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ECONOMY



Although Macao has a relatively small economy, it pursues an open economic policy. It is one of the two international free ports in China. Goods, capital, foreign exchange and people flow freely in and out of Macao. As a separate customs territory, it boasts one of the lowest tax regimes in the region. Macao is integrated with the global economy and maintains traditional and special economic ties with the European Union (EU) and Portuguese-speaking countries. Consequently, Macao plays a relatively important role in the regional economies and is an important gateway and bridge linking mainland China with international markets.

Investment Incentives

Macao provides a level playing field for investors from around the world. At the same time, the series of measures that have been implemented to encourage investment – including the provision of various tax and financial incentives – have gradually made Macao an ideal place for investors.

Tax Incentives

To promote Macao's long-term economic development, the Government offers tax incentives for projects that benefit the territory's development. Investment plans outlined in applications for these must meet one or more of the following criteria:

- They must promote economic diversity;
- They must contribute to the promotion of exports to new markets;
- They must add value to the production chain; or
- They must contribute to technological modernisation.

Once an application is approved, the applicant or his or her company will be eligible for a number of tax incentives, including:

Full exemption from property tax if the property purchased is to be used for industrial factory purposes. Factories on Macao Peninsula will enjoy an exemption period of up to 10 years, while those on the islands will enjoy an exemption period not exceeding twenty years;

Full exemption from business tax for cases of advance approval, while businesses on the islands will enjoy a basic allowance of 50 percent (excluding offshore banks);

Basic allowance of 50 percent on corporate income tax; and

For any transfer of properties related to industrial purposes, a 50-100 percent

reduction of stamp duty for property transfer may be available.

Financial Incentives

The Interest Subsidy Scheme on Bank Loans to Enterprises aims to encourage locally invested enterprises to increase their investments within their business fields, thereby facilitating diverse local economic activities, enhancing environmental protection, and assisting in technological innovation and transformation, to strengthen competitiveness and modernise business operations. Enterprises that benefit from the scheme enjoy a four percent interest subsidy per year. The maximum period of subsidy is four years, counting from the first day of loan repayments, and the subsidy is calculated according to the outstanding capital in each instalment.

Coverage of Interest Subsidy Scheme in 2017 (as at end of Q4)			
Type of industry	Percentage (%) ⁽¹⁾	Approved subsidy amount (MOP) ⁽²⁾	Approved cases ⁽²⁾
Construction and public works	23.84%	74,055,713.80	14
Wholesale	18.21%	56,561,395.00	9
Food, beverage and tobacco products	11.89%	36,923,369.00	7
Corporate services	11.67%	36,259,840.00	6
Public services, social welfare and private services	9.66%	29,995,090.28	8
Retail	8.52%	26,465,641.00	6
Restaurants and hotels	7.39%	22,959,900.00	5
Transport and warehousing	7.21%	22,388,686.00	9
Communications	1.61%	5,000,000.00	1
Total	100.00%	388,986,113.01	92

Notes: (1) As a percentage of the total approved subsidy amount

(2) Subject to approval date

According to Law No. 1/86/M on Tax Incentives under Industrial Policy, the Government aims to provide concessionary tax benefits to entrepreneurs whose investment projects can contribute to Macao industries, stimulating increased investment, promoting the growth and development of local industries, through boosting productivity and levels of technology, the manufacturing of new products, and other developments related to manufacturing.

Economic overview

Following the transformation of both internal and external economic environments, the four pillars of Macao's economy – manufacturing; tourism and gaming; banking and finance; and construction and real estate – have seen remarkable changes in terms of their shares of local GDP. Recently, the contribution to Macao's GDP of the tourism and gaming industry has overtaken the combined total of the other three industries. The manufacturing industry has been on the decline since the 1990s, with a constantly decreasing share of local GDP.

Gaming industry

Macao's overall economy performed well during 2018. The annual gross revenue from games of fortune amounted to 302.846 billion patacas, representing an increase of 14 percent compared with 2017, and just below the peak of the gaming industry from 2012 to 2014. Macao's gaming industry remains the largest in the world. Various operators in the gaming industry strived to press ahead with their projects, to build Macao as a world tourism and leisure centre.

Lawful gaming businesses in Macao currently include games of fortune, interactive gaming, pari-mutuel and lotteries. Types of gaming are mainly categorised according to the Gaming Industry Regulatory Framework. Games of fortune form the biggest sector of Macao's gaming industry. Gross revenues from these games accounted for 99.66 percent of the industry's gross takings in 2018.

There are now six licensed gaming companies in Macao, each of which enjoys the right to autonomously operate casino gaming businesses as an independent legal person.

At the end of 2018, there were 41 casinos operating in Macao, of which 22 belonged to SJM, five to the Venetian Group, six to Galaxy, two to Wynn, four to Melco PBL, and two to MGM.

The number of gaming tables increased from 6,419 in 2017 to 6,588 at the end of 2018, a 2.6 percent rise; while the number of slot machines increased from 15,622 to 16,059, 2.8 percent more than the previous year.

At the end of 2018, there were 1,321 vacant gaming jobs, representing a year-on-year increase of 861 vacancies. The vacancies were mainly for clerical positions, accounting for 51.8 percent of the total; there were 445 vacancies for dealers. By the end of 2018, there were 57,246 gaming industry employees, representing a year-on-year increase of 1.1 percent.

Regarding breakdown by job, there were 24,719 dealers, representing a year-on-year increase of 1.1 percent.

Regarding salaries (excluding incentive bonuses and rewards), the average monthly wage for full-time paid employees in the industry at the end of 2018 was 23,740 patacas, 3.5 percent higher than the 2017 figure. The average monthly wage of dealers was 20,450 patacas, three percent higher than in the previous year.

Legal Regulations Refined and Junket Commissions Capped

To regulate gaming and related activities more effectively in the wake of changes in the industry, the Government has formulated and promulgated a series of laws and regulations since 2001. They included laws to regulate gaming promoters and gaming-related loan activities.

By-law No. 6/2002 on the Qualifications and Regulations for Casino Gaming Promoters is the main provision for regulating casino gaming promotion activities. In August 2009, after being amended by By-law No. 27/2009, it was renamed the By-law on the Regulation of Casino Gaming Promotion Activities. It includes detailed requirements for mandatory qualifications and the liabilities of promoters, licensing processes and registration of promoters with gaming concessionaires. The by-law strictly regulates the mandatory qualifications of gaming promoter licence applicants, as well as gaming promoters who serve a company or individual business owner. Under the by-law, only persons granted a gaming promoter's licence by the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ) are permitted to engage in gaming promotion activities.

As the market competition became more aggressive, the Government decided to set a cap on junket commissions, to maintain market order and effective regulation of the industry, as well as safeguard the healthy development of the gaming industry.

On 21 May 2008, the Government held the first joint meeting with the management of the six casino operators, to discuss the cap on junket commissions. After negotiations in several meetings, the Government and the industry operators reached a consensus to cap junket commissions at 1.25 percent. In September 2009, the Secretary for Economy and Finance signed Order No. 83/2009 to cap junket commissions at 1.25 percent of bets, and require each gaming concessionaire to submit a monthly report to the DICJ.

Following promulgation of the by-laws, the Government continues maintaining communications, discussions and reviews with the gaming concessionaires and other industry operators. The Government will also listen to opinions from all parties, and introduce more refined and detailed guidelines. The amended by-law came into force on 1 December 2009.

Gaming promoters are legally obliged to pay tax at a rate of five percent on commissions they collect from concessionaires, and other remuneration they receive.

The Government has also made efforts to regulate gaming-related loan activities. The Law on Regulating Credit Related to Gaming and Betting in Casinos or Other Gaming Venues stipulates that only concessionaires and sub-concessionaires are

authorised to conduct credit-related business. Gaming promoters and management companies are also allowed to conduct such business provided they have already signed relevant contracts with a concessionaire or sub-concessionaire. The credit provided in accordance with this law is regarded as statutory debt. The law also states principles and conditions governing the signing of contracts, credit activities and other related matters. It defines the granting of credit as being transfer of the ownership of casino gaming chips to a third party, when the lender is not immediately compensated by a monetary payment. It also clearly defines different types of money.

The Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ)

The DICJ provides guidance and assistance to the Chief Executive on the formulation and implementation of the economic policies for the operations of casino games of fortune or other ways of gaming, pari-mutuels and gaming activities offered to the public.

In 2018, the DICJ maintained good communication and cooperation with major gaming companies, and enhanced software and hardware in response to the regulatory challenges arising from security problems in casinos, to continue effective monitoring of casinos in the light of increasingly complex environments and rapidly changing technologies.

In 2018, the DICJ also began amendments to Law No. 10/2012 on Regulations on the Conditions from Entering, Working and Gaming in Casinos, which was passed by the Legislative Assembly in December; streamlined procedures for imposing penalties for some particular cases to further enhance administrative efficiency; and continued encouraging gaming concessionaires and institutions to work towards responsible gaming, to minimise the potential impacts of the gaming industry on the community and surrounding areas. The DICJ's work during the year can be summarised as follows:

1. Based on Directive No. 1/2016 – Preventive Measures against Money-laundering and Terrorism-financing, the DICJ continued performing audits on gaming concessionaires' identity verification measures, to prevent them from establishing any business relationships with suspected terrorists or other high-risk customers;
2. The DICJ worked closely with the Government's security related departments and of gaming concessionaires security departments, followed up regarding the installation of doorways with metal detectors in Macao casinos, and improved the security of casinos, including through strengthening training for new security guards, formulating guidelines for emergency responses, and increasing the number and quality of video surveillance systems inside hotels;
3. In 2018, amendments were made regarding the Minimum Internal Control Requirements (MICR) and implementation guidelines were issued to casino operators to ensure that the internal control procedures of gaming concessionaires can effectively prevent irregularities in casinos, to foster healthy and orderly development of the industry;

4. The DICJ continued with financial audits of gaming promoters in Macao. During 2018, a special audit was performed to review the relevant accounts and business records of cash and chip inventories, to ensure that gaming promoters have established sound financial accounting systems, implemented appropriate internal audit measures, and maintain appropriate business records and comply with the commission ceiling;
5. As regards registration of gaming promoters, a total of 100 licences were issued in 2018, representing a decrease of 8.3 percent on the figure of 2017. Of these, 90 were issued to legal entities and 10 were issued to individuals;
6. The DICJ continued monitoring the accuracy and authenticity of data in gaming machine systems, to ensure that in-service gaming machine software is not modified, and that gaming operations comply with related regulations and technical standards. In 2018, several on-the-spot raids were conducted, requiring gambling concessionaires to follow up on suspected faulty gaming machines, to protect players' rights;
7. The year 2018 marked the 10th anniversary of the responsible gaming campaign. The DICJ co-organised an international forum on responsible gaming with the Social Welfare Bureau and the Institute for the Study of Commercial Gaming of the University of Macau, held in December; invited experts to Macao for exchanges; and collected scientific evidence and research data to review policies on responsible gambling in Macao and amend the guidelines on responsible gaming for gaming operators;
8. Up to 2018, a total of 85 casino staff members completed the "Macao Responsible Gaming Instructor" certificate programme organised by the DICJ. During 2018, 16 trainees completed the second round of the programme, which provided professional, localised training to gaming staff;
9. The DICJ provided a self-exclusion application service to the public. In 2018, the DICJ handled 490 applications, 24 of which were made via self-service machines at responsible gaming kiosks. They were then referred to gambling disorder prevention and treatment institutions, for gambling counselling on a voluntary basis;
10. The DICJ continued to actively work with all government departments, gaming operators, problem gambling prevention and treatment organisations, and educational and community groups, to promote responsible gaming. In 2018, with the help of the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau, Marine and Water Bureau and the Consumer Council, promotional videos on responsible gaming were broadcast in public facilities under various departments, border checkpoints and citizen service centres, to provide local residents and tourists with information regarding responsible gaming, 24-hour help lines, and self-exclusion application services;
11. The DICJ continued monitoring gaming operators to ensure they post clear notices

at casino entrances and properly verify visitors' age, to prevent people under the legal age from entering a casino. In 2018, 401,851 persons under the age of 21 were prevented from entering casinos by security staff. Also, 173 persons under the age of 21 were found to have entered casinos illegally.

12. For more efficient monitoring of casino operators' performance regarding their obligations in concession contracts, and to urge them to add non-gaming components, in 2018 the DICJ continued gathering financial data about non-gaming components, and information about local procurement exercises and SME facilities at casinos and gaming venues. By doing so, the DICJ could help small and medium-sized enterprises to seize opportunities arising from the development of gaming tourism;
13. Regarding administrative penalties for prevention and handling of illegal gambling, there were 26 cases of illegal gambling in 2018, 18 percent more than in 2017. A total of 145 individuals were involved, 144 of whom were Macao residents. The DICJ would continue educating the public, while stringently combating and preventing illegal gambling;
14. Under the Decree-Law No. 47/98/M and Law No. 10/2003, the DICJ issued permits to enterprises for the sale of lottery tickets and lucky draws for promotion of products and activities. In 2018, the DICJ issued 431 permits for the sale of lottery tickets and lucky draws, 49 percent more than in 2017; 195 email applications were received for 195 of these permits; and
15. To strengthen the DICJ team, in 2018, newly recruited inspectors were provided with theoretical and practical courses, to equip them with more comprehensive hands-on work knowledge and professional legal knowledge. The DICJ continued organising internal training courses on gaming laws and practical operations for current staff, to consolidate their understanding of the future development of the Macao gaming industry and society.

The Contribution of Casino Gaming to Macao's Gross Gaming Revenue in 2018

(Billion Patacas)

Item	2018
Gross revenue from casino gaming	302.846
Gross gaming revenue	303.879
Proportion of contribution	99.66%

Source: DICJ

Gross Revenues of Different Types of Casino Gaming during 2018

(Billion Patacas)

Item	Gross revenue
Roulette	1.129
Blackjack	2.714
VIP Baccarat	166.097
Baccarat	102.397
Fan-tan	0.374
Cussec	8.251
Chinese Dominoes (Pai Gow)	0.105
Mahjong	0.137
Slot Machines	15.048
Three-card Poker	0.239
Three-card Baccarat	0.597
Wheel of Fortune	0.015
Live Multi Game	2.728
Stud Poker	1.258
Casino War	0.249
Dice/craps	0.27
Texas Poker	0.34
Fortune 3 Card Poker	0.898
Total	302.846

Source: DICJ

Manufacturing

Macao's manufacturing industry now faces changes in the worldwide manufacturing supply chain and disparities in regional manufacturing costs. Since the 1990s, Macao has gradually transformed into a more service-oriented economy. As a result, the

manufacturing industry's share of GDP decreased from 20.6 percent in 1989 to 0.6 percent in 2017.

In 2018, the total value of Macao's exports was 12.19 billion patacas, representing a year-on-year increase of 8.1 percent, with Macao's domestic product exports accounting for 1.53 billion patacas, down 14.3 percent year on year. The value of re-exports was 10.66 billion patacas, up 12.3 percent year on year. Hong Kong continued to be the major export market for Macao, with a share of 62.1 percent of Macao's total export value. Mainland China accounted for 16.5 percent of Macao's total export value. The United States accounted for 1.1 percent.

In 2018, the value of products exported under CEPA was 95.71 million patacas. Tax with a total value of 5.139 million patacas was waived. During the past 15 years, the cumulative total value of zero-tariff goods entering mainland China in accordance with CEPA provisions was 958 million patacas, with 67.08 million patacas of taxes waived.

