

# DSEDJ vows to launch mobile device guidelines for schools in 2025/2026

Yuki Lei

In light of the findings of several local surveys indicating that young people are spending too much time on social media, the Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ) announced yesterday that it will launch "reference guidelines" for schools in the 2025/2026 academic year, requiring them to regulate the use of mobile phones brought by students to the campus, specifying that, except during teacher-directed educational activities and in special circumstances, students will be restricted from using such devices both during lessons and on-campus recess.

Yesterday morning, the current affairs phone-in programme Ou Mun Gwong Cheung, hosted by Ou Mun Tin Toi on TDM, the Chinese-language radio channel of the public broadcaster, invited DSEDJ Secondary Education Division Chief Leong I On, DSEDJ Curriculum Development and Assessment Division Chief Cheang Sek Kit, and Sheng Kung Hui representative Ho Ka Hong, to discuss the digital literacy of youth.

Sheng Kung Hui is the Cantonese name for the Anglican Church which runs several schools and community service centres in Macau.

Citing the Sheng Kung Hui's 2022 Digital Literacy Survey conducted among individuals aged 10 to 35, Ho said that increased time spent



A secondary school student walks along the street in San Kio district looking at his mobile phone.

— Photo: Yuki Lei

on social media is associated with declining mental health in young people, making them more vulnerable to mood disorders and anxiety, adding that the youngest cases in which Sheng Kung Hui reached out to parents for assistance involved excessive use

of electronic devices by children aged six to eight. He also did not rule out the possibility that some children might begin overusing electronic devices at even younger ages.

During yesterday's current affairs programme, several callers expressed concern

about their children's internet addiction. One caller, a woman surnamed Sio, remarked that it was difficult for teenagers to distinguish between right and wrong. She pointed out that some social media platforms are difficult to regulate and suggested that the government consider following the example of other countries and regions to ban specific platforms.

The DSEDJ officials pointed out during the phone-in programme that digital literacy encompasses the ability to effectively use the internet and understand its values, and that with the rise of artificial intelligence (AI), one could only expect young people's online activities to increase and become even more integral to their lives. Cheang said: "We cannot avoid the current cyber world or information technology, but we can adopt a positive and correct attitude and values to meet the needs of society in the future".

Cheang stressed the importance of utilising the revised framework and foundation of the DSEDJ school curriculum from preventive and educational perspectives, emphasising the need to help students learn about the use of the internet and the ethical values involved, as well as how to effectively and appropriately navigate the cyber world.

Leong underlined that "the internet is not a place for lawlessness".

Continued on p.2

## Trump says Huthis to be 'annihilated,' warns Iran to stop aid

WASHINGTON, DC – US President Donald Trump yesterday said Yemen's Iran-backed Huthi rebels "will be completely annihilated," warning Tehran against continuing aid for the group amid an ongoing US military campaign against them.

"Iran must stop the sending of these Supplies IMMEDIATELY. Let the Houthis fight it out themselves. Either way they lose, but this way they lose quickly," Trump posted on his Truth Social platform.

Trump referenced reports that Iran "has lessened its intensity on Military Equipment and General Support" for the Huthis, though added "they are still sending large levels of Supplies."

"Tremendous damage has been inflicted

upon the Houthi barbarians, and watch how it will get progressively worse – It's not even a fair fight, and never will be. They will be completely annihilated!" his post continued, using an alternative spelling of the group's name.

The United States began launching heavy strikes against Yemen's Huthis on Saturday. Washington has pledged overwhelming force until the rebels stop firing on key shipping routes in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.

Part of Iran's "axis of resistance" against the United States and Israel, the Huthis have been hampering the trade lane since the start of the Gaza war, claiming solidarity with Palestinians. — AFP

## Trump says 'very much on track' after phone call with Zelensky over partial ceasefire

WASHINGTON, DC – US President Donald Trump said he held a phone call with his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelensky yesterday morning (local time) over a partial ceasefire, and "we are very much on track".

The phone call came one day after Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin agreed on Tuesday in their phone talks that the peace in Ukraine "will begin with an energy and infrastructure ceasefire".

"Much of the discussion was based on the call made yesterday with President Putin in order to align both Russia and Ukraine in terms of their requests and needs. We are very much on track," Trump said on social media.

Trump said the telephone call was "very good" and lasted approximately one hour.

More details "will be put out shortly", he said.

Hours after the Trump-Putin phone call, Zelensky said that his country supports any proposals leading to a lasting and just peace, but his country's direct involvement in peace negotiations was needed.

"Without Ukraine's involvement, I believe reaching an agreement is futile," he said. "We need to understand what the conversation is about."

