



# UM researchers lower 2024 GDP growth forecast to 12.1 pct

**Tony Wong**

The University of Macau (UM) has lowered its forecast for Macau's 2024 gross domestic product (GDP) growth to 12.1 percent.

The public university announced its revised forecast in a statement on Friday. The university's annual forecast for Macau's economy is carried out by a research team consisting of scholars from its Department of Economics. The GDP forecast project is administered by the university's Centre for Macau Studies (CMS).

The research team initially predicted in December last year that Macau's economy would grow between 8.3 and 21.0 percent in real terms in 2024, but in April it revised its forecast for the city's real GDP growth to 16.8 percent for this year.

According to Friday's statement, the research team has now revised its forecast for Macau's 2024 real GDP growth to 12.1 percent after considering the slowdown in the mainland's economic growth as well as the fact that the year-on-year increase in Macau's visitor arrival numbers in the second quarter were lower than in the first quarter.

According to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), the Chinese mainland's GDP grew 5.3 percent, 4.7 percent and 4.6 percent year-on-year in real terms in the first, second and third quarters of this year.

The UM statement said that after Macau enjoyed a strong recovery in the number of



This file photo taken from the Taipa Houses complex earlier this year shows some of the casino-hotel resorts in Cotai.

– Photo: Tony Wong

visitor arrivals in the first quarter, the second quarter's recovery slowed down. The statement noted that the number of all visitors and the number of visitors from the mainland in the first quarter returned to 85.7 and 84.5 percent of the levels recorded in the same quarter of pre-pandemic 2019, while the number of all visitors and the number from the mainland in the second quarter returned to just 79.0 and 76.4 percent of the ones recorded in 2019's same quarter.

The statement also noted that Macau's number of visitor arrivals from the mainland in

the first seven months of this year represented 81.3 percent of the level recorded in 2019's same period.

The statement said that the research team now assumes that in the second half of this year, Macau's number of visitor arrivals from the mainland will return to 85 percent of the same period of 2019.

Based on this new assumption, according to the statement, the research team now predicts that Macau's 2024 GDP will grow 12.1 percent in real terms year on year.

According to the Statistics and Census Bureau (DSEC), the number of all visitors and those from the mainland in this year's third quarter returned to 92.8 and 93.5 percent of the levels recorded in the same quarter of 2019.

The total number of visitors and the number of visitors from the mainland in this year's first three quarters returned to 85.8 and 84.9 percent of the levels recorded in the same period of 2019, respectively, according to DSEC data. ■

## Pandemic global deal in sight as talks resume

**Robin Millard**

GENEVA – Countries reconvened yesterday in a bid to finalise a landmark global agreement on handling future pandemics, with the spectre of mpox, Marburg and H5N1 adding fresh urgency to seal a deal.

After more than two years of talks, hopes are high of completing an accord by November 15, though the heart of the document – how to share pathogens and vaccines – is set to be worked out later.

In December 2021, fearing a repeat of the devastation wrought by COVID-19 – which killed millions of people, crippled health systems and crashed economies – the World Health Organisation's (WHO) 194 member states agreed to draft an accord on pandemic

prevention, preparedness and response.

The emergence of a new strain of mpox, the deadly Marburg virus outbreak in Rwanda and the spread of H5N1 bird flu in recent months have given the talks a jolt.

"You face a balancing act between concluding your work in a timely manner and reaching the strongest possible text. I urge you not to allow the perfect to become the enemy of the good," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told country negotiators as the talks round opened.

"Time is not on our side. COVID is still circulating; mpox is a global health emergency; we have an outbreak of Marburg, and H5N1 spillover. The next pandemic will not wait." – AFP



Jinbao, the mascot of the China International Import Expo (CIIE), and Xiaoxin, a humanoid robot providing an inquiry service, are pictured at the media center of the 7th CIIE in Shanghai yesterday. The huge fair opens today and ends on Sunday. – (More on p.6) – Xinhua

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### Chinese philosophy scholar calls for goodwill in era of conflict

A Chinese philosophy professor has stressed the importance of goodwill in an era marked by conflict, describing goodwill as a quintessence of Confucianism.

– Story on p. 7

### Israel tells UN it's cutting ties with Palestinian aid agency

Israel said yesterday that it has formally notified the United Nations it was cutting ties with the agency supporting Palestinian refugees, after lawmakers voted to ban the organisation vital to the occupied territories.

– Story on p. 10

### Stein, Oliver, West: the fringe US presidential candidates

A scion of the famed Kennedy family. A Green Party activist. A self-proclaimed "armed and gay" libertarian.

