Calendar of Events 2015

January

1 According to the new Tobacco Control Law, from 1 January, the list of places where smoking is not permitted also includes all bars, dance halls, saunas and massage parlours. Persons found smoking in these places will be fined 400 patacas.

2 The Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau announces that the gross revenue from games of chance in December 2014 was 23.282 billion patacas, down 30.4 percent year-on-year – representing the poorest December performance in the recent four years, and the largest decline for a month since the Handover of Macao.

In view of large numbers of mainland China visitors coming to Macao, the Public Security Police implements for the first time one-way crowd control measures on Almeida Ribeiro Avenue that last almost three hours, effectively diverting pedestrian traffic.

6 Chief Executive Chui Sai On visits Zhuhai, and meets with leaders of Zhuhai Municipality to exchange views on enhancing cooperation between Zhuhai and Macao.

Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets with leaders of Zhongshan, hoping to elevate cooperation between Zhongshan and Macao to become one of the important facets of Guangdong-Macao cooperation.

7 The Government suggests increasing mandatory contributions to Social Security Fund from 45 patacas to 90 patacas, with the contribution ratio remaining 2:1 – i.e. 60 patacas by the employer and 30 patacas by the employee.

The Judicial Police and the Monetary Authority of Macao arrest two mainland Chinese for illegal deposit-taking via credit union, the first case of its kind in Macao.

10 The Judicial Police cracks down on the largest prostitution ring discovered since the Handover of Macao. It has been operating for more than one year, and the case involves illegal earnings of at least 400 million patacas. Six people from Macao, mainland China and Hong Kong are arrested in the operation.

22 Macao ranks first in economic performance among the world’s major cities during 2014, according to a report by the Brookings Institution and JPMorgan Chase.

25 Chief Executive Chui Sai On leads a delegation of government officials to Beijing, visiting the State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine, the Ministry of Commerce and the National Development and Reform Commission, to discuss Chinese medical cooperation and regional cooperation.

27 The Heritage Foundation releases its report on the Index of Economic Freedom for 2015,
rating Macao as a “mostly free” economy for the seventh consecutive year, and the 34th freest economy among 178 in the world. In Asia Pacific region, Macao is ranked ninth out of 42 economies.

29 The Health Bureau implements new measures to offer eligible residents a fixed subsidy for receiving treatment at Kiang Wu Hospital or specified clinics.

30 Chief Executive Chui Sai On visits Guangzhou, to meet the Secretary of the CPC Guangdong Provincial Committee, Hu Chunhua, and the Governor of Guangdong province, Zhu Xiaodan, in order to promote cooperation in policy reform and innovative projects.

February

3 Secretary for Administration and Justice Chan Hoi Fan leads a delegation to Beijing for the first round of discussions regarding judicial assistance for surrender of fugitives from justice. Good progress is achieved.

9 Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raimundo Arrais do Rosario reveals that construction of the Light Rapid Transit depot is seriously delayed, and will be unable to commence operation even once construction of the line is completed.

Chief Executive Chui Sai On signs an executive order to regulate the licensing of petroleum product imports, which comes into effect on 16 February 2015.

15 The Macau Government Tourist Office announces that four new routes for the “Step Out, Experience Macau’s Communities” programme will be launched on 16 February. The four existing routes will also be redesigned, to provide a total of eight walking routes for visitors to choose from.

16 Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets with Secretary of the CPC Zhuhai Committee, Li Jia. Both parties recognise that the establishment of the Guangdong Free Trade Zone will bring better opportunities for cooperation between the two regions.

17 The Government formulates a draft amendment to By-law No. 3/2014 (Urban Planning Committee), which proposes dissolution of the secretariat of the Urban Planning Committee. Administrative and technical support to the committee will be provided by the Lands, Public Works and Transport Bureau.

24 During the Lunar New Year, many visitors come to Macao. The police deploy extra manpower to ensure public order, and adopt a series of measures, including the first implementation of crowd control along Almeida Ribeiro Avenue, for four hours, and enforcement of pedestrian traffic control at the Ruins of St Paul’s, to effectively divert pedestrians. According to preliminary statistics of the Macau Government Tourist Office, 1,088,579 visitors (including foreign employees and students) arrived in Macao from the first to seventh days of the Lunar New Year, representing a 3.3 percent year-on-year increase, with 819,266 of these visitors from mainland China, representing an increase of 5.6 percent year-on-year.
March

4 Chief Executive Chui Sai On departs for Beijing, to attend the opening ceremony of the Third Session of the 12th National People’s Congress (NPC).

Chief Executive Chui Sai On reveals that he has instructed Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak and Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Tam Chon Weng to prepare a report on Macao’s tourism carrying capacity during Chinese New Year holidays. The report will be submitted to the Central People’s Government.

6 The Chairman of the Standing Committee of the NPC, Zhang Dejiang, meets Macao deputies to the NPC and puts forward four aspirations. Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets the Governor of the People’s Bank of China, Zhou Xiaochuan, and the Chairman of the China National Tourism Administration, Li Jinzao, to exchange views regarding Renminbi business and optimisation of the individual travel scheme.

11 The Transport Bureau announces the tightening of approval criteria for motorcycle seat specifications, to protect riders’ safety.

12 The Housing Bureau arranges for the first batch of eligible families for public housing applications in 2013 to move into their allotted units.

16 The Public Security Police smash a mainland China prostitution ring, which used a social networking mobile application to solicit clients. A total of 42 people, including four alleged ringleaders, are arrested.

18 Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets the Permanent Representative of the People’s Republic of China to the United Nations, Liu Jieyi, to exchange views on external affairs and socio-economic development of the MSAR.