Financial Services Industry

The financial services industry in Macao underwent rapid development towards the end of the 1980s. Following nearly 30 years of growth and refinement, Macao now boasts a sophisticated and open financial system, with characteristics that are unique in the region.

Macao's financial institutions consist of banks, insurance companies, financial companies, lease finance companies, financial intermediaries, bureaux de change, cash remittance companies, non-banking credit agencies, other financial institutions and the representative offices of overseas financial institutions. As of 31 December 2018, among financial institutions authorised to operate in Macao, there were 28 banks (including the Government-owned Postal Savings Office), 24 insurance companies, one pension-fund management company, one finance company, two lease finance companies, two financial intermediary companies, 11 bureaux de change, six bureaux de change counters, two cash remittance companies, one non-banking credit agency, three other financial institutions, and one representative office of an overseas financial institution.

The Banking System

The primary legislation regulating Macao's financial services industry, the Financial System Act, was promulgated in 1993, and focuses on measures to strengthen risk management. In particular, it emphasises strict requirements on operators, and monitors the suitability of major shareholders and managers, and risks. The act also introduced a new monitoring system based on financial institutions and their subsidiaries. The act takes into account the recommendations of the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision and lessons learnt from the EU's experience in harmonising banking legislation, while

drawing on the experiences of countries and territories whose financial systems are similar to that of Macao.

In accordance with the Financial System Act, the Chief Executive of the MSAR may, on an individual basis, approve the registration of credit institutions in Macao, the establishment of branches of overseas credit institutions, the setting-up of branches or representative offices outside Macao by locally registered credit institutions, and the establishment of financial intermediaries and other financial institutions in Macao, after considering the advice of the Monetary Authority. However, this provision does not include companies regulated by special laws.

At the end of 2018, the 28 banks in Macao owned assets with a total value of 1,815.8 billion patacas, and hired 6,237 employees at their 213 headquarters and branches (including overseas branches of registered banks in Macao). Deposits in Macao's banking system amounted to 1,114.1 billion patacas, while loans totalled almost 1,011.3 billion patacas; the loan-to-deposit ratio was 90.8 percent.

When classified by source of origin, the banking system of Macao – excluding the government-operated Macao Postal Savings – has nine local registered banks, with the other currently operating banks being branches of banking groups registered overseas, which mainly come from seven countries and regions: mainland China, Portugal, the United States, the United Kingdom, Singapore, Taiwan and Hong Kong.

Moreover, the operations of Macao's banks now make extensive use of computer software and hardware. With the popularity of electronic banking, inter-bank ATMs are now found all over Macao, serving customers of different banks. Additionally, certain banks offer 24-hour banking services via channels including mobile phones and the Internet.

Notwithstanding their relatively rapid development in recent years, Macao's banks have continued to achieve new heights in terms of financial results, thanks to their strong business tradition, prudent operations, and stringent regulation. Macao's banks also boast healthy capital, full liquidity and quality assets, keeping the whole banking system safe and reliable.

The Insurance Industry

Market Overview

At the end of 2018, 24 insurance companies were permitted to conduct business in Macao. Of these, 11 were life insurance companies and the other 13 were engaged in non-life insurance. Classified by their origins, nine of these companies were local, and the other 15 were branches of overseas companies. In addition, two fund-management companies were authorised to conduct pension-fund businesses in the MSAR. Also at the end of 2018, Macao's insurance industry employed 602 people. There were 6,459

authorised insurance intermediaries: 4,808 individual agents, 1,558 salespersons, 82 corporate agents, and 11 insurance brokers.

In 2018, total insurance premium income was 21.2 billion patacas, 3.5 percent less than that in 2017. Life insurance premium income accounted for 88.2 percent of the insurance market's total income, with the remaining 11.8 percent coming from non-life insurance. Life insurance premiums totalled 18.7 billion patacas, down by 4.9 percent from the previous year. Non-life insurance premiums totalled 2.5 billion patacas, representing an increase of 9.4 percent.

Regarding pension funds, at the end of 2018, seven life insurance companies and two pension-fund management companies were providing pension fund management services. So far, 58 pension funds have been established under the Legal Framework for Private Pension Funds, of which four are closed-end funds and 54 are open-end funds. To date, 1,681 private pension fund schemes and 35,000 non-mandatory central provident fund schemes have been established by businesses or individuals, benefiting more than 184,000 people. The assets of the managed funds totalled about 24.3 billion patacas.

Supervision and Regulation of the Insurance Industry

In Macao, the duty to supervise, coordinate and inspect insurance activities rests with the Chief Executive, with the Monetary Authority authorised to perform these functions.

The Macao Insurance Law, the Legal Framework for Private Pension Funds, and the Insurance agents and Brokers Law have been formulated to regulate insurance companies, private pension fund management companies, and insurance intermediaries, respectively.

The Macao Insurance Law stipulates the terms and conditions of insurance and reinsurance activities in Macao. The existing law was amended in 1997, with the purpose of aligning the regulatory levels of Macao's insurance activities with that of international standards. The law covers requirements for obtaining a licence, and the mandatory establishment of margins of solvency, technical reserves and financial disclosure. As the law has been enacted for many years, certain provisions required amending in response to the changing international trend in regulations, to meet the regulatory requirements. The Executive Council concluded discussions on the proposed amendment bill in 2018, and the legislation process will commence in 2019.

The Legal Framework for Private Pension Funds came into effect in 1999. The law requires that a pension fund must be managed by a life insurance company or a company established for the management of the pension fund. To further protect the interests of retirees, the legal framework also lays down articles regulating the management of pension funds.

The Legal System on Insurance Intermediaries, formulated in 1989 and amended

in 2001 and 2003, regulates the business practice of insurance intermediaries, the minimum requirements for obtaining an intermediary licence, the rights and duties of an intermediary, and the statutory power of regulatory bodies.

Compulsory Insurance

There are seven categories of compulsory insurance in Macao, all of which require uniform policy wording and tariff rates. The compulsory insurance categories include: motor vehicle (third-party risks) insurance, employees' compensation insurance, professional liability insurance for travel agents, public liability insurance relating to the installation of publicity and advertising objects, third party liability for pleasure boats, civil liability insurance for lawyers, and civil liability insurance for medical service providers.

Insurance Intermediaries Quality Assurance Scheme

To raise the overall level of professionalism of insurance intermediaries, it is required that all applicants must pass a qualification examination before obtaining an intermediary licence and conducting insurance business in Macao. In 2018, a total of 6,437 candidates sat the insurance intermediary qualification examination, with a pass rate of 86.1 percent.

The Monetary Authority launched the Continuing Professional Development Programme for Insurance Intermediaries in 2018, to encourage the intermediaries to promote professionalism and long term development opportunities in the insurance sector through further study.

The Construction and Real Estate Industry

The average sales price for residential units in 2018, calculated in terms of usable floor area, was 108,427 patacas per square metre, 7.5 percent higher than the previous year's figure. The average prices of properties in the Macao peninsula (101,914 patacas) and Coloane (135,527 patacas) increased by 11.1 percent and 5.7 percent, respectively; while the average property price in Taipa (112,391 patacas) decreased by 2.4 percent. The average prices for completed units (97,211 patacas) and uncompleted units (142,663 patacas) were 7.5 percent and 3.7 percent higher than the previous year's figures, respectively.

In 2018, the unit prices of offices and industrial units were 163,863 patacas and 56,393 patacas per square metre, up by 44.8 percent and 3.6 percent, respectively.

In 2018, the number of housing units and parking space transactions was 15,073, up 7.8 percent year on year. The transaction value totalled 89.6 billion patacas, up 5.1 percent year on year.

A total of 10,822 residential units – representing a net year-on-year increase of 241 units, with 574 more uncompleted units and 333 fewer completed units – with a total value of 69.43 billion patacas changed hands in 2017. The transaction values of uncompleted units (totalling 2,617) and completed units (totalling 8,205) were 22.05 billion patacas and 47.38 billion patacas, respectively.

In 2018, construction permits and occupying permits had been granted for a total of 1,493 and 4,158 residential units, respectively.

The price index of construction materials for residential buildings in 2018 rose by 4.6 percent year on year, to 107.3.

The real wage index for construction workers, discounted for inflation, averaged 99.3, down 7.5 percent on the previous year, while that of local construction workers decreased by 7.2 percent, to 97.4.

Employment and the Labour Market

In 2018, the full-year unemployment rate was 1.8 percent, down slightly by 0.2 percentage points from two percent in 2017. The unemployment rate among local residents was 2.4 percent, down 0.3 percent year on year.

In 2018, Macao recorded a labour population of 392,500 people, and a participation rate of 70.9 percent. The labour participation rate for males was 75.6 percent, and for females was 67 percent. Classified by age and gender, the 25-34 age group achieved the highest average labour participation rate, of 93.3 percent (97.5 percent for men and 89.7 percent for women).

Employment

In 2018, Macao's employed population increased 1.49 percent over the previous year and totalled 385,400, of whom 48.7 percent were male and 51.3 percent were female. Broken down by sector, the working population was mainly engaged in cultural, entertainment, gaming and other service industries (25 percent); hotels and catering (14.6 percent); construction (8.1 percent); and wholesale and retail (11.3 percent). Classified by occupation, clerical workers, service and retail workers, and non-technical workers accounted for 27.1 percent, 21.2 percent and 18 percent, respectively, of the entire working population.

Of the employed population, 11.7 percent had primary school education qualifications, 20.6 percent had completed junior secondary school education, 29.1 percent had completed senior secondary school education, and 36.4 percent had completed tertiary education. The main age group in the employed population was 25 to 34, accounting for 30.31 percent of the working population, while the age groups of 35 to 44 and 45 to 54 accounted for 24.3 percent and 21.76 percent, respectively.

Unemployment and Underemployment

In 2018, Macao recorded an unemployed population of around 7,100. Among the unemployed, 87.3 percent had work experience and were looking for jobs, whereas 12.3 percent had not worked before and were looking for their first job. In terms of education, 16.08 percent of the unemployed had completed only primary education; 20.38 percent had completed junior secondary, 21.65 percent had completed senior secondary, and 36.43 percent had completed tertiary education.

Among the unemployed, 28.41 percent were from the cultural, entertainment, gaming and other services sector, 14.46 percent from the wholesale and retail industry, 25.28 percent from the construction industry, and 12.7 percent from the hotel and catering sector. The major causes of unemployment were personal or family reasons (46.7 percent), termination of temporary jobs (21.5 percent), dismissal (10.3 percent), and unsatisfactory work conditions (11 percent).

Monthly Earnings

In 2018, the overall median monthly income of Macao's employed population was 16,000 patacas while that of local residents was 20,000 patacas, representing a year-on-year increase of 1,000 patacas. The median monthly income of the cultural, entertainment, gaming and other services sector, which employed the largest number of workers, was 20,000 patacas. Sectors with the highest median monthly income were, in descending order, public administration and social security (39,500 patacas), water, electricity and gas production and supply (30,000 patacas), and the education sector (25,000 patacas).

Non-Resident Workers

To alleviate local labour shortages, at the end of December 2018, Macao had 188,480 non-resident workers, representing an increase of five percent compared with the figure in 2017. The hotel and catering industry accounted for the largest share of non-resident workers (28.2 percent), which was followed by construction workers (16 percent), household jobs (15.2 percent), wholesale and retail (12 percent), and real estate and business and services (11.6 percent).

Financial Management

Financial Services Bureau

The Financial Services Bureau is mainly responsible for supervising, coordinating

and monitoring the financial activities of public departments of the MSAR.

The Financial Services Bureau fulfils its public finance management function by supervising the financial operations of the MSAR in accordance with the law. It puts in place a set of regulations and guidelines concerning budget management, and enhances its financial supervision over autonomous entities. The principle of setting budgets is that public resources should be allocated in the way that most appropriately serves the best interests of the public.

In accordance with the annual budget passed by the Legislative Assembly, the Financial Services Bureau oversees the financial status of each public department, and ensures compliance with the public accounting system and regulations, guaranteeing legitimacy of all expenses. These rigorous administrative measures are designed to maintain balance of the Government's revenues and expenses, foster steady economic development and increase the international competitiveness of Macao.

To fulfil the functions of coordinating and monitoring the financial operations of public departments, the Financial Services Bureau compiles the Budget of the Macao Special Administrative Region ("General Budget") and General Accounts of the Macao Special Administrative Region ("General Accounts") on an annual basis.

Budget of the Macao Special Administrative Region

The Budget of the Macao Special Administrative Region comprises three parts: the comprehensive government budget, the budget for specific organisations and the investment budget for specific organisations.

The comprehensive government budget adopts cash-basis accounting, and covers public departments that can be categorised into non-autonomous departments, autonomous administrative departments, and autonomous entities. A budget fiscal year is from 1 January to 31 December. Every year, the schedule for submitting budget proposals and the special requirements for compiling budget proposals are stipulated via an Executive Order. After consolidating the budget proposals of all public departments, a comprehensive budget proposal is submitted to the Chief Executive and later to the Legislative Assembly for discussion. The budget proposal can only come into effect after it has been approved by the Legislative Assembly and published in the *Macao SAR Gazette*. The General Budget lists all government income and expenditure. Any income that is not included in the General Budget should not be received. At the same time, expenses of public departments must not exceed the maximum levels stipulated in the General Budget.

The budget for specific organisations and the investment budget for specific organisations adopt accrual accounting, mainly as these organisations are engaged in special businesses such as credit, insurance, financial investment or postal services, as accrual accounting is necessary to truly reflect their financial status. Those considered as engaging in special businesses include the following eight organisations: Macao Post

and Telecommunications Bureau, Macao Postal Savings, the Pension Fund, Monetary Authority of Macao, Automobile and Maritime Security Fund, Macao Foundation, Deposits Guarantee Fund, and the Social Security Fund.

General Accounts of the Macao Special Administrative Region

The Budget of the Macao Special Administrative Region regulates government income and expenditure, while the General Accounts of the Macao Special Administrative Region record the Government's actual financial situation. The General Accounts are in two parts. The first part – on the general comprehensive government budget – reflects the results of implementing the general comprehensive budget as well as the year-end financial situation, and is prepared according to cash-basis accounting.

The second part – the budget of specific organisations – adopts accrual accounting to reflect the overall operating results of six specific organisations. The Financial Services Bureau is required to submit the information necessary for the General Accounts of the Macao Special Administrative Region to the Commission of Audit within five months of the end of a financial year, to facilitate the audit process.

Management of Public Property

The Public Property Management Department under the Financial Services Bureau is responsible for the management and maintenance of the durable assets of the Government. This includes carrying out procedures related to trading in the Government's physical property, assisting with clarification of the characteristics of vehicles owned by each government department, holding open tenders for goods and services required by the Government, organising and updating records of durable assets and lists of assets, and analysing the tangible asset accounts of public departments

To implement the above responsibilities, the Financial Services Bureau holds public auctions each year for vehicles and goods that are deemed unusable by government departments or are appropriated to the Government of Macao Special Administrative Region. To increase its revenue, the Government announces auction dates and ensures that auctions adhere to the principle that the highest bid wins. The Financial Services Bureau conducts open tenders for goods needed by various public departments. The tender notice is published in local newspapers, the Macao SAR Gazette and the Financial Services Bureau website, and the transparency of both options and tender procedures is thereby enhanced. Natural persons or companies already registered with the Business Registration Centre of the Financial Services Bureau as engaging in businesses related to items included in the tender can participate in the bidding for all or part of the commodities. The winner is generally the bidder who makes the best offer in terms of price, quality of goods, past delivery quality and delivery date.

