

Editor's note

The *Macao Yearbook* is a reference book published annually by the Government Information Bureau of the Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR). It outlines major events, details of progress achieved, and changes made in the course of Macao's political, economic, social and cultural development. The Macao Yearbook has been published since 2002, with the aim of promoting Macao and providing detailed information and data for all who wish to study and understand Macao.

The *Macao Yearbook* is divided into four sections: Administrative Priorities of the MSAR Government; Calendar of Events; Annual Review of the Macao SAR; and Appendices.

The Annual Review of the MSAR in 2012 records all the major work undertaken in the administrative, legislative and judicial areas in Macao during the year. It also presents, in a systematic and integrated manner, data and information on 16 areas, namely the political and administrative system; legal and judicial system; external relations; economy; gaming industry; tourism; public order; education; culture and sport; health and social welfare; media, communications and information technology; land, infrastructure, housing and public utilities; transport; geography, environment and population; religion and customs; and history.

To illustrate various aspects of the latest developments in the MSAR in a visual way, the Government Information Bureau jointly organised with eight local photography organisations and four news media organisations a photographic competition entitled "Precious Moments in Macao" in early 2013. The yearbook has been enhanced by eight of the winning entries.

Most of the figures and data quoted in the *Macao Yearbook 2013* were provided by relevant departments and the Statistics and Census Service, and they correspond to the situation at the end of 2012. However, some content is more up to date, reflecting the current situation in Macao, including Government directories and details of the visa validity of MSAR Passports and travel permits. Unless specified otherwise, all the monetary amounts shown are in Macao's currency – the pataca.

The English version of the *Macao Yearbook* has been translated from the Chinese original. Therefore, in the event of any discrepancies, the Chinese version should take precedence.

This publication uses the official spelling of "Macao", except in the cases of proper names and titles that use "Macau".

The success of the *Macao Yearbook* is due to the strong support and cooperation received from various departments of the Macao SAR Government, as well as other public bodies and institutions. We wish to express our gratitude to all whose efforts to provide detailed documentation and data have enabled us to complete our editorial work smoothly. Its content has been carefully checked and proofread during the editorial process, production and printing. However, we apologise in advance if any errors remained undetected. We also welcome all comments and suggestions.

The Macao Yearbook Editorial Committee