23 Chief Executive Chui Sai On presents the first Policy Address of his second term of office to the Legislative Assembly. The policy direction for the next five years is to accelerate the building of a liveable city.

27 Chief Executive Chui Sai On leads a delegation to Hainan province, to attend the opening of the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2015.

Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets member of the Standing Committee of CPC Guangdong Provincial Government and Secretary of CPC Guangzhou Municipal Government, Ren Xuefeng, to explore cooperation between Guangzhou and Macao, especially regarding development of the Guangdong Free Trade Zone Nansha sub-zone, and assisting Guangzhou to explore markets in Portuguese-speaking countries.

28 The Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) announces that a leading official and a department head of the Marine and Water Bureau are under investigation on suspicion of bribe-taking. With approval from the judiciary, compulsory measures are implemented against the two suspects, including suspension of duties and being forbidden to leave Macao.
A large scale electricity outage occurs at noon in the Border Gate neighbourhood. The Border Gate checkpoint building and some 4,300 households in nearby 35 buildings are affected.

April

8 The Macao SAR Gazette publishes an executive order to tighten emission standards for new light vehicles. The number of environmentally-friendly vehicle models eligible for tax concessions is reduced from 134 to 88.

Secretary for Economy and Finance Leong Vai Tac attends the opening ceremony of Dynamic Macao Business and Trade Fair – Hunan Changsha.

13 Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Tam Chon Weng reveals that the Government intends to revitalise Estoril Hotel for art education, and turn Tap Seac area into a cultural and recreation centre for young people. A consultation on these plans will be conducted within the year. Tam Chon Weng also reveals that Macao and Zhuhai officials are exploring the feasibility of acquiring land in Hengqin for constructing high-end homes for the elderly.

15 Most parts of the Macao peninsula are hit by a power outage as four power sub-stations are affected by a glitch at Canal dos Patos sub-station. In all, 100,000 households are affected, representing 42 percent of all households in Macao.

20 Chief Executive Chui Sai On arrives in Fuzhou, to attend a Fujian-Macao high-level meeting for deepening cooperation and enhancing synergy.

Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Tam Chon Weng leads a delegation to Beijing, for deepening cooperation between Macao and mainland China, and enhancing quality of life and people’s livelihoods in Macao.

Secretary for Administration and Justice Chan Hoi Fan, representing the Chief Executive, officiates at the plaque-unveiling ceremony of the Guangdong Free Trade Zone.

23 Secretary for Economy and Finance Leong Vai Tac attends the plaque-unveiling ceremony of Hengqin sub-zone of the Guangdong Free Trade Zone. Leong and Mayor of Zhuhai, Jiang Ling, sign an agreement between Zhuhai Municipal People’s Government and the MSAR Government on the Zhuhai-Macao cooperation mechanism for the development of Hengqin sub-zone of the Guangdong Free Trade Zone.

The CCAC solves a case of bribe-taking by one department head and one staff member of the Transport Bureau. The two are alleged to have taken bribes totalling 16 million patacas, for helping three management companies to be awarded more than 60 short-term management service contracts for public car parks, with a total contract value of 68 million patacas.

28 Secretary for Economy and Finance Leong Vai Tac says the decrease in gaming income would not affect social welfare and fiscal fixed expenses.

29 Tourism and cultural authorities of Zhuhai and Macao sign the Tourism Cooperation

30 The two giant pandas granted by the Central People’s Government arrive in Macao on a charter flight from Chengdu, Sichuan province. The pair of pandas, named Kai Kai and Xin Xin, meet the public on 1 June. Giant panda Shu Xiang had been returned to mainland China on 29 November 2014, to participate in a breeding programme.

May

1 Around 1,800 people and 47 vehicles participate in a demonstration initiated by 13 organisations, to express grievances to the Government. The Public Security Police deploy nearly 180 officers to maintain public order.

An inter-departmental operation is conducted, for redemption of a 1,000-square-metre plot of land at Doca Lam Mau. The land is earmarked for developing public housing, and is expected to accommodate about 100 T2 housing units.

7 The Government decides to donate 20 million patacas to the Government of Nepal, to support its post-quake reconstruction and relief for disaster victims.

8 Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets with Secretary of the CPC Shenzhen Municipal Committee, Ma Xingrui, to exchange views on deepening and enhancing cooperation between the two regions.

Law enforcement authorities of Macao and Zhongshan – including Macao Customs, Zhongshan Public Security Bureau and Zhongshan Tobacco Monopoly Bureau – launch a joint operation to tackle illegal trade in tobacco, and confiscate contraband cigarettes and cigars worth approximately 10 million patacas. This is the largest case to be jointly solved by Macao Customs, Zhongshan Police Force and tobacco control law enforcement authorities.

10 The official website of the Chief Executive’s Office launches a new column – “Words from the Chief Executive”, adopting a new approach in which the Chief Executive shares his thoughts with the public in his own voice, including his perceptions of social, economic and livelihood issues.

13 The 2015 Guangzhou-Macao Cooperation Task Force meeting is held in Macao. Two agreements are signed regarding Research on Cooperation and Development of the Convention and Exhibition Industry in Guangzhou and Macao, and Cooperation in Joint Promotion of Employment and Entrepreneurship of Young People in Guangzhou and Macao.

17 Chief Executive Chui Sai On leads a delegation to Wuhan, Hubei province, to attend the opening ceremony of the 9th Central China Investment and Trade Expo.

Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets the Secretary of the CPC Hubei Provincial Committee, Li Hongzhong, to exchange views on economic, trade and cultural cooperation between the two regions.
18 Vice Premier Wang Yang meets Chief Executive Chui Sai On. He is happy to witness the foundation for Macao’s long-term development, which will lead to a bright future.

