

CALENDAR OF EVENTS IN 2012



Calendar of Events in 2012

January

- 1 The new Tobacco Control Law comes into effect. Most citizens and tourists recognise they should obey the law.
- 3 Chief Executive Chui Sai On issues an Executive Order on the Principles and Criteria for Refusal to Authorise Former Chief Executives and Former Principal Officials to Engage in Private Business Activities after Leaving Office.
- 4 The Government organises the first forum on constitutional development concerning the amendment to the methods for forming the Legislative Assembly in 2013 and selecting the Chief Executive in 2014. The first phase of consultation, concluded on 31 January, receives more than 2,000 opinion submissions.

Song Man Lei is sworn in as a judge of the Court of Final Appeal.
- 8 Chief Executive Chui Sai On departs for Brussels. During his visit to the European Union, he meets with the EU President and visits the European Parliament to strengthen exchanges in various fields related to the implementation of future programmes.
- 9 The Government announces that it will issue an additional 200 non-transferable taxi licences, valid for eight years.
- 11 The Guangdong-Macao Strategic Development Group holds its inauguration ceremony and first working meeting for concrete implementation of cooperation in the consultative mechanism under the Guangdong-Macao Cooperation Framework Agreement.
- 12 The two note-issuing banks in Macao, Bank of China and Banco Nacional Ultramarino, each issue 10 million Zodiac Dragon banknotes with a face value of 10 patacas, for the Year of the Dragon. They are extremely well received.
- 16 The Government announces a doubling of the issue of the 10-pataca Zodiac Dragon banknotes and gets ready to make further adjustments at any time according to the actual situation.
- 17 The Government issues two more fixed telecommunications network licences and puts them up for public tender. At the deadline of 27 March, only one tender is received.
- 19 Edf. do Lago, the first Home-Ownership Scheme housing project in Taipa wholly funded by the Government, commences presales.
- 26 The Civil Service Pay Council is established to study and set basic principles, standards and procedures regarding adjustments of civil service salaries.

February

- 4 Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets with Guangdong Governor Zhu Xiaodan and principal officials to exchange opinions on accelerating the progress of cooperation between Guangdong and Macao.
- 6 A serious failure occurs in CTM's telecom network affecting about 50 percent of mobile phone users in Macao.
- 8 Chief Executive Chui Sai On submits a report to the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress indicating that it is necessary to make appropriate amendments to the method for the formation of the Legislative Assembly in 2013 and the selection of the Chief Executive in 2014, according to the actual situation of the Macao SAR under the framework of the Basic Law. This is the first step in the five-step process of Macao's constitutional development.
- 10 The Government holds the 2011 Decorations, Medals and Certificates of Merit Awards Ceremony. On behalf of the Macao SAR Government, Chief Executive Chui Sai On presents medals, awards and/or certificates to 35 individuals and three groups and organisations.
- 13 Chief Executive Chui Sai On is invited to attend the first China Beijing International Fair for Trade in Services and meets with Beijing mayor Guo Jinlong.
- 14 The National Science and Technology Award Conference is held in Beijing. A research project in Macao wins a second class award under the category of State Scientific and Technological Progress Award. This is the first time for Macao to receive such an honour since its reunification with the motherland.
- 21 The groundbreaking ceremony of the urban Taipa section of the Macao LRT is held, marking the official commencement of the construction project of this section of the LRT system.
- 22 Chief Executive Chui Sai On inspects construction progress at the new campus of the University of Macau on Hengqin Island.
- 24 Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets with Mozambique's Finance Minister Manuel Chang and ministerial-level officials, on a visit to Macao,.
- 27 The Statistics and Census Service estimated Macao's population at 557,000 as at 31 December 2011, an increase of 16,800 (+3.1 percent) compared with the adjusted number of 540,000 in 2010.
- 29 The 25th session of the 11th Standing Committee of the National People's Congress approves the decision of the Standing Committee of National People's Congress concerning the methods for forming Macao's Legislative Assembly in 2013 and selecting its Chief Executive in 2014, and thus completes the second step of the five-step process of Macao's constitutional development.

The Bill on Amending the Legal System of Copyright and Related Rights and Bill on

the Framework for Private School Teaching Staff pass their second readings in the plenary session of the Legislative Assembly.

March

- 1 The by-law on the Standard Limits of Exhaust Emissions for Imported New Vehicles comes into effect, requiring exhaust emissions of imported new cars to comply with the relevant standards of one of the following places: mainland China, the European Union, the United States or Japan.

Deputy Secretary-General of the Standing Committee of National People's Congress Qiao Xiaoyang, Deputy Director of the Legislative Affairs Commission Li Fei, and Deputy Director of the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council Zhang Xiaoming visit Macao to talk with representatives from various sectors. They explain to the attendants the Standing Committee's decision on allowing appropriate amendments to the methods of selecting the Chief Executive and forming the Legislative Assembly, and listen to participants' views on Macao's constitutional development.

- 4 Vice-President and member of the CPC Politburo Standing Committee Xi Jinping meets with Hong Kong and Macao members of Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and raised three requirements – to accurately grasp the current domestic and international economic trend to continuously strengthen the international competitiveness of Hong Kong and Macao; deepen mutually beneficial cooperation among mainland China, Hong Kong and Macao to achieve synergies and cooperative development; and actively promote social cohesion regarding the macroeconomic situation and rational communication to maintain social harmony and stability in Hong Kong and Macao.

Chief Executive Chui Sai On departs for Beijing to attend the opening ceremony of the Fifth session of the 11th National People's Congress.

- 5 Premier Wen Jiabao delivers his government work report and stresses that the Central People's Government will continue to support Macao's economic development to improve people's livelihoods and promote democracy, to participate in international and regional economic cooperation, to build a world-class tourism and leisure centre, and to develop a diverse economy.

Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets with Secretary of the CPC Guangdong Provincial Committee, Wang Yang, to discuss the feasibility of opening an additional border crossing between Guangdong and Macao and extending the operating hours of the Border Gate and Gongbei checkpoints.

- 8 Chief Executive Chui Sai On pays a courtesy call on Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi. Yang recognises Macao's achievements in social and economic development, and states that the central government will continue to support Macao to participate in work related to regional and international economic forums.

10 A new round of consultation on constitutional development starts and will end on 23 April, spanning a period of 45 days. During the period, 10 consultation sessions will be held to gather public views on Macao's constitutional development.

14 The Executive Council concludes its discussion of the Bill on Adjustment on Salaries, Pensions and Gratuities of Public Servants. Each point on the civil service salary scale will be raised by four patacas to 66 patacas, an increase of 6.45 percent.

