



THE TUNNEL TO HENGQIN'S UM CAMPUS UNDERGOES REPAIR TO FIX LONG-LASTING WATER LEAKING PROBLEMS

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CHINA SEEN FLEXING LEGAL MUSCLES ON HONG KONG

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LOCAL TELECOM CTM YESTERDAY LAUNCHED ITS NEW CLOUD TECHNOLOGY, LEAPING FORWARD INTO MACAU DIGITAL 2.0

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Taiwan Chinese attempts to interfere in Taiwan's presidential election campaign are happening "every day," the island's leader, Tsai Ing-wen, said yesterday. Tsai gave no details, but she said China was using "every means they can" to influence the Jan. 11 vote for president and lawmakers.

US-China The United States government has failed to stop China from stealing intellectual property from American universities and lacks a comprehensive strategy for dealing with the threat, a congressional report concluded.



North Korea said yesterday it won't consider a recent U.S. decision to postpone a joint military exercise with South Korea a major concession that can bring it back to nuclear talks. Senior North Korean official Kim Yong Chol said the U.S. must completely scrap that military drill and abandon its hostility against his country if it wants to see the resumption of the nuclear negotiations.

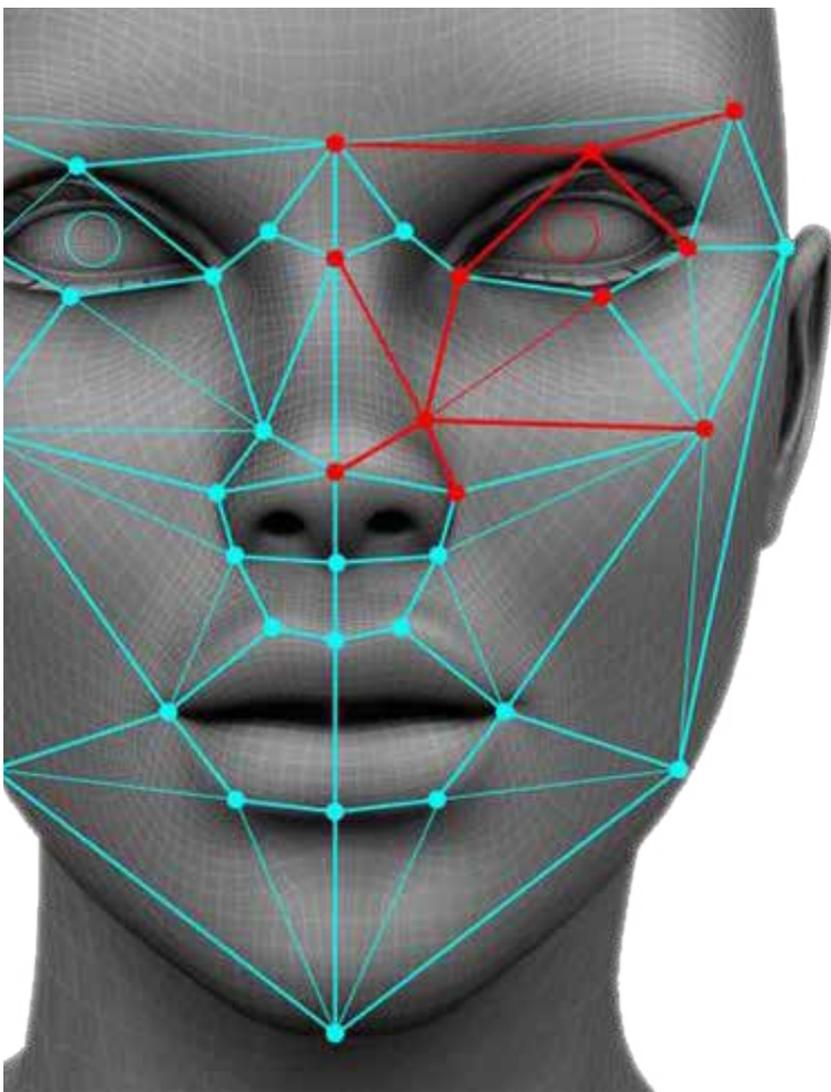
India The Parliament yesterday debated the toxic air threatening the lives of the capital region's 48 million people, with opposition leaders demanding the creation of a parliamentary panel to remedy the situation on a long-term basis.



New Zealand Prince Charles met with New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern yesterday and later joined wife Camilla to greet people along the Auckland waterfront. The heir apparent to the British throne and the Duchess of Cornwall were on the third day of a weeklong trip to New Zealand.

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SHELVE IT!