The management of public property also includes the duty of allocating and managing government quarters and parking lots, as well as the maintenance of such

quarters. Other duties include renting office venues, warehouses, housing and car parks for both non-independently and independently administered departments, as well as making recommendations on the usage of government-owned properties and community and infrastructure facilities, and handling property and facility transfers.

Sources of Tax Revenue

Government Tax Revenue

Tax income provides funds for the administrative activities of all public entities. Macao has adopted a simple taxation structure with low tax rates. The annual assessment period is from 1 January to 31 December. Taxes levied in Macao include gaming tax, business tax, corporate income tax, personal income tax, real estate tax, tourism tax, excise duty, motor vehicle tax, asset transfer stamp duty, special stamp duty and additional stamp duty for acquisition of second residential property and beyond.

Gaming Tax

The operators of all types of gaming activities, including casino gaming, horse racing, dog racing and lottery bets, are liable to pay a certain percentage of their gross revenues in tax, or pay tax according to other levy scales. Gaming tax is calculated by gross casino gaming revenue taxed at the rate of 35 percent. Gaming tax is the Government's major source of revenue.

Business Tax

The Regulations on Business Tax require that business tax be levied on all natural persons and legal persons operating any activity with the nature of industrial or commercial business. The amount of tax depends on the fixed amounts stipulated in the Table of General Activities contained in the Regulations on Business Tax. Although business tax is typically 300 patacas a year for each business, for commercial banks the tax is 80,000 patacas, plus a sales tax of five percent.

Note: Pursuant to Article 12 under the Budget of the Financial Year of 2018, approved by Law No. 16/2017, in 2018, no amount of industrial tax set out in Table 1 and 2 under the Regulations for Industrial Tax shall be collected.

Profit Tax

Regulations on Profit Tax require that profit tax be levied on the total income of natural persons or legal persons from local industrial or commercial activities. Rates of profit tax are as follows:

Taxable annual revenue	Percentage
Revenue up to 32,000 patacas	Waived
Progressively in excess of designated amount:	
32,001 patacas to 65,000 patacas	3%
65,001 patacas to 100,000 patacas	5%
100,001 patacas to 200,000 patacas	7%
200,001 patacas to 300,000 patacas	9%
Over 300,000 patacas	12%

Note: Pursuant to Article 22 of the Budget of the Financial Year of 2018 approved by Law No. 16/2017, the tax allowance for profit tax in 2017 is set at 600,000 patacas.

Personal Income Tax

Regulations on Personal Income Tax require that personal income tax be levied on working income. Personal income tax payers are classified into two groups. One group is those working for others in any occupation, including daily wage earners and employees. The second group is self-employed freelance professionals. Personal income tax rates are as follows:

Taxable annual revenue	Percentage
Revenue up to 95,000 patacas	Waived
Progressively in excess of designated amount:	
Up to 20,000 patacas	7%
20,001 patacas to 40,000 patacas	8%
40,001 patacas to 80,000 patacas	9%
80,001 patacas to 160,000 patacas	10%
160,001 patacas to 280,000 patacas	11%
Over 280,000 patacas	12%

Note: Pursuant to Article 17 of the Budget of the Financial Year of 2018 approved by Law No. 16/2017, in 2018, a tax reduction of 30 percent was set for personal income tax, while the tax allowance for personal income tax in 2018 is set at 144,000 patacas.

Tourism Tax

Regulations on Tourism Tax require that a five-percent tourism tax be levied on the prices of services offered by hotels and similar establishments, gyms and saunas, massage parlours and karaoke bars.

Note: Pursuant to Article 17 of the Budget of the Financial Year of 2018, approved by Law No. 16/2017, in 2018, tourism tax shall be exempted for the settlement of services provided by luxury, class-1 and class-2 restaurants, and those venues that are established in hotels yet operating independently, particularly those under a different trade name.

Real Estate Tax

Regulations on Urban Real Estate Tax require that real estate tax be levied on the revenue of local housing properties, and that the tax rate shall be six percent on the taxable revenue for non-leased properties, while that for leased properties shall be ten percent.

Note: Pursuant to Article 21 of the Budget of the Financial Year of 2018, approved by Law No. 16/2017, in 2018, a tax reduction of up to 3,500 patacas per property is available for urban properties for tax subjects who are natural persons with right of residence in the Macao Special Administrative Region.

Asset Transfer Stamp Duty

Transfer of an immovable asset before death, whether such transfer be temporary or permanent, or paid or unpaid, is subject to asset transfer stamp duty at the following rates:

Taxable area	Tax rate
Paid transfer of an immovable asset with a value of up to two million patacas	1%
From over two million patacas to four million patacas	2%
Over four million patacas	3%
Unpaid transfer of an asset	5%

Note: (1) Pursuant to Article 14 of the Budget of the Financial Year of 2018 approved by Law No. 16/2017, in 2018, stamp duty shall be exempted for eligible taxpayers who purchase residential properties that are worth up to three million patacas;

(2) Legal persons, individual business owners or non-local residents purchasing residential properties are subject to an additional 10 percent tax, on top of the above mentioned tax rate.

Special Stamp Duty

Transfer of a residential property, commercial property, office premises, car-parking space within two years of its purchase, whether such transfer be temporary or permanent, is subject to special stamp duty at the following rates:

Taxable transfer	Tax rate
Transfer is made within a year of its purchase	20%
Transfer is made between one and two years after the purchase	10%

Property Acquisition Tax

Acquisition of a second residential property and beyond is subject to additional stamp duty at the following rates:

Taxable transfer	Tax rate
Acquisition of a second residential property	5%
Acquisition of a third residential property and beyond	10%

Excise Duty

Pursuant to Article 2 of Law No. 4/99/M of the Excise Duty Regulations which was amended by Law No. 8/2008 on 25 August, Law No. 7/2009 on 25 May, Law No. 11/2011 on 19 December and Law No. 9/2015 on 13 July, alcoholic drinks (Group II) and tobacco (Group III) are considered as excise duty taxable since the time they are produced or they enter Macao. Alcoholic drinks are levied an ad valorem tax subject to CIF (cost, insurance and freight) as well as fixed tax, while tobacco products are levied a fixed excise duty.

Motor Vehicle Tax

Natural persons or legal persons importing new motor vehicles for their own use, or buying new motor vehicles for resale or for their own use are subject to motor vehicle tax based on the taxable value of motor vehicles. The applicable tax rates are as follows:

Heavy and light motorcycles		
Level of taxable value (patacas)	Corresponding rate of each level	Effective average tax rate
Up to 15,000 patacas	---	24%
From over 15,000 patacas to 25,000 patacas	35%	32%
From over 25,000 patacas to 40,000 patacas	40%	42%
From over 40,000 patacas to 70,000 patacas	45%	50%
Over 70,000 patacas	---	50%

Cars		
Level of taxable value (patacas)	Corresponding rate of each level	Effective average tax rate
Up to 100,000 patacas	---	40%
From over 100,000 patacas to 200,000 patacas	50%	46%
From over 200,000 patacas to 300,000 patacas	80%	60%
From over 300,000 patacas to 500,000 patacas	90%	72%
Over 500,000 patacas	---	72%

Registered Auditors and Accountants

At the end of 2018, there were 14 registered auditing companies, three registered accounting firms, 119 registered auditors and 188 registered accountants in Macao.

The “Mainland Factor” in Macao’s Economy

Under the principle of “One country, two systems”, the Government actively strengthens economic and trade interaction and cooperation with provinces and cities in mainland China through appropriate institutions and mechanisms, further developing Macao’s role as a gateway and bridge. Implementation of the Mainland China and

Macao Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA) on 1 January 2004 and the framework agreement for Pan-Pearl River Delta (PPRD) regional cooperation signed in June 2004 marked new milestones for economic and trade cooperation between Macao and mainland China. Macao's emphasis on economic cooperation with mainland China and the use of the enormous China market as its hinterland has enhanced its economic position.

In March 2018, President Xi Jinping stressed the importance of seizing the opportunities arising from the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, and said Macao and Hong Kong should join hands to expedite the progress of building a world-class bay area and metropolis. Afterwards, the work report of the Central People's Government mentioned that the outline plan for the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area would be launched and implemented, to facilitate cooperation between mainland China, Hong Kong and Macao.

In October 2018, the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge officially opened to traffic. This was the first large-scale sea-crossing transport infrastructure between Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao under the framework of "One country, two systems", creating a one-hour living circle in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

In December 2018, mainland China and Macao signed the CEPA Agreement on Trade in Goods. Together with the previously signed CEPA Agreement on Trade Services, CEPA Investment Agreement and CEPA Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation, this meant the target for upgrading CEPA mentioned in the national 13th Five-Year Plan was completed ahead of schedule. The economic and trade cooperation between mainland China and Macao has been raised to a new level.

The CEPA Agreement on Trade in Goods includes a chapter on the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, to launch a pilot scheme on exploring measures to expedite cross-boundary customs clearance, supporting participation by Macao industries in the overall national development plan, to jointly promote development of the Greater Bay Area and Macao's adequate economic diversification.

Interconnections with Other Mainland China Provinces and Cities

While striving to maintain close economic and trade relations with its neighbouring regions, the Government works to actively explore and enhance exchanges and cooperation with other provinces and cities in mainland China. Macao has already established healthy interactive relationships with a number of mainland China provinces, cities and autonomous regions, including Beijing, Tianjin, Inner Mongolia, Liaoning, Jilin, Heilongjiang, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Fujian, Guangdong, Sichuan, Shaanxi and Hubei, developing every aspect of economic and trade cooperation.

In March 2018, the Government organised a business exchange delegation of the "9+2" Pan-Delta Pearl River (PPRD) Region to visit Portugal and Germany. They launched

a “Green Visit” to connect the PPRD regional governments and the environmental protection industry with the green network of Portuguese-speaking countries and European countries, exploring exchanges and cooperation in transforming, upgrading and diversifying environmental protection technologies.

During the year, Chief Executive Chui Sai On led a delegation to attend the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2018, held in Boao, Hainan.

The Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) also organised a delegation of Macao’s convention, exhibition and tourism industries to attend the Incentive Travel and Conventions, Meetings China in Shanghai (IT&CM China 2018) to promote Macao as a Creative City of Gastronomy and its unique advantages in organising conventions and exhibitions.

In April 2018, the IPIM formed a delegation of Macao entrepreneurs to attend the 12th China (Henan) International Fair for Investment and Trade. It also organised a business promotion event – The Macao-Henan Promotion Seminar of the Economic and Trading Service Platform between China and Portuguese-Speaking Countries.

In May 2018, Chief Executive Chui Sai On and leading officials of the Liaison Office of the Central People’s Government in the MSAR led a delegation to visit Congjiang county, Guizhou province, to observe the progress with poverty alleviation, and jointly launched the MSAR Government’s anti-poverty supporting programme. During the visit, Guizhou Municipal People’s Government signed the Cooperative Framework Agreement on Poverty Alleviation with the MSAR Government and the Liaison Office of the Central People’s Government in the MSAR; while the IPIM and Congjiang county signed the Agreement on Cooperation in the Convention and Exhibition Industry to Facilitate External Trade and Promote Development.

Also in May, the grand opening and agreement signing ceremony of Beijing-Macao Cooperation Partnership 2018 was held in Beijing, to deepen exchanges and collaboration.

In June 2018, the MSAR Government, the Ministry of Science and Technology, and several institutions jointly held the 16th China Cross-Strait Technology and Projects Fair in Fuzhou, Fujian. The IPIM organised a delegation of Macao entrepreneurs to attend the fair. It also signed a strategic cooperation agreement with the Shanghai Diamond Exchange, to foster cooperation between the diamond and jewellery industries of Macao, mainland China and other parts of the world.

In July 2018, Dynamic Macao Promotion Week – Tianjin was held.

In August 2018, Chief Executive Chui Sai On met with the Mayor of Shanghai Municipality, Ying Yong, to exchange views on issues related to youth affairs, finance, the convention and exhibition industry and civil servant training, and to witness the signing of the Shanghai-Macao Cooperation Agreement.

In September 2018, the 20th China International Fair for Investment and Trade was held in Xiamen, Fujian. The IPIM organised the Forum for Investment Cooperation

between Macao and Fujian, to foster exchanges and cooperation between Fujian enterprises, representatives of chambers and associations of Portuguese-speaking countries and Macao entrepreneurs.

In November 2018, Chief Executive Chui Sai On attended the China International Import Expo in Shanghai, and received President Xi Jinping and senior officials of foreign countries at the “Macao Hub”.

Three projects were signed during the Macao Forum for Investment Cooperation – Economic and Trading Service Platform Between China and Portuguese-Speaking Countries regarding promoting development of the Chinese-Portuguese Platform, supporting young entrepreneurs, specialised financial services, science and technology and international trade. The IPIM also facilitated participation by Macao related enterprises as exhibitors in the Goods Trading – Foods and Agricultural Products Zone and Services Trading – Integrated Services Zone.

Also in November, Chief Executive Chui Sai On and the Secretary of the CPC Sichuan Province, Peng Qinghua, led delegations of the two governments to attend the First Sichuan-Macao Cooperation Conference. During this, a signing ceremony was held for the Agreement on Establishment of the Mechanism Originating via the Framework of the Sichuan-Macao Cooperation Conference and the Memorandum of the First Sichuan-Macao Cooperation Conference.

Relationship with Guangdong Province

The PRD offers Hong Kong and Macao investors a vast area for expansion, with capital and technology from Hong Kong and Macao driving the region’s economic development.

The Guangdong-Macao Cooperation Joint Conference mechanism was established in 2003. The conference set six priority projects for cooperation between the two regions. These were the service sector, the Zhuhai-Macao Cross-border Industrial Zone research on the joint development of Hengqin Island, a major cross-border traffic network, tourism, and cooperation between ports.

The Zhuhai-Macao Cross-border Industrial Zone, with a first-phase area of 400 thousand square metres, was approved by the State Council on 5 December 2003. The Zhuhai-Macao Cross-border Industrial Zone aims to enhance development of industries, and serves as a hub for logistics, transshipments and exhibitions.

In March 2011, the Framework Agreement on Cooperation Between Guangdong and Macao was signed in Beijing, representing a new milestone in the history of cooperation between the two places. The agreement has eight chapters and 38 articles, encompassing all areas of economic, social and cultural cooperation as well as cooperation in people’s livelihoods. It serves to define the approach, principles and objectives of Guangdong-Macao cooperation, and covers major cooperative projects including joint development of Hengqin Island, synchronised development of industries,

infrastructure and customs clearance facilitation, community public services and regional cooperation planning. On 19 April in the same year, the Implementation of the Major Tasks for the Framework Agreement on Cooperation Between Guangdong and Macao, the Agreement on the Joint Implementation of the CEPA Pioneer Demonstration Zone in Nansha between Guangzhou and Macao, and the agreement on the joint development of Guangdong-Macau Traditional Chinese Medicine Technology Industrial Park by Zhuhai municipality and the MSAR Government were signed. Guangdong and Macao have since continued to maintain close interactions and gradually implemented the cooperative projects.

In 2014 and 2016, through the assessment mechanism under the Assessment Committee for Macao Projects for Hengqin Development, the Government recommended a total of 83 projects for Hengqin, including the first batch of 33 projects, and the remaining 50 projects that were intended for development in the Guangdong-Macao Cooperation Industrial Park. By the end of December 2018, 23 projects – mainly covering tourism and leisure, culture, new and high technologies, science, education, research and development, and trade and logistics – moved into their sites at the industrial park and commenced work on establishing their operations.

The IPIM and Administrative Committee of the Hengqin New Area initiated a new phase of investment recruitment for Guangdong-Macao Cooperation Industrial Park and started accepting applications for using the remaining 2.57 square kilometres in the park, with a new assessment mechanism, from 31 December 2018.