The National People's Congress passes the draft law on the method of electing representatives from the Macao SAR for the 12th National People's Congress. The number of representatives from Macao and the election method remain unchanged.

19 The Government promulgates the Law Governing Video Surveillance in Public Places, which comes into effect on 19 April.

22 The Executive Council announces the draft of the by-law on the Amendment to the SME Assistance Scheme, which will raise the maximum limit of a support loan from 500,000 patacas to 600,000 patacas.

23 The Dynamic Macao Business and Trade Fair opens in Hefei, Anhui province. This event aims to promote Macao's business and tourism environment, showcase Macao's branded products and services, and enhance mainland people's knowledge and understanding of Macao.

26 The Government promulgates the by-law on the Reservation of Land for Use by the People's Liberation Army Macao Garrison. A piece of land of 18,858 square metres located at the east of PLA's Taipa barracks is designated as a military site.

27 The Government injects 50 million US dollars into the Cooperation and Development Fund between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries. The initial plan is for the fund to register in the Cayman Islands and seek a capital injection in 2012.

28 The Government issues the Interim Report of Macao's deliberative polling: "Amendment of the Press Law and Broadcasting Law".

Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets with Vice Minister Jiang Zengwei of the Ministry of Commerce to exchange views on the promotion and establishment of a trading and commercial cooperation service platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries.

29 Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets with Science and Technology Minister Wan Gang, Vice-President of Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, and exchanges views on promoting environmental protection and the development of the green sector.

The 2012 Macao International Environmental Cooperation Forum and Exhibition opens.

April

1 Chief Executive Chui Sai On attends the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2012 in

Hainan province.

- 2 The Government's interdepartmental task force takes action to recover a 3,800-square-metre plot of land near Hac Sa Village, Coloane. Together with adjacent plots of land recovered in the past three years, a single 25,600-square-metre lot can be created.
- 4 Gongbei Customs seizes the largest ever haul of smuggled photographic equipment in China, with a market value of over 400 million yuan. The case involves at least one Macao resident.
- 12 Chief Executive Chui Sai On leads a government delegation to Guangzhou and Jiangmen to attend the "Macao Week" event held in the two cities, a major tourism promotional programme launched in Guangdong province.

The Executive Council concludes the discussion of the draft of the by-law on the Wealth Partaking Scheme for 2012. The Government, starting from 24 April, distributes to more than 542,000 permanent residents and 70,000 non-permanent residents a total of over 4.12 billion patacas.

Guangdong and Macao sign a collaborative communication agreement on the supply of water from Zhuhai to Macao.

- 16 The third phase of trials in the corruption cases involving former Secretary for Transport and Public Works Ao Man Long begins in the Court of Final Appeal.
- 19 The Marine and Water Bureau approves three new maritime passenger transport routes utilising the temporary Taipa Ferry Terminal.
- 20 The Government and the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the MSAR jointly hold a press briefing. Director of the liaison office Bai Zhijian, Deputy Secretary-General of the National People's Congress Standing Committee and Director of the Committee for the Basic Law of the Macao SAR and the Hong Kong SAR Qiao Xiaoyang present their reports at the conference. The conference is attended by Chief Executive Chui Sai On and Vice Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference Edmund Ho Hau Wah.

Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets with a delegation led by Hebei Provincial Party Committee Secretary and Director of the Standing Committee of Hebei Provincial People's Congress Zhang Qingli to discuss further strengthening of exchanges and cooperation.

To combat petty smuggling and facilitate smooth cross-border movement of travellers, dedicated immigration counters are provided at the Gongbei, Hengqin and Wanzai border checkpoints to handle travellers who cross the border more than once a day and strictly implement inspection of their hand-carry luggage.

- 22 The open call for tenders for the batch of 200 new eight-year taxi licences concludes. More than 2,000 tenders are received. The successful bidding prices range from about 830,000 patacas to over 1.1 million patacas.

- 26 Chief Executive Chui Sai On attends a question-and-answer session at the Legislative Assembly to respond to members' concerns about the government's administration and social issues. The Chief Executive says that the Government plans to inject 10 billion patacas into the Social Security Fund in the next two years to ensure its sustainable operation.
- 30 A Buddha's parietal-bone relic worshipping ceremony is held in Macao.

May

- 2 The Executive Council concludes the discussion of the Basic Law Annex I "Amendment to the Methods of Selecting the Chief Executive of the Macao SAR (Draft)" and Annex II "Amendment to the Methods of Forming the Legislative Assembly of the Macao SAR (Draft)", and submits the bills to the Legislative Assembly for deliberation.
- 3 The Government starts a 60-day public consultation on its Public Housing Development Strategy (2011-2020).
- 6 The Authority of Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge and the Civil Engineering Laboratory of Macao sign a contract for the concrete certification of the island and tunnel of the main part of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge. The laboratory is commissioned to test and certify that the concrete used for the main part of the Bridge meets strength and durability requirements.
- 8 The Legislative Assembly passes the first reading of the Basic Law Annex I "Amendment to the Methods of Selecting the Chief Executive of the Macao SAR (Draft)", and passes the first reading of Annex II "Amendment to the Methods of Forming the Legislative Assembly of the Macao SAR (Draft)" the following day.
- 10 The Bill on Additional Remuneration for Public Security Forces and Services (so-called dangerous duty allowance) and the Food Safety Law pass their first readings in the plenary session of the Legislative Assembly.
- 11 Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Cheong U visits Taipei and pays a courtesy call on Lai Shin-Yuan, Director of Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council.
- 13 The Government officially opens its Taipei Economic and Cultural Office.
- 14 CTM's 3G mobile phone network fails again. Services in numerous districts on the Macao peninsula are interrupted.
- 15 At the 2012 Guangdong-Macao Cooperation Joint Conference, Guangdong and Macao sign five agreements: Implementation of the major tasks in 2012 under the Framework Agreement on Cooperation Between Guangdong and Macao, Guangdong-Macao New Cross-border Route Cooperation Framework Agreement, Leasing Contract of Land Use Right for State-owned Infrastructure, Guangdong-Macao Standard Work Task Force Cooperation Agreement

and Memorandum on Guangdong-Macao Tourism Cooperation.