PRO-DEMOCRATS DEMAND CANCELLING OF FACIAL RECOGNITION TRIAL P3

HISTORICAL SOURCES ONLINE 'TO CHANGE PERSPECTIVE' P2



Institute launches website featuring city's historical resources

LYNZY VALLES

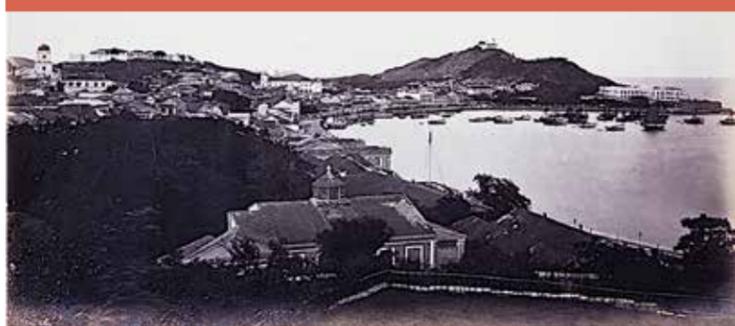
A website containing resources on the Macau SAR's historiography, cartography, iconography and other materials that inform the city's historic role in bridging continents and culture has been launched.

The project features foreign archives on the history of Macau from the 16th century to the 1950s.

The website – International Sources for Macau History – is an ongoing project of the East-West Institute for Advanced Studies (EWIAS), which was launched in 2014 and will run until 2025.

Through this project, academic institutions and researchers will gain new perspectives and partake in a historical reinterpretation of the city's history in several subjects.

"The process will change the history of Macau if there are institutions and researchers able to study these repositories," said one of the coordinators of the project, Professor Ivo Carneiro de Sousa.



A database of historical sources: macauhistorysources.com

The institute has already provided inventories of historical repositories from public and private archives, libraries and museums from Brazil, France, Spain, the Netherlands, and the UK.

The repositories available from the mentioned countries took five years to research, it being a necessity to visit those institutions' archives, libraries and museums that hold historical sources on the SAR.

"Unfortunately, website resources are still very limited, let alone regarding old manuscript documents or other resources challenging to copy or scan," said the professor, particularly referring to the

case of religious institutions.

"Most documents are in the national languages – [such as] Spanish, Dutch, etc. – which require strong connections with local researchers," the historian added.

According to de Sousa, most public and private institutions' researchers in other countries are not aware of the importance of their collections to the history of Macau, downplaying the "transcontinental role of Macau from the late 16th century to mid-19th century from trade to cultural exchanges."

Currently, the ongoing project is aiming to compile the inventory of Italian archives, libraries,

and museums, as well as the Vatican archive and library, which has been researched for more than three years.

"In this case, documents are basically in Latin, and since I have researched several times in the Vatican archives, I am doing it personally," said the coordinator.

"The number of documents in the Vatican archive related to Macau is immense. It includes very detailed reports on the situation of the Chinese-Portuguese enclave from 1582 onwards, offering important resources not only for the history of Catholic missions in Macau and China, but also for demographic, economic, social, and cultural history," de Sousa added.

Meanwhile, the repositories also feature original historical collections and documents, as well as historiography resources.

Questioned as to whether it is challenging in the academic world to find sources that show Macau's role to other countries and regions, de Sousa said that "most academic institutions and researchers ignore these sources as well as the key historical role of Macau

in bridging continents and cultures."

The coordinator remarked that the documents inventoried through the website show the SAR's role in the 18th-century fur trade from North America – present-day Canada – which has been ignored.

"French 17th-century sources, documents, maps, and iconography, stress the use of Macau for critical astronomical research that are largely ignored, including longitude investigations on the Saturn moons," de Sousa explained.

"There are documents, images, and reports showing the role of Macau in botanic, zoologic, health research, and much more important scientific themes. Spanish sources account in detail, among countless other subjects, the coolies' trade to Cuba, Peru, San Francisco, and other American places that [warrant] new historical research," he added.

Currently, de Sousa is also working on a book that contends that the SAR has no contribution to trade between China and Portuguese-speaking countries.

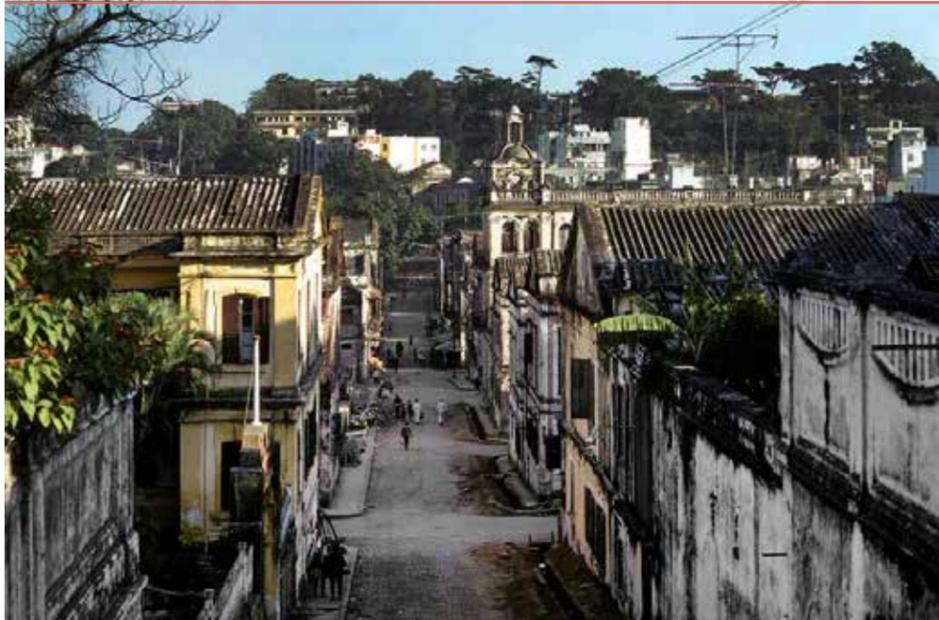
For de Sousa, the occurrence of trade in these countries is a "bilateral relation and Macau has nothing to do with it."