– Story on p. 12

# Macau sees noticeable change in tourists' preferences: travel industry rep

Interview by Yuki Lei

Macau received between January and September over 1.67 million foreign visitor arrivals, reaching 70.7 percent of the number in the same period in pre-pandemic 2019, according to official statistics, and Macau Leisure Tourism Services Innovation Association Chairman Paul Wong Fai said yesterday that in the post-pandemic era, with the continuous expansion of the scope of the mainland's 144-hour visa-free transit policy for foreign nationals, there has been a noticeable change in preferences of tourists, who are now more inclined to travel as individuals, instead of as group tour members.

The first nine months of this year Macau recorded 25.92 million visitor arrivals, recovering to 85.8 percent of the number in the same period in pre-pandemic 2019, according to the Statistics and Census Bureau (DSEC). In the first three quarters, the number of inbound package tour visitors surged by 101.2 percent year-on-year to 1.49 million, with those from mainland China soaring by 91 percent to 1.33 million, according to DSEC data.

Foreign package tour visitors jumped by 276 percent to 142,000 between January and September, and those from South Korea (58,000) and India (19,000) leapt by 387.1 percent and 929.8 percent, respectively.

The Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) has repeatedly emphasised that, on the basis of the "stabilising" number of visitor arrivals, it has been taking various initiatives to open up "international" tourism source



Undated file photo of Paul Wong Fai, chairman of the Macau Leisure Tourism Services Innovation Association. - Photo provided by Wong yesterday

markets to enrich the visitor mix, pointing out that in the first half of this year, six roadshows were held in foreign countries, i.e., in Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea and Thailand.

Speaking to the *Post* by phone yesterday, Wong noted that Macau's foreign tourists are mainly from Southeast and Northeast Asia, with South Korean tourists being more prominent, followed by tourists from Indonesia and the Philippines, and then from Singapore and Thailand, adding that like before the COVID-19 pandemic, South Korean tourists still top the list of Macau's foreign visitor arrivals; in contrast, Japanese tourists, who used to be at the bottom of the list, have still not recovered as fast as expected.

### 'More flexible'

He also pointed out that after the three-year pandemic, there were obvious changes in tourists' travel



This file photo taken in late September shows border crossers entering Macau through the Barrier Gate checkpoint. - Photo: Yuki Lei

patterns, except for those from Indonesia, India South Korea, and Thailand, who still prefer to join tour groups due to language barriers, while those from Singapore and the Philippines tend to choose to travel "more flexibly" as individuals.

"With the exception of a few areas where tourists may be travelling in a group due to language issues, I think that [in the future] slowly the majority of [tourists] will be travelling on a self-guided basis," Wong said, adding that thanks to the mainland's 144-hour visa-free transit policy, Macau has seen more travellers making multi-destination journeys through Macau and then into the mainland.

When asked whether Macau's tourism support services were adequate to cope with the current increase in foreign visitor arrivals, Wong said that Macau's overall tourism services and reception capacity can meet the market demand for the time being, especially in terms of local tour guides' foreign language knowledge, except for some "special" languages spoken

by some foreign visitors which require the services of especially trained tour guides. "English is, in general, more than adequate to address foreign tourists' needs," he said.

### Pain points

He went on to say that large-scale local hotel resorts were now facing the common problem of insufficient supply of hotel rooms. "There is a kind of shortage of rooms," Wong said, adding that Macau's hotel resorts have reached a certain degree of popularity in the Asia-Pacific region, with many international tourists coming to Macau looking for them in particular: "In this aspect, these are pain points".

Speaking on behalf of the tourism sector, Wong also expressed the hope that the incoming government will continue to cooperate with airlines, integrated resorts and his sector to develop their respective strengths in attracting foreign visitors to Macau through various joint promotion campaigns, such as free Hong Kong-Macau bus rides

and discounted air tickets, and that it will also legalise online ride-hailing services to provide tourists with a more flexible and adequate supply of transport.

### In-depth tourism

Regarding global travellers' preference for in-depth tourism\* in the post pandemic era, Wong said: "Under the influence of the changes affecting the global economy and the world's climate, it is also possible that the spending pattern of Macau visitor arrivals from many different regions may be different to that of the past, and this is a fact that has to be faced". However, he pointed out, the spending pattern of certain foreign travellers visiting Macau has not significantly changed.