20 A large-scale tourism promotion event, “Experience Macao – Fujian”, is launched in Fuzhou. Chief Executive Chui Sai On, Fujian Governor Su Shulin and other guests officiate at the opening ceremony.

26 The Transport Bureau commences the public bidding process for 200 taxi licences, which are valid for eight years.

27 Carmo Health Centre at Lakeside Garden officially opens and becomes operational.

29 In view of the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome cases in South Korea, the Health Bureau implements a series of new measures, including mandatory body temperature monitoring for travellers arriving on flights from Korea. On 8 June, the Health Bureau raises their epidemic response level to “high-level alert”. The Tourism Crisis Management Office disseminates a press release, reminding local residents not to travel to South Korea unless necessary. All tours to South Korea in June are cancelled.

June

1 Secretary for Administration and Justice Chan Hoi Fan leads a delegation to Beijing to meet with representatives of the China Food and Drug Administration, the State Forestry Administration and the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine, for enhancing communications and cooperation.

Chief Executive Chui Sai On publishes an executive order to establish a 24-hour border checkpoint at the Coloane Pier for passengers entering and leaving Macao by pleasure boats.

2 Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets with the Chairman of China National Tourism Administration (NTA), Li Jinzao, to exchange views on developing Macao as a world tourism and leisure centre. The Government and the NTA sign an agreement to set up a joint working committee to facilitate achieving this goal.

Secretary of the CPC Fujian Provincial Committee You Quan visits Macao, and meets with Vice Chairman of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference Edmund Ho Hau Wah and Chief Executive Chui Sai On, to exchange views on fostering Fujian-Macao cooperation.

9 The Judicial Police arrests two young men from Hong Kong aged 14 and 15 respectively, for being hired by a drug trafficking group to smuggle drugs into Macao. This is the first juvenile drug trafficking case detected in Macao.

15 To help small and medium-sized enterprises and nascent industries, the Financial Services Bureau increases profit tax allowance in the fiscal year from 300,000 patacas to 600,000 patacas, reducing the number of taxpayers from 44,819 to 1,911.
16 Chief Executive Chui Sai On departs for Beijing, to visit the State Oceanic Administration and the General Administration of Customs regarding Macao’s jurisdiction of customary waters and the new boundary-crossing arrangements.

Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raimundo Arrais do Rosario reveals that the Government is closely monitoring analyses of idle plots of land. After revoking land grants for 18 sites, five more cases of land grant revocation will be published in the Macao SAR Gazette shortly.

17 The Cultural Industries Fund announces details of the first batch of subsidies. It reveals that 321 valid applications were received, 86 projects were considered eligible for subsidies, and 73 projects will receive subsidies totalling 100 million patacas.

18 The Business Incubation Centre for Young People is launched, to provide young people in Macao with one-stop, diverse support services for entrepreneurship.

19 The flag at Government headquarters is flown at half-mast, for mourning the death of the Chairman of the Standing Committee of the 8th NPC, Qiao Shi.

23 The Macao SAR Gazette publishes an executive order for granting of 4G mobile network licenses to four telecommunication operators. The licences are valid for eight years, and the operators have to start providing services within the year.

The Court of Second Instance overturns an appeal regarding five plots of land owned by Chinese Estates Holdings Limited, which are implicated in the case regarding corruption by the former Secretary for Transport and Public Works Ao Man Long, and reaffirms the revoking of concession leases.

25 The Guangdong-Macao Cooperation Joint Conference 2015 is held. The two parties sign a total of eight cooperation agreements and memoranda. One of these agreements concerns a framework for promoting Macao’s financial resources for Guangdong-Macao cooperation projects, and reveals that the Government intends to allocate part of its financial reserve for major Guangdong-Macao cooperation projects. On 26 June, the Government decides to suspend the Macao Residents Home Purchasing Plan, to allow a study on the feasibility of a new format for public housing.

29 Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets members of the consular corps of the European Union in Hong Kong and Macao, to exchange views on the socio-economic outlook for Europe and Macao.

30 The masterplan for the new urban area is completed. The Government conducts the third phase of public consultation, which lasts 40 days. The plan aims for the new urban area being able to accommodate a population of 162,000; and 54,000 residential units will be provided. On 24 July, the Government announces that the consultation period will be extended for 20 days.

An unveiling ceremony is held for the Centre of International Co-operation and Exchange Platform of the Guangdong-Macao Traditional Chinese Medicine Technology Industrial Park.
July

1 According to statistics provided by the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau, the gross revenue from games of chance in June was 17.355 billion patacas, the lowest figure recorded since November 2010. The year-on-year gross revenue records a decline for the 13th consecutive month.

The Public Security Police adjust the regulations for transit stays of Chinese passport holders. Eligible travellers are allowed to stay in Macao for a maximum of seven days during their first transit.

The Government increases the temporary disability allowance for each eligible disabled person, from 3,180 patacas to 3,350 patacas per month.

3 The Legislative Assembly plenary meeting passes the second reading of Minimum Wage for Cleaning and Security Workers of the Property Management Industry. The law will come into effect from 1 January 2016. Cleaning and security workers of residential buildings are guaranteed a minimum wage of 30 patacas per hour, 240 patacas per day, or 6,240 patacas per month.

7 A 45-day public consultation for the new Budget Framework Law begins.

9 Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets the Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of NPC and president of Chinese Medical Association, Chen Zhu, to exchange views on fostering medical exchanges and enhancing medical standards.