Along with de Sousa, the International Sources for Macau History is also coordinated by Professor Richard Whitfield, a Times columnist.

MEMORY LANE

Karsten Petersen

MDT/Renato Marques



The Calçada da Igreja de Sao Lázaro is a street that transversally crosses several streets in the area of the city known as the Saint Lazarus neighborhood. Completed on February 20, 1904, it was named in commemoration of the first Western hospital for contagious patients founded in China. In May of 1568, the Portuguese Jesuit Belchior Carneiro arrived in Macau and set up a leprosarium within Hospital de S Rafael (the building that currently holds the Portuguese Consulate in Macau). The leprosarium was later moved to the neighborhood of the St Lazarus' Church, located beyond the city wall. The Portuguese administration of Macau named five nearby streets with reference to the St. Lazarus' Church, as a commemoration. At the top of the Calçada de Sao Lázaro, there is a stairway that connects the street to the upper part of the city, linking it to the back of the Ruins of Saint Paul, and to the Mount Fortress, among other historical heritage sites. This old photograph was taken by the photographer Karsten Petersen, and shows a perspective of the street in 1973. RM

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New Macau demands shelving of facial recognition trial

JULIE ZHU

THE New Macau Association (ANM) is demanding that local security shelve the facial recognition trial for CCTV surveillance cameras, Sulu Sou said during a press conference yesterday.

ANM member and lawmaker Sulu Sou said that the association and many members of the public have been requesting that the government explain, in detail, the legal grounds for the implementation of facial recognition, the relevant specific implementation plan and the relevant public monitoring mechanism.

If the government does not respond to the people's request, "the trial must be put on hold."

According to the ANM, the current CCTV surveillance law in Macau does not contain clear rules for facial recognition monitoring.

As of today, the local government has not explained how facial recognition will meet current legal requirements.

Sulu Sou reminded the public that facial recognition is "an extremely sensitive issue in the international community" and is "a kind of mass surveillance that involves collecting biological and



behavioral characteristics that can identify any individual."

The collection of the above-mentioned characteristics allows individuals' actions to be monitored, tracked, calculated, analyzed and judged by computer systems.

"Without adequate legal protection and monitoring mechanisms, the privacy rights of all

Macau citizens will be placed in a dangerous situation," said Sou.

Over the past two weeks, the police authority issued two press releases claiming that facial recognition is subjected to the provisions of the Personal Data Protection Law and that the Office for Personal Data Protection (GPDP) will be consulted before the police

authority starts testing the function.

"The security authority is avoiding talking about the core issue. The Public's concerns are not resolved," said Sou.

The ANM wants the local government to provide clarification regarding the scope and process of the collection of personal data,

as well as of the type and technical characteristics of the equipment used.

Particularly, the ANM wants the government's answers regarding potential and highly controversial practices, such as the establishment of a large-scale database to collect personal data.

"The ANM believes that even though GPDP has the power to issue legal-binding opinions on the CCTV surveillance system in accordance with the law, in the absence of disclosed detailed information, there is no possible condition for [the] strict protection of privacy in Macau," Sou stated.

Earlier, the local government claimed that it only has the intention of implementing a "background mode." The association accused the local government of "playing with words," having said that "the background mode merely moves the original privacy dispute to the backend computer system."

The security authority often refuses to be transparent with information regarding law enforcement's use of CCTV surveillance, on the grounds of public safety or police secrecy. Such a situation makes it difficult for the public and even for GPDP to monitor whether there is abuse or illegality during its actual operation, according to the ANM.

The government's insistence that the current monitoring mechanism is sufficient is one of the main reasons for the public's distrust of the government.

Problematic UM tunnel to go through repair works

THE tunnel connecting Taipa to the Hengqin campus of the University of Macau, which has been in operation since 2013, will undergo a repair project due to long-lasting water leaking problems.

Yesterday, the Infrastructure Development Office (GDI) received 14 bids for the project. In total, there are two phases leading to the completion of the project, involving a total of 700 construction days.

The underwater tunnel has two vehicle lanes, one pedestrian lane and one pipelines lane.

During the first phase, lanes from UM to Taipa will remain closed. It is estimated that the construction will start in the first quarter of 2020.

During the construction, the government will keep one lane open for public access.