- 17 Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets Li Zhaoxing, Honorary Chairman of the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA), Chairman of the NPC Foreign Affairs Committee and former Minister of Foreign Affairs, to exchange views on the current international situation.
- 19 The LRT community liaison station in Taipa officially commences operation. The liaison station immediately begins to receive and process public opinion on the LRT project.
- 21 The Seac Pai Van Lot CN3 Home-Ownership Scheme Housing Project is named Koi Nga Building, which provides 1,824 residential units. The Housing Bureau launches the presale from 11 June 2012, at an average selling price of 1,137 patacas per square foot.
- 22 The Chinese Academy of Social Sciences releases its China Urban Competitiveness Blue Book 2012 with Macao ranked 13th among 294 cities.
- 23 Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Chinese Estates Group Joseph Lau is indicted by Macao's Public Prosecution Office for bribery and money laundering. The case is transferred to the Court of First Instance for trial.
- 24 The Government announces the planning of the first public housing project of its "post-19,000 units" public housing programme. Located at Lot 1 and 2 of Bairro da Ilha Verde, the project will provide more than 2,300 residential units.

The Transport Bureau imposes a fine of 50,000 patacas on Reolian Public Transport Company Limited for service delays. This is the first penalty case since the implementation of the new bus service model.
- 26 Chief Executive Chui Sai On leads a government delegation to Beijing and Sichuan for the first China (Beijing) International Service Trade Fair, and the project completion ceremony of the Aoyuan Sports Centre held in Guangyuan, Sichuan.
- 27 Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets with Minister of Commerce Chen Deming to exchange views on the development of the exhibition industry, supplies of material to Macao and the role of Macao as a service platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries.
- 28 Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets with Secretary of the CPC Sichuan Provincial Committee and Director of the Standing Committee of the Sichuan Provincial People's Congress Liu Qibao. Through post-disaster reconstruction projects in Sichuan, it is hoped that both parties would establish a strong communication mechanism and platform for more extensive cooperation in the future.
- 29 The Government launches guidelines on anti-theft and safety facilities for buildings but stresses that the guidelines do not imply that the Government will "legalise" unlawful structures and will not tolerate illegal structures.
- 31 Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets with Vice Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference Li Jinhua to exchange views on promoting the development of culture and the arts in Macao and giving full play to the cultural characteristics of Macao.

The verdict in the third phase of the corruption trials of Ao Man Long is pronounced by the Court of Final Appeal. He is found guilty on all nine charges. Ao Man Long is sentenced to a single term of 29 years of imprisonment, a fine, and the confiscation of all his unlawfully gained properties.

The Bill on the Legal System of Commitment to Title Transfer of Buildings Under Construction (that is, the bill on the system regarding transactions relating to off-plan properties) passes its first reading in the plenary session of the Legislative Assembly.

June

- 1 To comply with the Bill on Amending the Legal System of Copyright and Related Rights, six public antenna companies stop transmitting more than a dozen satellite TV channels with immediate effect.
- 4 The Government announces that among a total of 19,260 public housing flats, there are 10,064 public housing units and 9,196 Home-Ownership Scheme housing units, proportions of 52.25 percent and 47.75 percent respectively.
- 5 The resolutions on the “Amendment to the Methods of Selecting the Chief Executive of the Macao SAR (Draft)” and “Amendment to the Methods of Forming the Legislative Assembly of the Macao SAR (Draft) pass their second reading in the plenary session of the Legislative Assembly, thus concluding the third step of the five-step process of Macao’s constitutional development.
- 6 Chief Executive Chui Sai On signs his assent to the two draft amendment bills, and formally submits them to the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress for approval or filing, thus concluding the fourth step of the five-step process of Macao’s constitutional development.
- 8 Macao and Hong Kong customs smash a copyright infringing video website that has been active in Asia for almost 10 years. The website is found to have been operated and managed in Macao via servers in Hong Kong. This is the first case successfully resolved since the Amendment to the Legal System of Copyright and Related Rights law came into effect earlier in June.
- 9 Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets with Dr José Cesário, Portuguese Secretary of State for Portuguese Communities.
- 11 Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets with Vice Chairman of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference Li Wuwei to exchange views on optimising Macao’s advantages, promoting the development of cultural and creative industries, in order to promote a reasonable degree of economic diversity.
- 12 Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets with John Tsang, Financial Secretary of the Hong Kong SAR, to exchange views on promoting further cooperation between the cities.

The Fifth Hong Kong Macao Co-operation High Level Meeting is held in Macao. Both parties believe that the existing cooperation and communication mechanisms are effective and both agree to continue to actively promote and deepen cooperation in various fields to realise complementary advantages and common development.

- 13 The LRT holds a groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of the LRT Cotai Section and Taipa Terminal Section, setting in motion the construction of all LRT projects for the Taipa Section.
- 16 Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets with Secretary of the CPC Guangdong Provincial Committee, Wang Yang. They review the interim results of Guangdong-Macao cooperation. Both parties agree to interact even more closely in the future and work together to promote more extensive and in-depth cooperation between Guangdong and Macao, and develop innovative forms of cooperation to achieve mutual benefits and common goals.
- 17 The Government holds a briefing to introduce the details of the study of the redevelopment plan of the west side of Rua dos Navegantes in the old town of Coloane.
- 19 Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets with Sergey S. Razov, Russian Ambassador in China, to discuss the promotion of tourism, bilateral trade, cultural exchange and education cooperation.

The results of the second phase of public consultation on the Master Plan for Macao's New Districts are announced. After consolidation and analysis of 232 opinion submissions, the task force proposes to preserve the existing Outer Harbour Ferry Terminal. The new reclamation area will not reserve land for the construction of a ferry terminal.

- 21 The Commission of Audit releases a value-for-money audit report on the disbursement of sponsorships by the Macao Foundation to local organisations. The report points out that the foundation does not fully comply with internal regulations on funding approval, and that the regulatory risks would increase if investigation and auditing of the organisations' accounts are only limited to review and brief analysis of the written accounts submitted by the organisations.

Chief Executive Chui Sai On inspects the construction site of the new Taipa Ferry Terminal to learn about the progress of the expansion project of the main terminal building.

- 22 The Bill on the Amendment to the Criminal Procedural Code passes its first reading in the plenary session of the Legislative Assembly.

The Bill on Additional Remuneration for Public Security Forces and Services passes its second reading in the plenary session of the Legislative Assembly.

The Executive Council concludes its discussion of the draft of the by-law on Adjustment of Additional Remuneration for Criminal Investigative Officers of the Judicial Police.

- 25 Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao jointly publish the Regional Cooperation Plan on Building a Quality Living Area. The publication points out that the three parties should further strengthen cooperation to develop more convenient and integrated cross-border

transport services, and move towards gradually achieving urban integration of traffic flows between Guangdong, Hong Kong, Macao and adjacent regions.