The Legislative Assembly passes, under emergency procedures, the amendment to the Annex of Excise Duty Regulations. Tax for each cigarette will increase from 0.5 patacas to 1.5 patacas; tobacco and cigars will be taxed 600 patacas and 4,326 patacas per kilogramme, respectively. Chief Executive Chui Sai On signs an executive order to revise the regulation, which permits each person to carry 19 cigarettes or 1 cigar or 25 grammes of other tobacco products into Macao. The relevant legislation comes into effect from 14 July.

The Court of Second Instance rejects the appeal from the Government regarding the authorisation of Macau Cable Television (MCTV) to relay English Premier League football matches. No further appeal is allowed. The Government has to pay compensation of 200 million patacas to MCTV.

The Housing Bureau conducts a 60-day public consultation on revising the Legal System for Public Housing, which involves revision of the definition of tenants with household income higher than the income ceiling and well-off public housing tenants; the system for management and penalties; and criteria and mechanisms for public housing applications.

The Transportation Infrastructure Office announces the results of the public consultation on the Northern Section of Light Rapid Transit (LRT) Macao Peninsula Line. The waterfront elevated alignment gains a majority of public support.

10 A bill proposing a total smoking ban in casinos, the Revision of Law No. 5/2011 Regime of Tobacco Prevention and Control, passes its first reading at the Legislative Assembly.
plenary meeting. The Second Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly, which is responsible for the second reading of the same bill, conducts another public consultation in August.

The *Macao SAR Gazette* publishes an executive order to increase the Old-age Allowance to 7,500 patacas per year with effect from 2015.

13 Law No. 8/2015, Stipulating the 70th Anniversary of Victory of the Chinese People’s War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and World Anti-Fascist War as a Mandatory Holiday, is promulgated and comes into effect.

14 Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raimundo Arrais do Rosario reveals that the Government will not cancel the monthly rental scheme at public car parks, but the scheme will not be offered at newly established public car parks.

Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Tam Chon Weng visits Portugal with the aim of enhancing cooperation. He also attends the meeting of Association of Portuguese Speaking Universities (AULP) in Cape Verde.

15 In line with the Government’s welfare policy for grassroots civil servants, the Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau implements three new relief measures: subsidies for expenses to support young children, subsidies for children’s supplementary educational materials, and care home subsidies for elderly family members.

17 The eighth Hong Kong-Macao Cooperation High Level Meeting is held in Hong Kong. Both parties continue to proactively foster and deepen cooperation in various areas, and join hands in seizing the potential of the “Belt and Road” initiative, to achieve complementary advantages and joint developments.

20 The *Macao SAR Gazette* publishes the Requirements for Basic Academic Aptitude of Local Education System by-law, which is being implemented in phases, starting from kindergartens, from the 2015/2016 academic year.

Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the NPC and Chairman of the Central Committee of the China Democratic League, Zhang Baowen, to exchange views on education and social development.

22 In line with the arrangements of the Central People’s Government, the flag at Government headquarters is flown at half-mast to mourn the death of the Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Seventh National People’s Congress, Wan Li, on 15 July in Beijing.

The Government starts a 30-day public consultation regarding the revitalisation of the former Estoril Hotel and Estoril Swimming Pool. In August, it is decided to extend the consultation for another month.

Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets the Minister of Tourism, Investment and Enterprise Development of the Republic of Cape Verde, Leonesa Fortes.

23 According to the Statistics and Census Bureau, 2.248 million tourists visited Macao in June, down 7.6% year-on-year, and the lowest monthly figure since September 2012.
The Court of Second Instance rules on the appeal of the Rua do Padre Antonio Roliz case, sentencing businessman Ding Wen Li to four years’ imprisonment for fraud involving a substantial sum of money. The court also rules that the ownership of 379 square metres of land near Rua do Padre Antonio Roliz is returned to the government.

25 The Government conducts “Operation Mars”, the largest disaster drill in the 15 years since the Handover. Government departments collaborate in a simulated rescue operation, to test cooperation and rescue capabilities in the event of a disaster.

27 The Third Cross-Strait and Hong Kong, Macao High-level Judicial Forum is held in Macao; this is the first time the forum has been held in Macao. High level judicial personnel from mainland China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao meet to study issues of mutual concern. Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets the leaders of the three delegations attending the forum, and exchanges views with them on enhancing judicial cooperation.

29 The Office of the Government Spokesperson and all relevant departments hold a joint press conference to announce the water quality test results for 50 new public housing estates, which show that the lead content of the water samples tested complies with World Health Organization (WHO) safety standards. An announcement on 13 August also reveals that water quality of all samples from 12 older public housing estates and Edificio Fai Tat (Block 1 and 2) public housing estate at Fai Chi Kei also complies with WHO standards.

In response to comments in the U.S. Department of State’s 2015 Trafficking in Persons Report, the Office of the Secretary for Security makes the following statement: “The report’s conjectures and inferences on the Macao SAR do not reflect the actual situation of Macao. The report fails to provide basic factual evidence, and some inferences are fabricated. Therefore, the security authorities of Macao absolutely disagree with the report.”

30 The Government’s Policy Research Office announces a study report on Macao’s demographic policy, anticipating the population will reach approximately 750,000 by 2025.

An inter-departmental research group publishes a consultation document regarding the Protection System for the Elderly, and commences a 45-day public consultation.

31 Chief Executive Chui Sai On congratulates Beijing for winning the bid to host the 2022 Olympic Winter Games.

August

9 The Taipa Grande weather-observation station of the Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau records a maximum temperature of 36.6ºC, making this the hottest August day since the previous record set in 1957.

Jao Tsung-I Academy opens. Renowned sinologist Professor Jao Tsung-I attends the ceremony.
10 Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raimundo Arrais do Rosario says the land swap case related to Iec Long Firecracker Factory should be transferred to the CCAC for investigation.