The project involves repairing two lanes: one car lane and one pedestrian lane. During the repair period, construction workers will demolish the wall surface of the tunnel for infrared detection of large-scale structural leakage. The project also involves replacing and upgrading electromechanical systems, expansion joints, fire protection

systems, resurfacing roads and other structures that are naturally aging.

The tunnel is 1,570 meters long. In 2010, GDI's estimated cost of the underwater tunnel was 500 million patacas. Just one year later, in November of 2011, the budget for the tunnel went up to two billion patacas, which is more than triple its original price.

According to the government's original plan, the tunnel is supposed to have a life span of 100 years, with seismic fortification standards for seven-degree fortification. In addition, the tunnel's original design suggests it can face strong flooding conditions.

However, since the beginning of its operation in 2013, the UM tunnel has been troubled with water seepage and is frequently undergoing emergency repairs.

In February 2017, a water pipe burst inside the tunnel.

As early as July 2012, when the tunnel was still under construction, a serious collapse occurred inside the tunnel, resulting in five cars being crushed.

The tunnel was built by Chinese state-owned company CCCC Fourth Engineering Co, Ltd. **JZ**

LOCAL UNIS OFFER MACAU STUDENTS IN HONG KONG STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

SEVEN local universities have expressed their willingness to "assist" excellent Macau students who are studying in Hong Kong.

Recently, due to the protests in Hong Kong, local universities, such as the University of Macau (UM) and the Polytechnic Institute of Macao (IPM), have extended a welcoming gesture to Macau students who are studying in Hong Kong, offering to enroll them in the local schools.

The schools' offers apply to students from Macau who are currently studying at higher education institutions in Hong Kong and who wish to return to Macau to study.

UM will provide full assistance to make sure that these students' studies are not discontinued. The university will immediately provide different forms of assistance in view of individual circumstances, such as arranging for students to audit the classes, giving them access to learning resources, or arranging faculty tutoring.

However, as of today, no news has been reported or posted online about any of those Macau students' desire to study in local schools or even return to Macau. These schools have nevertheless expressed their willingness to help.

The seven schools consist of UM, IPM, Macao University of Science and Technology, City University of Macau, Macao Institute for Tourism Studies, St. Joseph University, and Macau Kiang Wu nursing school. **JZ**

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

TELECOM STEPS INTO MACAU DIGITAL 2.0 WITH NEW CLOUD

RENATO MARQUES

LOCAL telecom CTM yesterday launched its new cloud technology, leaping forward into a new era for local smart application solutions, named "Macau Digital 2.0."

At the launching ceremony event, held yesterday afternoon at the Ritz-Carlton Macau, the company's vice president of commercial said, "the new CTM Cloud is an important component of 'Digital Macau 2.0.' Powered by Tencent Cloud, the new CTM Cloud can support different smart application solutions more flexibly and efficiently for local businesses and residents."

Created in collaboration with Tencent International Business Group, a Chinese multinational Internet-based platform company, the new CTM Cloud comes as a result of the memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed with CTM at the end of last year to bring the company's cloud technology to Macau.

"Today, we are pleased to announce the official deployment of the technology in support of CTM's new CTM Cloud service. With geographical advantages



enabled by CTM's Macau-wide telecom network, the public cloud facility powered by Tencent Cloud is the ideal solution for enterprises in need of cloud application services in the

city," said the general manager of Tencent, Norman Tam.

In a bid to accelerate the development of smart applications, CTM also partnered with the Chinese information

technology service provider, Neusoft Group to facilitate the development and adaptation of such smart application services to local businesses and enterprises, signing another

MoU for such a purpose at the same event.

After the CTM Cloud launching ceremony, a seminar was held in which several people involved in the use of cloud services, as well as other professionals from the sector, shared their experiences and insights on the paths to be followed for the development of cloud applications.

The Cloud is part of the company's strategy to continue to invest resources, improve the network infrastructure and continue to introduce new and advanced technologies to "turn Macau into a leading smart city within the region."

The company noted that, besides adding efficiency to the work of service providers, both private and governmental, smart city technologies could facilitate and add convenience to a wide range of services used by all citizens.

After having performed a 5G-network test last year, in May this year CTM made the first 5G call in Macau when introducing the new technology applications to the Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário.

At that time, the telecom provider announced its intention of bringing the 5G network to commercial use during 2020, paving the path to the introduction of more 5G smart applications and services.

Melco hosts uniform design competition

MACAU resort operator Melco Resorts and Entertainment Ltd. yesterday announced details of a uniform design competition, to be held in association with the Macau Productivity and Technology Transfer Center (CPTTM).

Applications opened yesterday and will close in early January 2020. Prospective applicants may apply online or at the CPTTM.

The competition is part of the company's corporate social responsibility plan to help the business of local small- and medium-sized enterprises.

It aims to create new uniforms for the company's Environmental Services team of nearly 400 employees, who work in various roles at Melco's Macau integrated resort properties.

Judging criteria include alignment with the Melco brand, aesthetics, design con-



cept, practicality, comfort and material selection. Use of an eco-friendly material is an advantage.

The contest encourages participation by fashion industry practitioners or brand owners, uniform retailers, and garment manufacturers.