Ukraine and Russia exchanged aerial assaults overnight (from Tuesday to yesterday), multiple media outlets reported. — (More on p.11) — Xinhua

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### China urges US to immediately cease blockade against Cuba

Foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said yesterday that China opposed the abuse of coercive diplomacy and urged the US to immediately cease its blockade against Cuba and remove Cuba from its unilateral list of "state sponsors of terrorism". — Story on p. 7

### Israel issues 'last warning' to Gazans to return hostages, remove Hamas

Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz issued a "last warning" to Gazans yesterday, saying in a video statement that they should follow the advice of US President Donald Trump and return Israeli hostages and remove Hamas from power. — Story on p. 10

### Smiles, thumbs ups & safe return for 'stranded' NASA astronauts

Home at last: After an unexpected nine-month stay in space, a pair of NASA astronauts finally returned to Earth on Tuesday, concluding a mission that captured global attention and became a political flashpoint. — Story on p. 12



## UM students win 2<sup>nd</sup> prize at Huawei ICT Competition Asia-Pacific Regional Final



The handout photo released by the public university on Tuesday shows the UM team holding their 2<sup>nd</sup> prizes in the Computing Track competition in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on February 27.

### Adrian Vallesteros

A team of students from the Faculty of Science and Technology (FST) at the public University of Macau (UM) represented Macau in the Asia-Pacific Regional Final of the Huawei ICT Competition 2024-2025 in Kuala Lumpur last month, securing second prize in the Computing Track, according to a UM statement released earlier this week.

The statement noted that the competition drew participation from over 8,000 students across more than 20 countries and regions, with only 110 students from 12 countries advancing to the regional final.

The statement said that the team, consisting of Tan Hongye, Lei Wai Hong, and Ho Ka Meng from the UM Department of Computer and Information Science, received commendations from judges for their "exceptional teamwork, solid professional knowledge, and strategic planning". This achievement marks the first time a UM team has earned an award in the Computing

Track at the Asia-Pacific Regional Final of this competition. The team will advance to the Global Final in Shenzhen in May, where they will compete against top teams from around the world.

The statement highlighted that this award not only recognises the students' professional abilities but also underscores FST's commitment to high teaching standards and the development of innovative talent.

The statement noted that the Huawei ICT (Information and Communications Technology) Competition, co-organised by Huawei and the ASEAN Foundation, aims to enhance students' knowledge and practical skills in information and communications technology while fostering innovation and creativity in utilising new technologies and platforms. Notably, a student team from FST also won the second prize in the Practice Competition—Cloud Track during the Huawei ICT Competition 2023-2024 Global Final last year. ■

## Police bust currency exchange dealer for fraud & money laundering

### Ada Lei

A man from the mainland was arrested on Monday for committing in illegal currency exchange activities, fraud and money laundering, Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Chao Teng Hin said during a regular press conference yesterday.

The 18-year-old suspect surnamed Pan claimed to be jobless.

According to Chao, a young woman from the mainland wanted to transfer her casino winnings to the mainland. She contacted Pan via WeChat on Friday to arrange an illegal currency exchange deal after being introduced to Pan by a friend. They met in a hotel in Cotai for the deal, and both agreed to exchange HK\$167,000 (171,580 patacas) into 157,000 yuan. The woman gave Pan



Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Chao Teng Hin looks on during yesterday's regular press conference.

— Photo: Ada Lei

her bank account details for him to transfer the money and handed over HK\$167,000 after confirming that she had received the 157,000 yuan. They left the hotel after the deal.

The next day, the woman discovered that her account had been frozen. She contacted the mainland bank, which informed her that her account remained frozen due to receiving illicit funds. The woman thought that she had been scammed and reported the incident to the police right away.

The police arrested Pan at a hotel in Cotai on Monday. Under questioning, he denied the crime and refused to cooperate. He only admitted to having engaged in illegal currency exchange activities twice this month, involving HK\$420,000 in total.

According to Chao, Pan has been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) and is facing charges of illegal currency exchange, fraud, and money laundering. ■

## Police nab banned driver for driving

### Ada Lei

A local man was arrested on Tuesday for driving despite his driving ban, Public Security Police (PSP) spokesman Wong Chi Weng said during a regular press conference yesterday.

The suspect surnamed Chang is in his forties. He told the police that he is jobless. Chang was banned from driving from October 2024 until May 2025 due to speeding.

On Tuesday at about 3 p.m. police officers noticed a car entering Calçada da Igreja de S. Lázaro

(瘋堂斜巷), a road with a "No Entry" sign, from Rua de Eduardo Marques (馬忌士街). The police immediately intercepted the car and found that the driver, Chang, was currently subject to a driving ban.

Under questioning, Chang admitted to driving despite the ban, claiming that he needed to use the car for urgent social insurance matters.