12 Chief Executive Chui Sai On attends the Legislative Assembly plenary meeting to answer questions from legislators.

17 The *Macao SAR Gazette* promulgates Law No. 11/2015 on Revision of Law No. 10/2011, Home-Ownership Scheme Housing Law, which comes into effect on 18 August. This law stipulates the housing application procedures: preliminary screening, ballot drawing and detailed assessment.

After an explosion in Bangkok, the Travel Industry Council of Macao and airline companies decide to cancel all Thailand tours that depart on or before 23 August.

18 The opening ceremony of the International Forum on Traditional Medicine is held in Macao. The World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Traditional Medicine is also established in Macao.

24 The Judicial Police solve a case of credit card fraud that entailed using Union Pay point-of-sale terminals to make counterfeit cards, and arrests 17 suspects. The case involves transactions totalling 350 million patacas, while China Union Pay has lost 710,000 patacas.

### September

1 The Government announces that all public departments should implement austerity measures to control public expenditure, but these measures should not affect welfare and livelihood expenditures or the Investment and Development Expenditure Scheme (PIDDA).

The Transport Bureau installs 80 parking meters with blue poles, which charge six patacas per hour, to improve turnover at parking meters in busy areas.

The 70th Anniversary of Victory of the Chinese People’s War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and World Anti-Fascist War Exhibition opens. It is jointly organised by the MSAR Government and the Central People’s Government Liaison Office of the Macao Special Administrative Region.

2 Chief Executive Chui Sai On leads a delegation to Beijing, to attend the activities commemorating the 70th anniversary of victory in the Chinese people’s war of resistance against Japanese aggression and the world anti-Fascist war.

3 Acting Chief Executive Wong Sio Chak presides over the 70th Anniversary of Victory in the Chinese People’s War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War Commemorative Ceremony, which is attended by government officials and guests from various sectors.
4 Fitch Ratings disseminates a press release affirming Macao’s credit rating as “AA-” with a “stable outlook”.

6 Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets the Director-General of the World Health Organization, Margaret Chan.

7 A cooperation framework agreement is signed between the Guangdong-Macao Traditional Chinese Medicine Technology Industrial Park and Guangzhou Pharmaceuticals Corporation. Guangzhou Pharmaceuticals Corporation is the first large-scale and renowned corporation in mainland China to cooperate with the industrial park.

8 Phase three of the Main Reservoir water treatment plant commences operations. The water treatment plant can supply 60,000 cubic metres of water per day. The total water production capacity of Macao is 390,000 cubic metres, which is sufficient to meet Macao’s water demand in the coming five years.

12 The circular pedestrian overpass at the Taipa-Coloane Causeway officially opens for public use.

14 There is a report of an alleged theft in a VIP room operated by junket agent Dore Holdings. The Judicial Police receives reports from at least 24 victims and the VIP room operator. According to preliminary investigations, at least 270 million patacas have been stolen. The investigation focuses on the possibilities of fraud, abuse of credit arrangements and dishonoured cheques.

18 Dynamic Macao Business and Trade Fair – Nanchang, Jiangxi, commences in Nanchang.

28 Chief Executive Chui Sai On leads a delegation to Zhoushan in Zhejiang province, to study maritime economic development.

Chief Executive Chui Sai On says the Government has formally submitted an application to the Central People’s Government regarding its jurisdiction over customary waters, and hopes to receive approval within the year.

October

1 The Government holds a series of activities to celebrate the 66th anniversary of the establishment of the People’s Republic of China, including a flag-raising ceremony, a National Day reception, a National Day sports and performing art show, and a firework show.

5 The Macao SAR Gazette publishes an executive order to conduct public bidding for not more than 100 special taxi licences, which are valid for eight years.

A computer ballot is conducted for the application for multiple-room Home-Ownership Scheme housing units. The Housing Bureau arranges for eight community members to manually draw the computer activation code. The computer then determines the sequence
of the 42,699 applications by ballot.

6 Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets the Director of the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council, Zhang Zhijun.

8 Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak says the strategy for combating illegal immigration will be adjusted, and the Government will enhance exchanges of intelligence and cooperation in law enforcement with the Guangdong police and border control authority, to ensure public safety.

9 A discussion begins regarding the Hong Kong and Macau Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (HK-Macao CEPA).

10 The Office of the Government Spokesperson describes the part relating to Macao in the 2015 annual report by the United States Congressional-Executive Commission on China as devoid of facts. The Government strongly opposes such irresponsible remarks and groundless accusations. Macao’s issues are part of China’s domestic affairs and the United States government has no right to interfere, says the spokesman.

11 Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets the Chairman of Tianjin CPC Municipal Committee, Zang Xianfu, to exchange views on enhancing cooperation between the two regions under China’s “Belt and Road” initiative.

12 Global Tourism Economy Forum – Macau 2015 commences. A memorandum of understanding is signed between the World Tourism Organization and the Government, for building Macao as a global centre for tourism education and training.

13 The Chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, Zhang Dejiang, meets a delegation of legislators from Macao and proposes four aspirations.

14 Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture demands that the Health Bureau investigate the misplacement of patient records.

19 Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets former president of the European Commission and former prime minister of Portugal, Jose Manuel Durao Barroso.

22 The 20th Macao International Trade and Investment Fair (MIF) commences. It showcases Macao’s advantage as “one centre and one platform”.

23 The newly appointed Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China in the Macao Special Administrative Region, Ye Dabo, arrives in Macao to assume office.

24 The Judicial Police solve a case of ATM fraud, and two Bulgarian men are arrested. The criminal group installed card readers and pinhole cameras at ATMs to steal bank card
information and passwords. Information on at least 1,000 customers was stolen.