Its three stages comprise the initial selection of the

top ten entries, followed by the selection of the top three entries to be manufactured into actual sample garments, and then the selection of the winner, 1st Runner-Up and 2nd Runner-Up as voted by Melco's employees. The final award ceremony and event wrap-up is scheduled for the end of March. **AL**

TIS HOLDS FIRST SOUTH CHINA CONFERENCE SOCCER GAME



THE International School of Macau (TIS) recently hosted this year's South China International School Sports Conference (SCISAC) youth football competition for children under 15 years old.

The competition was held at the gymnasium of the Macau University of Science and Technology.

More than 120 athletes and coaches from six visiting schools in Hong Kong, Macau,

Taiwan and Mainland China participated in the competition, including TIS, Taichung Ivy League Boarding School, Nanjing International School, Xiamen International School and Chongqing Yaozhong International School. All schools sent boys' and girls' teams to participate in the competition.

Over the past few years, TIS has hosted many basketball and volleyball SCISAC competitions, but this

marks the first time TIS has held a football game.

Over two and a half days, the students completed at least six competitions. In the end, the TIS girls' soccer team entered the finals, having secured second place. First place was won by Hong Kong college.

The TIS boys' soccer team ranked fifth in a championship that was won by Nanjing International School boys' team. **JZ**



SANDS China Ltd. has long been innovative in its environmental sustainability efforts, implementing sustainability measures within the integrated resort operator's different properties and departments.

As a large-scale international company, one of its top priorities has been to explore new technologies to further reduce its carbon footprint, responding to the government's call for Macau to become an eco-friendly city.

Sands China's environmental sustainability efforts are guided by the Sands ECO360 global sustainability strategy of its parent company, Las Vegas Sands Corp. (LVS).

The initiative drives the stewardship of responsible business operations in the areas of green buildings, environmentally responsible operations, green meetings and events, stakeholder engagement and outreach.

"Sands China remains committed to environmental sustainability, through our Sands ECO360 global sustainability strategy," said Dr. Wilfred Wong, president of Sands China Ltd. "From construction and design to operational strategies, and from procurement to internal and external campaigns, the company is unwavering in its mission to make a positive contribution to sustainability, ensuring that our carbon footprint gets increasingly smaller. While this requires additional effort and planning on our part, the consequence of doing otherwise is too great to ignore, so it is with pride that we place environmental stewardship at the core of our responsibilities as a corporation."

Currently, Sands China has been undertaking environmentally responsible actions such as refraining from providing single-use plastic items.

Since the beginning of the year, the corporation has **discontinued its use of plastic straws** at all its properties in an effort to reduce the consumption of single-use plastics.

With more than 29,000 team members and millions of visitors

Sands China continues series of initiatives to pursue sustainability

each year, environmental sustainability is extremely important to Sands China. The company now distributes stainless steel straws to all its team members, encouraging them not to use single-use plastics and to bring their own straws with them to work.

In its laundry operation, the company has **discontinued the use of plastic bags for guest and team member laundry services.**

Corn-based disposable food containers are now in use at all of the company's food outlets. Made from renewable resources, it gives off low carbon emissions when incinerated, no toxic gases, and is biodegradable when buried.

These moves are just some of several new initiatives to curb the use of single-use plastics at Sands China's properties.

The enterprise sees that reducing its carbon footprint is a fundamental indicator of its contribution to a cleaner environment and a more sustainable model of doing business.

Addressing **food waste** is vital to Sands China's long-term mission to reduce its waste output. With over 150 restaurants, banquets and team member dining rooms, seemingly small amounts of leftover food and kitchen scraps can add up significantly.

With that in mind, the company promotes a **Clean Plate Challenge** as one of the many ongoing efforts of the Sands ECO360 global sustainability strategy.

The Clean Plate Challenge has the goal of encouraging team members to reduce food waste and inspiring them to live a sustainable and healthy lifestyle.

This year's campaign added the message of "eat healthy; eat with

no food waste."

The company highlights that addressing food waste marks a significant step in reducing its waste footprint.

In terms of practicing sustainability in its procurement department, Sands China has responded to its parent company's call to implement a **Sustainable Procurement Policy.**

The policy allows the company to seek products that are environmentally preferable, meet internal sustainability criteria and comply with environmental legislation and regulatory requirements.

More than 20% of the company's spend on operating supplies is on sustainable products, including paper, bed linens, and office and cleaning supplies.

Aligning with the strategy, Sands China also launched my-FITNESS, which is aimed at encouraging team members to take on good habits in health, physical

The company's ban on its use of plastic straws will have significant impact to operational sustainability

fitness and well-being.

Green Mondays and a back-of-house health booth are two of the campaigns of this initiative, which encourage team members to eat a more plant-based diet in support of better health and provide team members with health advice.

During **Green Mondays**, the back-of-house team member dining rooms at all Sands China properties will be serving more vegetables, with a separate vegetarian counter offering six healthy choices, including innovative plant-based meat alternatives such as Omnipork.