- 26 The General Administration of Customs announces its opinion on supporting the opening and development of the Hengqin New Area, establishing the framework for the open development of Hengqin Island. The new area will implement a border management model that has “first-line” and “second-line” control points, to allow Hong Kong and Macao citizens to conveniently work, live and travel in Hengqin.
- 29 The Government announces that it has received applications for bus fare adjustment from three bus service companies and that it has approved these in accordance with the contract provisions. The calculations and analysis of consolidated data show that the average increment in unit prices of various services is about 23 percent.
- 30 The 27th session of the 11th Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress passes by majority vote the draft bill on the Amendment to the Methods for Selecting the Chief Executive of Macao submitted by Chief Executive Chui Sai On for approval, and passes by unanimous vote the draft bill on the Amendment to the Methods for Forming the Legislative Assembly submitted for filing.

President Hu Jintao meets with Chief Executive Chui Sai On. Hu appreciates the present situation of Macao and the performance of the Macao SAR government, and expects the SAR government to work even better in all aspects, in particular to attach high importance to people’s livelihoods and to achieve further progress in various areas.

July

- 1 The Government raises the minimum subsistence index by five percent. The amount for single-occupier households is increased to more than 3,300 patacas, while a series of allowances and subsidies relating to the minimum subsistence index will also be raised accordingly.

Hong Kong North West Express Limited suddenly announces suspension of all services between Tuen Mun and Macao due to a mechanical failure in its passenger vessels. The Maritime Administration opens an investigation of the case.

- 2 The Mainland and Macao sign the ninth supplementary protocol of the Mainland China and Macao Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA), which comes into effect on 1 January 2013.

Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets with Vice Minister Jiang Yaoping of the Ministry of Commerce to exchange views on further implementation of CEPA, facilitating Macao’s integration into regional cooperation initiatives, and the realisation of complementary advantages and mutual benefits.

- 3 Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets with Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Cui Tiankai to

exchange views on the further development of Macao's foreign relations and continued exchanges regarding various aspects of cooperation with Portuguese-speaking countries.

- 4 Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets with Governor of Fujian Province Su Shulin, to exchange views on deepening cooperation at all levels.

Deputy Commissioner of the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in the Macao SAR Feng Tie assumes office.

- 5 Chief Executive Chui Sai On issues an Executive Order to promulgate the decision of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress to pass the bill on the amendment to Annex I of the Macao Basic Law – the Methods for Selecting the Chief Executive, and the circular of putting on record the bill on the Amendment to Annex II of the Macao Basic Law – the Methods for Forming the Legislative Assembly. The two amendment bills are approved by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and come into effect upon the date of promulgation.
- 6 The Government announces the second “post-19,000 units” public housing project – Taipa Northeast Road Public Housing Estate, which will provide about 694 residential units upon completion.
- 7 Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets with the delegation led by Portuguese Minister of State and Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Paulo Sacadura Cabral Portas to discuss strengthening and deepening cooperation between Portugal and Macao. The two parties exchange views on the role played by Macao in the development of relations between China and Portugal, and as a service platform for business cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking countries.
- 9 The Executive Council concludes its discussion of the draft laws of the amendment to the Chief Executive Electoral Law and Legislative Assembly Electoral Law and will submit them to the Legislative Assembly for deliberation.
- 10 Registration for committee members for the election of Macao representatives for the 12th National People's Congress begins. About 50 eligible persons complete their registration either in person or by representatives to become electoral committee members.
- 11 The Government suspends the administrative process regarding the adjustment of bus fares and asks the three bus companies to improve their services. Only when they have met the related requirements will the administrative process resume.

The Government implements the new Law Governing Video Surveillance in Public Places. The Secretary for Security approves the installation of over 1,350 surveillance cameras at all cross-border checkpoints, the Lotus Square, the Guia Lighthouse, and the offices of Public Security Police, Judicial Police and Macao Customs.

- 12 Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets with Governor of Yunnan Province Li Jiheng to discuss deepening cooperation at all levels and improving the functioning of Macao's role as a commercial and trading platform for Portuguese-speaking countries.

- 13 Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets with Vice Minister and International Trade Representative of the Ministry of Commerce Gao Hucheng. The two parties exchange views on the implementation of liberalisation of trade in services and the promotion of continuous development of the local conference and exhibition industry.
- 16 Chief Executive Chui Sai On visits Beijing to meet with Minister of Public Security Meng Jianzhu, Minister of General Administration of Customs Yu Guangzhou and Minister of General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) Zhi Shuping to exchange views with relevant central ministries on the establishment of the new Guangdong-Macao cross-border checkpoints.

Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets with Vice Minister Zhong Shan of the Ministry of Commerce to discuss how to ensure the supply and safety of agricultural products from mainland China to Macao and the exploration of more extensive resources to support moderate diversification of Macao's economy.

The Bill on the Amendment to Chief Executive Electoral Law and the Bill on the Amendment to Legislative Assembly Electoral Law pass their first readings in the plenary session of the Legislative Assembly.

- 19 About 30 metres of support structures of the Hengqin section of the riverbed tunnel at the new campus of the University of Macau collapses. No casualties are reported in this incident.
- 23 Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets with Cape Verde Prime Minister José Maria Pereira Neves and his delegation.

The Government adjusts the Old-age Allowance to 6,000 patacas per year.

- 24 Typhoon Vicente hits Macao and the typhoon signal number 9 is hoisted. The typhoon blows for more than 10 hours and causes various levels of damage at locations all over the Macao peninsula and Taipa and Coloane islands.
- 26 Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets with Chairman of the Guangzhou Political Consultative Conference Su Zhijia.

Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets with Vice Minister of Culture and Director of State Administration of Cultural Heritage Li Xiaojie to exchange views on the relationship between urban development and heritage protection.
- 27 The Government signs a 25-year public franchise contract for natural gas distribution with Nam Kwong Natural Gas Company Limited. Nam Kwong is required to complete a natural gas trunk network covering all areas of Macao in three phases within five years.
- 30 The Commission of Audit (CA) announces its special audit report on the Preparatory Committee for the Participation of Macao in the Shanghai World Expo, in which the CA reveals that there is room for improvement in the financial management of the preparation committee for not using a scientific method to estimate at the beginning of the project the expenses needed for Macao's participation in the World Expo.

The boundary coordinates of the Hengqin campus of the University of Macau are confirmed.

The *Macao SAR Gazette* publishes the State Council's approval of the area of the new Hengqin campus of the University of Macau.

- 31 The construction of the Zhuhai link road for the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge commences. With a total length of 13.4 kilometres, the cost of the project is estimated at 9.15 billion yuan. This link road is expected to be completed in 2016 simultaneously with the completion of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge.