Meanwhile, last month, the Legislative Assembly's 2<sup>nd</sup> Standing Committee continued to scrutinise the Travel Agency Business and Tour Guides Occupations Bill. Quoting a government official, lawmaker-cum-restaurateur Andrew Chan Chak Mo, who chairs the committee, who told the media that the bill proposes that tour guides should be required to wear an official Tourist Guide ID badge when carrying out their duties, and that non-compliance with the law would be subject to a fine of between 10,000 and 20,000 patacas. Concerning the bill, Wong said that it aimed to help the government identify illegal tourist guides, but also said he worried that the proposed steep increase in fines would put pressure on tour guides, hoping that "we can strike a balance and build a consensus in this discussion". ■

\* In-depth tourism is a new travelling pattern, which combines thematic travelling experience and personal knowledge. - Source: ResearchGate

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## Locally acquired dengue fever cases rise to 3

Yuki Lei

Macau has added one more locally acquired case of dengue fever, a 59-year-old woman living in Rua do Tarrafeiro (沙欄仔街), increasing the total of such cases so far this year to three, the Health Bureau (SSM) said in a statement yesterday.

The patient developed on Sunday symptoms such as headache, muscle joint pain and general weakness, and she was diagnosed with dengue fever yesterday by Kiang Wu Hospital. The statement noted that it was believed that the infection is related to the 24<sup>th</sup> case of travel-associated dengue fever in Macau. "The patient resides in the same building as the 24<sup>th</sup> case of travel-associated dengue fever diagnosed on Saturday, and both are suffering from the dengue virus type I," the bureau said.

The bureau reminded the public that the Luis de Camões Garden area is now a high-risk

zone, adding that a family member of the patient has meanwhile come down with symptoms similar to hers, urging those living in or going to the area to take extra precautions, including removal of stagnant water and taking mosquito control measures.

The statement underlined that the bureau will soon deploy its staff to conduct door-to-door visits

to detect dengue fever cases in the vicinity of the patient's home, as well as mosquito breeding source inspection and chemical mosquito control also in the patient's main activity areas, including Luis de Camões Garden.

As of yesterday, this year's number of travel-associated dengue fever cases recorded by the bureau amounted to 25. ■



Image taken yesterday from the website of the Macau Government Information Bureau (GCS)

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### Macau Weather

SLIGHT FLOODING WILL OCCUR IN INNER HARBOUR AREA FROM 10 PM ~ 1 AM DUE TO ASTRONOMICAL TIDE. CLOUDY APART FROM SUNNY INTERVALS. FORCE 3 TO 4 NORTH TO NORTHEASTERLY WINDS, OCCASIONALLY FORCE 5 WITH GUSTS. RELATIVE HUMIDITY WILL RANGE BETWEEN 50% AND 85%. **22°C~30°C**



Source: SMG

# MGM Macau Tennis Masters returns with new format

Rui Pastorin

The 2024 MGM Macau Tennis Masters is set to take place from December 24 to 25 at Macau Forum in Zape, with the tournament being Asia's first mixed-gender team format tournament.

The upcoming event, which had its inaugural edition last year, is organised by integrated resort (IR) operator MGM and global sports, events and representation company IMG.

According to a press conference held yesterday at MGM MACAU, there will be a lineup of six top players divided into two groups. They will be captained by either former Women's Tennis Association (WTA) world ranking No. 2 and two-time Grand Slam singles champion Li Na from the mainland, who attended yesterday's press conference, or Chinese-American former professional tennis player and coach Michael Chang Te-pei, the youngest man in history to win a singles major at 17 years old in 1989.

Both Chang and Li are in the International Tennis Hall of Fame.

The players comprise Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) players Casper Ruud from Norway; Lorenzo Musetti from Italy; Jerry Shang Juncheng from the mainland; Russia's Andrey Rublev; and WTA players Wang Xinyu from the mainland, and Czechia's Karolina Muchova.

Speaking with the *Post* after yesterday's press conference, Tournament Director and



Former professional tennis player Li Na (from left to right); Macau Tennis Association Chairman Ma lao lao; MGM China Holdings Limited President and Executive Director Kenneth Feng Xiaofeng; Sports Bureau (ID) President Luis Gomes; Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) Tourism Product and Events Department Chief Jennifer Si Tou; and Tournament Director and IMG Senior Vice President of Tennis Events Luiz Carvalho pose after yesterday's press conference.

— Photo: Rui Pastorin

IMG Senior Vice President of Tennis Events Luiz Carvalho said that the two teams will be made up of three players each, with two males and one female, he noted.

There will be four matches per day, with the first match of each session being a team captain challenge, followed by two singles and one doubles match, according to Carvalho.

Carvalho said that they are hoping for an exciting run. "The players love Macau... They also come here looking to prepare for the Australian Open, to get match-ready and get

some rhythm ahead of the first Grand Slam of the season", he added.

On his expectations, Carvalho remarked: "I expect them to play hard to win, they're tennis players and they hate to lose that's one of the characteristics they all have in common. At the same time, I think it's going to be a fun and relaxed environment".