According to Wong, Chang has been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), facing charges of driving during a driving ban. ■



Public Security Police (PSP) spokesman Wong Chi Weng looks on during yesterday's regular press conference.

— Photo: Ada Lei

## Police arrest 2 illegal currency exchange dealers

### Ada Lei

The Judiciary Police separately arrested two men from the mainland on Tuesday for engaging in illegal currency exchange deals, Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Chao Teng Hin said during a regular press conference yesterday.

In the first case, the 47-year-old man surnamed Ling is the owner of a restaurant.

According to Chao, PJ officers on patrol saw Ling providing an illegal currency exchange deal to a male gambler in a casino in Cotai on Tuesday. The gambler transferred 4,850 yuan through scanning the QR code provided by Ling, while Ling handed over chips worth HK\$5,000

to the gambler. Ling and the gambler were caught red-handed. The gambler then turned witness in the case. Under questioning, Ling admitted to engaging in illegal currency exchange activities since September, having earned 60,000 yuan (66,270 patacas) in total. The police seized HK\$8,000 in chips and HK\$320,000 from Ling, along with the chips worth HK\$5,000 found on the gambler.

In the second case, the 40-year-old man surnamed Zheng told the police that he is jobless.

According to Chao, the police received a report about an illegal currency exchange activity from a casino in Cotai on Tuesday. Security staff of the casino discovered Zheng

providing an illegal currency exchange deal to a male gambler. Zheng was apprehended by the security staff and transferred to the police; the gambler cooperated as witness in the investigation. Under questioning, Zheng admitted to exchanging chips worth HK\$3,000 with the gambler for 2,880 yuan. Zheng also admitted to having engaged in illegal currency exchange activities repeatedly this month, earning a total profit of HK\$3,000. The police have seized two mobile phones, HK\$33,000 in chips and HK\$2,000 in total.

The suspects in the two cases have been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), facing illegal currency exchange charges. ■

## DSEDJ vows to launch mobile device guidelines for schools in 2025/2026

### Continued from p.1

To equip students with essential IT skills for their future, various local schools have gradually integrated information technology into their education – and Leong said that the use of electronic devices on campus is common, with students using them to look up information and for group presentations. However, he emphasised, all schools in Macau generally have regulations regarding the use of mobile phones and other electronic devices on campus.

Leong also revealed that

reference guidelines will be issued in the upcoming school year to specify when and how long students may use electronic devices on campus. He added that the bureau has already implemented support measures to assist schools in purchasing mobile phone cabinets for the centralised management of students' devices.

Leong emphasised the rational use of such devices, while Cheang referenced international test data indicating that students should ideally use the internet for one to two hours a day on average

and take breaks after 20 minutes of using electronic products, adding that using information technology at appropriate times can enhance students' performance in mathematics and creative thinking.

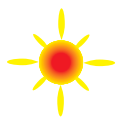
Leong suggested that parents build up trust with their children and cultivate social relationships in real life first, and then gradually teach them how to use the internet properly, urging parents to prevent their children from becoming involved in social media platforms too early. ■

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### Macau Weather

**DRY.**  
**MAINLY FINE.**  
**FORCE 2 TO 3 EAST TO**  
**NORTHEASTERLY WINDS.**  
**RELATIVE HUMIDITY WILL**  
**RANGE BETWEEN 35% AND 85%.**



14°C~23°C

Source: SMG



## Kindergarten class-teacher ratio rises to 1:2.3: DSEDJ

Yuki Lei

In response to a written interpellation by lawmaker Alan Ho Ion Sang regarding the impact of Macau's declining birth rate on the education sector, the Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ) has noted that the class-teacher ratio at local kindergartens has shifted from 1:1.6 in the 2011/2012 school year to 1:2.3 in 2024/2025, with the teacher-student ratio improved from 1:16.7 to 1:11.7, emphasising that small class education focuses not only on reducing class sizes but also on adapting teaching methods and addressing students' social development needs.

According to a statement issued by DSEDJ Director Kong Chi Meng last month, most local early childhood education entities offer various services to support parents and students, including supervised classes, after-school care, school bus services, and lunch programmes, adding that the current class-teacher and teacher-student ratios facilitate the effective deployment of teaching staff members to meet the diverse educational needs of children, allowing schools to better support their care and learning.

"The special administrative region (SAR) government is currently encouraging schools to hire more teachers to enhance class teacher ratios through the additional amount for free education subsidies and the education fund for optimising class teacher ratios under the [government's] school development

assistance scheme," Kong was quoted by the statement as saying.