The 12th World Summit of Chinese Entrepreneurs commences. The theme for this year is “The Belt and Road – New World Economic Arrangement”.

Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets the President of the Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait, Chen Deming.

25 High speed ferry Horta is believed to have crashed into a floating object, causing injuries to 130 people.

27 Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao jointly conduct a large scale rescue drill in the Pearl River estuary.

28 The *Macao SAR Gazette* publishes an executive order to set up the Committee for Development of the World Centre for Tourism and Leisure. The committee is chaired by the Chief Executive.

Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raimundo Arrais do Rosario says legal procedures have started regarding the 18 plots of land for which concession leases have been revoked, and believes that revocation for other four idle land plots will soon enter legal procedures.

29 The Fifth Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee is concluded. The communique states that China will enhance the status and functions of Hong Kong and Macao in the national economic development and opening up, support Hong Kong’s and Macao’s economic development, improve people’s livelihoods, and promote democracy and harmony.

The Public Security Police prosecutes three cases of unlicensed passenger transportation services via mobile application Uber. The two vehicles seized are from the same travel agent, and the two drivers are issued penalty tickets.

30 Chief Executive Chui Sai On holds a press conference at Government headquarters to announce the death of the Director General of the Macao Customs Service, Lai Man Wa. Principal government officials attend the funeral for Ms Lai on 5 November. Her body is laid to rest in St Michael’s Cemetery.

November

3 The British government signs confirmation of a handover to the Government, regarding the return of illicit assets confiscated in the Ao Man Long case to the Government. The assets total over £28 million, which is equivalent to 350 million patacas. The Macao Judiciary announces the success in recalling most of the overseas illicit assets of Ao Man Long.

9 Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raimundo Arrais do Rosario reveals that the Government will act according to the new Land Law to take back 26 plots of land at areas C and D in Praia Grande, and new idle land in Seac Pai Van industrial area, with a total area of 10,000 square metres.
17 Chief Executive Chui Sai On delivers the Policy Address for the Fiscal Year 2016, titled “Boosting the economy, focusing on livelihoods, and ensuring stable development”.

19 Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets the Governor of Hubei province, Wang Guosheng.
The 62nd Macau Grand Prix is held from 19 to 22 November.

27 The 20th EU-Macao Joint Committee meeting is held in Macao.

28 A new agreement on trade in services under the Mainland China and Macao Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA) is signed in Macao. It will come into effect on 1 June 2016.

30 The Government signs an agreement with Guangdong Provincial Government for construction of the fourth water supply pipeline and maintenance work for Ping Gang Pumping Station and Guang Chang Pumping Station, to further improve stability of the water supply.

December

2 Chief Executive Chui Sai On and the Mayor of Shenzhen, Xu Qin, attend the Shenzhen-Macao Cooperation Conference 2015. Macao and Shenzhen enter into two memoranda of cooperation, regarding the development of Dawan Area and tourism development.

Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets the Secretary of CPC Shenzhen Municipal Committee, Ma Xingrui.

3 Chief Executive Chui Sai On visits Qianhai Exhibition Hall and Shenzhen-Hong Kong Youth Innovation and Entrepreneur Hub.

4 Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets the Vice Chairman of the National Committee of the CPPCC and Minister of Science and Technology, Wan Gang.

6 The Macao Light Festival 2015 – Journey of Lights commences. Spectacular lighting shows, lighting art installations and fun interactive games are staged at 11 famous attractions. Parade through Macao, Latin City, is held.

7 The Office of the Government Spokesperson holds a press conference announcing that according to the Land Law and its related stipulations, the land concession of Pearl Horizon Lot P will be revoked upon its expiry on 25 December 2015.

11 The Marine and Water Bureau takes back land lots at Pier No. 23 and No.25 at the Inner Harbour, to facilitate the plan for an exclusive public transport route from Barra to Border Gate.

The Executive Council concludes the discussion on the draft by-law regarding Amendments to the Organisation and Operations of the Civic Municipal Affairs Bureau, Organisation and
Operations of the Cultural Affairs Bureau, and Organisation and Operations of the Sports Bureau. It is suggested that the by-laws come into effect on 1 January 2016.

The CCAC announces it has solved a case in which a customs inspector allegedly accepted bribes, and a department head at the Marine and Water Bureau allegedly committed corruption and abuse of power.

16 The State Council passes an updated map of administrative areas for the Macao Special Administrative Region. It delimits 85 square kilometres of territorial waters and new terrestrial boundaries of Macao. A State Council decree will be promulgated on 20 December, and Macao will take over the maritime and terrestrial boundaries on the same day.

17 The Legislative Assembly passes under emergency procedures the draft bill on revising tax regulation of motor vehicles, which suggests the average tax rate for motor vehicles be increased from 40 percent to 72 percent, the average tax rate for motorcycles be increased from 24 percent to 50 percent, and cancellation of the tax allowance for passenger vehicles for tourists. There are also transition regulations. The relevant laws will come into effect on 25 December.

The Executive Council completes the discussion on the draft by-law regarding Organisation and Operations of Correctional Service Bureau, Organisation and Operations of the Social Welfare Bureau, and Organisation and Operations of the Legal Affairs Bureau. It is suggested that the bills come into effect on 1 January 2016.

The Legislative Assembly passes the second reading of the Government Budget for the Fiscal Year 2016. The projected income is 103.2 billion patacas, down 14 percent; the projected expenditure is 85 billion patacas, up 1.5 percent; and the beneficial measures for the public will cost 20.6 billion patacas. A surplus of 14.7 billion patacas for the fiscal year 2016 is expected.