He also noted that the event is overall set to provide people with an opportunity to watch tennis players in action and there is "nothing better than Macau to be the setup for that".

Meanwhile, President and Executive Director of MGM China Holdings Limited Kenneth Feng Xiaofeng said in his speech that: "The event continues to bring forth the synergy between sports and tourism to create an exclusive sports event brand for Macau, further elevating its transformation into a 'City of Sports' and a destination for world-class elite sports events".

Tickets are currently on sale at [www.MGM.mo](http://www.MGM.mo) and [www.Damai.cn](http://www.Damai.cn), with more information on [www.MGMMacauTennis.com](http://www.MGMMacauTennis.com). ■

## Sarah Choi's concert showcases guzheng & erhu music

William Chan

Local musician Sarah Choi (蔡曉琳) presented her Guzheng and Erhu Master's Graduation Recital last month at the Macau Cultural Centre (CCM), hosted by the Macau Conservatory of Music and Arts.

Choi's musical journey began at the Macao Academy of Performing Arts, where she studied guzheng and erhu. Following a nomination from Pui Ching Middle School, she continued her education at the Central Conservatory of Music. Her accomplishments as a guzheng soloist led to her admission to the conservatory's Folk Music Department. Currently, she is pursuing her doctorate at the Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST), focusing on music theory and practice.

The statement said that the recital showcased Choi's artistic growth during

her seven years of study in Beijing. The programme featured a diverse repertoire spanning traditional and contemporary compositions, including specially commissioned works. Highlights included "Tunes of Qin Mulberry," "Idyllic Tune," and "Peach Blossom Spring" for guzheng and erhu, demonstrating both technical mastery and artistic interpretation.

The statement noted that the performance also featured guest appearances by emerging musicians from Hong Kong, Taiwan, and mainland China, highlighting the richness of Chinese musical traditions through varied instruments and playing styles. The concert served as both a celebration of traditional Chinese musical culture and an expression of gratitude to the government and community for their ongoing support, the statement said. ■



Sarah Choi (centre, front) performs with other musicians at the Macau Cultural Centre last month. — Photo provided by concert organiser

## Herbie Hancock's Sunday performance draws thunderous ovation



Herbie Hancock (from left to right), Lionel Loueke, Terence Blanchard, Jaylen Petinaud and James Genus pose after Sunday's performance at the Macau Cultural Centre, earning an enthusiastic standing ovation.

— Photo: William Chan

Review by William Chan

US jazz legend Herbie Hancock delivered a masterclass in musical innovation on Sunday night at the Macau Cultural Centre (CCM), earning the most enthusiastic standing ovation I have ever witnessed in Macau.

At 84, Hancock's virtuosity remains remarkable. The pianist who once performed with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra at age 11 continues to push boundaries after seven decades on stage. Rather than resting on his laurels, he approaches each performance with fresh energy and evident joy.

What struck me most was his relentless creativity. Instead of simply revisiting his classics, Hancock reinvented each piece, weaving unexpected variations that kept the audience spellbound. His artistic courage in challenging both himself and his listeners' expectations, even at this stage of his career, was inspiring.

The concert opened with abstract, nature-inspired improvisations before building into a masterfully arranged medley of his greatest works, culminating in his signature piece "Chameleon." It was a revelatory demonstration

of contemporary jazz's emotional depth and narrative power.

His exceptional quintet included Terence Blanchard on trumpet, James Genus on bass, Lionel Loueke on guitar and vocals, and Jaylen Petinaud on drums. As a trumpet player myself, Blanchard's technical mastery was eye-opening. Despite the age gap with young drummer Petinaud, who is only in his twenties, the ensemble's chemistry suggested years of collaboration, with tight rhythmic interplay and intuitive communication.