He underlined that the bureau has consistently monitored changes in the demand for school places in Macau due to fluctuations in birth rates and the school-age population. Among others, the bureau has been attentive to the needs of schools of varying sizes in response to recent trends in birth rate changes. Simultaneously, it has invested additional resources in certain schools to support their optimisation or transformation efforts, aimed at enhancing teaching quality and developing their operational characteristics.

The statement indicates that in the future, the bureau will organise professional team visits to schools and provide subsidies through the Education Fund to assess their operating environments. It will also utilise diverse publicity channels to help parents better understand the unique characteristics of different schools.

The bureau stressed its commitment to coordinating the provision of school places and class arrangements among schools on the basis of demand analyses relating to school size, enrolment targets, population and availability of school places, making use of the flexible mechanism to allow a class size of 25 to 35 students, while assisting schools in optimising their class planning according to their individual circumstances.

The written reply was released by Ho to the media on Tuesday. ■



This photo taken yesterday shows parents and guardians picking up their kids from a kindergarten in San Kio district. — Photo: Yuki Lei

## Kiang Wu launches 'Ensifentrine' for COPD patients

Yuki Lei

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is a condition that seriously affects the quality of life of patients – and the private Kiang Wu Hospital has introduced "Ensifentrine", developed by Shanghai-based Nuance Pharma, as an alternative treatment for COPD patients, making it the first hospital in Asia to offer the medication.

Kiang Wu Hospital and Nuance Pharma held a signing ceremony for their cooperation agreement, along with the launch of the new COPD medication "Ensifentrine", at the hospital's Dr. Henry Y.T. Fok Specialist Medical Centre yesterday afternoon.

During the ceremony, Kiang Wu Hospital Charitable Association Vice President Ng Choi Kun said in a speech that as the population ages, the incidence of COPD has been rising annually, making it one of the most significant health threats to the community, adding that finding effective treatments for COPD and improving patients' quality of life has long been a priority for both the medical profession and the community.

The hospital's Principal Deputy Hospital Director Cheung Chun Wing cited statistics indicating that the prevalence of COPD among individuals aged over 40 in mainland China is as high as 13.7 percent, i.e., one in eight people in the age group is affected. In Macau, he added, according to the Statistics and Census Bureau (DSEDC), chronic lower respiratory diseases rank as the eighth leading cause of death.

Both representatives from the hospital noted that the introduction of the drug and the signing of the cooperation agreement not only addressed the gap in targeted drug therapy for COPD in Macau, but also represented a significant milestone for Kiang Wu Hospital in incorporating advanced international medications, demonstrating the hospital's commitment to providing better quality medical services to the public in Macau.

Nuance Pharma founder and CEO Mark Lotter briefed



Cheng Kun, associate director at Kiang Wu Hospital's Internal Medicine Department, briefs fellow physicians and journalists about the newly-launched "Ensifentrine" COPD medication developed by Shanghai-based Nuance Pharma, during yesterday's ceremony at the hospital. — Photo: Yuki Lei

yesterday the ceremony attendees about the new drug "Ensifentrine", emphasising its recent registration in mainland China and the completion of a successful Phase 3 study – a study that tests the safety and how well a new treatment works compared with a standard treatment – with over 500 patients: "We've seen very promising results on the product and understand the first patients who've been dosed in Macau as well... I think generally for the product, it is a first-in-class drug, the first one in more than 30 years to be introduced into COPD".

Speaking to the *Post* on the sidelines of the ceremony, Lotter outlined the drug's main differences based on its mechanism of action, highlighting its ability to function at three levels, namely, anti-inflammatory, bronchodilator and mucociliary function, all of which allow the drug to provide significant therapeutic effects in a single formulation, i.e., patients only need to take one medicine instead of multiple therapies.

He went on to say that the drug is currently approved for use in the US and Macau, making Macau the first region in China and Asia to utilise it, revealing his company's

plans to facilitate treatment for mainland Chinese patients by bringing them to Macau, while attracting patients from Hong Kong and mainland China to receive treatment in Macau.

Cheng Kun, associate director at the hospital's Internal Medicine Department, said that the public was still not aware of the risk of COPD, taking Kiang Wu Hospital as an example by noting that there were 20 to 30 patients admitted to the hospital for acute exacerbation of COPD every month, and many of the patients did not receive proper diagnosis and treatment.

Dr Cheng pointed out that COPD is primarily an airway disease, and its medication differs to treatments for other chronic conditions in that the drugs are inhaled, emphasising that "Ensifentrine" has been clinically tested on 3,000 subjects, demonstrating safety and effectiveness by reducing the risk of acute exacerbation by over 40 percent. He told reporters that patients whose symptoms remain uncontrolled after initial treatment, or who experience worsening symptoms, can benefit from the new drugs to help minimise the risk of exacerbation. ■

## POLY MGM MUSEUM garners 4 int'l awards

Rui Pastorin

Integrated resort (IR) operator MGM said in a statement yesterday that its POLY MGM MUSEUM, located on MGM MACAU's 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, has garnered four international awards in just four months.