20 State Council Decree No. 665 is promulgated. It includes an updated map of administrative areas for the Macao Special Administrative Region. Macao takes over administration of 85 square kilometres of territorial waters and 28,000 square metres of land, which were leased from Zhuhai and the site of the Border Gate Checkpoint building. By-laws regarding Amendment to the Organisation and Operation of the Marine and Water Bureau, Regulations on the Navigation of Vessels and the Crew on Board, and System for the Management of Disposal of Dredged Materials at Sea all come into effect simultaneously. A maritime operations command centre and three operational bases of the Macao Customs also commence operations.

The Government holds a series of activities to celebrate the 16th anniversary of the establishment of the MSAR.

Over 1,000 owners of pre-sold units of Pearl Horizon assemble for a protest. The Government emphasises that it will protect the interests of the pre-sold unit owners according to law, and urges the residents to express their demands in a peaceful way.

21 Chief Executive Chui Sai On departs for a duty visit to Beijing.
23 Chief Executive Chui Sai On is received by President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang, who fully recognise the work of the Government and pledge their full support to Macao’s economic development and improvement of livelihoods of Macao people.

The Law Reform and International Law Affairs Bureau and the Law Reform Consultative Committee conduct a public consultation on revision of the Penal Code regarding sexually related offences.

27 The Judicial Police announce they have solved the second largest drug trafficking case since the Handover to China. One Turkish national and two Hongkongers, who are members of an international drug trafficking gang, are arrested, and 9.3 kilogrammes of cocaine worth 25 million patacas are seized.
On 23 December, President Xi Jinping meets with Chief Executive Chui Sai On during Chui’s duty visit in Beijing.

On 23 December, Premier Li Keqiang meets with Chief Executive Chui Sai On during Chui’s duty visit in Beijing.
On 28 March, President Xi Jinping meets with MSAR and HKSAR delegation members, and other entrepreneurs participating in the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2015.

Chief Executive Chui Sai On and the Secretary of the CPC Zhejiang Provincial Committee, Xia Baolong, greet each other.

On 28 and 29 September, invited by Zhejiang Provincial People’s Government, Chief Executive Chui Sai On leads a delegation to Zhoushan City, to study its development of maritime economy and visit Zhoushan City Exhibition Centre.
On 12 October, Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets with the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen.

On 19 January, Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets with Rector of the United Nations University and Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, Dr David Malone (left).

On 19 October, Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets with the former president of the European Commission and former prime minister of Portugal, Jose Manuel Durao Barroso (third from left).
On 18 May, Vice Premier Wang Yang (fourth from left) meets with Chief Executive Chui Sai On (fourth from right) and other guests in front of the Macao Pavilion at the 9th Central China Investment and Trade Expo.

On 17 May, Chief Executive Chui Sai On attends the 9th Central China Investment and Trade Expo in Wuhan, Hubei. During the visit, Chui Sai On (middle left) meets with the Secretary of the CPC Hubei Provincial Committee, Li Hongzhong (middle right), and the Governor of Hubei province, Wang Guosheng (fifth from right).

On 2 June, the MSAR Government and the National Tourism Administration (NTA) enter into an agreement on the establishment of a joint working committee between mainland China and Macao for developing Macao as a world tourism and leisure centre. Chief Executive Chui Sai On (fifth from right, back row) and the Chairman of the NTA, Li Jinzhao (fourth from left, back row), attend the signing ceremony.
On 25 June, Chief Executive Chui Sai On (fourth from left, back row) and Guangdong Governor Zhu Xiaodan (fifth from left, back row), attend the signing ceremony of three cooperation agreements between Guangdong and Macao.

On 25 June, Chief Executive Chui Sai On (third from left) meets with the Secretary of the CPC Guangdong Provincial Committee, Hu Chunhua (second from right), at the meeting for Guangdong and Macao senior officials in Guangzhou.

On 2 December, the Shenzhen-Macao Cooperation Conference 2015 is held in Shenzhen. Chief Executive Chui Sai On and the Mayor of Shenzhen, Xu Qin, attend the signing ceremony of the Cooperation Memorandum regarding the Development of Dawan Area by Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao.
On 20 May, Chief Executive Chui Sai On (fourth from right) and Fujian Governor Su Shulin (fourth from left) officiate at the opening ceremony of the tourism promotion event, “Experience Macao – Fujian”.

On 3 June, Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets with the Secretary of the CPC Fujian Provincial Committee, You Quan.

On 24 October, Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets with the President of the Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait, Chen Deming (second from left, front row).
On 20 July, Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets with the Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the NPC, Zhang Baowen.

On 4 December, Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets with the Vice Chairman of the National Committee of the CPPCC and the Minister of Science and Technology, Wan Gang.

On 9 July, Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets with the Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of NPC and President of Chinese Medical Association, Chen Zhu.
On 13 October, Chief Executive Chui Sai On sets sail to visit the coastal waters of the Outer Harbour, and listens to a report on progress with the demarcation of Macao’s jurisdiction of customary waters.

On 3 September, the 70th Anniversary of Victory in the Chinese People’s War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War Commemorative Ceremony is held in Tap Seac Square.

On 28 August, the posthumous exhibition of Fang Dazeng, a war correspondent during the Marco Polo Bridge Incident (also known as Lugou Bridge Incident), opens.
On 1 September, the 70th Anniversary of Victory of the Chinese People’s War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and World Anti-Fascist War Exhibition opens.

On 17 November, Chief Executive Chui Sai On delivers the Policy Address for the Fiscal Year 2016 at the Legislative Assembly.