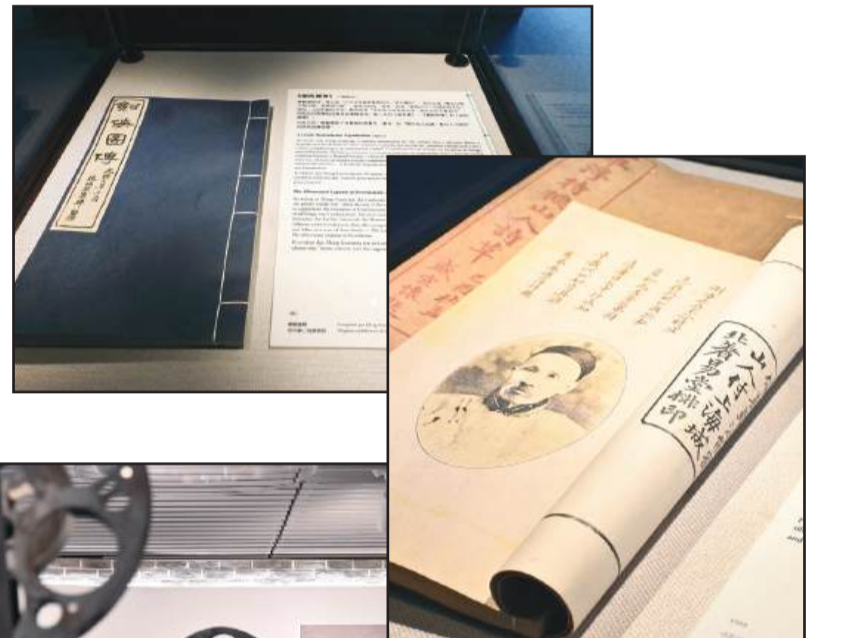
For the finale, the octogenarian legend strapped on his keytar, moving energetically across the stage while trading explosive riffs with his bandmates. His dynamic performance, complete with spirited jumps during musical peaks, brought the house down. The diverse audience, including many from Hong Kong and the mainland, responded with extraordinary enthusiasm rarely seen at jazz concerts. The unanimous standing ovation and one fan's attempt to rush the stage spoke volumes about the performance's electrifying impact and technical mastery. ■



《待鶴山人七秩唱和詩集》中的鄭觀應圖像  
Retrato extraído da *Coleção de Poemas para o 70º aniversário de Zheng Guanying*  
Portrait of Zheng Guanying from *A Collection of Antiphonal Poems for the 70th Birthday by Zheng and his friends*

《待鶴山房詩集》中的鄭觀應圖像  
Retrato extraído da *Coleção de Poemas de Zheng Guanying*  
Portrait of Zheng Guanying from *Collection of Zheng Guanying's Poetry*

《待鶴山人晚年紀念詩》中鄭觀應的圖像  
Retrato extraído da *Poesia Comemorativa do Velho Zheng Guanying*  
Portrait of Zheng Guanying from *The Commemorative Poetry of Zheng Guanying in his Later Years*



# ‘Exhibition of the Legacy of Zheng Guanying’ expands content

Rui Pastorin

The “Exhibition of the Legacy of Zheng Guanying” at the Zheng Guanying Memorial Museum was inaugurated in late September, offering museumgoers expanded content from its original exhibition.

The free-admission exhibition, which also features several interactive facilities and technology such as augmented reality (AR) and projections in addition to the exhibits, is located at Zheng’s former residence and family home, the Mandarin’s House (鄭家大屋), in São Lourenço (風順堂區).

Zheng (1842-1921) was born in then Xiangshan (nowadays Zhongshan) in Guangdong Province, and, according to the Macau Museum website, was a “pioneering thinker who initiated the exploration of ideas of liberal democracy and science in modern China”, along with being an industrialist, educator, literary writer, humanitarian and patriot, the website adds.

The exhibition is hosted to promote Zheng’s activities and contributions, a recent statement from the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) noted, and features new research materials and exhibits provided by descendants of Zheng’s family, the Shanghai Library and the Shanghai Audio Visual Archives.

Those visiting the exhibition will be able to find exhibits such as writings, documents, letters, photographs, plaques and couplets, among the over 100 items displayed, along with the interactive experiences. The statement noted that the exhibition shows how Zheng and his book entitled “Words of Warning in Times of Prosperity” advanced modern politics in China back then and the bonds between Zheng’s family and Macau.

One can visit the exhibition from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., with no admission after 5:30 p.m. It is closed on Wednesdays and is also open on public holidays. Guided tours are also available.



Photos taken yesterday by Rui Pastorin



# Lam Chak Seng's band hosts 2-day jazz jam session bootcamp



The Lam Chak Seng Jazz Band members and participants in jazz jam session bootcamp pose after their performance on Sunday at the former Barra Abattoir site. — Photo provided by Lam (fourth from left, second row)

Review and interview by William Chan

The Lam Chak Seng Jazz Band, which will be performing at this weekend's hush! event at Hac Sa Beach in Coloane, organised a jazz jam session bootcamp at the former Barra Abattoir site this past weekend. The event attracted around 40 musicians from Macau, Hong Kong, and Guangzhou, ranging from kids to people in their fifties, all participating for free. I was also one of the participants.

Led by local saxophonist Lam Chak Seng, the band features local guitarist Chan Hon Chong, Italian pianist Lorenzo Ditta, Belgian drummer Kobe Gregoir, and Spanish bassist Xavi Castillo. Lam and Chan

are prominent figures in the Macau jazz scene, while Lam met the three European musicians during his studies at the Royal Conservatory of The Hague in the Netherlands.