In January 2018, Chief Executive Chui Sai On and the Governor of Guangdong province, Ma Xingrui, led delegations of the two governments to attend the Guangdong-Macao Cooperation Joint Conference in Guangzhou. A total of eight cooperation agreements and memoranda were signed after the conference.

In January and October 2018, the IPIM supported the Department of Commerce of Guangdong Province with organising the Symposium on the Measures Adopted by Guangdong Province for Further Expanding Access to and Utilisation of Foreign Investment and a symposium on the revised version of the above policy, respectively.

In June and July 2018, Chief Executive Chui Sai On led a government delegation to nine cities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. In July, the IPIM signed cooperation memoranda and agreements with four Greater Bay Area cities – Huizhou, Dongguan, Jiangmen and Zhaoqing – at the Guangdong and Macao Branded Products Fair 2018.

In October 2018, the IPIM and the Guangdong Province Administration for Market Regulation (the former Guangdong Province Administration for Industry and Commerce) signed the Cooperation Agreement between the Guangdong Province Administration for Industry and Commerce and the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute, to help facilitate registration by trading companies in the nine cities of the Greater Bay Area.

In November 2018, the IPIM and the Department of Commerce of Guangdong

Province co-organised a commercial exchange delegation for Macao entrepreneurs to visit cities in the Greater Bay Area. The delegation visited the Economy, Trade and Information Commission of Shenzhen Municipality, and several technology enterprises in Shenzhen and Nansha. It also organised an entrepreneur business matching session between Macao and Nansha, to enable Macao entrepreneurs to gain an understanding of the latest developments and business environment of the Greater Bay Area, and to foster commercial exchanges between enterprises of the two places.

Furthermore, the IPIM and several cities of Guangdong province began their cooperation in organising exhibition and convention. In January 2018, the IPIM and the Guangzhou Municipal Commission of Commerce co-organised the Macao-Guangzhou Fine Products Fair 2018 in Guangzhou. The IPIM organised a delegation of entrepreneurs to join the event as exhibitors, and lined up over 40 business pairings and negotiations. The Dynamic Macao Business and Trade Fair was held in November in Zhaoqing. During the week, the IPIM organised the Macao-Guangzhou-Foshan-Zhaoqing Convention and Exhibition Industry Promotion Seminar, which facilitated discussions on investment, project bidding and talented people of the convention and exhibition industry.

Relationship with Jiangsu Province

While enhancing cooperation with Guangdong and PPRD, the Government puts equal emphasis on cooperation along the Yangtze River economic belt by commencing specialised cooperation with provinces including Jiangsu, thereby further promoting adequate economic diversification of Macao's economy. We expect to become more deeply involved in the country's development through regional cooperation, and will strengthen our position and functions in the course of China's economic development and opening up.

According to the Memorandum on the Collaborative Establishment of Jiangsu-Macao Cooperation Zone signed in October 2016, the Macao SAR Government and the People's Government of Jiangsu Province joined hands in developing the Jiangsu-Macao Cooperation Zone in Changzhou. In 2017, the two parties upheld the principle of scientific administration and timely planning, to jointly carry out opinion collection, survey and research, as well as formulation of a plan in preparation for the development of the cooperation zone.

In October 2017, the IPIM and the Department of Commerce of Jiangsu province signed a cooperation memorandum to strengthen economic and trade cooperation along the "Belt and Road", fully leverage the functions of both parties as exhibition platforms, and invite mutual visits by delegations from both places.

In December 2018, Chief Executive Chui Sai On led a government delegation to visit the Jiangsu-Macao Cooperation Zone in Jiangsu Province and meet with senior officials of Jiangsu province, to further explore cooperation and exchange opinions on the overall planning and construction of the Jiangsu-Macao Cooperation Zone. The

delegation also visited the site of the industrial park in Changzhou.

Jiangsu and Macao have maintained close commercial and trading cooperation. Jiangsu has attached particular importance to leveraging the advantages of Macao as a platform for China and Portuguese-speaking countries. Since 2011, the Jiangsu-Macao Industrial and Commercial Summit of Portuguese-Speaking Countries has been hosted by the Macao International Trade and Investment Fair for eight consecutive years. A cooperation mechanism has been established by the two sides, which has in turn developed a system for regular cooperation between Jiangsu, Macao and Portuguese-speaking countries in commercial and trading, cultural and education fields. Besides, there has been cooperation between Jiangsu and Macao in tourism, education, training of social service personnel, healthcare and hygiene.

Economic Services Bureau

The Economic Services Bureau is mainly responsible for assisting in the formulation and implementation of economic policies covering economic activities, intellectual property and other areas designated by law as its responsibilities.

Industrial Licences

Under Decree-Law No. 11/99/M dated 22 March 1999, all assembly and processing manufacturing enterprises licensed under Decree-Law No. 55/97/M dated 9 December 1997 and listed in Category D of the first revised edition of the Macao Industries Classification Index must apply for industrial licences from the Economic Services Bureau. Under Article 11 of Decree-Law No. 11/99/M, it is strictly prohibited to carry out the above activities in residential buildings.

Applications for industrial licences are classified as “general system” (for industrial buildings), “special system” or “special activities”. In 2016, the charges for applying for all new or renewed industrial licences were waived.

In 2018, the Economic Services Bureau issued one general-system industrial licence and 17 special system/special activity industrial licences. In addition, five general-system industrial unit licences and 37 special-system/special-activity industrial unit licences were issued, 23 industrial licences and 40 industrial unit licences were revoked, and 161 industrial licences were re-issued due to the transfer, removal or merger of industrial establishments, or because information relating to them had changed.

Certificates of Origin

Certificates of Origin (CO) may be applied for from the Economic Services Bureau. These are used to prove to a third party that exports have been sufficiently assembled

and processed in Macao, and are thus classified as products originating in Macao. According to By-law No. 29/2003 Regulations on Certificates of Origin, which was amended by By-law No. 20/2016 that came into force on 4 August 2016, the charge for issuing certificates of origin has been cancelled, to reduce trading operating costs.

Certificates of Origin are classified into four types: General Certificates of Origin apply to general customs clearance; Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) Certificates of Origin apply to customs clearance in importing countries and regions that use GSP; Certificates of Origin (Foreign Products) are used for proving that Macao was not the origin of products re-exported via Macao; CEPA Certificates of Origin are for goods of Macao origin that enjoy zero tariff and other incentives under CEPA.

In 2018, the Economic Services Bureau issued 884 general certificates of origin; major export destinations included the United States and mainland China, accounting for 27.7 percent and 19.1 percent of the total issuance, respectively. It also issued 755 certificates of origin for CEPA.

Certificates of Macao Service Suppliers

To enjoy the incentives and benefits under CEPA, all Macao enterprises that conform to Annex 5 of CEPA, all regulations in supplementary protocols and Annex 3 of the Agreement on Trade Services under CEPA are required to apply to the Economic Services Bureau for a Certificate of Macao Service Supplier. From 1 January 2004, when CEPA was implemented, to 31 December 2018, the Economic Services Bureau issued 631 Certificates of Macao Service Suppliers.

Export and Import Licences

Licences for Export and Import are regulated by External Trade Law (Law No. 7/2003), as amended by Law No. 3/2016 dated 4 July 2016. Under the law, any natural person or legal person may engage in external trade activities, provided the Government holds evidence that they have fulfilled their tax obligations, particularly those involving business tax and excise duty. Macao exercises minimal controls over import and export activities that are consistent with its international obligations, and considerations of environmental, sanitary, safety and security issues.

The laws and regulations that currently govern imports and exports include:

- Law No. 7/2003 of the External Trade Law amended by Law No. 3/2016 dated 4 July 2016;
- By-law No. 28/2003 on External Trade Operations amended by By-law No.19/2016 dated 18 July 2016 ;
- Executive Order No. 487/2016 (Table of goods for self use or self consumption;

Exportation Table [Table A] and Importation Table [Table B]; and table of goods requiring health quarantine/plant quarantine);

- Law No. 2/2017 on enforcement laws and regulations regarding the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES);
- Law No. 4/99/M of the Excise Duty Regulations amended by Law No. 8/2008 on 25 August, Law No. 7/2009 on 25 May, Law No. 11/2011 on 19 December, and Law No. 9/2015 on 13 July;
- Decree-Law No. 62/95/M about the formulation of policies and measures on the Control and Reduced Use of Ozone-Depleting Substances and its related regulations;
- Executive Order No. 425/2009 setting a limit on the annual import of HCFCs, in Table C of Executive Order No. 78/GM/95, issued on 4 December;
- Decree-Law No. 51/99/M regulating commercial or industrial activities concerning computer programs, audiovisual products; and
- Law No. 17/2009 prohibiting the illegal production, trafficking and consumption of narcotics and psychoactive drugs, and other relevant regulations, amended by Law No. 4/2014 dated 8 April and Law No. 10/2016 dated 28 December.

According to law, licences for commodities that are subject to the special regime, listed in Exportation Table A and Importation Table B (contained in Annex II of Executive Order No. 487/2016), must be applied for in advance, regardless of the type of import or export. These licences are issued by authorised institutions. The Economic Services Bureau is authorised to issue such licences.

Regulated exported goods include:

- Species regulated by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) (contained in Chief Executive Notice No. 43/2017) ;
- Ozone-depleting substances;
- CD ROM production facilities;
- Weapons, ammunition and related parts and accessories; and
- Pharmaceutical items and medicines, and certain chemicals.

Regulated imported goods include:

- Drinks with alcohol concentrations of at least 30 percent by volume, and tobacco;
- Motor vehicles;
- Species regulated by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) (contained in Chief Executive Notice No. 43/2017);

- Ozone-depleting substances;
- CD ROM production facilities and materials;
- Live animals, meat and seafood, eggs and certain milk products;
- Pharmaceutical products and drugs, and certain chemicals;
- Weapons, ammunition and related parts and accessories;
- Inflammable explosives;
- Certain telecommunication transmitters and receivers; and
- Petroleum products.

Since applications for export licences for textile and garment products were first processed electronically in the fourth quarter of 2000, the Economic Services Bureau has been stepping up its efforts to electronically process applications for import and export licences. Since the introduction of the pilot scheme for electronically processing the import licence applications of some products in 2004, the number of applications for electronic services gradually increased from 2005 to 2018, with product categories expanding to include cigarettes, alcohol, motor vehicles, and air conditioners containing HCFCs.

In 2018, the Economic Services Bureau issued 11,183 import licences and 1,502 export/re-export licences.

Protection of Intellectual Property Rights

The Intellectual Property Department of the Economic Services Bureau is responsible for managing and enforcing laws relating to intellectual property rights; handling registration affairs relating to industrial property rights, including registration of trademarks, business names and logos; patents for inventions; utility patents, designs/new prototypes, semiconductor product topographies, places of origin / geographical indicators and awards. It is also responsible for updating and recording any remarks, extensions and acts of termination relating to industrial property rights. In addition, the department registers copyright and other related rights collectively managed by relevant organisations.

The Macao Customs Service is responsible for enforcement of legislation regarding intellectual property rights and implementation of punitive measures should they be infringed, to enhance fair competition and combat counterfeiting, thus promoting compliance with intellectual property rights and authorship regulations.

Intellectual Property Rights System

The Copyright and Related Rights Code and the Industrial Property Law are currently the two major pieces of legislation related to intellectual property rights in Macao.

Copyright and Related Rights Code

In Macao, copyright is subject to legal regulation and protection. On 16 August 1999, the Copyright and Related Rights Law (Decree-Law No. 43/99/M) was gazetted; it came into effect on 1 October that year, protecting copyright under clearly defined terms. The regulation provides full protection for works of literature, drama, music and art, movies and television broadcasting, as well as all original productions, and it fulfils the requirements of Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights formulated by the WTO.

To comply with the international protection standards arising from the special features of the modern information society, in 2012 the Government amended the Copyright and Related Rights Law approved by Decree-Law No. 43/99/M to produce Law No. 5/2012, which came into effect on 1 June the same year. The amended law enhances the rights and protection of copyright holders, art workers and producers, providing them with the rights of Internet transmission, distribution and commercial lease. At the same time, the law also adequately modifies the relevant criminal penalty to further protect copyright in a digital environment. Together, these measures more closely aligned Macao's copyright system with the latest international protection standards.

In Macao, copyright is an inherent right. A piece of work, whether issued, published, used or operated, already lends copyright to the author upon completion, allowing the author to enjoy related legal protection, even without registration. In general, copyright in Macao expires 50 years after the death of the author, including for works issued or published after death. However, the period of protection of individual pieces of work varies, depending on their type.

The Industrial Property Rights System

The current Industrial Property Law was promulgated on 13 December 1999 and came into effect on 6 June 2000, replacing the previous rules and regulations. It was only then that Macao had its own industrial property rights laws and was able to completely fulfil its international duties.

The Industrial Property Law offers protection in the following eight areas: patents, including invention patents and utility patents; certificates of complementary protection for drugs and herbal medicines; topology maps of semiconductor products; industrial designs and new industrial products; trademarks; the names and logos of business establishments; places of origin and geographical indications; and awards.

Trademark Registration

Any trademarks that fulfil the requirements of the Industrial Property Law may be registered in Macao, but registration is not compulsory. Trademark registration is geographical: trademark regulations in the Macao SAR protect only trademarks issued locally. Separate applications must be made in other countries and regions for

protection there.

In 2018, the Intellectual Property Department of the Economic Services Bureau accepted 16,474 applications for trademark licences, representing an increase of 25.42 percent on the 13,135 applications processed in 2017. Applications were mainly from mainland China, Macao, the United States, Hong Kong, Japan and British Virgin Islands. As at 31 December 2018, the Economic Services Bureau had received a cumulative total of 163,963 applications.

Patent Registration

From 6 June 2000, all applications for patents – including invention patents and utility patents, designs and new products – may be submitted directly to the Economic Services Bureau.

The Economic Services Bureau and the State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO) signed the Cooperation Agreement on Intellectual Property between the State Intellectual Property Office and the Economic Services Bureau of the Macao SAR on 24 January 2003. They agreed to extend the applicability of SIPO patent approvals to Macao. The effective period of this agreement was five years, and it was extended for five more years in 2008, 2013 and again in 2018.

In 2018, the Economic Services Bureau accepted 611 applications for patent extensions for inventions, 83 patent registration applications, and applications for registration of 208 designs and new products. These applications were mainly from the mainland China, the United States, Japan and Macao. As at 31 December 2018, the Economic Services Bureau had received a cumulative total of 3,510 applications for patent extensions for inventions, 1,844 applications for patents, and applications for the registration of 2,175 designs and new products.

SME Assistance Programme

Supporting the development of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) has always been a focal point for the Government's policy. In 2003, in response to the prevailing socio-economic situation, three enterprise-finance programmes were introduced.

The scheme was revised again in May 2017, to offer secondary aid to enterprises that had already repaid their loans, streamline the application procedures, and refine the details of the scheme.

As at the end of December 2018, a total of 11,249 applications had been received, 9,930 of which were approved, involving financial aid amounting to 2.924 billion patacas. (The statistics include the applications for financial aid to cover losses arising

from the impact Typhoon Hagupit in 2008). Enterprises receiving the loans are primarily engaged in retail, construction and public works, restaurants and hotels, corporate services, and personal services including automobile and motorcycle repair and maintenance, and hair and beauty salons.