August

- 1 The central recruitment system holds its first examination to recruit 128 technical support staff to be deployed to 30 government departments.
Vice Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference Edmund Ho Hau Wah leads a Macao CPPCC delegation to Xinjiang for a seven-day visit.
- 6 The bill on the Conditions of Entering, Staying and Gaming in Casinos passes its second reading in the plenary session of the Legislative Assembly. The regulations take effect on 1 November prohibiting persons under 21 years old from entering, gaming or working in casinos.
- 7 The first phase of the Taipa transport hub project breaks ground. At a construction cost of 900 million patacas, the hub is expected to be completed in 2014.
- 8 Chief Executive Chui Sai On visits Jiangmen in Guangdong to attend the cornerstone-laying ceremony for the theme project "Promoting cooperation in the modern service industry between Guangdong and Macao to develop China's green lighting city".
- 9 The Government makes disclosures to the Committee to Review the Public Financial Affairs of the Legislative Assembly that the current total fiscal reserve and foreign exchange reserve is 290 billion patacas.
- 10 Chief Executive Chui Sai On announces several relief measures at a question-and-answer session at the Legislative Assembly. To ensure the normal operation of the Social Security Fund, the Government plans to inject, year by year, a total of 37 billion patacas into the fund from 2013 to 2016.
- 11 Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets with the delegation led by Chang Rongjun, Executive Vice Chairman of China Soong Ching Ling Foundation, to exchange views on long-term cooperation supporting China to improve the livelihoods and education of people in poor regions.
- 15 The Government publishes in the *Macao SAR Gazette* an announcement that the land grant contract of five plots of land on Wai Long Avenue and Estrada da Ponta da Cabrita of Taipa, which was approved in 2006, is invalid as the transfer of land rights involves illegal activities.

- 16 Guangdong and Macao police conclude their one-month “Thunderbolt 12”, in which Macao police smash two cross-border theft gangs and two rings of con men, involving a total amount of more than 100 million patacas.
- 19 The special lane for motorcycles at the Sai Van Bridge officially opens.
- 21 The Home-Ownership Scheme housing flats at Edificio Ip Heng in Seac Pai Van go on sale for the first day. The Housing Bureau arranges for 61 families to choose their three-bedroom apartments. However, less than 30 percent of the families show up to choose their flats, while the others abandon their right.
- 26 Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets with China’s delegation of gold medalists in the London Olympic Games led by the State Administration of Sport, Liu Peng, and congratulates them on their success.
- 29 The bill on the Amendment to Law No. 3/2004 (Chief Executive Electoral Law) and the bill on the Amendment to Law No. 3/2001 (Legislative Assembly Electoral Law) pass their second reading in the plenary session of the Legislative Assembly, marking the completion of the five-step amendment process of the methods for selecting the Chief Executive and the methods for forming the Legislative Assembly.
- 30 The bill on Central Provident Fund Individual Accounts and the bill on the General System for Legal Aid pass their second readings in the plenary session of the Legislative Assembly.
- 31 Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets with the visiting delegation that organised “China’s First Manned Spacecraft Rendezvous and Docking Exhibition” in Macao. They exchange views on how to strengthen young students’ knowledge of aerospace technology and enhance their understanding of China’s aerospace development.

The deliberative polling work for collecting opinions from the public and the media on the amendment to the Press Law and the Broadcasting Law is completed.

September

- 1 The Government sets up the Protocol, Public Relations and External Affairs Office to handle protocol matters and consulate affairs not related to foreign policy.
- 5 The Government announces the commencement of administrative procedures to invalidate the land grant of eight plots of land following the invalidation of five plots of land opposite to the airport.
- 6 The Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) publishes its investigation report on the complaints about the LRT route passing through Rua de Londres and Rua do Porto. It states that the handling methods and procedures of the Transportation Infrastructure Office for approving and decision making on the design of the LRT are inappropriate.

The Commission of Audit releases its audit report on the second phase of the LRT construction. It states that the estimated construction cost of 11 billion patacas announced

in 2012 is already over budget.

The Government receives an application from Northwest Express Limited to terminate its regular maritime passenger transportation services licence. Next day, the company officially announces termination of services, after operating the ferry service for less than a year and a half.

- 7 The Environmental Protection Bureau releases the final version of Macao's Environmental Protection Conceptual Planning (2010-2020).

The Macao and Taiwan Relations Forum 2012 opens in Taipei. Focusing on tourism, cultural and creative education and economics and trade, the forum helps further develop the relationship between Macao and Taiwan and leverages Macao's role as a bridge between the mainland and Taiwan.

- 8 Chief Executive Chui Sai On sends a letter to the Central People's Government indicating that the Macao SAR will provide full support in the disaster relief work for the Yunnan earthquake.

- 9 The "Global Tourism Economy Forum – Macao 2012", the first such event, opens in Macao.

At the event, Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets with Vice Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CCPCC) and President of All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce Huang Mengfu, Governor of Gansu Province Liu Weiping, Secretary-General of the United Nations World Tourism Organization Taleb Rifai, Vice Chairman of the CCPCC Ablet Abdurishit, Thailand Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Tourism of Thailand Chumpol Silpa-archa and Portuguese Minister of Economy and Employment Álvaro Santos Pereira.

- 10 The Chief Executive, Mr Chui Sai On, met today with the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Mr Sha Zukang, and the Chairman of National Tourism Administration, Mr Shao Qi Wei, who are in Macao taking part in the Global Tourism Economy Forum.

- 17 The case involving Hong Kong businessmen Joseph Lau and Steven Lo who are accused of bribing Ao Man Long is scheduled to go on trial today. However, as the Chairperson of Collegial Panel Alice Leonor das Neves Costa is not feeling well, the court announces the postponement of the trial to 7 January 2013.

The Government signs with the Chinese Academy of Governance the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the Macao Special Administrative Region Government and the Chinese Academy of Governance to strengthen and expand the existing good cooperative relations and further deepen bilateral cooperation and exchanges.

- 19 Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets with Hong Kong SAR Chief Secretary for Administration Carrie Lam to exchange views on strengthening the Macao-Hong Kong relationship and cooperation in tourism.

The Government Information Bureau decides to give legislative priority to the amendment to the Press Law based on the principle of "limited to deletion only", that is to delete

controversial provisions of the Press Council and Code of Practice for Journalists, while suspending the amendment to the Broadcasting Law.

- 21 The Ministry of Commerce and the Macao Government signs an agreement to strengthen cooperation within the conference and exhibition industry. It provides for policy support, the nurturing of brand exhibitions in Macao, promoting coordinated development of the conference and exhibition industry in Macao and Hengqin, and establishing a cooperative working group of the conference and exhibition industry to coordinate and manage mainland exhibitors participating in Macao events.
- 24 Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets with Secretary of the CPC Zhuhai Committee Li Jia to review and share views on the joint development between Macao and Zhuhai and the development of Hengqin Island.
- 25 The Government's interdepartmental task force recovers two adjoining plots of land located between Rua de Choi Long and Beco da Sorte of a total area of about 3,000 square metres. The lot is now reserved for construction of "post-19,000 units" public housing.