The two-day bootcamp, running from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day, included lectures, jazz combo instruction, instrument sessions, music appreciation, and performances by and for all participants, serving as a networking platform for musicians to connect.

The bootcamp received positive feedback. A drummer friend of mine who had played percussion for years but was new to jazz, found the experience fun and inspiring, discovering the joy of

jazz improvisation and musical communication. Another seasoned guitarist expressed gratitude for the opportunity to exchange ideas with the instructors, highlighting the valuable learning experience.

Although the camp was relatively short, it was fruitful for participants at every level. Lam thanked the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) for organising the event and his bandmates for their support. The Lam Chak Seng Jazz Band will be performing in Guangzhou, Zhongshan, and Zhuhai before returning to Macau for the hush! event this Saturday. The performance schedule for hush! can be checked on their website: [www.icm.gov.mo/hush/2024/en/](http://www.icm.gov.mo/hush/2024/en/) ■

## HK fishing vessel towed to mainland for repairs after hitting bridge: DSAMA

Ginnie Liang

The Marine and Water Bureau (DSAMA) has assisted in lifting a fishing vessel listing and stranded off Macau Tower yesterday after it collided with the protective rail of the Governor Nobre de Carvalho Bridge (informally known as the city's "old bridge") on Sunday, and it has meanwhile been towed to the mainland for repairs, a DSAMA statement said yesterday.

The vessel is a Hong Kong-registered fishing vessel, named "深蛇XXXX". No injuries were reported, and the incident did not impact Macau's marine navigation, the statement said.

The vessel was righted and lifted by pumps and other equipment, the statement said, adding that the salvage work was completed at

4 p.m. yesterday, after which the vessel was towed to the mainland for repairs.

The bureau said that it would remove the oil absorption materials and warning buoys from the site soon after completion of the oil cleanup, adding that the bureau has completed the questioning of the crew members.

As the vessel was involved in illegal navigation and a collision with the bridge, the bureau will follow up on the matter, such as penalties and damage compensation, the statement said.

The bureau reaffirmed its appeal to vessels entering and leaving Macau waters to strictly observe its navigation regulations, follow the navigation signs and pay attention to the navigation information at high tide levels to ensure navigation safety. ■



This handout photo provided by the Marine and Water Bureau (DSAMA) yesterday shows a government-owned vessel (right) assisting the Hong Kong-registered fishing boat, which hit the protective railing of the old Macau-Taipa bridge and ran aground off Macau Tower on Sunday.

## 6th !Outloud Int'l Street Art Festival slated for Dec 4-8

Ginnie Liang

The sixth annual !Outloud International Street Art Festival (嚮朵) will be held from December 4 to 8 in Praça de Ponte e Horta (司打口), calling for volunteers, performers and graffiti artists from around the world to participate, according to several !Outloud's statements recently.

Organised by the Macao Old District Promotion Association and !Outloud Team, the festival aims to celebrate street art while promoting cultural exchanges and Macau's heritage.

"嚮朵" ("heong do") is Cantonese slang for "to reveal one's identity to make an impression", which represents tenacious individuals who announce themselves to the world through creative expression, according to the organisers.

The statement noted that the festival will provide a free wall for graffiti artists signing up for the activities, with spray paint,



This banner downloaded from the official website of the !Outloud International Street Art Festival last night promotes the upcoming graffiti street festival in Praça de Ponte e Horta (司打口).

ladders, and other tools needed for their creations.

Various international graffiti artists will be invited to the festival, including graffiti writer Arttime Joe from South Korea who is a master of "free graffiti and digital painting", South Korea-based Danish graffiti artist Christian Storm whose work is characterised by bold lettering and stylised images, Japanese graphic artist Cook Dissizit who also is a designer for apparel brands and album sleeves, among others.

In addition, a rap battle will be held on December 8, and participants can sign up for the competition until November 20, the statements said, adding that the audition will be conducted online, and the Top 16 will be able to join the knockout stage of the tournament at the event site.

To register as volunteers, performers and graffiti artists, or just looking for more information, one can visit: [facebook.com/Outloudmacau](https://facebook.com/Outloudmacau). ■

## Scammers send SMS with link to pay bills for 'HKeToll': PJ

Ginnie Liang

The Judiciary Police (PJ) are warning members of the public to be vigilant against fraudulent text messages impersonating the "HKeToll" payment system, falsely claiming that the recipients' accounts are "about to expire" and will incur "penalties", according to a PJ statement yesterday.

"HKeToll" is a Hong Kong mobile app that enables motorists to pay tolls remotely using toll tags, without having to stop and queue up at toll booths for payments.