The nearly 2,000-square-metre museum is a collaboration between MGM and Poly Culture.

Featuring multimedia installations and innovative gallery spaces, among others, the museum opened in November last year and since then, it has attracted close to 600,000 visitors, according to the statement. The statement added that leading South Korean cultural

technology firm SIGONGtech and prominent Chinese enterprise Jindalu Exhibition Co. Ltd were commissioned to create the space.

The awards that the museum has recently won comprise the 2025 iF Design Award (Interior Architecture and Cultural Exhibitions categories), the 2024 MUSE Award Platinum for Interior Design, the 2024 London Design Award Platinum for Interior Design, and the 2024 New York Architectural Design Awards Gold for Interior Design, the statement said.

The statement highlighted that the achievements "build upon MGM's legacy of design excellence

– following its 2021 MUSE Award win – and reaffirm the brand's commitment to trailblazing innovation and exceptional design across its properties".

Winning the iF Design Award, which the statement noted is celebrated as the "Oscars of the design industry" since its inception in 1953, is another milestone for the integrated resort operator, placing the museum alongside respected Chinese institutions such as Kunming's Mountain & Sea Art Museum and the Hunan Museum's "Mawangdui Digital Exhibition", both of which are also fellow recipients. ■



This undated handout photo provided by integrated resort operator MGM yesterday shows a section of the POLY MGM MUSEUM at MGM MACAU.





These undated handout photos provided by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) show scenes of "Knitting Peace", which will take to the stage at the Macau Cultural Centre (CCM) tomorrow and Saturday.

## ‘Knitting Peace’ to take to stage at CCM

**Rui Pastorin**

Cirkus Cirkör's "Knitting Peace" will take to the stage at the Macau Cultural Centre's (CCM) Grand Auditorium tomorrow and Saturday, offering a show that is a metaphor for hope in a troubled world.

Filled with yarn, tangles, ropes and threads, the around one-and-a-half-hour contemporary circus by the Swedish circus company premiered in 2013 and explores, among others, the possibilities of knitting peace.

The performance features elements such as acrobatics and trapeze, alongside live music. Details provided by CCM noted that Cirkus Cirkör's touring performance, their most beloved and successful show, was inspired by the "circus artistes' desire to push boundaries of what's possible" and combines themes of unity, peace and aspirations "intricately woven with ropes, tangles and threads".

Performers Alexander Weibel Weibel from Spain and Finland's Aino Ihanainen, who also handles stage design and has been with the show from the beginning, met with reporters yesterday for a group interview at the Macau Cultural Centre in Nape, offering more insights into the upcoming performance.

"Knitting Peace" does not follow a linear story and is more about its themes, Ihanainen said in response to a question by the *Post*. "We all have our own stories and our own little storylines that somehow also come together during the show. And it's a lot like, when we



Performers Alexander Weibel Weibel (left) and Aino Ihanainen, who also handles stage design, pose after yesterday's interview at the Macau Cultural Centre (CCM).

— Photo: Rui Pastorin

started to make the show", where each performer was thinking of what they were striving for in life and their struggles as a starting point.

Telling their own struggles and ways of sorting things, Ihanainen told the *Post*: "It's more like an inner story. And then the people can read into that and maybe find something that they can understand in their own way or relate to".

Regarding the preparation that goes into "Knitting Peace", Weibel Weibel told the *Post* that aside from the technical part, some of the things involved have to be remade or rebuilt prior to each performance, while some elements are made using yarn. He added: "There is for example a ladder that is woven together that falls apart. So that has to be remade. There are certain things that happen during the show that get woven together", existing only when they are prepared.

Meanwhile, on what they hope to leave their audience with, Ihanainen explained during the group interview what they are trying to do through their performance: "It's to inspire people to maybe find some things in their lives or like in society or in general. To make small changes and to think about the things that they want to do in life also and strive for that", adding that things that are impossible can also be made possible.

Weibel Weibel added that they would like the audiences to leave with hopes for a better world and that things can change to make the world a better place.

More details about the show can be found on the CCM website. Moreover, aside from the show, workshops are also set to be held today and at the weekend.



# Macau, Guangdong police vow security cooperation for National Games

**Tony Wong**

A meeting between the Macau and Guangdong police was held in Macau on Tuesday, attended by senior representatives of the two places' public security forces, led by Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR) Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak and Guangdong Provincial Public Security Department Director Liu Guozhou, where they discussed security cooperation for the upcoming 15<sup>th</sup> National Games, in addition to exchanging views on various other policing topics, according to a statement released by Wong's office yesterday.