The Government injects 6,000 patacas into the individual central savings accounts of each eligible resident.
- 26 Chief Executive Chui Sai On leads a government delegation to Beijing to attend the first Beijing-Macao Economic and Trade Exchange Fair.

The Executive Council concludes the draft by-law on the "Deposit Protection Fund" and the "Limit of Compensation of the Deposit Protection Scheme".

The Executive Council concludes its discussion of the draft bill of the by-law on Extension of the Period of Temporary Subsidies for Families on the Waiting List for Public Housing, which extends the implementation period of the scheme for one year, until 31 August 2013, and adjusts the subsidy amount and lowers the income limits appropriately.
- 27 Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets with Secretary of the CPC Beijing Municipal Committee Guo Jinlong and Deputy Secretary and Acting Mayor of Beijing Wang Anshun. The two parties agree to strengthen cooperation in economics and trade, culture and other fields, with particular commitment to a joint effort by Beijing and Macao to the promotion of trade with Portuguese-speaking countries.
- 29 Macao records 11 confirmed local dengue fever cases in total. The Government launches the third-level contingency plan (epidemic) against dengue fever. The main tasks include expanding the scope of mosquito elimination and stepping up publicity to mobilise the public to join hands in eliminating mosquito breeding sources.

October

- 1 The Government holds a series of activities to celebrate the 63rd anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

- 8 Gongbei Customs cracks a smuggling case involving a gang of frequent travellers smuggling laptop computers across the border. Two of the group are Macao residents and the total sum involved is 140 million yuan.
- 10 A main structural pile of Sin Fong Garden Carpark in Patane suddenly cracks causing damage to corridors on the upper floors. The Lands, Public Works and Transport Bureau verifies that the building poses a risk and immediately seals off the building. About 200 residents are affected.
- 11 Chief Executive Chui Sai On calls an interdepartmental meeting and pays a visit to Sin Fong Garden emphasising that the safety of residents is of first priority. Another meeting is held on 15 October to review the follow up work, and to further assess possible scenarios and derive a comprehensive plan for contingency action.
- 12 The Government announces eight new policies to raise the cost of real estate speculation in order to lower the potential impact of an asset bubble.
- 15 The Law of Central Provident Fund Individual Accounts comes into effect.
- 16 The Executive Council concludes its discussion of the draft bill of Amendment to Law No. 6/2011 “Special Stamp Duty on Transfer of Immovable Property for Residential Purposes” and “Stamp Duty Regulations”.
The Executive Council concludes its discussion of the draft bill of Amendment to Law No. 21/2009 “Law of Employment of Non-resident Workers”.
- 17 A system failure occurs in the HGC (Macao) mobile telephone network. The service is disrupted for nearly seven hours affecting about 30,000 users.
- 18 The 17th Macao International Trade and Investment Fair opens with over 1,800 exhibition booths, an increase of nine percent over the previous year.
The Real Estate Agency Law passes its second reading in the plenary session of the Legislative Assembly, and the Cultural Heritage Protection Law passes its first reading in the same session.
- 20 The Ninth World Summit of Chinese Entrepreneurs opens. The event is attended by 1,700 representatives from Chinese enterprises visiting Macao to explore soft power application and competition around the world.
- 22 Block Three of Edificio Koi Fu Garden is classified as a dangerous building by the Lands, Public Works and Transport Bureau and is required to be demolished within the specified time limit.
- 24 The bill on the Amendment to Law No. 6/2011 “Special Stamp Duty on Transfer of Immovable Property for Residential Purposes” and “Stamp Duty Regulations” pass their first and second readings under the emergency procedures of the Legislative Assembly.
- 25 Zhuhai and Macao reach consensus on the unified arrangement to extend the opening hours for cross-border tourist and cargo customs clearance at Hengqin checkpoint.
- 26 The Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) announces the results of public consultation

on the Sai Van Lake Square Integrated Tourism Project, and designs a new plan in response to comments made by advisory bodies and the general public as well as the results of the environmental impact assessment. Public opinion is divided over the new plan, and the Government decides to extend the consultation period and continue to listen to the voices of the public.

- 30 The by-law on Regulations on the Requirements in the Smoking Areas of Casinos takes effect.

November

- 1 The Law on Conditions for Entering, Working and Gaming in casinos comes into effect. Persons under 21 years old are prohibited from entering casinos.

The Government announces a consultation paper on the Population Policy Framework of the Macao SAR. The public consultation period starts from 3 November and will last three months.

- 5 The Commission of Audit publishes a value-for-money audit report on the Continuing Education Development Plan. It states that the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau is deficient, to varying degrees, in execution, management and supervision.
- 6 Chief Executive Chui Sai On has a courtesy meeting with President of Olympic Council of Asia H.H. Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah to exchange views on sports promotion and tourism development.
- 13 Chief Executive Chui Sai On delivers his policy address for the fiscal year 2013 in the Legislative Assembly. Entitled “Enhance the Well-being of Society and Prepare for Long-term Development”, the policy address announces the continuation of a series of measures to promote the people’s well-being.
- 15 The 59th Macau Grand Prix kicks off. Sadly, two foreign drivers die in separate accidents during the two-day event.
- 19 The bill authorising the Macao SAR’s jurisdiction over the new campus of the University of Macau on Hengqin Island passes its first reading in the plenary session of the Legislative Assembly.

The Government’s budget for 2013 passes its first reading in the plenary session of the Legislative Assembly. The Government conservatively forecasts a total revenue of 134.8 billion patacas, of which 92.4 billion patacas comes from the main source – Special Gaming Tax. The total expenditure of the 2013 budget reaches 82.5 billion patacas, representing an increase of 6.7 percent as compared with 2012.

- 20 Hengqin New Area introduces its first sale listing of commercial land specifically for Macao businesses. Of an area over 30,000 square metres, the land is offered at an auction reserve price of about 250 million yuan.

- 21 The Executive Council concludes its discussion of the draft by-law on the Supply System and Requirements on Gaming Machines, Equipment and Systems.
- 23 The Government decides to extend the expiry date of 2G services to 4 June 2015.
- 27 The Housing Bureau arranges families according to the waiting list for selection of the first batch of Home-ownership Scheme housing units of Ching Yi Building.
- 28 A Macao economic and trade delegation of 70 members visits Haikou in Hainan Province to participate in the opening and contract signing ceremony of the Eighth Pan-Pearl River Delta Regional Cooperation and Development Forum. Six project agreements are signed between Macao enterprises and other provinces at this year's event.
- 30 The Executive Council concludes its discussion of the bill of the Land Law. It is recommended that land concession must be conducted in open tender under normal circumstances, but also sets exceptions.