The SME Credit Guarantee Scheme was launched in August 2003. The scheme is designed to assist enterprises in obtaining bank loans for business development. The MSAR Government provides eligible enterprises with credit guarantees of up to 50 percent of a bank loan up to 1.5 million patacas. The scheme was revised in June 2009, with the maximum credit guarantee rate raised to 70 percent, and the maximum credit guarantee amount raised to 3.5 million patacas.

In May 2017, the scheme underwent another revision, with the maximum credit guarantee amount raised to 4.9 million patacas. From the scheme's commencement to the end of December 2018, the Government received 740 applications, involving a total loan amount of 1.934 billion patacas; 685 of the applicants obtained government credit guarantees totalling 1.24 billion patacas. Most applicants were from the construction and public works sector, followed by retail, wholesaling, company services, imports and exports, transportation and warehousing, travel agencies, Chinese restaurants, other restaurants and hotels.

The SME Credit Assurance Scheme was launched in August 2003. The scheme is designed to assist SMEs in launching specific projects. On the financing front, the MSAR Government will provide eligible enterprises with credit guarantees of up to 100 percent of a bank loan up to one million patacas.

The scheme was revised in May 2017, to include an additional item for commencement of new businesses. Since the scheme's implementation, as of late December 2018, the Government received 79 applications, involving a total credit guarantee of 65.04 million patacas; 66 of the applicants obtained 100 percent credit guarantees from the Government, with a total value of 55.64 million patacas. Of the approved cases, most were from retailing, followed by wholesaling, paper, printing and publishing, imports and exports, construction and public works, textiles, garments and leather manufacturing, Chinese restaurants, other restaurants and hotels, and personal services including automobile and motorcycle repair, and hair and beauty salons.

Young Entrepreneurs Aid Scheme

To encourage young people in Macao to fulfil their dreams of starting their own businesses, and thereby fostering economic diversification and innovation in Macao, the Government launched an interest-free business start-up loan programme specially designed for young people. Interest-free financial assistance is provided to those who already have conceived the idea of starting a business and have already started the relevant operations, to relieve them of the pressure of funds shortage during the business start-up stage.

The Young Entrepreneurs Aid Scheme was launched in August 2013, with a maximum loan amount of 300,000 patacas and a longest repayment period of eight years. In August 2017, the scheme was revised, primarily to expand coverage to not only include young people who start businesses for the first time, but also provide assistance to enterprises established by young people who have previous experience of entrepreneurship; and enhanced training for youth entrepreneurship by requiring young entrepreneurs to enrol in relevant training programmes. By the end of 2018, a total of 1,854 applications had been received, 1,364 of which were approved, involving a total amount of 318 million patacas. The industries involved were mainly retail, restaurants and hotels, corporate services, automobile and motorcycle repair, and personal services including hair and beauty salons.

Special Assistance for SMEs affected by Typhoon Hato

To provide support for SMEs affected by Typhoon Hato, the Government introduced two short-term relief measures through the Industrial and Commercial Development Fund – the Special Assistance Scheme for SMEs affected by Typhoon Hato and Post-disaster Financial Aid Scheme, to provide an interest-free loan of up to 600,000 patacas and post-disaster financial aid of up to 50,000 patacas to eligible SMEs, hawkers, self-employed individuals and owners of commercial vehicles affected by the typhoon. To expedite the application for and receipt of such aid by affected merchants, the Economic Services Bureau worked in collaboration with various government departments and chambers of commerce to set up application form collection and cheque dispatch stations in various districts. It also worked with banks to expedite the approval of applications under the Special Assistance Scheme for SMEs.

As of the application deadline on 30 September 2017, the Industrial and Commercial Development Fund received a total of 14,536 applications for post-disaster financial aids and 6,640 applications under the Special Assistance Scheme for SMEs. As of 31 December 2018, 13,260 applications for post-disaster financial aids and 5,788 applications under the Special Assistance Scheme for SMEs, involving 572 million patacas and 1.81 billion patacas respectively, were approved.

Monetary Authority of Macao

The Monetary Authority of Macao, formerly known as the Issuing Institute of Macau, functions as a quasi-central bank and has the power to supervise Macao's financial system.

In addition to supervising the monetary and financial markets according to current legislation, the Monetary Authority also actively promotes long-term financial stability and sustained development.

Monetary Policy

Capital flows freely and currencies are freely convertible in Macao. The Government's currency policies are to defend Macao's currency and maintain its foreign exchange stability. The two policy tools used to achieve these objectives are the deposit reserve and monetary bills. The deposit reserve ratio is three percent for current savings, two percent for time deposits of less than three months, and one percent for time deposits of over three months. Monetary bills are a short-term money market tool issued by the Monetary Authority; and they are used to adjust the liquid capital of patacas in the financial system. The interest rate usually remains competitive with interbank offer rates in Hong Kong. In addition, the Monetary Authority of Macao adjusts liquidity in the money market via repurchase agreements and currency exchange contracts with the banks.

The Pataca

The pataca has been the legal tender of Macao for more than a century. As early as 1905, the former Portuguese administration authorised the Banco Nacional Ultramarino (BNU) the monopoly right to issue pataca notes. The first pataca notes were issued on 27 January of the following year. At that time, the Mexican eight reales silver coin, called Pataca Mexicana in Portuguese, was very popular in Asia, and the pataca was named after it.

In 1980, the former Portuguese administration set up the Issuing Institute of Macau (Instituto Emissor de Macau), which was given the monopoly right to issue pataca notes. Since then, the Banco Nacional Ultramarino has continued to issue banknotes, but has acted only as the agent of the Issuing Institute of Macau. On 1 July 1989, the Monetary and Foreign Exchange Authority of Macau was created. The Government redeemed the right to issue patacas, but the Banco Nacional Ultramarino remained the agent bank for issuing notes. In October 1995, the Bank of China (BOC) became the second agent bank for note issuing. Although more than one bank is now authorised to issue notes in Macao, overall power to issue currency is retained by the Government.

Under the currency board system, all the patacas issued must be 100-percent-backed by foreign exchange reserves. As legal backing for the notes they issue, the agent banks for note-issuing are required to pay an equivalent amount in Hong Kong dollars to the Monetary Authority of Macao; in exchange they receive a Zero-Percent Certificate of Indebtedness at a fixed exchange rate of one Hong Kong dollar to 1.03 patacas. The 100-percent reserve backing system enables the Monetary Authority to ensure the full convertibility of the pataca into its reserve currency – the Hong Kong dollar – thus establishing the linked exchange rate relationship between the pataca and the Hong Kong dollar. As the Hong Kong dollar is pegged to the US dollar, the pataca is indirectly pegged to the US dollar at an exchange rate of one US dollar to about eight patacas.

The Government's policy is to support the circulation and use of the pataca without rejecting the circulation and use of other currencies. Decree-Law No. 16/95/M, Circulation of Local Currency – Mandatory Use of the Pataca, requires that any goods

sold and services offered in local business transactions must be clearly priced in patacas; and they can also be simultaneously priced in one or more other currencies. Under the decree-law, regardless of the nature and objectives of the debts and transactions, no reasons or excuses can be used to decline settlement using the pataca.

From September 2002, the Bank of China began to provide deposit, remittance and exchange services in patacas in some major cities in Guangdong. The exchange business network has since been extended to cover nearly all provinces and municipalities in mainland China. This move is certain to increase the usage and circulation of patacas.

Foreign Exchange Reserves

The Government consistently adheres to prudent investment strategies for managing foreign exchange reserves. Provided the balance of international payments remains healthy and the convertibility of the pataca is not compromised, investments in safe yet quality investment products will be made to achieve principal-guaranteed growth. The year-end balance of foreign exchange reserves in 2018 increased by 0.8 percent over 2017, amounting to 163.6 billion patacas.

Fiscal Reserve

A fiscal reserve was established in early 2012, with the Monetary Authority of Macao responsible for its investments and management. Over the years, it has adopted a safe, effective and prudent investment approach. The capital of the fiscal reserve comes from the balance of the MSAR's reserve fund as well as the balance of past annual budgets. Balances amounting to 98.86 billion patacas were transferred to the fiscal reserve as start-up capital, while the remaining 54.2 billion patacas were transferred from the foreign exchange reserve. The MSAR's reserve fund was written off following the above transfers. At the end of 2018, the total asset value of the fiscal reserve, including the central budget balance for 2016 transferred early in the year, was 508.8 billion patacas, representing an increase of 18.8 billion patacas over the same period in 2017.

The fiscal reserve comprises two parts: the basic reserve and the excess reserve. The basic reserve refers to the financial reserves that provide ultimate protection for the Government's ability to cover public finances, at an amount equal to 1.5 times the provisions for expenditures of central departments set out in the latest fiscal budget reviewed and approved by the Legislative Assembly. Meanwhile, the excess reserve is used mainly to facilitate the implementation of the Government's public financial policies as well as to protect the liquidity of public finances, and is the fiscal reserve balance after meeting the basic reserve requirement.

Trade and Investment Promotion Institute

The Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) is a MSAR government

department responsible for promoting external cooperation such as external trade, foreign investment, convention and exhibition, and economic and trade cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking countries.

Expediting Establishment of “Three Centres” as a Trade and Economic Cooperation Services Platform Between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries

To further consolidate Macao’s function as the trade and economic cooperation services platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries, the IPIM has taken an “online and offline” approach to expediting the construction of three centres, which are: a commercial and trade service centre for SMEs in China and Portuguese-speaking countries, a trading hub for food and produce from Portuguese-speaking countries, and a convention and exhibition centre for economic and trade cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking countries.

Following the commencement of the China and Portuguese-speaking countries’ trade and economic cooperation and talent information website on 1 April 2015, there were 24,744 registered accounts by the end of 2018, with 2,346 registered suppliers and agents; 26,214 entries of information on food of Portuguese-speaking countries were published. There were 851 registered talents who are bilingual in Chinese and Portuguese, and 2,365 professional service suppliers.

On 31 March 2016, the Portuguese-speaking Countries Food Products Exhibition Centre, in Tap Seac Square Commercial Centre, officially opened to showcase beverage and food from Portuguese-speaking countries. Each item on display was given a unique QR code so customers could easily access product information. A B2C online transaction service was available for certain products.

From 2016 to 2018, the IPIM cooperated with Macao organisations and commercial associations to set up exhibition venues for food products of Portuguese-speaking countries at six locations in Macao and in various provinces and cities in mainland China. Branches of the Portuguese-speaking Countries Food Products Exhibition Centre have been established at representative offices of the IPIM in mainland China (Fuzhou, Hangzhou, Shenyang, Chengdu, Guangzhou and Wuhan).

In 2018, the IPIM arranged for enterprises from Macao and mainland China to participate in exhibitions and study tours in Portuguese-speaking countries, as follows:

In March, the IPIM organised a delegation consisting of Pan-Pearl River Delta “9+2” provincial and regional representatives for a commercial exchange tour to Germany and Portugal.

In June, the Secretary for Economy and Finance, Leong Vai Tac, led a Macao entrepreneur delegation arranged by the IPIM to Portugal, for the Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries – Lisbon

2018. During the visit, the delegation visited the local industrial and logistic park and infrastructure. The delegation also visited Brazil to attend the Brazil-China-Macao Economic and Trade Cooperation Seminar, exchange information on economic and trade cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking countries, and visit the Trade Union of Rio de Janeiro and local enterprises run by young entrepreneurs.

External Cooperation

The Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) is a member of World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA) and Asia Trade Promotion Forum (ATPF). In recent years, IPIM has signed cooperation agreements with trading organisations of various Portuguese-speaking countries and many provinces and regions of mainland China as well as the trade and economic authorities of the Korea and Thailand, to help local and overseas travelling merchants to explore business opportunities. Since 2006, IPIM has established representative offices in Hangzhou, Zhejiang province; Chengdu, Sichuan province; Shenyang, Liaoning province, Fuzhou, Fujian province; Guangzhou, Guangdong province; and Wuhan, Hubei province.

In March 2018, an MSAR Government delegation and a delegation of Macao entrepreneurs led by the Vice Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, Edmund Ho Hau Wah, visited Myanmar to strengthen cooperation in commerce and trade, tourism and culture.

In May, a delegation from Macao's economic and trade sector led by Chief Executive Chui Sai On visited Bangkok, Thailand. During the visit, the IPIM organised the Macao-Thailand Investment and Tourism Promotion Seminar, and Macao: Photo Exhibition of "One country, two systems" and the "Belt and Road" Initiative.

In December, the IPIM and the China International Contractors Association co-organised a delegation from mainland China and Macao to Myanmar and Thailand, to promote investment in infrastructure. This was the first time that entrepreneurs and representatives of mainland China and Macao enterprises have jointly participated in infrastructure investment promotional activities, which encourage joint participation in the "Belt and Road" initiative, and leverage Macao's advantages and its role as an economic and trade services platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries.

Enterprise Expansion Services

The IPIM provides a series of enterprise expansion services for investors, including providing support services necessary for business and market expansion for Macao enterprises; providing promotion incentives for electronic business (B2B), and promotion of B2C application platforms in support of marketing of Macao enterprises through an electronic approach; establishing an online business matching service platform; helping investors find business partners and expand their markets by holding business matching

sessions in trade and investment promotion events organised or co-organised by the IPIM; organising or co-organising workshops and exchange sessions to provide industry information to enterprises and inform them of the situation with business development in Macao, thereby promoting business exchanges; and providing general office support services, including temporary offices, and open office facilities for investors who are planning to establish a company, thereby reducing the startup costs for businesses in Macao.

Macao Ideas

Macao Ideas, established by the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) and launched in May 2011, is a permanent merchandise exhibition centre in Macao dedicated to all things “Macao-manufactured”, “Macao-branded” and “Macao designed”. Macao Ideas is a procurement venue for overseas buyers, agents and companies who intend to introduce Macao products. It also acts as a bridge between Macao and overseas enterprises through online and offline product displays.

Major Exhibitions and Events Hosted and Organised by IPIM

Events hosted and organised by the IPIM in 2017 included the 2017 Macao InEvents hosted and organised by the IPIM in 2018 included the 2018 Macao International Environmental Co-operation Forum (2018 MIECF), the Ninth International Infrastructure Investment and Construction Forum, 2018 Macao Franchise Expo (2018MFE), 2018 Guangdong and Macao Branded Products Fair, 23rd Macao International Trade and Investment Fair (23rd MIF), and Product and Service Exhibition of Portuguese-speaking Countries (Macao) (2018PLPEX).

The Belt and Road Infrastructure Development Index (2018) and its 2018 Report were introduced during the Ninth International Infrastructure Investment and Construction Forum, serving as a reference for enterprises that intend to invest in countries and regions along the Belt and Road.

To further enhance Macao’s function as a cooperation platform between China and Portugal, and to fully showcase products and services of Portuguese-speaking countries, the PLPEX has been organised as an independent exhibition since 2017, during the same period as the MIF. In 2018, the venue area was increased to 6,000 square metres, featuring 251 exhibition booths, representing an increase of over 14 percent over 2017. In all, 258 organisations and enterprises from mainland China, Macao, Hong Kong and Portuguese-speaking countries, registered users for the Portuguese-speaking Countries Food Products Database on the Portal, and professional service providers participated in the exhibition. More events were organised in parallel, to promote the products, services and culture of Portuguese-speaking countries.

One-Stop Service for MICE Bidding and Support

The IPIM provides a one-stop service for convention and exhibition bidding and comprehensive support for event organisers in Macao. To motivate adequate industrial diversification, Macao will foster the development of the convention and exhibition industry through a convention-first approach.