The statement noted that scammers have been sending phishing messages to random Macau mobile phone numbers, urging recipients to click on a link that leads to a counterfeit "HKeToll" website, where individuals are coerced into entering personal and credit card information, which will then be exploited by the scammers to make unauthorised transactions.

The Judiciary Police emphasised that the Hong Kong government has clarified they will never send messages containing links to vehicle owners. The statement particularly advised Macau residents who have received regular car quota allocations for travel between Macau and Hong Kong to refrain from clicking on any links or providing credit card details.

For any enquiries regarding tunnel tolls or billing, the public is encouraged to verify the information

through official channels. If suspicious messages are received, individuals can turn to the Judiciary Police's anti-fraud programme or contact their anti-fraud hotline on 8800 7777, or report any incidents through the emergency hotline on 993. ■



This poster provided by the Judiciary Police (PJ) yesterday warns members of the public of the fake "pay bills for 'HKeToll'" phishing SMS.

## STOCK MARKETS

### Hang Seng Index closes 0.3 pct higher

HONG KONG — Hong Kong's stock market ended higher yesterday with the benchmark Hang Seng Index up 0.30 percent to close at 20,567.52 points.

The Hang Seng China Enterprises Index gained 0.34 percent to end at 7,367.65 points, while the Hang Seng Tech Index rose 1.08 percent to close at 4,532.18 points. — Xinhua

## Airport passengers rise 57 pct in Jan-Oct

Tony Wong

The local airport recorded 6.34 million passengers in the first 10 months of this year, a year-on-year increase of 56.92 percent, airport operator CAM has announced in a statement.

According to the statement on Friday, the local airport recorded 49,000 aircraft movements between January and October, a year-on-year increase of 49.37 percent.

According to the statement, the number of passengers and aircraft movements recorded during the first 10 months of this year returned to 80 and 78 percent of the levels recorded during the same period of pre-pandemic 2019, respectively.

In addition, the statement also said that at present, most passenger



Passengers queue at the local airport's security check to the boarding area on Saturday. — Photo: Tony Wong

routes disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic have been resumed, and some airlines serving the local airport have introduced wide-body aircraft to accommodate the rising passenger numbers.

The statement also said that the

airport's upcoming expansion and reclamation project is set to support its future growth and development, increasing its capacity to attract more airlines to serve Macau so that the city's air passenger-route network would be expanded. ■

## 2024 honours list contains 32 individuals & entities

Staff Reporters

The local government released yesterday its list of decorations, medals and certificates of merit awarded for the outgoing year. The list comprises 32 recipients – individuals and entities. The awards recognise achievements, outstanding contributions and distinguished services, according to a statement by the Macau Government Information Bureau (GCS).

The award ceremony will be held on November 27.

The statement pointed out that the list “follows the recommendations by the Medals and Honorary Titles Nomination Committee.

Macau's highest honour, the

Decoration of Honour – Grand Lotus, has not been awarded this time.

The second highest honour, the Decoration of Honour – Golden Lotus, has been awarded to the Macau Holy House of Mercy (a charitable organisation set up by Catholic Bishop Belchior Carneiro Leitão in 1569); the Health Bureau's Conde de São Januário Hospital Centre; Macanese\* community leader and lawyer Leonel Alberto Alves; businessman Peter Lam Kam Seng, who heads Macau Urban Renewal Limited; and restaurateur and lawmaker Andrew Chan Chak Mo.

The third highest honour, the Decoration of Honour – Silver Lotus, has been awarded to the

Macau Industrial Association and Luso International Banking Limited.

Medals of merit – for Professions, Industry and Commerce, Tourism, Education, Culture, Philanthropy and Sports – have been awarded to, among others, the Macau Hotel Association; Pui Ching Middle School; Tung Sin Tong School; Macanese lawyer and Patuá playwright Henrique de Senna Fernandes; the General Association of Athletics of Macau; and Pooi To Middle School's Astronomy Group.

\*The term “Macanese” customarily denotes Macau's community of mixed Portuguese and Asian extraction, as well as its diaspora. Patuá is the community's highly endangered Portuguese-Asian Creole. ■

## Li Qiang pledges broader opening-up for foreign-funded firms



Premier Li Qiang (fourth from right) presides over a symposium with select exhibitors and buyers attending the 7th China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai yesterday. — Xinhua

SHANGHAI – Premier Li Qiang yesterday said that China will open its doors wider to the outside world, regardless of how the international environment changes.

Li made the remarks during a meeting with select exhibitors and buyers attending the seventh China International Import Expo (CIIE), including Synopsys, General Electric Company, MSD and China FAW Group Co. Ltd.