Encouraging team members to eat less meat is more sustainable for the environment and helps fulfil the company's social and environmental responsibilities. With Sands China providing daily meals for over 29,000 team members, their participation in Green Mondays is expected to greatly reduce meat consumption, in turn decreasing carbon dioxide emissions by about 25 tons a day – equaling a 1,300-ton reduction in carbon dioxide over the course of a year.

Sands China also aims to purchase products that are third-party certified by credible eco-labels, incurring an annual spend of more than MOP 46.6 million on **sustainable seafood.**

Currently, the integrated resort operator offers meat-free dishes at 14 of its signature restaurants, as well as vegetarian and vegan menu offerings for its MICE (meetings, incentives, conventions and exhibitions) attendees as part of its Green Meetings program.

Additionally, as part of the company's commitment to protecting the environment, it has **banned shark fin** from its internal and external food and beverage operations, including all restaurants owned by the company.

Sands China began making steps toward a complete ban back in 2017, when it removed shark fin from all its menus.

The ban reflects the company's firm commitment to continually reducing the environmental impact from its operations, hoping to further inspire and encourage the community to actively engage in sustainability efforts.

Moreover, Sands China's **fourth invitational matching session**

for local SME suppliers featured 10 participating businesses that offer sustainable products and services.

During the recent session, three of the local SME suppliers gave a brief presentation on their companies' sustainable products and services.

Sands China's sustainability team then delivered a presentation outlining the company's sustainability measures and goals.

With the government's continuous efforts to promote eco-friendly initiatives, including the plastic ban that will commence on Monday, Sands China pledges to continuously pioneer green initiatives, encouraging its team members to practice eco-consciousness through a series of ongoing schemes.

125,000 clean plates returned during the Clean Plate Challenge in 2018, reducing food waste

194 recycling points offered at Sands China facilities to collect and separate materials

98% of resort lighting uses the latest LED energy saving technology

100% of the Parisian Macao's bus fleet are running on low-emission compressed natural gas (CNG)

26.3 million kWh of energy saved through LED installations and optimization of temperature control



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FORUM MDT/MACAUHUB

FORUM MACAU WANTS 'GREEN' COOPERATION WITH UN

FORUM Macau Secretary General Xu Yingzhen this week stated the importance of building a society and an increasingly green and sustainable future through the creation of a global green supply chain in trade and investment in forest products.

Speaking at the opening of the Tropical Wood Investment and Trade Colloquium between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries and cooperation in the global green supply chain, organized by the Forum Macau Training Centre and the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), Xu Yingzhen recalled that building a sustainable system is a foundation for social development.

Noting that this is the first time Forum Macau has organized human resources training in cooperation with United Nations official bodies, not only for



Xu Yingzhen

the Forum Macau member countries but also for other nations such as Malaysia, Indonesia, Ghana and Ecuador, Xu called concerted efforts to be made by stakeholders to create the so-called "green supply chain" of global forest products.

"Some of the Forum Macau members act as forest suppliers and others as consumers. However,

everyone has the same need to boost reforestation, beautify their countries and improve the environment to overcome the many global ecological challenges resulting from climate change, with a view to maintaining and developing the security of the ecological system," Xu Yingzhen said.

During the opening ceremony of the collo-

quium, ITTO chief executive Gehard Dieterle argued that "sustainable forest management and timber trade are inseparable," but warned that forests are currently under "great pressure," from the multitude of not only economic but also cultural assets they have.

The ITTO official also recalled that "illegality in many cases is related to needs, particularly in poor countries that cannot invest in sustainability."

"We are working with governments on tax incentives and systems while training forestry companies, and research organizations to understand the implications of sustainability," said the chief executive of the ITTO.

Dieterle also noted that statistics show that illegal activities in the supply of forest products are worth between \$50 billion and \$70 billion.

HO IAT SENG SAYS MACAU WILL BE 'POSTER BOY' OF COUNTRY'S REUNIFICATION

Ho Iat Seng said in an interview with state broadcaster China Central Television (CCTV) that Macau would become "an example of the nation's reunification." Ho, who will be sworn in as chief executive on Dec. 20, said there was no issue with the "One Country, Two Systems" principle, adding that it could develop further and better. The next chief linked the current unrest in Hong Kong to a "typhoon," even though it was a "big one," it will go away. Ho Iat Seng said that the turmoil in Hong Kong had raised public awareness of what "riots" and "rights" mean. Regarding the proper balance between rights and duties, Ho said that some Hong Kongers were "overemphasising" their rights to the detriment of their civic duties, adding that the chaos in Hong Kong should remind Macau people to pay special attention to education, Macau News reported yesterday.

