

Editor's note

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

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

The Overview of the MSAR in 2016 records all the major work undertaken in the administrative, legislative and judicial areas in Macao during the year. It also presents, in a systematic and integrated manner, data and information on 15 areas, namely the political and administrative system; legal and judicial system; external relations; economy; tourism; public order; education; culture and sport; health and social welfare; media, communications and information technology; land, infrastructure, housing and public utilities; transport; geography, environment and population; religion and customs; and history. The chapter on the gaming industry will be merged with the chapter on the economy from 2017.

Most of the figures and data quoted in the *Macao Yearbook 2017* were provided by relevant departments and the Statistics and Census Service, and they correspond to the situation at the end of 2016. However, some content is more up to date, reflecting the current situation in Macao, including Government directories and details of the visa validity of MSAR Passports and travel permits. Unless specified otherwise, all the monetary amounts shown are in Macao's currency – the pataca.

In consideration of the surging popularity of digital reading along with environmentally friendliness, from 2016 onwards, the Chinese, Portuguese and English editions of *Macao Yearbook* are only being published in electronic format instead of printed versions. However, the yearbook will be enhanced with video clips in addition to text and pictorial contents.

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

The Macao Yearbook Editorial Committee