On 21 August, the President of the Legislative Assembly, Ho Iat Seng, reports on the work of the second session of the 5th Legislative Assembly, during an interview with the media.
On 20 December, Chief Executive Chui Sai On, principal officials of the Government, officials of the Central People’s Government in Macao, military officers of the People’s Liberation Army Macao Garrison, and people from various sectors participate in the flag-raising ceremony in celebration of the 16th Anniversary of the Establishment of the MSAR.

On 29 October, Chief Executive Chui Sai On attends the welcome reception for the assumption of office by the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China in the MSAR, Ye Dabo.

On 9 February, Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets with the President of Düsseldorf Messe of Germany, Werner Dornscheidt (fourth left, front row), and members of the preparation working group of Macao Media Exhibition.
On 7 December, Chief Executive Chui Sai On officiates at the 2015 Decorations, Medals and Certificates of Merit Awards Ceremony of the MSAR.

On 16 March, Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets with the persons-in-charge of local Portuguese and English media.

On 16 March, Chief Executive Chui Sai On hosts a banquet for persons-in-charge of local Chinese media.
On 23 April, the Secretary for Economy and Finance, Leong Vai Tac, and the Mayor of Zhuhai, Jiang Ling, sign an agreement between Zhuhai Municipal People’s Government and the MSAR Government on the Zhuhai-Macao cooperation mechanism for the development of Hengqin sub-zone of the Guangdong Free Trade Zone, during the plaque-unveiling ceremony of Hengqin sub-zone of the Guangdong Free Trade Zone.

On 29 March, the Secretary for Administration and Justice, Chan Hoi Fan; the Secretary for Economy and Finance, Leong Vai Tac; the Secretary for Security, Wong Sio Chak; the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Tam Chon Weng; and the Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo Arrais do Rosario, officiate at the opening ceremony for the 22nd anniversary of the promulgation of the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region.

On 21 April, Secretary for Administration and Justice Chan Hoi Fan (sixth from right) officiates at the plaque-unveiling ceremony of the Guangdong Free Trade Zone.
On 12 July, the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Tam Chon Weng, officiates at the opening of the exhibition on the achievements in safeguarding the cultural heritage in Macao, for the 10th Anniversary of the Historic Centre of Macao’s Inclusion on the World Heritage List.

On 4 November, the Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo Arrais do Rosario, attends the Fujian, Guangdong, Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan seminar on property management.

On 2 December, the Secretary for Security, Wong Sio Chak, reports on the crime situation during the first three quarters of 2015.
On 6 January, the Secretary for Security, Wong Sio Chak, reviews the Police Tactical Unit at its headquarters in Border Gate.

On 28 November, the Secretary for Economy and Finance, Leong Vai Tac, and the Vice Minister of Commerce, Wang Shouwen, sign the agreement on trade in services under the Mainland China and Macao Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA) on behalf of the two parties.

On 25 June, Secretary for Administration and Justice Chan Hoi Fan speaks at the opening ceremony for the Asia-Pacific Symposium: “Towards the Well-being of the Child through the Hague Conventions on International Child Abduction and Protection of Children”.

On 6 January, the Secretary for Security, Wong Sio Chak, reviews the Police Tactical Unit at its headquarters in Border Gate.
On 9 April, the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Tam Chon Weng, delivers a speech at the showcase on Beautiful China 2015 – Year of Silk Road Tourism.

On 14 January, the Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo Arrais do Rosario (middle), meets with the Secretary of State of Portugal, Dr Jose Cesario (left), and the Portuguese Consul General in Macao and Hong Kong, Dr Victor Sereno (right).

On 26 March, the 2015 Macao International Environmental Co-operation Forum (MIECF) opens.
On 16 December, the Office of the Government Spokesperson holds a press conference on the demarcation of the MSAR’s maritime and terrestrial boundaries.

On 17 November, the Committee for the Establishment of a World Tourism and Leisure Centre holds a briefing session on the Fundamental Plan for the MSAR’s Five-year Development (2016-2020), and commences a three-month consultation immediately after the briefing.

On 15 April, the Office of the Government Spokesperson and the Government Information Bureau hold a tea gathering with the media.
On 23 September, the Unitary Police Service holds a press conference to announce results of the tripartite anti-triad operation codenamed Thunderbolt 15 conducted by the police of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao.

On 5 November, the funeral of the Director General of the Macao Customs Service, Lai Man Wa, is held at St Michael’s Cemetery.

On 14 August, a public consultation session for the Retirement Protection Mechanism of the MSAR is held.
On 21 February, a large number of tourists spend their Lunar New Year holiday in Macao. Given the situation, Level-1 crowd management measures are implemented in the vicinity of Almeida Ribeiro Avenue. During the Lunar New Year, crowds at various tourists’ attractions in Macao remain orderly.

On 1 May, the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau holds the May-First Hac Sa Beach Summer Concert 2015.

On 11 June, the Environmental Protection Bureau holds the 2014 Macao Green Hotel Awards presentation ceremony.
On 5 February, the Manpower Development Committee holds a seminar for the field study trip for returning Macao talents during the 15th Anniversary of Macao’s Reunification.

On 25 July, the Government conducts “Operation Mars”, the largest disaster drill in the 15 years since the Handover. Medical and rescue team members conduct triage for the injured and provide preliminary treatment at the incident scene.

On 29 September, the Public Security Police and the Macao Customs Service jointly brief the media on measures against illegal immigration near Canal dos Patos.
On 1 June, after the new pair of giant pandas (Kai Kai and Xin Xin) move in, the Giant Panda Pavilion is reopened to the public.

On 30 April, a pair of giant pandas, a gift from the Central People's Government, arrives at Macau International Airport from Chengdu.