December

- 2 The first central recruitment examination for civil service positions commences. The examination on general knowledge is held simultaneously in 19 venues. Among the 14,000 candidates, 74 percent sit for the examination.
- 4 The Government announces to temporarily adopt a flood control and drainage approach by setting up a 2.3-metre-high flood prevention wall from Barra to Patane Market by the Harbour Building to prevent influx of sea water, and plans to establish two flood control drainage zones at the north and south ends to drain floodwater.
- 5 The Government announces the upward adjustment of the social security contributions level. It is initially proposed, in the coming four years, to adjust in three phases the ratio of the employee's and employer's contributions from 1:2 to 1:1.
- 11 The presidium of the election of representatives of the 12th Macao National People's Congress confirms the eligibility of 15 Macao candidates.
- 13 The 2013 fiscal year budget passes its second reading in the plenary session of the Legislative Assembly. The total revenue of the Government in 2013 is estimated at more than 134.8 billion patacas, while the total expenditure is estimated to be more than 82.5 billion patacas.
- 14 Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets with Dr Shin Young-soo, Western Pacific Regional Director of the World Health Organization. Both parties agree to continue supporting and cooperating with each other in disease prevention and control as well as in other areas.

The First Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly concludes detailed discussion of the bill of Amendment to Law No. 11/2003 (Declaration of Incomes and Properties). The committee signs the submission of opinions and proposes to rename it the Law of Declaration of Properties and Interests.

- 17 The second plenary meeting of the election assembly of the 12th Macao National People's Congress votes for the 12 new Macao National People's Congress representatives.
- 18 The Executive Council concludes its discussion of the draft bill of the Urban Planning Law. The Housing Bureau arranges for the first batch of buyers of reserved Home-Ownership Scheme housing flats at Edf. do Lago to settle their payments and collect the keys to their units.
- 19 The Government plans to extend the Taipa walking system facilities by building an elevated green walkway to provide a comfortable and slow traffic environment in urban Taipa.
- 20 The Government hosts a reception to celebrate the 13th anniversary of the establishment of the Macao Special Administrative Region.

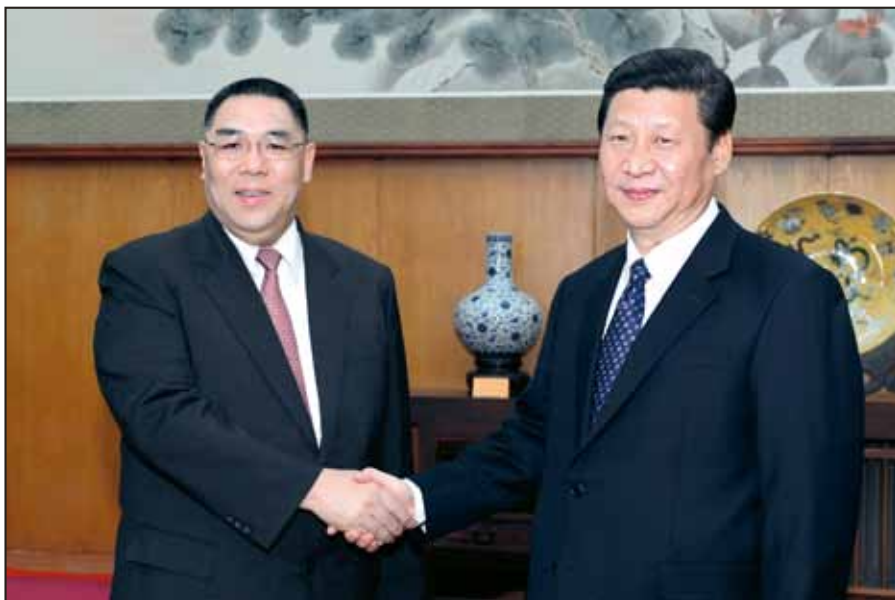
Chief Executive Chui Sai On leaves for Beijing on a duty visit.

The new General Secretary of the Communist Party and Vice President of the People's Republic of China Xi Jinping meets with Chief Executive Chui Sai On. Xi Jinping recognises the efforts of Chui Sai On and the Government. He emphasises that the Central People's Government major policies on Hong Kong and Macao after the 18th National People's Congress will remain unchanged, and is confident that Macao will enjoy an even better future.

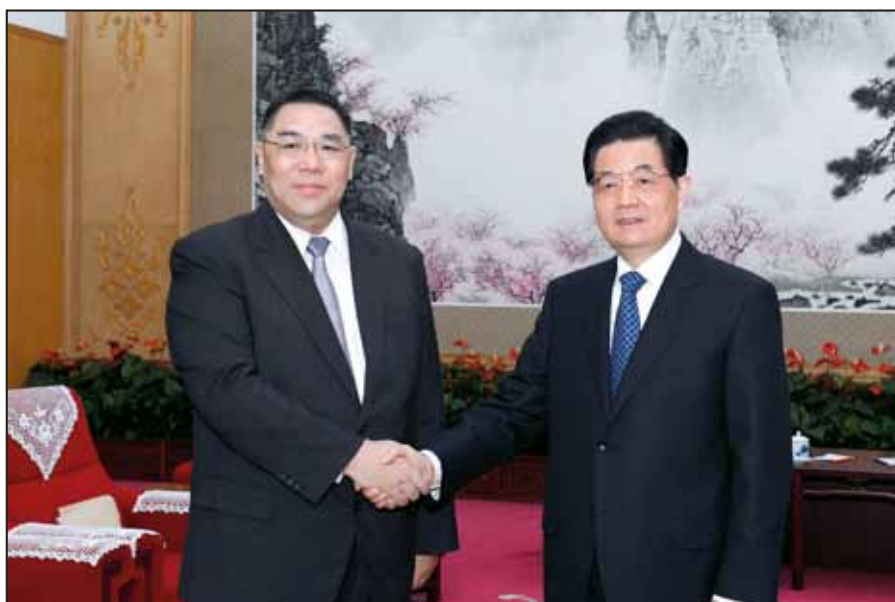
"Parade through Macao, Latin City", one of the activities to celebrate the 13th anniversary of Macao's return to the motherland, is held in Macao, with the participation of about 2,000 performers and supporting staff from different countries and regions.

- 21 President Hu Jintao meets with Chief Executive Chui Sai On and listens to his report on Macao's current situation and its social and economic development.