During the meeting, the statement said, Wong expressed gratitude to the Guangdong police and the Zhuhai police for continuously supporting Macau police's law enforcement and policing, especially their strong support and assistance for Macau police's security work during the celebrations for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Macau's return to the motherland last year.

Wong noted that the 15<sup>th</sup> National Games will be jointly hosted by Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau later this year, adding that "both sides bear the responsibility of maintaining public security and social stability while ensuring the smooth conduct of major events".

According to the statement, Wong underlined that with the complex and ever-changing



This handout photo released by the Office of Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak yesterday shows Wong (fifth from left), Guangdong Provincial Public Security Department Director Liu Guozhou (fifth from right), and other senior representatives of the two regions' public security forces posing for a group photo on the sidelines of Tuesday's meeting at Wong's office at the S. Francisco Barracks.

international landscape, the Macau police are earnestly implementing the spirit of President Xi Jinping's important speeches during his inspection visit to Macau last year, strengthening their sense of responsibility, actively executing law enforcement deployments, and striving to maintain social harmony and stability.

Wong stressed that the Macau police highly value cooperation with their Guangdong counterparts, and will continue to work closely with Guangdong for deepening intelligence sharing and joint operations, further

enhancing the efficiency of their joint efforts to combat cross-border criminal activities, and making greater contributions to safeguarding national security and the prosperity and stability of Guangdong and Macau.

During the meeting, according to the statement, Liu said that the Guangdong and Macau police have been achieving fruitful results in deepening exchanges and cooperation in recent years.

Since last year, Liu said, both sides have further improved mechanisms for intelligence sharing, policing collaboration, and law

enforcement coordination, driving new developments in Guangdong-Macau policing cooperation and effectively maintaining peace and stability in both regions. In particular, Liu said, the two police forces successfully ensured the security for the celebrations for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Macau's return to the motherland.

Liu, also a vice-governor of Guangdong Province, noted that the 15<sup>th</sup> National Games will be held in Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau later this year, expecting the Guangdong and

Macau police forces to further strengthen policing exchanges and cooperation and to continuously improve mechanisms for intelligence sharing, collaboration on launching operations and law enforcement coordination.

According to the statement, Liu also said he expects both sides to further strengthen their joint efforts to ensure the security for major events, ensuring the continuation of good public security and the smooth execution of major events in both regions.

Meanwhile, according to the statement, representatives of each side presented their public security situation over the past year, as well as reviewing the achievements in their policing cooperation.

During the meeting, the two sides also exchanged views on various other topics such as further strengthening cooperation in combating telecom and cyber fraud, drug trafficking, illegal currency exchange, goods and people smuggling, and terrorist activities, as well as security management in Guangdong-Macau border areas and coastal waters, cybersecurity and police training.

During their two-day visit to Macau which ended yesterday, according to the statement, members of the Guangdong police delegation visited a Macau Customs Service facility, and the police tactical unit run by the Public Security Police (PSP). ■

## Forum Macao's Permanent Secretariat vows to promote action plan's implementation

**Tony Wong**

The Permanent Secretariat of Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries (Macao) held a meeting yesterday, pledging to carry out various tasks this year with the aim of ensuring the implementation of the Action Plan for Economic and Trade Cooperation (2024-2027), according to a statement by the Permanent Secretariat.

The Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries is known as Forum Macao for short.

Forum Macao's Permanent Secretariat is headquartered in Macau.

Forum Macao comprises China, its initiator and prime mover, and nine Portuguese-speaking countries – Angola, Brazil, Cabo Verde (Cape

Verde), Guinea-Bissau, Equatorial Guinea, Mozambique, Portugal, São Tomé and Príncipe, and Timor-Leste (East Timor).

Forum Macao was launched in October 2003 in Macau, with its Permanent Secretariat established here in 2004. Since then, Forum Macao has held six Ministerial Conferences in Macau, during which six action plans for economic and trade cooperation were signed.

Forum Macao's sixth Ministerial Conference was held in April last year, during which the Action Plan for Economic and Trade Cooperation (2024-2027) was signed.

In addition to officials of Forum Macao's Permanent Secretariat, according to the statement, yesterday's meeting was also attended by those from the Ministry of Commerce

(MOC), the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR), the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the MSAR, and the MSAR government, as well as ambassadors of Portuguese-speaking countries to China.

During the meeting, which was chaired by Forum Macao's Permanent Secretariat Secretary-General Ji Xianzheng, members of China's delegation, as well as members of the delegations from the nine Portuguese-speaking countries (PSCs), presented the progress of their respective implementation of the Action Plan for Economic and

Trade Cooperation (2024-2027).

