on the greening as these lots are already concreted. In contrast, lots M3, C and D still have large hills, and their future development potential and impacts need to be carefully considered”.

In 2019, then as a member of the Urban Planning Council, Lam expressed scepticism about the viability of a hotel project on M3: “The particular topography of the site and the potential environmental issues make it a difficult and challenging site to develop”.

For the residents in the neighbourhood, Lam said, the existing situation has its pros and cons, pointing out that, on the one hand, some of the uncompleted buildings will affect their living environment, such as security and hygiene issues, while, on the other hand, the noise and dust of the construction process are unavoidable. However, he added, in the long run, if the unfinished buildings can be demolished and redeveloped, the positive impact on residents’ lives and the surrounding traffic should outweigh the negative impact.

The bureau is now collecting public comments on its latest urban condition draft plan, which can be submitted by email, fax, post or in person before October 30. ■

Kazakhstan to offer MSAR passport holders visa-free entry

Yuki Lei

Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR) passport holders will be granted visa waivers for Kazakhstan from Thursday, bringing the total number of countries providing visa-free access and visas on arrival for MSAR passport holders to 147.

According to a statement by the Identification Services Bureau (DSI) yesterday, Macau residents holding an MSAR passport from Thursday will no longer need

a visa to travel to Kazakhstan and stay there for up to 14 days. Reciprocally, Kazakh citizens will be able to enter Macau visa-free and stay here for 14 days as well.

The measure will take effect after the recent signing of a visa-free agreement between the two governments.

The statement added that MSAR passport holders can now apply for e-visas or online visas for entry to 25 countries. ■

UM holds forum on ‘One Country, Two Systems’ with Macau Characteristics

Ginnie Liang

The University of Macau (UM) and the Policy Research and Regional Development Bureau (DSEPDR) jointly hosted a forum on “‘One Country, Two Systems’ with Macau Characteristics: Review and Prospects” yesterday, with the aim of providing a platform for promoting academic exchanges and enhancing Macau’s role in the national development.

The forum will continue today, in which Macau’s political, socio-cultural, and economic development will be discussed.

The forum yesterday was attended by scholars, political figures, and experts from mainland China, Hong Kong, and Macau, reviewing the successful implementation of the “One Country, Two Systems” policy in Macau and to explore the city’s future development.

Speaking at the event, UM Rector Song Yonghua said that with the support of the central government and under the leadership of the Macau SAR government, Macau has fully and accurately implemented the “One Country, Two Systems” policy over the past 25 years, resulting



This photo taken yesterday shows the first day of the two-day forum on “‘One Country, Two Systems’ with Macau Characteristics: Review and Prospects” held on the University of Macau (UM) campus. – Photo: Ginnie Liang

in significant economic growth, social stability and prosperity, and improved governance.

Song noted that Macau has leveraged its institutional strengths to maintain close ties with mainland China and play an important role in the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area (GBA).

DSEPDR Director Cheong Chok Man said during the event that Macau’s achievements over the past 25 years are a testament to the successful implementation of the “One Country, Two Systems” policy, adding that Macau will make greater contributions to national development and the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. ■

STOCK MARKETS

Hang Seng Index closes 1.57 pct lower

HONG KONG – Hong Kong’s stock market ended lower yesterday with the benchmark Hang Seng Index down 1.57 percent to close at 20,478.46 points.

The Hang Seng China Enterprises Index fell 1.76 percent to end at 7,340.56 points, and the Hang Seng Tech Index fell 2.37 percent to end at 4,491.9 points. – *Xinhua*