Premier Wen Jiabao meets with Chief Executive Chui Sai On and listens to his report on Macao's social and economic development over the past year, as well as the policy priorities for the coming year.
- 23 The pouring of concrete is completed for the first non-navigable span of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, marking the commencement of construction of the main body of the bridge.
- 27 The Government commences its "post-19,000 units" public housing programme. Located at Lot 1 and Lot 2 of Bairro da Ilha Verde, the project will provide more than 2,300 residential units.
- 28 The Bureau of Exit and Entry Administration of the Ministry of Public Security announces the introduction of a new version of the Home Return Permit. The bureau starts accepting applications from 2 January 2013, and the number of the new permit will remain unchanged for the duration of its holder's life.



20 December
General Secretary of the Communist Party Xi Jinping meets with Chief Executive Chui Sai On in Beijing



21 December
President Hu Jintao meets with Chief Executive Chui Sai On and listens to his duty report



21 December
Premier Wen Jiabao meets
with Chief Executive Chui
Sai On and listens to his
duty report



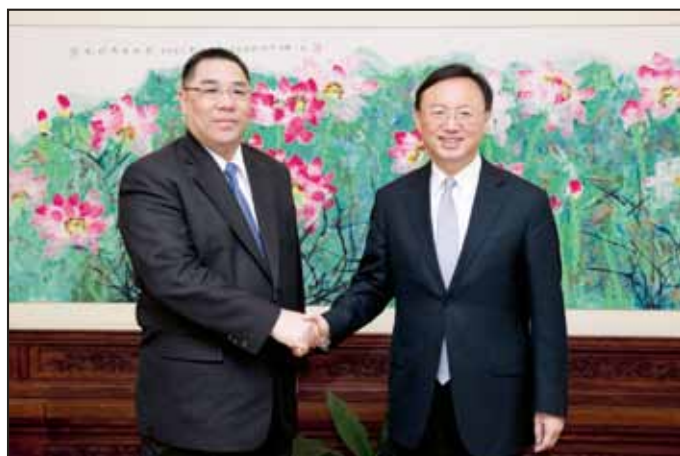
8 January
Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets with EU President José Manuel
Durão Barroso



4 February
Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets with Guangdong Governor Zhu Xiaodan



4 January
Chief Executive Chui Sai On chairs the first forum on constitutional development



8 March
Chief Executive Chui Sai On
meets with Foreign Minister
Yang Jiechi



10 August
Chief Executive Chui
Sai On responds to
questions on government
administration and
social issues at the Q&A
session at the Legislative
Assembly



16 June
Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets with Secretary of the CPC
Guangdong Provincial Committee, Wang Yang



29 August
The bill on the Amendment to Chief Executive Electoral Law and the bill on the Amendment to Legislative Assembly Electoral Law pass their second reading in the plenary session of the Legislative Assembly



13 November
Chief Executive Chui Sai On delivers his policy address for the fiscal year 2013 in the Legislative Assembly

14 December
Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets with Dr Shin Young-soo, Western Pacific Regional Director of the World Health Organization



19 September
The Government Information Bureau holds a press conference to announce the final report on deliberative polling on the amendment to the Press Law and the Broadcasting Law



17 December
The second plenary meeting of the election assembly of the 12th Macao National People's Congress



27 August
China's delegation of gold medalists in the London Olympic Games take a group photo at the Ruins of St Paul's



10 February
The Government holds the 2011
Decorations, Medals and Certificates
of Merit Awards Ceremony

13 August
Shenzhou-9 Space Delegation visits Macao

31 August
Chief Executive Chui Sai On meets
with the visiting delegation that
organised “China’s First Manned
Spacecraft Rendezvous and
Docking Exhibition” in Macao





19 January
Selected families are arranged to choose their Home-Ownership Scheme housing flats at Edf. do Lago



13 June
Macao LRT holds a groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of the LRT Cotai Section and Border-gate Terminal Section



10 October
Chief Executive Chui Sai On pays a visit to understand the situation of Sin Fong Garden



11 October
Chief Executive Chui Sai On calls an interdepartmental meeting for an overall planning of the follow up work at Sin Fong Garden



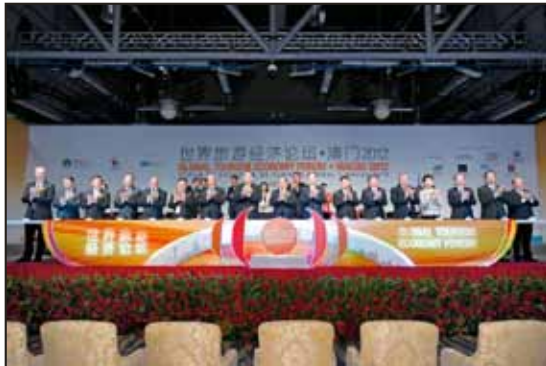
30 April
The Buddha's parietal-bone relic worshipping ceremony opens in Macao



13 May
Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Cheong U officiates at the opening ceremony of the Macao Economic and Cultural Office in Taipei

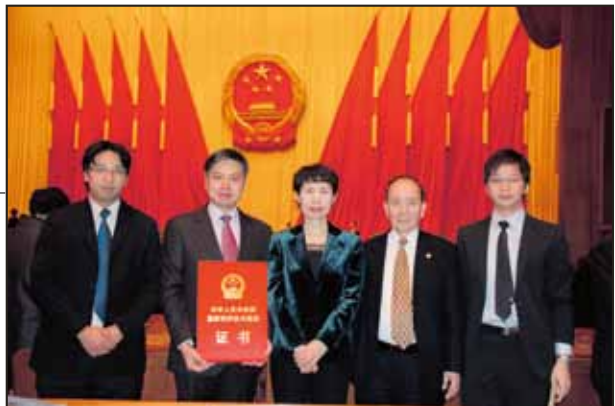


22 February
Chief Executive Chui Sai On inspects construction progress at the new campus of the University of Macau



9 September
The “Global Tourism Economy Forum – Macao 2012”, the first such event, opens in Macao

14 February
The National Science and Technology Award Conference is held in Beijing. A research project in Macao wins Second Prize under the category of State Scientific and Technological Progress Award (Photo: U SENG PAN)





24 July
Typhoon Vicente hits Macao and the typhoon signal number 9 is hoisted



2 December
The first central recruitment examination on general knowledge for civil service positions commences

1 January
The new Tobacco Control Law comes into effect



19 August
The special lane for motorcycles at the Sai Van Bridge opens for trial operation



21 February
Secretary for Transport and Public Works Lau Si Io officiates at the groundbreaking ceremony of the urban Taipa section of the Macao LRT Phase 1