The one-stop service for convention and exhibition bidding and support includes: hosting leading overseas conventions and exhibitions in Macao; providing convention and exhibition information to organisers; appointing designated staff to follow-up on implementation of exhibition projects to be held in Macao; providing assistance on application under project subsidy schemes; assisting with promotion of local and overseas events that the IPIM participate in; and assisting companies established in Macao to launch convention and exhibition projects. It also offers a matching service to parties looking for partners for collaborative conventions and exhibitions.

One-Stop Service for Investors

IPIM's One-Stop Service for Investors provides all-round support and assistance to investors in Macao, throughout the implementation of an investment project. The IPIM contacts potential investors and appoints dedicated staff to support their investments in Macao – all the way from simple consultation, to assisting investors with implementing their investment plans, including by providing information on the business environment, administrative procedures and starting investment plans, assisting investors with establishing communication channels with related public bodies, and arranging technical meetings, to help investors understand the business environment in Macao within a short time.

As for significant investments or investments involving complicated administrative procedures, the Investment Committee comprising IPIM, Lands, Public Works and Transport Bureau, Economic Services Bureau, Labour Affairs Bureau, Macao Productivity and Technology Transfer Centre (CPTTM), Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau, Financial Services Bureau, Monetary Authority of Macao, Health Bureau, Macao Government Tourist Office, Fire Service, and Environmental Protection Bureau – followed up on all the necessary administrative procedures involved in launching and implementing investment plans in Macao. The Investment Committee also appoints dedicated public notaries to handle procedures involved in company set-up and business registration, providing comprehensive services to investors.

Applications for Temporary Residence Permits

Under the Investors, Managerial Personnel, and Technical and Professional Qualification Holders Residency Scheme (By-law No. 3/2005), natural persons listed below who are not local residents can apply for temporary residency in the Macao SAR:

- (1) investors who plan to make significant investments that facilitate Macao's development and whose plans are being considered by the relevant authorities;
- (2) investors who have made significant investments that facilitate Macao's development; and
- (3) management or technical personnel who have already been hired by Macao employers and whose diplomas, professional qualifications and experience are regarded as conducive to Macao's development.

The By-law No. 7/2007 promulgated by the Government in April 2007 suspended the effect of clauses of the By-law No. 3/2005 concerning applications for property investment residency. The move was part of the Government's initiative to review the long-standing investment residency policy.

Macau Investment and Development Limited

To implement the projects under the Framework Agreement on Cooperation Between Guangdong and Macao, the MSAR Government approved the establishment of Macau Investment and Development Limited on 29 June 2011, pursuant to Chief Executive Notice No. 17/2011 in the *Macao SAR Gazette* and By-law No. 14/2011.

Macau Investment and Development Limited endeavours to contribute to Macao's sustainable economic development and continuous progress in external economic cooperation and trade, through a series of efforts including participating in regional economic and trade cooperation, and launching investment projects.

Among these efforts, on 18 November 2011 Macau Investment and Development Limited jointly set up with Zhuhai Da Hengqin Investment Company Limited the Guangdong-Macao Traditional Chinese Medical Science and Technology Industrial Park Development Company Limited, to follow up on the of the Traditional Chinese Medicine Science and Technology Industrial Park, which is a cooperative project between Guangdong and Macao. The cooperative company acts as the developer and operator of the park, to carry out its projects.

In addition, under the Framework Agreement on Cooperation between Guangdong and Macao, Macao and Zhongshan signed the Framework Agreement on the Joint Construction of Cuiheng New District, to expedite the adequate economic diversification of Macao and transformation and upgrading of Zhongshan's economy. The Macau Investment and Development Limited and Transferência Electrónica de Dados - MACAU EDI VAN S.A. (TEDMEV) established the Parafuturo de Macau Investment and Development Limited on 24 November 2015, with equity shares of 99 percent and one percent, respectively, to lay the foundation for future work in collaboration with Zhongshan.

Macau Productivity and Technology Transfer Centre

The Macau Productivity and Technology Transfer Centre (CPTTM) was established in 1996. It is a non-profit organisation jointly established by the Government and the private sector. The mission of CPTTM is to help enterprises effectively use new approaches, ideas, information and technology to enhance the value of their products or services. Its objectives are to increase productivity and competitiveness, encourage and support the establishment and development of new businesses, and encourage employees to pursue self-development and enhance their vocational skills.

Continuous Professional Training

Ongoing professional training provided by the centre covers the four areas of fashion and innovation, information technology, business language and business administration, which are covered through a series of training programmes that are well-structured and can meet the requirements of professional/public examinations. The courses comprise: Industrial Development Series, Administration and Management Training Series, Business Start-up and Business Administration Training Series, and Business Language Training Series. There are also training programmes for specific groups of people, including a free enrolment scheme for the unemployed, vocational education programmes organised in collaboration with secondary schools and tertiary institutions, youth vocational and creativity training programmes organised in collaboration with schools and youth organisations, and entrepreneurship training programmes under the Innovation Development Scheme for Young Entrepreneurs.

In 2018, the centre held a total of 1,102 training programmes comprising a total of 23,869.75 learning hours. The number of students totalled 21,375. In the second half of the year, the centre became the approved programme provider of Wine & Spirit Education Trust (WSET®) and Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH), which introduced courses and examinations on wine and food safety qualifications, respectively.

Professional and Open Examinations

The Professional Examination Resources Unit under the centre manages various professional qualification public examinations and provides the public with reference information about these and other local professional examinations. The unit also serves as the Macao Centre for National Vocational Qualification Assessment. In 2018, a total of 6,114 candidates applied for examinations via the Resources Unit.

At present, there are five types of public examinations available at the Professional Examination Resources Unit: information technology, commerce and management, languages, vocational skills and admission examination.

The centre reached a cooperation agreement on “One Examination, Two Accreditations” with the Labour Affairs Bureau in October 2011. All Macao residents

awarded a National Vocational Qualification via the centre will receive the relevant local vocational skill certificates issued by the bureau.

The 2018 Microsoft Office Specialist World Championship and Adobe Certified Associate (ACA) World Championship were held from July to August, in the United States. Three Macao contestants, who had received extensive pre-match training provided by the CPTTM, won second place in the categories of Microsoft Office Word 2013, Word 2016 and Excel 2013.

Technical Training and Support Services

The House of Apparel Technology provides technical training, technological support, fashion and innovation seminars, and organises study tours on sewing equipment to help the garment industry move towards high added value, in-house brands and innovation. There are also fashion information stations and an online fashion information platform, WGSN (Worth Global Style Network), to help Macao factory owners, fashion designers and cultural and creative industry professionals obtain information about fashion, retail trends and analysis. In 2018, a new platform – Fashion Snoops – and digital textile printing machines were introduced, to inspire professionals and students in the fashion design industry in product development.

In 2018, CPTTM continued to hold the Ma Consef fashion training programme and organise various skills competitions. The centre organised participation by Macao fashion brands and designers in various fashion events, including Guangdong Fashion Week (Spring) – First Fashion Show of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Fashion Alliance, the 29th China (Dalian) International Garment & Textile Fair, Dynamic Macao Business and Trade Fairs, which were held three times a year, and Hong Kong CENTRESTAGE, to help Macao fashion brands step out of Macao, exchange information and ideas with the fashion industries of other regions and create business opportunities.

The CPTTM also led groups of young Macao fashion designers to join the 26th China International Young Fashion Designers Contest. It also continued cooperating with IPIM to organise the Macao Fashion Festival 2018 during the 23rd Macao International Trade and Investment Fair, with participation by 39 designers and brands from various regions.

At the invitation of the Labour Affairs Bureau, the CPTTM participated in the 2018 (Tenth) Guangzhou/Hong Kong/Macao/Chengdu Youth Skills Competition, held in Macao in October. The CPTTM was responsible for “fashion technology” and “web design” training, screening contestants and venue decoration. It also assisted in setting up the Fashion Design Showcase and Fashion and Innovation Workshop at the Work Experience Booths. Contestants from Macao won the gold prize in Web Design and a merit prize in Fashion Technology.

The CPTTM continued working with the Cultural Affairs Bureau to operate and manage the Macao Fashion Gallery in St. Lazarus Parish. The fashion gallery collects

fashionable and creative products with distinctive Macao characteristics, by hosting various themed fashion shows and activities, to increase sales channels. In 2018, Macao Fashion Gallery hosted five fashion shows with different themes, three pop-up shops, three outdoor fashion shows and two fashion workshops. It also exhibited the creativity and capability of Macao local brands to local residents and tourists.

Management Information and Consulting Services

As a correspondent member of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), CPPTM is committed to helping local organisations to raise their management and product quality levels to international standards.

In 2018, a total of 62 cases were resolved via management system consulting services. There were 51 applications under the assistance scheme for the International Management System Certification/Laboratory Accreditation. From the commencement of the scheme in October 1996 to the end of 2018, a total of 391 applications were awarded certification. There were 10 test categories under the External Testing Relay Service. A total of 2,140 applications were filed during 2018. In the middle of the year, the CPPTM launched a certification scheme on quality Macao products together with the Industrial Association of Macau; three applications were received by the end of the year.

The CPPTM continued to help local organisations to implement the ISO 14001 environmental management system, as well as realising green purchasing, understanding energy management, referring to the sustainable development report framework promulgated by the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) and enhancing understanding of corporate social responsibility. The CPPTM continued to hold the 12th Envirokids Program – Children’s Environmental Protection Action. The CPPTM also issued the Good Management Series on food safety management, retail shop management and convention management, to support development of the industry.

Information Technology Application and Training

The Cyber-Lab provides Macao students and working adults with the most comprehensive and professional information technology training programmes. In 2018, the Cyber-Lab continued to implement the gifted student training programme, providing information-technology-specific courses targeted at gifted secondary school students. There were 32 participants in the programme. The CPPTM organised six IT-related competitions for 343 secondary students and 48 tertiary students.

The CPPTM is committed to assisting SMEs to adopt information technology, providing information system application support services, and promoting the application of freeware and providing related support services. In 2018, it provided technical support for various enterprises on 113 occasions. In addition, CPPTM helped the Economic Services Bureau to develop the Macao Happy Play and SME360 system to facilitate easier

access to information by the public, tourists and SMEs through the use of information technology. The mobile app launched by the CPPTM, ChoicePro, was integrated into the SME360 system in August 2018, which further facilitated procurement matching between SMEs and large enterprises.

External Interaction and Cooperation and Services for SMEs

One of the long-term functions of CPTTM is to provide SMEs with various support services. In 2018, it handled a total of 105 support cases.

In 2018, the CPTTM continued to join hands with the Science and Technology Development Fund to co-organise exhibitor groups to participate in the China High-Tech Fair, in which 11 Macao enterprises and organisations participated. The CPTTM continued to organise exhibitor groups jointly with the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute and the Science and Technology Development Fund to join the China Cross-Strait Technology and Projects Fair. A total of seven Macao enterprises participated in the fair, which mainly introduced and promoted environmental protection technologies and products of information technology development.

In April and June 2018, the Government launched the SME Subsidy Scheme for Installation of Anti-flood Platforms and the SME Subsidy Scheme for Installation of Anti-flood Gates and Water Pumps, respectively. The CPTTM was commissioned by the Industrial and Commercial Development Fund to handle the applications for subsidies. By 31 December, there were 53 and 1164 applications for the SME Subsidy Scheme for Installation of Anti-flood Platforms and the SME Subsidy Scheme for Installation of Anti-flood Gates and Water Pumps, respectively.

Participating in the Construction of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area

The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Productivity Service Alliance was established on 28 June 2018. As a member of the alliance, the CPTTM participated in two “Productivity Seminar” training and exchange activities, in June and November. In the latter activity, a member of the Committee for Industrial Diversification of the CPTTM gave the keynote speech as a representative of Macao.

In December, the CPTTM arranged for a delegation of 12 Macao entrepreneurs to attend the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area Gala Dinner.

World Trade Center Macau

The goals of the World Trade Center Macau are to promote and expand trading opportunities beyond Macao, to assist individuals and enterprises in searching for

international business opportunities, and to pioneer the exploration of new markets for Macao business organisations. Through the World Trade Center Macau, members can stay in close touch with nearly 300 world trade centres around the world, building new market networks and researching potential international trading partners.

The World Trade Center Macau and the Arbitration Centre of the China Chamber of International Commerce (CCOIC) have co-established the CCBC-CCPIT Joint Conciliation Centre, for resolving commercial disputes between mainland China and Macao enterprises.

The Business Cooperation Centre of Enterprise Europe Network Central China Macao Office (EENCC Macao Office)

The Business Cooperation Centre of Enterprise Europe Network Central China – Macao Office (EENCC Macao Office) is formerly known as the Euro-Info Centre Macao, which was set up in 1992 upon the recommendations of the Macao Government and under the auspices of the European Commission.

The Enterprise Europe Network is a European Union initiative aimed at providing business and innovation support to small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) in Europe. As one of the network's partner organisations in China, EENCC Macao Office offers support to SMEs in Macao, mainland China and other Asian countries and regions.

The main missions of EENCC Macao Office are:

- Raising awareness and giving advice on EU legislation, standards and policies;
- Accessing EU programs, projects and funding;
- To find and connect with potential business partners across Europe;
- Facilitating business co-operation among SMEs; and
- To act as interface between SMEs and European institutions.

Macao Industrial Parks Development Company

To attract investment, the Government made the decision in 1993 to set up an industrial park in the Concordia Reclaimed Zone in Coloane to foster industrial diversification. A total of 337,000 square metres of land was reclaimed, of which 160,000 square metres is occupied by the Concordia Industrial Park. In October 1993, Concordia Industrial Park Company (SPIC) was officially set up to take over the management of the industrial park.

On 5 December 2003, the Central People's Government approved the establishment

of Zhuhai-Macao Cross-border Industrial Zone, in which Zhuhai would take up 290,000 square metres of land, and Macao would take up 110,000 square metres of land from reclamation in Ilha Verde.

In June 2004, the Government restructured Concordia Industrial Park Company (SPIC) to form Macao Industrial Parks Development Company, to develop and manage the Concordia Industrial Park, Zhuhai-Macao Cross-border Industrial Zone and other industrial parks. The MSAR and the Trade and Investment Promotion Institute own 60 percent and 40 percent shares of the company, respectively.

Labour Affairs Bureau

The Labour Affairs Bureau is responsible for implementing policies concerning labour, employment, occupational safety and health, and vocational training.

Employment Services

The Employment Department of the Labour Affairs Bureau assists job seekers looking for work in the private sector.

The Employment Department continued offering target-defined employment services. In 2018, to facilitate employment of grassroots workers, the Department referred qualified job seekers to recruitment fairs for major construction projects and sent representatives to the recruitment activities of large enterprises to learn about recruitment needs. During the year, job seekers attended 113 recruitment activities and 2,557 success cases were recorded.

To support youth employment, the department continued to organise various activities, including seminars on career planning, employment information or interview skills, as well as mock interviews. The department also organised the youth career expo to provide a matching platform for young people and enterprises. In 2018, more than 3,400 people attended the expo. More than 70 enterprises offered over 4,000 job vacancies. In addition, to enable more young people in Macao to gain an understanding of the development opportunities and working environment of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, the department organised four visits to the Greater Bay Area in 2018. A total of 102 Macao young people visited renowned enterprises and young entrepreneurs in Zhuhai or Shenzhen.

The Employment Department also provided tailored employment and referral services to the elderly, serving a total of 92 elderly people with employment counselling services. A total of 4,109 referrals were made for 1,074 elderly people. The department also provided one-stop comprehensive services to those who came for help after being dismissed by their former employers. In 2018, the department provided one-stop services to 46 people, of whom 20 have already found a job.