The foreign-funded enterprises at the meeting expressed optimism about the Chinese market, saying that they will deepen their presence and increase investment in the country.

Despite a sluggish global economic recovery, China's overall economic operations have remained generally stable and seen progress, Li said, stressing that the Chinese market is still one of the best choices for global enterprises.

China will continue easing market access and push for the orderly expansion of opening-up in sectors like telecommunication, education, culture and medical care, the premier said.

He pledged to continue improving the business environment and provide equal opportunities in accessing production factors,

qualification licensing and participation in government procurement, among other areas.

Li expressed the hope that China will become not only an export destination for foreign enterprises, but also a land of investment and entrepreneurship, facilitating closer links between China and the global market.

He noted his expectation that Chinese and foreign entrepreneurs will continue to support economic globalization firmly, work together to promote technological advancement and industrial upgrading, and foster new growth engines for the world economy. — Xinhua

## Global firms capitalize on China's smart, green transformation

Analysis

SHANGHAI – Global investors are eyeing fresh opportunities in China as the world's second-largest economy accelerates its intelligent, green transformation.

With the seventh China International Import Expo (CIIE) set to open today, multiple industry leaders from across the world are gearing up to showcase their latest innovations and technologies, aiming to tap into China's vast market potential.

### TAPPING SMARTER MANUFACTURING

Aptiv, a multinational developing automobile parts, made its debut at the seventh CIIE, exhibiting software and hardware products featuring intelligence and electrification.

“The CIIE provides an excellent platform for enterprises from all over the world to exchange ideas and cooperate,” said Simon Yang, president of Aptiv for China and the Asia Pacific region. He noted that Aptiv hopes to make full use of the CIIE to showcase its innovative solutions.

The company is committed to its long-term development strategy of “In China for China,” and will continue to increase its investment in the Chinese market while expanding business cooperation with Chinese original equipment manufacturers.

Aptiv is one of a number of multinationals gathering in Shanghai to test the pulse of China's smart manufacturing market, which plays an important part in the country's pursuit of high-quality development.

Swedish technology company Hexagon has brought its new solutions to help traditional manufacturers become more digital-savvy to this year's CIIE, including cloud platforms for industrial software and smart quality-testing systems.

“The company is ready to ride the wave of the country's pursuit of new quality productive forces, which are high-tech, highly efficient and of a high quality,” said Qin Lei, marketing business partner at Hexagon Manufacturing Intelligence (Qingdao) Co. Ltd.

Merck Group, Germany's leading tech company, is showcasing its innovative achievements in the new materials section of the CIIE, which is new to the annual event.

China's great market potential, improving business environment and rich talent pool have reinforced Merck's confidence in its long-term investment in the country, said Marc Horn, executive vice president of Merck and president of Merck China.

### EMBRACING A GREENER FUTURE

Entering its seventh year,

the CIIE has retained its “New Era, Shared Future” theme, which holds special meaning for Christian Bruch, president and CEO of Siemens Energy AG.

“I strongly agree with the theme, as it envisions a sustainable and more decarbonized future that requires collaborative efforts from governments, enterprises, customers, partners and the entire supply chains,” Bruch said.

In his view, China's dedication to building a modern energy system creates “extensive market opportunities” for global energy technology companies, including Siemens Energy.

“Together with Chinese customers and partners, we have developed many energy infrastructure projects, continuously invested and expanded our manufacturing capacity in China, in order to meet the growing market demand in China and across the world,” he said.

Pledging to peak carbon dioxide emissions before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060, China has been steadfast in accelerating its energy transition. Over the past decade, the share of clean energy in the country's total energy use has increased 10.9 percentage points, according to the National Energy Administration.

Dedicated to promoting clean energy in China, Siemens Energy has established 15 manufacturing facilities across the country. It has become an important partner in the country's energy transition, Bruch said.

At this year's CIIE, the company is poised to showcase its cutting-edge decarbonization technologies for the energy sector. Many of its exhibits will be presented for the first time in Asia or China.

“During the expo, I look forward to meeting and exchanging ideas with partners, building consensus and fostering collaborative development,” Bruch said. “Tackling climate change and driving energy transition is a daunting task that no single country or region can accomplish alone.”

Bruch's emphasis on collaboration aligns with China's increasing global contributions. According to a white paper issued by China's State Council Information Office in August this year, the country's wind power and photovoltaic exports helped other countries reduce their carbon dioxide emissions by about 810 million tonnes in 2023.

Recognizing China's role in the global energy transition, Bruch highlighted Siemens Energy's confidence in deepening cooperation with its Chinese partners. “We are fully committed to working together to build a new energy ecosystem that supports China's dual-carbon goals and fosters sustainable energy development worldwide.” — Xinhua