In addition, members of China's delegation also presented the progress of the nation's implementation of its 20 new measures aiming to promote economic and trade cooperation between China and the PSCs.

During the meeting, according to the statement, Ji presented the Permanent Secretariat's plan for its tasks and measures to be carried out this year.

Yesterday's meeting was the 20<sup>th</sup> regular meeting of the Permanent Secretariat since its establishment. According to public broadcaster TDM, about 50 representatives attended the one-day meeting.

According to the statement,

representatives attending yesterday's meeting said that the plan presented by Ji will help ensure the implementation of the results made at Forum Macao's sixth Ministerial Conference.

Ji told reporters after the meeting that this year's activities will include fact-finding visits to at least two provinces in the Chinese mainland and three Portuguese-speaking countries, apart from holding five colloquia in Macau. Ji also said that a number of officials from Portuguese-speaking countries would visit China, including Macau, this year, starting with the working visit to China by Portugal's Foreign Minister Paulo Rangel, which will include Macau, next week. ■



This handout photo released by Forum Macao's Permanent Secretariat yesterday shows its meeting held at its headquarters, the Forum Macao Complex, yesterday.

### STOCK MARKETS

## Hang Seng Index closes 0.12 pct higher

HONG KONG – Hong Kong's stock market ended higher yesterday with the benchmark Hang Seng Index up 0.12 percent to close at 24,771.14 points.

Bucking the overall

trend, the Hang Seng China Enterprises Index dipped 0.15 percent to 9,163.67 points, while the Hang Seng Tech Index dropped 1.05 percent to 6,041.19 points.

– Xinhua



## Int'l series presented by Wynn tees off today



Golfers Taichi Kho (from left to right), John Catlin, Patrick Reed and Sergio Garcia pose after yesterday's press conference at the Macau Golf and Country Club in Coloane. — Photo: Maria Cheang Ut Meng

### Rui Pastorin

The first of the four-day International Series Macau presented by Wynn tees off today at the Macau Golf and Country Club.

The event is the second of 10 stops on the Asia Tour calendar. The tournament was also confirmed by The R&A (The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews in the UK) as one of 15 events in 11 countries that form The Open Qualifying Series for 2025. A statement by the organisers noted that the leading three non-exempt players\* will earn a spot at The Open at Royal Portrush in Northern Ireland in July. A US\$2 million (16 million patacas) prize purse is also provided.

A press conference was held at the Macau Golf and Country Club in Coloane yesterday, which was attended by the winner of last year's inaugural event and reigning Asian Tour Order of Merit champion John Catlin from the US, Spain's Sergio Garcia, Patrick Reed from the US, and Hong Kong's Taichi Kho.

Catlin remarked: "I am looking forward to

this week. You know, I feel like I'm playing some good golf. I'm looking forward to getting out there and competing and trying to hoist this hardware again just to have a chance on that back nine\*\* on Sunday, that's my main focus."

All the golfers attending said that were looking forward to playing here again.

Yesterday's press conference also saw a ceremonial tee shot on the first tee and a cheque presentation of US\$25,000 (about 200,000 patacas) by The International Series to the Macau Special Olympics (MSO).

Free registration for the event can be done on [www.internationalseries.com](http://www.internationalseries.com). ■

\*"Non-exempt players" are athletes who are subject to the standard rules and regulations of their specific group, as opposed to those who might have special exemptions due to their status, experience, or other factors. — DeepSeek

\*\* When golfers talk about the "back nine," they are referring to the final nine holes of their round. — DeepSeek



A staff member works at a new materials firm in the Hongqi Canal Economic and Technological Development Zone of Linzhou City, Henan Province, yesterday. In the spring, private enterprises in the Hongqi Canal Economic and Technological Development Zone are operating at full swing to fulfill orders. Thanks to the favorable policies in recent years, the zone has implemented multiple measures to promote high-quality development of the private economy. This has gradually led to the formation of three major industrial systems, including equipment manufacturing, high-quality steel and deep processing, and advanced inorganic non-metallic materials, while nurturing a number of private enterprises already exceeding their designated size. — Xinhua

## AI emerges as new frontier of China-Africa cooperation

Analysis by Xinhua writers Liu Youmin and Huang Wei

NAIROBI/BEIJING — Not long ago, China's AI model DeepSeek drew global attention for its affordability, high performance and open-source design.

Across Africa, DeepSeek has sparked lively debate. Media and industry insiders argue that its introduction has ignited fresh hopes, as artificial intelligence could "inspire a new wave of innovation across the continent."