DEBATE ON FINANCIAL SYSTEM FOR COMPANIES FROM LUSOPHONE COUNTRIES

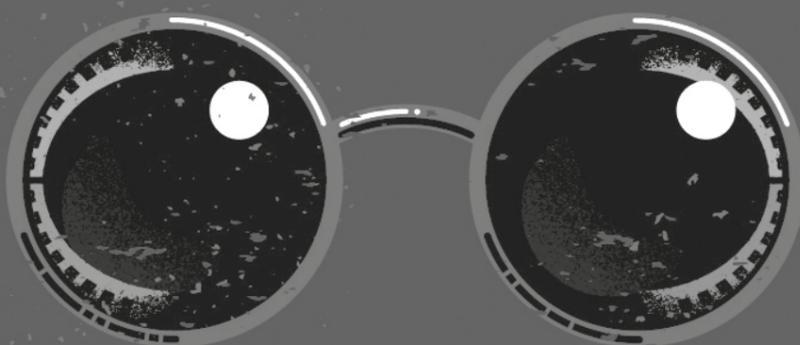
The development of Macau's financial sector and how to attract Lusophone companies to this market will be in focus at an event later this month, the local government announced, yesterday according to a Lusa news agency dispatch. The goal is to discuss the context of the development, challenges and opportunities of the city's financial system and also "Macau as a renminbi clearinghouse for Portuguese-speaking countries," the Talent Development Commission said in a statement. The 'Macau Financial System with its Own Characteristics - Challenges and Opportunities' lecture on 29 November will address topics such as "the pattern of development and the opportunities and challenges facing the financial sector of Macau, as well as future development planning," was announced. Speakers include the Deputy Director of the AMCM Department of Financial Development, Lao A Kun, and the Director of the Private Banking Department of BNU, Francisco Chan.

AD

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CRITICISM from China's rubber-stamp parliament of a Hong Kong court decision is raising concerns that Beijing may move to flex its legal muscles and overrule the verdict.

That's laying bare the limits of the "one country, two systems" framework under which Hong Kong is granted a "high degree of autonomy" by Beijing, threatening the independence of the territory's judiciary and tightening Beijing's political control — fears that have helped fuel the nearly 6-month-old protest movement in Hong Kong.

A statement yesterday from the National People's Congress' Legislative Affairs Commission said some deputies had expressed "strong dissatisfaction" with the Hong Kong court's ruling, which struck down a ban on face masks at protests.

Pro-Beijing figures had strongly urged the ban, which was imposed last month after Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam invoked emergency powers under a 1922 British colonial-era statute that allowed her to circumvent the Legislative Council.

Laws already on the books, such as the "Emergency Regulations Ordinance," were included in the territory's legal code after the 1997 handover from British colonial control unless otherwise ruled out by the NPC.

MASKS RULING

CHINA SEEN FLEXING LEGAL MUSCLES ON HONG KONG

AP PHOTO



People wearing face masks duck down as they walk at Hong Kong Polytechnic University

However, yesterday's statement said the court's decision "seriously weakened the rightful administrative powers" of Hong Kong's leader and doesn't conform with either the territory's mini-constitution, known as the Basic Law, or the NPC's decisions.

The commission said, "We are currently studying opinions and suggestions raised by some NPC

deputies."

The hint that Beijing may move to overrule the decision could fuel further protests. The court ruled Monday that the mask ban infringes on fundamental rights more than is reasonably necessary for the furtherance of its goals. It was aimed at preventing anti-government protesters from hiding their identity to evade arrest but has

been widely disregarded.

China ruling Communist Party thoroughly rejects the concept of an independent judiciary or a Western-style separation of powers, putting it at fundamental odds with Hong Kong's legal system based on British and American law. Chinese leaders wanting to end violence and restore law and order in Hong Kong have

emphasized the need for Lam's administration, the legislature and the judiciary to work in unity toward that goal.

The NPC statement also reiterated the right of its Standing Committee to supersede Hong Kong courts in deciding the constitutionality of the territory's laws under the Basic Law.

"No other authority has the right to make such judgments or decisions," said the statement, which quoted the spokesman for the NPC Standing Committee's Legislative Affairs Commission, Zang Tiewei.

That could mean the NPC is placing any number of laws "outside the purview of constitutional review by the courts of Hong Kong," the blog NPC observer said in an analysis of the statement.

"This would be an outcome no less troubling than a wholesale abrogation of Hong Kong court's power of constitutional review," the blog said.

Beijing-based lawyer Zhang Dongshuo echoed such concerns, pointing out the NPC had never before issued an opinion on the Emergency Regulations Ordinance.

"If Hong Kong's system of judicial 'checks and balances' cannot be retained, then how is the idea of a 'high degree of autonomy' to be reflected," Zhang said in emailed comments. AP

AD

FRANCE MACAU Chamber of Commerce 法國澳門工商會
Japan - The Land of the Rising Integrated Resorts
Speaker: Mr Niall Sean Murray, Chairman - Murray International
FMCC Breakfast Meeting Wednesday, 27th November 2019
Introduction: Integrated Resorts (IR) are coming to Japan. While some prefectures welcome them, many citizens are in opposition. Potential operators are spending fortunes in an attempt to win a licence. Join us and hear from IR expert, Mr. Niall Sean Murray, on the current IR situation in Japan, the opportunities and the challenges ahead.
Date: Wednesday, 27th November, 2019
Time: 9:00a.m. - 10:30a.m. (Reception: 8:45am)
Venue: Sofitel Macau at Ponte 16 Baccara, 6th floor
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HONG KONG

Police surround last holdouts at university

KEN MORITSUGU
& ANDI JATMIKO, HK

ABOUT 100 anti-government protesters remained holed up at a Hong Kong university yesterday, their choices dwindling along with their food supplies as they braced for the endgame in a police siege of the campus that entered its third day.