In 2018, the Employment Department recorded 10,787 job-seeking applications, of which 77 were from disabled persons, which were followed up by a dedicated task force under the department. A total of 41,048 referrals and matches were made according to the requirements of employers and the qualifications of job seekers, resulting in 8,961 people attending employment interviews, and 2,113 successful matchings (51 of which involved disabled persons). Successful matchings involved 81 different occupations.

Vocational Training

The Vocational Training Department under the Labour Affairs Bureau provides vocational training to citizens, meeting market needs. In addition, it strives to promote cooperation with other departments in terms of vocational training, and to align the development approaches of training programmes. It has also begun to establish a vocational skill certification system for different industries, to further improve professionals' skills and enhance recognition of their qualifications, supporting the upward or horizontal mobility of the labour force.

In 2018, the Vocational Training Department responded to changes and needs in the economy and the labour market by organising vocational courses that aimed at upgrading skills, certification-linked training, employment-linked training and on-the-job paid training. The department continued reviewing and optimising course design and provision. The courses offered in 2018 were attended by 8,737 persons.

Statistics on Vocational Training Department Students 2018

Training system	Training mode	Target participants	Number of courses	Number of students	Number of courses completed	Number of students who completed the course	Rate of successful employment one month after course completion
Occupational training	Apprentice training (2-year full-time)	F. 3 graduate or above aged 14-24; to foster the skills and knowledge required by various professions among young people	6	63	2	12	100%

Cont.

Statistics on Vocational Training Department Students 2018

Training system	Training mode	Target participants	Number of courses	Number of students	Number of courses completed	Number of students who completed the course	Rate of successful employment one month after course completion
Continuous training	Industry-specific development training	The currently employed; to raise the professionalism of industry professionals	220	5,917	204	5,203	--
	Facility maintenance skills training (on-the-job paid training)	Lower ranking staff and newly recruited repair workers; the currently employed who wish to change their jobs; to provide multiple-skill training in facility maintenance	28	486	28	460	--
	Hotel and catering chef training (on-the-job paid training)	Lower ranking staff and newly recruited chefs; the currently employed who wish to change their jobs; to provide training in Chinese and Western culinary skills	7	115	7	106	--
	Fishing moratorium training programme	A 96-hour course, mainly to alleviate the financial pressure faced by fishermen during the moratorium, and to provide assistance in developing other occupational skills	29	626	29	598	--

Statistics on Vocational Training Department Students 2018

Training system	Training mode	Target participants	Number of courses	Number of students	Number of courses completed	Number of students who completed the course	Rate of successful employment one month after course completion
Continuous training	Vocational Training Programme for the Elderly	Designed for those aged 55 or above, to help elderly persons who are willing and able to work continue to stay in the workforce or to facilitate their re-employment.	4	74	4	66	
	Youth Vocational Training Programme	Designed for youth, to help young people unlock their potential and plan for their future career paths	8	96	8	39	--
	Employment Enhancement Training Programme	To provide specific training to job seekers registered with the Labour Affairs Bureau, with a view to raising their skill level within a short period of time, thereby increasing their chance of being recruited through job interviews	6	32	6	25	
	Vocational Rehabilitation Programme	Designed for rehabilitating persons, to facilitate their employment and social integration	3	24	1	6	--

Cont.

Statistics on Vocational Training Department Students 2018

Training system	Training mode	Target participants	Number of courses	Number of students	Number of courses completed	Number of students who completed the course	Rate of successful employment one month after course completion
Continuous training	Skills Competition Enhancement Training Programme	To provide skill enhancement training for shortlisted skills competition contestants, and to identify strong performers to represent Macao at skills competitions	15	118	5	26	--
	Vocational skills pre-examination study course	For those who have signed up for vocational skills assessment; to provide focused revisions and information about examination rules	77	1,186	77	1,186	--
Total			403	8,737	371	7,727	--

Skills Evaluation

In 2018, the Labour Affairs Bureau issued a total of 2,624 vocational skill certificates of various kinds. Breaking the figure down by sectors, the certificates mainly involved the real estate industry, the engineering and maintenance industry and hotels and catering industry, accounting for 41.9 percent, 38.4 percent and 10.3 percent, respectively.

The Labour Affairs Bureau continued to actively work with Guangdong province on occupational skills testing, to explore skills testing or training programmes for "One Examination, Two Accreditations" or "One Examination, Multiple Accreditations" for more types of jobs and at various levels, thereby fully realising the advantages of regional cooperation. It continued to organise training and certification courses. In addition, the bureau continued to commission the Macao Productivity and Technology Transfer Centre (CPTTM) to hold "One Examination, Two Accreditations" programmes at various levels.

Vocational Skill Competitions

The Labour Affairs Bureau fosters vocational skills development, broadens horizons and arouses interest in skills training among young people, by participating in or organising vocational skills competitions, to facilitate talent cultivation. Also, it further enhances exchanges and cooperation with vocational training organisations worldwide, thereby learning from advanced training experiences and skills, increasing public awareness of the importance of vocational training, and promoting the development of vocational skills training in Macao.

On 30 and 31 October 2018, the Labour Affairs Bureau organised the 2018 (Tenth) Guangzhou/Hong Kong/Macao/Chengdu Youth Skills Competition. In the five events of the competition, contestants from Macao won two gold prizes in Electrical Installations and Web Design. Five contestants from Macao won merit prizes - one in Fashion Technology, two in Patisserie and Confectionery, one in Restaurant Service and one in Web Design.

Through different events on occupational skills experience, this competition led participating young people and secondary school students into discussions on enhancing the presentation and functions of the competition. The two-day competition attracted an audience of 9,718 people, while 41 guided tours were arranged for 1,063 participants.

Labour Regulations

In the area of labour rights, duties and protection, the Labour Relations Law (Law No. 7/2008), the Law on Employment of Non-Resident Workers (Law No. 21/2009), the Compensation Mechanism for Labour Accidents and Occupational Diseases (Decree-Law No. 40/95/M), and the Law on Minimum Wage for Cleaning and Security Workers of the Property Management Industry (Law No. 7/2015) set out the minimum statutory requirements and protection for employees at work, balancing the legal interests of both employers and employees. In 2018, the Government announced amendments of the Labour Relations Law and the final report of the public consultation on the System of Part-time Work and the bill on Minimum Wage.

The Workers' Credit Rights Protection Scheme (Law No. 10/2015) establishes a protection scheme on credit rights arising from labour relations, to ensure that payments are made in relation to credit rights not fulfilled by debtors. The bureau has consistently implemented the Framework Law on Employment Policy and Workers' Rights (Law No. 4/98/M), ensuring that when employing non-resident workers, the employer must assure employment priority for local employees, and ensure equal rights, working conditions and benefits for local and non-resident workers.

Labour Relations

The Labour Inspection Department under the Labour Affairs Bureau provides free

consultancy services on labour regulations to local citizens, accepts and mediates in labour-relations, and monitors enterprises' compliance with labour regulations. The department is also responsible for handling applications for business licences by employment agencies. To effectively monitor the employment conditions of foreign workers and curb illegal employment, the Labour Inspection Department, the Public Security Police, and the Macao Customs Service jointly or independently carried out regular or non-regular inspections, according to their authority.

In 2018, the Labour Inspection Department provided 4,798 consultations about labour regulations to enquirers visiting the office. Of the individuals who sought assistance, 85.3 percent were employees and 14.7 percent were employers. Most enquiries were from cultural, entertainment, gaming and other service industries, as well as from the construction industry. Consultation topics were mainly related to dismissal compensation, wages and contract termination, which accounted for 15.7 percent, 12.1 percent and 11.7 percent of all enquires, respectively. There were 19,588 enquiries via telephone.

A total of 1,603 complaints from 2,656 employee enquiries were handled, 11.8 percent less than in 2017. Most involved wages (23.5 percent), overtime compensation (11.3 percent) and dismissal compensation (10.4 percent). Categorised by industry, most complainants were from construction (44.7 percent), followed by hotels and catering industry (14.5 percent), and gaming and other service industries (11.9 percent).

In 2018, there were 2,572 complaints related to employment disputes, illegal employment and other cases settled, involving 4,407 employees and 1,914 employer entities. Of the 1,614 cases relating to creditors' rights issues involved in the employment disputes, 70 required transferral to trial by the judiciary, accounting for 4.3 percent of total creditors' rights issues – mainly concerning wages, annual leave and overtime compensation, with the rest being resolved by the department itself. Creditors' rights arising from employment disputes totalled 44.75 million patacas, involving 2,799 employees.

In 2018, the Labour Inspection Department received notifications of 142 cases of agreement on lowering basic remuneration, involving 400 local employees, and 62 non-resident employees. None of the notifications received required filing and follow-up due to alleged breach of reduction of employees' basic compensation.

In the department's efforts to combat illegal employment, 845 cases of illegal employment were filed, in accordance with the Regulation on the Prohibition of Illegal Employment (By-law No. 17/2004) and the Law on Employment of Non-resident Workers (Law No. 21/2009) and its relevant supplementary laws. After investigation, in 2018, 862 offenders were penalised for breaches of the law, with fines imposed totalling 10.56 million patacas. In these cases, 177 non-local residents were found to be working for others in the MSAR without permits. Also, 245 non-local residents were found to be engaged in activities for their own benefit. Individuals in the two groups were fined a total of 5.785 million patacas.

In 2018, 222 applications for business licences by employment agencies were

processed. A total of 28 cases involving alleged breach of law by employment agencies were filed. These cases involved 32 activities, which included seven cases of operating without a licence, registration for employment of non-residents, and collection of agency charges. In 2018, the department revoked the business licence of one employment agency due to professional misconduct.

In 2018, only one enquiry made via telephone was received. Two cases involving four employees were filed in this regard, which were mainly complaints regarding wages and overtime compensation. Investigations of the two cases were completed. No breach of law was found in one of the cases. The remaining case (involving three employees) was confirmed to involve non-compliance with the minimum wage requirement, and the employers involved have already settled the shortfall in wage payment to the employees.

According to the legal regulation of the Workers' Credit Rights Protection Scheme, the administrative and technical support for the Protection Fund for Creditors should be provided by the Labour Affairs Bureau. In 2018, 233 employees applied for protection of workers' credit rights. Advice on all of these applications was provided within 60 days as required by the law.

Regarding labour inspection, the Labour Inspection Department proactively takes preventive inspection measures and promotes the laws; improves the exit mechanism for non-local employees; and establishes a joint exit mechanism for non-local employees, as well as a cross-departmental task force with the Public Security Police. In 2018, 43 inspections were conducted on major construction sites, collecting 1,027 copies of particulars of employees, to monitor employers' compliance with labour laws and protect the legal labour rights of employees. Nine briefing sessions on exit mechanisms were held for contractors of and employees working in construction sites, to explain to them matters that require attention by employers and labour rights of employees upon termination of employment. Compared with 2017, the number of people complaining about labour rights of employees in the construction sector decreased by 15.1 percent in 2018, showing that the measures were effective in reducing the number of labour disputes.

"Services on the Doorstep" are provided by giving legal enquiry services in hotels, construction sites, employment agencies and schools. Guidance is provided to employers on compliance with labour laws, to familiarise employers and employees with the rights, responsibilities and protection. The department also organised various types of presentations on labour laws for our partners and social groups, to promote the laws through case studies, interactive discussion, themed videos and question-and-answer sessions. In all, 98 presentations were conducted in 2018, with more than 11,491 participants.

The Labour Inspection Department continues to promote laws and provide convenient services to the public through various electronic media. There is an online reservation service for enquiries and complaints regarding labour rights. Simulated calculation of labour benefits is provided through a mobile app, to provide online simulated calculation of labour benefits for general employees, as well as minimum-wage-eligible cleaning

and security workers of the property management industry. Such rights include extra remuneration for working during mandatory and weekly leave, overtime compensation, annual leave compensation, and compensation for termination of contract without a specified contract period. The mobile app also provides samples of written documents of labour contracts. Residents can print the labour contract samples for free at service stations in the department's offices. Besides, the department has been enhancing the promotion of laws through various channels and media, including WeChat, Facebook, television and radio advertisements.

Occupational Safety and Health

In 2018, the Occupational Safety and Health Department under the Labour Affairs Bureau conducted the following regular inspections, industrial accident investigations, occupational health medical check-ups and related measures:

Work item	Target	Number of inspections	Number of suggested improvements	Other actions
Routine safety and health inspection	1,321 construction sites	3,197	1,486	Filed disciplinary actions against 136 construction sites involved in minor contraventions, with penalties of 611,000 patacas imposed. It was ordered that work be suspended in 35 cases due to high risk. Filed disciplinary actions against 5 employers and individuals for contraventions of regulations regarding occupational safety cards of the construction industry, with penalties of 6,000 patacas imposed.
	128 food and beverage premises	128	147	--
	20 gaming premises	30	41	--

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Work item	Target	Number of inspections	Number of suggested improvements	Other actions
Routine safety and health inspection	8 industrial premises	8	14	--
	10 piers	20	79	--
Safety inspection jointly conducted with other departments	198 enterprises	300	164	-
Industrial accident	7,362 victims in industrial accidents	-	-	--

Occupational safety and health training in 2018:

Course/activity	Number of classes	Number of participants	Number and types of certificates awarded
Occupational safety and health seminar	303	19,319	-
Occupational safety and health training module	143	3,334	3,277 (certificate of competency)
Construction industry occupational safety cards training courses and public examinations	552	17,137	16,534 (occupational safety cards)
Construction industry occupational safety cards refresher courses and public examinations	430	8,585	8,325 (occupational safety card renewals)

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Course/activity	Number of classes	Number of participants	Number and types of certificates awarded
Construction safety designated training courses (offered since June 2018)	37	770	706 (construction safety designated training certificate)
Construction industry occupational safety cards training courses for hotels and catering	111	4,556	4,399 (occupational safety card for hotels and catering)
Assistant construction safety supervisor certificate courses (organised jointly with Macau Construction Safety Association)	6	209	72 (*Examination of classes 4-6 yet to be held)
Assistant construction safety supervisor certificate courses(organised jointly with Macau Construction Safety Association)	4	142	35 (Examination of Classes 2-4 yet to be held) (Construction safety supervisor qualification)
Occupational Safety and Health Officer certificate courses(organised jointly with the University of Macau)	3	102	38 (*Examination of Classes 2-3 yet to be held)
Lifting appliance safety and inspection certificate courses (II)(organised jointly with Macau Construction Safety Association)	5	90	85 (certificate of competency)
Concepts of lifting appliance safety and inspection (organised jointly with Macau Construction Safety Association)	1	29	28 (certificate of competency)

Occupational safety and health promotional activities in 2017:

Activity	Number of participants	Number of participating individuals
Occupational safety and health promotional activities	133 construction sites	10,635
	37 hotels	2,157
	9 schools	1,158
Safety shoes promotion	59 enterprises	411 (provided with safety shoes)
First-aid kit promotion	190 enterprises	-
Temporary anchor devices promotion	39 enterprises	172 (attended the relevant training)
Safety harness, fall-arresting device and independent rescue line (kit) promotion programme	46 enterprises	178 (attended the relevant training)
Construction industry occupational safety and health management – promotion programme on working on mobile platforms	79 enterprises	336 (attended the relevant training)
Portable residual current device promotion programme	37 enterprises	183 (attended the relevant training)
Cut and heat resistant gloves promotion programme (launched in February 2018)	90 enterprises	--
Sun protection clothing and hat promotion programme (launched in May 2018)	95 enterprises	--

Non-resident Workers Employment Department

The Non-resident Workers Employment Department under the Labour Affairs Bureau is mainly responsible for administrative work related to employment of foreign workers. The Government imports non-resident labour on the main premise that the employment and labour rights of local employees are not harmed, whilst ensuring the continuous

and stable development of Macao's economy.