### CHINA-DEVELOPED AI DRIVES INNOVATION

"Imagine AI-powered tools helping farmers optimize crop yields, or chatbots providing healthcare advice in remote villages. Imagine AI-driven education platforms teaching children in rural areas." This is not science fiction, but the future DeepSeek could help create, according to an article published by AI Mind, titled "How DeepSeek Could Bring the AI Revolution to Africa."

The business magazine *African Business* said DeepSeek is a more cost-efficient AI model, raising "African hopes" for solving social and economic challenges.

The article quoted Kennedy Chengeta, a South Africa-based AI entrepreneur and academic, who said that cost has been "one of the most significant barriers to AI adoption in Africa." By offering affordable, pre-trained models that require less computational power, DeepSeek "enables businesses to adopt AI without the need for significant investment in infrastructure or talent," he said. "This could level the playing field for SMEs and entrepreneurs, allowing them to develop innovative solutions tailored to local needs."

In the global AI market, the United States and other Western nations have long held dominance, often marginalizing the Global South, including Africa.

However, the emergence of DeepSeek, as noted by the weekly news publication *Vellum Kenya*, proves that "AI innovation is not exclusive to Silicon Valley."

Another Kenyan publication, *Techish*, said that DeepSeek's open-source nature "not only facilitates adoption but also encourages local customization. Developers in diverse regions can adapt the platform to meet specific needs, fostering innovation tailored to local challenges."

Moreover, DeepSeek's model provides opportunities to address "the biases inherent in AI systems," *Techish* said, adding that "China's embrace of open-source AI could position it as a champion of collaborative, global innovation."

According to the *African Gazette*, a London-based media group specializing in African news, what truly sets China's AI apart is "its commitment to localization." The publication said that "whether it is analyzing agricultural data in Swahili or diagnosing diseases in remote clinics, DeepSeek is engineered to serve the underserved."

DeepSeek approaches "inclusivity as never seen before," making it "a strong selling point for the expansive markets of the Global South," the *African Gazette* added.

### AI DEVELOPMENT ACCELERATING IN AFRICA

With rapid industrialization, urbanization and a large young population, Africa is emerging as a prime hub for AI development and application.

Although Africa currently accounts for only 2.5 percent of the global AI market, recent estimates suggest that AI could boost

the continent's economy by US\$2.9 trillion by 2030, equivalent to a 3.0 percent annual increase in GDP, according to an assessment by the Groupe Speciale Mobile Association.

The Policy Center for the New South, a Moroccan think tank, estimates that AI could contribute US\$1.2 billion to Africa's GDP by 2030 if the continent captures just 10 percent of the fast-growing global AI market.

Data from the African Union (AU) shows that more than 2,400 organizations across Africa are actively working on AI innovation, 41 percent of which are startups operating in industries such as healthcare, agriculture, education, law and insurance.

As reported by Nigeria's *Business Day*, investors put US\$641 million into AI-enabled startups across African countries between 2022 and 2023.

In recent years, six African nations, namely Algeria, Benin, Egypt, Mauritius, Rwanda and Senegal, have developed standalone AI strategies. Meanwhile, Kenya, South Africa and Uganda are integrating AI into broader frameworks addressing emerging technologies, such as blockchain, or within the context of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, according to the AU.

### CHINA, AFRICA JOIN HANDS TO BRIDGE DIGITAL DIVIDE

Artificial intelligence has become more important in China-Africa cooperation, helping facilitate Africa's modernization through digital infrastructure development and talent training.

Through initiatives like the Digital Silk Road, China's cooperation with Global South countries in digital technology has yielded significant results. Over the years, Chinese enterprises have leveraged various funding sources to support the development of digital infrastructure, including power, telecommunications networks and large-scale data centers.

Since the establishment of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), Chinese enterprises have helped African countries build and upgrade 66,000 km of new transmission lines and 150,000 km of communication backbone networks, in addition to constructing numerous wireless sites and high-speed mobile broadband networks.

At the same time, China has intensified technology transfer efforts, encouraging its companies to apply AI solutions to drive local industrial growth. In the realm of AI and digital talent development, collaboration has taken multiple forms, including joint research, short-term training programs and academic exchanges.

In terms of AI applications, in Kenya, for example, Huawei has partnered with the local government to optimize urban traffic management using AI-powered monitoring, improving city efficiency. In South Africa, Huawei's cloud computing and AI services are supporting the country's fintech sector. In Ethiopia, Chinese AI firm 4Paradigm developed a computer-aided maintenance management system for the Gibe III Hydropower Station, significantly enhancing the efficiency of hydropower operations, maintenance, and production.

Sun Hong, deputy director of the Institute of African Studies at the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations, said that AI applications could help modernize Africa's traditional industries, from manufacturing to agriculture, while also helping governments digitalize public services and improve governance systems. — Xinhua