During 2018, the Non-resident Workers Employment Department handled 32,554 applications for work permits for professionals, non-professionals, domestic helpers, importation of non-resident workers and renewal of permits, transfer of professional non-resident employees, and activities for personal interest. Of these applications, 20,593 were for non-professional employees, 3,123 were for professional employees and 8,823 were for domestic helpers. Also, there were 15 applications for work permits to engage in activities for the applicants' personal interest, with follow-up action on statements of objection and petitions.

At the end of 2018, there were 188,480 employees with non-resident ID cards in Macao, including 153,809 non-professional employees, 5,973 professional employees, six persons engaging in activities for the their own benefit, and 28,692 domestic helpers, of whom 421 were from mainland China.

From November 2018, apart from Guangdong and Fujian, the department also issues permits for domestic helpers from seven provinces / autonomous regions in the mainland China, including Guangxi, Hunan, Hubei, Jiangxi, Anhui, Sichuan and Guizhou.

The first phase of the online service system was launched in May 2018. After registering for online services, applicants can read the status of non-resident worker employment licences of foreign workers in enterprises, occupational safety and health scores of contractors, as well as records of arrears, illegal employment, and non-resident employees working for non-authorized entities. Applications for renewal of employment of specialised or non-specialised non-resident workers can also be submitted online.

Consumer Council

The Consumer Council was established and commenced operation in 1990, and is responsible for providing comments on consumer protection policies to be implemented by the Government, and driving various efforts to protect consumers' rights.

Establishment of Cooperative Networks

In 1997, the council became a full member of Consumers International. Regarding international cooperation, it subsequently signed cooperation agreements with consumer rights departments or organisations of Portugal, Spain and Singapore. In 2014, the Consumer Council joined the International Consumer Organization for Portuguese-speaking Countries as an observer. Regarding cooperation within Greater China, it has signed consumer rights protection cooperation agreements with a total of 27 consumer councils of various mainland China provinces and cities, Hong Kong and Taiwan, to exchange relevant information and undertake various cooperation programmes.

In April 2018, consumer councils of nine cities in Guangdong and the two special administrative regions within the Greater Bay Area signed the Cooperation Memorandum on Consumers' Rights Protection in the Guangdong–Hong Kong–Macao Greater Bay Area, which designated the Macao Consumer Council as the intermediary platform of disputes in Greater Bay Area cities and the Portuguese Association for Consumer Protection.

Consumer Arbitration Centre

The Consumer Arbitration Centre was established in 1998 with an aim of resolving minor disputes that occur within the territory, and which do not involve more than 50,000 patacas, through mediation, conciliation and arbitration.

It is the duty of the Consumer Arbitration Centre to provide suitable legal assistance to a concerned party by one person-in-charge and a skilled officer. An arbitral decision shall be made by one judicial officer who acts as an arbitration judge on a part-time basis.

In 2018, the centre launched a cross-border arbitration service. Tourists from mainland China can report consumer disputes to the consumer councils in their home cities, and complete the arbitration procedures across the border.

Businesses that value their reputations and wish to resolve potential customer disputes are invited to apply for membership.

By 2018, 1,493 active companies had joined the Consumer Arbitration Centre. They included Chinese and western pharmaceutical businesses, department stores, supermarkets, catering companies, jewellery and timepiece shops, insurance agencies, laundry and dyeing companies, beauty and fitness centres, mobile telephone companies, computer products companies, travel agencies and real estate agencies.

Consumer Rights

According to Law No. 12/88/M, anyone receiving goods or services for private use from individuals or organisations of occupational nature engaging in economic activities is deemed as a consumer.

Consumers have the right to receive health protection and be safeguarded against dishonest and irregular practices relating to the promotion or provision of goods or services; to receive guidance and be informed; to be safeguarded against risks that could damage their interests; to be protected against any loss and to receive compensation; and to be treated fairly and be able to participate in the legal and administrative defence of their rights and interests.

To promote consumer rights and the relevant law, the Consumer Council published

the first *Consumer Report* in July 1993. In December 2018, the 304th issue was published, with a monthly circulation of 4,600 copies.

Complaints

In 2018, the Consumer Council received 2,290 complaints and 2,753 enquiries. The number of cases handled totalled 5,043. The complaints mainly concerned disputes arising from consumer activities involving jewellery, public transport, food and beverage, personal care products and services, as well as catering services.

In line with the Government's strategy to develop gaming and tourism and the facilitated individual travel (FIT) scheme for mainland residents, the Consumer Council is strengthening its services for tourists, and is dedicated to promoting the development of a sound consumer rights protection mechanism in Macao. Of the 5,000 complaints and enquiries received, about 26 percent were made by tourists.

Research and studies

The Consumer Council works to realise consumer rights, based on information gathered through research, which includes quality spot checks on commercial goods. The research includes collecting and analysing the prices of various goods and services in the market.

To keep pace with the development of the information era, the Consumer Council has launched several mobile phone apps. In 2016, a mobile app known as the *Macao Price Information Platform* was developed to incorporate existing mobile apps including *Macao Supermarket Price Information Platform*, *Macao Fuel Price Information Platform* and *Certified Shop*. It provides information on everyday prices in the markets, and so provide a one-stop information service platform for consumers to check prices and information about certified shops.

Yearly Quality Mark of "Certified Shops"

On 15 March 2001, the Consumer Council introduced the "Certified Shop" quality mark to the general public, which was well recognised by various authorities in Macao and mainland China. Since 2007, the quality mark has been jointly issued by the Consumer Council and the Chamber of Tourism of the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce (ACFIC), as a way to enhance the protection of consumer rights in Macao and promote "good faith tourism".

To qualify for membership of the Consumer Arbitration Centre and receive a "Certified Shop" emblem, a shop must not have had any complaints filed against it within the previous year. As at the end of 2018, the Consumer Council had issued the "Certified Shop 2019" emblem to a total of 1,131 establishments.

The council has enhanced the regulation of Certified Shops by requesting these shops to abide by the following additional rules:

- To offer consumers after-sales service, and provide accurate information about the products and services they sell;
- To list the specific prices of products and services on their invoices; and
- To settle disputes with consumers within 14 days of receiving complaints, either through refunds, replacement of goods or submission to the Arbitration Centre.

The Consumer Council has also formulated a code of practice for each industry sector in keeping with social developments. At present, 19 industry sectors under the Certified Shops mechanism – covering cleaning and dyeing services, real estate agents, supermarkets, pharmacies, beauty services, souvenirs, photography equipment retail and photo printing services, gold and jewellery, leather garments and shoes, mobile phone retailing, computer products, birds' nest products, electrical appliances, eyewear, furniture retailing, watch and clock retailing, food and beverage services, tourism services (overseas tours), pet product retail and services – have implemented these codes of practice. The Consumer Council has also established a mechanism to assess whether the Certified Shops implement their general pledges and codes of practice.

Statistics and Census Service

The Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) is one of the authorities under Macao's statistical services system, and is responsible for compiling population, social, economic and environmental statistics.

Official Statistics

Under Decree-Law No. 62/96/M promulgated on 14 October 1996, all statistical information compiled by government statistical agencies is regarded as official. Another statistical agency is the Monetary Authority of Macao, which is responsible for information regarding finance, currency, foreign exchange and insurance business.

The Statistics and Census Service compiles a series of official statistics through research and by using administration information, providing the Government and investors with important references for the formulation of policies and business decision-making, respectively, and providing important references for academic studies.

Particularly noteworthy among the DSEC's regular investigations are the Population and Housing Census conducted every 10 years, and the By-Census and Household Expenditure Survey conducted every five years. Industries covered include construction, industrial manufacturing, hotel, food and beverage, service sector, transport, warehousing and communications, and wholesale and retail trade.

The DSEC collects and compiles monthly or quarterly data relating to Macao's economic activity, including external trade in commodities, tourism, convention and exhibition, retail, prices, employment, real estate transactions and construction.

The Gross Domestic Product value, the Gross Domestic Income and Direct Investment Statistics reflecting the macro economic conditions of Macao, are compiled by integrating and analysing Macao's comprehensive economic, social and public financial statistics.

Dissemination of Information

The DSEC publishes essential statistical data that is of public interest via press releases, as well as webpages and publications for detailed information. All official statistical data is provided free of charge. Users may download the data from the website, or obtain the data or make enquiries about it from the Documentation and Information Centre by phone, email, fax, online customer service platform or in person.

Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Website

The DSEC launched a website for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, to reflect the cultural and economic development of the Greater Bay Area cities. The website gathers principal statistical indicators of the Greater Bay Area cities, and data about cultural and economic exchanges between Macao and the other Greater Bay Area cities for public reference.

The DSEC will continue exploring different ways and channels for the collection, compilation and presentation of statistical data on the Greater Bay Area cities. The DSEC is striving to enrich the statistical indicators on the website, and gathers comments and suggestions from the community about the website, to further improve the content.

Population Statistics Database

DSEC launched the Population Statistics Database to the public in September 2018, providing statistics covering four areas: total population, local population, households and housing. It supports sorting and filtering of data which enable users to search for population data by different demographic or housing characteristics, such as gender, age group, nationality, education attainment, parish and statistical district.

Users can also create and download customised statistical tables and charts. The first phase of the database contains statistics from the 2016 Population By-Census, and population data from the previous reference periods will be gradually added to the database.

Thematic Webpage of Statistical Indicator System for Moderate Economic Diversification of Macao

In 2015, DSEC introduced the Statistical Indicator System for Moderate Economic Diversification of Macao for public reference. In December 2018, DSEC also launched a webpage on the Statistical Indicator System for Moderate Economic Diversification of Macao, providing the latest statistics of the eight sections of the indicator system in the form of charts and tables, using an interactive approach, aiming to provide a reference for members of the community to observe the progress with economic diversification of Macao in a timely manner. At present, the webpage contains relevant statistics for 2017; data of previous years will be added later, while further improvements will be made to the webpage.

Completion of the 2017/2018 Household Expenditure Survey

The collection of household income and consumption expenditure information for 2017/2018 was completed in September 2018. The up-to-date household income and consumption expenditure information is useful for analysing consumption models and structures, income sources and income allocation of Macao households. Moreover, the household consumption structures will be employed for rebasing the Consumer Price Index, and for updating commodity and service items and weights. The results of the survey were published in the first quarter of 2019.

Supporting Office to the Permanent Secretariat to the Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries

The Supporting Office to the Permanent Secretariat to the Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation Between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries was established in Macao in accordance with Executive Order No. 33/2004. It focuses on providing administrative and resources support to the secretariat, enhancing economic and trade exchange and cooperation between mainland China, Macao and Portuguese-speaking countries, and give full play to Macao's advantages and its role as an economic and trade services platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries.

Since its establishment, the supporting office has diligently coordinated with and assisted the Permanent Secretariat in various aspects of implementing the Framework of Economic and Trade Cooperation, particularly in promoting governmental and civil cooperation between China (including Macao) and Portuguese-speaking countries in trade, investment, production capacity, agriculture, infrastructure, energy, natural resources, education and human resources, tourism, transportation and telecommunication, financial system, culture, healthcare, marine, cooperation between provinces and cities, and Macao's function as a cooperation platform.

The year 2018 marked the 15th anniversary of the establishment of the Forum for

Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries. Following the financial directive of the Government, and based on the Five-year Development Plan, the supporting office provided assistance in the development of the Belt and Road, the country's 13th Five-Year Plan and key projects of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, and actively supported the permanent secretariat for the Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries in the implementation of various tasks set out in its annual plan. The supporting office continued providing assistance with third-party assessments and activities related to the 15th anniversary of the establishment of the forum, and actively implemented the Action Plan for Economic and Trade Cooperation 2017-2019 and the Memorandum of Understanding on Promoting Cooperation in Production Capacity signed during the Fifth Ministerial Conference of the Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries ("the Forum"), as well as the 18 new measures announced by the Central People's Government.

The office carried out its work through participation in a series of activities:

- The 2018 MIECF;
- The 23rd MIF;
- The Second PLPEX;
- The Sixth Macao International Travel (Industry) Expo;
- The Fifth China (Beijing) International Fair for Trade in Services;
- The First China International Import Expo;
- The 123rd and 124th Canton Fairs and the Dynamic Macao Business and Trade Fairs in Fuzhou, Tianjin and Zhaoqing; and
- Setting up exhibition areas for Portuguese-speaking countries.

During the year, the office organised:

- The Seminar on the 15th Anniversary of Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries and the positioning of Macao as a Platform;
- The Seminar "15th anniversary of the Establishment of Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries: Review and Future Development";
- The Seminar on Trade in Services between China and Portuguese-Speaking Countries, Seminar on infrastructure construction ties between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries;
- The third meeting on Cooperation in Capacity Production;
- Workshop on Teaching and Training of Bilingual Professionals for China and Portuguese-speaking Countries;
- The 10th Cultural Fair of China-Portuguese-speaking Countries; and

- Co-organised celebration activities for the Day of Portuguese Language and Culture of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries.

Visits organised included:

- Visited Anhui, Jiangsu and Guangxi;
- Visited Portugal for participation in the 13th Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation Between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries; and
- Visiting Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal, Sao Tome and Principe, and Timor-Leste to initiate commercial and trade activities.

Publications and training courses:

- Issued a philatelic collection to celebrate the 15th Anniversary of the Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries; and
- Five rounds of workshops and three internship programmes for officials from Portuguese-speaking countries, providing training and internship exchanges to more than 130 individuals and 32 officials from Portuguese-speaking countries respectively.

Consultative Bodies

Economic Development Council

Established under By-law No. 1/2007, the Economic Development Council is the Government's consultative department for formulating economic development strategy, especially regarding consultations on and structuring economic diversification, manpower policies, expansion and development of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, and cultivating nascent industries.

The council comprises the Chief Executive as its chairperson and Secretary for Economy and Finance, together with representatives of organisations with different economic interests, professionals, outstanding and reputable people in relevant fields, and representatives of relevant public organisations and departments.

Standing Council on Social Concerted Action

The Standing Council on Social Concerted Action is an advisory body to the Chief Executive on the formulation of labour policies. It was established in accordance with

the Decree-Law No. 59/97/M. Its objective is to facilitate dialogue and coordination between administrative authorities, employers and employees. This aims to ensure their participation in the formulation of labour policies, and in activities that strengthen social development.

The council consists of the Chief Executive (who presides over its meetings); secretaries with responsibility for the economy, security, and culture; members of the Executive Committee; three representatives from Macao employers' associations (who must be the heads of their associations); and three representatives from Macao labour associations (who must be the heads of their associations).

In accordance with legal requirements, the Secretary for Economy and Finance is authorised to be the council's chairperson.

The council holds two plenary meetings each year. Special meetings may be called by the chairman or at the request of one third of the members.

In 2018, the council held 18 meetings: six plenary meetings and 12 executive committee meetings.





2018 MIECF



构建生态
Shaping of Eco-
for in

INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION FORUM AND EXHIBITION



The Macao International Environmental Cooperation Forum (MIECF), an annual international environmental event, was held in 2018 with the theme “Shaping Eco-Cities for an Inclusive Green Economy”. Government officials, decision makers and professionals from the environmental protection sector from around the world gathered in Macao for commercial, technological and information exchanges. The MIECF has become an important platform for enhancing cooperation in environmental protection between countries along the Belt and Road, the Pan-Pearl River Delta Region, the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, Portuguese-speaking countries and European countries.