Police were waiting them out after 10 days of some of the most intense protests the city has seen in more than five months of often-violent unrest gripping the semi-autonomous Chinese city. Over the past day, more than 1,000 people were arrested and hundreds of injured treated at hospitals, authorities said.

The government has stood firm, rejecting most of the protesters' demands, even as they shut down major roads and trains during rush hour every day last week, turned several university campuses into fortresses and blocked a major road tunnel, which remained shut yesterday.

China's Communist leaders have taken a tough line on the protests and said that restoring order is the city's highest priority.

Meanwhile, pro-democracy activist Joshua Wong was barred from leaving Hong Kong to go on a European speaking tour, after a court refused to change his bail conditions to let him travel.

Protesters have left all the universities except Hong Kong Polytechnic, where several hundred barricaded themselves and fought back police barrages of tear gas and water cannons with gasoline bombs, some launched from rooftop by catapult, and bows and arrows.

Those still at Polytechnic are the last holdouts. Surrounded, they now face arrest. Several groups have tried to escape, including one that slid down hoses from a footbridge to waiting motorcycles, but police said they intercepted 37, including the drivers, who were arrested for "assisting offenders."

About 600 had left by yesterday morning, city leader Carrie Lam said, leaving an estimated 100 still inside. They milled about in small groups. They still had boxes of homemade gasoline bombs, but the mood was grim in the trash-strewn plazas, in contrast to the excitement as they prepared to take on police just a few days earlier.

One protester said he had no plan and was waiting for someone to come to help. Another said he wants to leave safely but without being charged. They would not give their full names out of fear of arrest.

AP PHOTO



Injured protesters huddle under blankets as they walk at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University yesterday

"We will use whatever means to continue to persuade and arrange for these remaining protesters to leave the campus as soon as possible so that this whole operation could end in a peaceful manner," Lam told reporters after a weekly meeting with advisers.

Even as the latest bout of violence winds down, a fundamental divide suggests the protests are far from over.

City leaders say the violence must stop before meaningful dialogue can begin. The protesters say they need to keep escalating the violence to get the government to accept their demands.

The protests took off in June over a proposed extradition bill that would have allowed suspects to be sent to mainland China for trial. Activists saw the legislation as part of a continuing erosion of rights and freedoms that Hong Kong was promised it could keep when Britain returned its former colony to China in 1997.

Lam withdrew the bill after a few months, but protesters now want an independent investigation into police suppression of the demonstrations and fully democratic elections, among other demands.

About 200 of the 600 people who left Polytechnic were under 18 years old. The city agreed not to arrest them immediately, but Lam said they could face charges later.

Family members and teachers arrived sporadically to pick up a few remaining protesters under 18, hugging their children before

About 600 had left by yesterday morning, Carrie Lam said, leaving an estimated 100 still inside [HK Poly]

re walking back to a police checkpoint where officers recorded names and other information before letting them go.

An ambulance team was allowed in to treat injured protesters, wrapping them in emergency blankets to keep them warm. Some left with the team, but others stayed, saying they didn't want to be arrested.

Other parents, holding a news conference, said their children dare not surrender because the government has labeled them as rioters even though some had just gotten trapped by the police siege.

They wore masks and refused to give their names, a sign of the fear that has developed in what has become a highly polarized city.

China hinted it might overrule the Hong Kong high court ruling that struck down a ban on face masks that was aimed at preventing protesters from hiding their identity and evading arrest.

A statement from the National People's Congress' Legislative Affairs Commission said the decision doesn't conform with the territory's constitution, known as the Basic Law, or decisions by the Congress.

"We are currently studying opinions and suggestions raised by some NPC deputies," the statement said. The announcement threatens to undercut Hong Kong's rule of law and independent courts — major selling points for its role as an Asian financial center.

Monday's ruling said the ban infringes on fundamental rights more than is reasonably necessary. The ban has been widely disregarded.

The Japanese government said one of its citizens had been arrested near the Polytechnic campus. Japanese media identified him

as Hikaru Ida, a student at Tokyo University of Agriculture. Officials did not say why he was arrested.

More than 1,100 people were arrested in the past day for offenses including rioting and possession of offensive weapons, police said at a daily press briefing. They found more than 3,900 gasoline bombs at another university campus that was the site last week of a violent standoff. Some 235 people were treated for protest-related injuries, according to hospital authority figures.

Hong Kong also got a new police chief, Chris Tang, who said his priorities would include rebutting accusations against police that he called "fake news" and reassuring the public about the force's mission.

"We have to maintain the law and order in Hong Kong and there is a massive scale of breaking of law in Hong Kong and there is a certain sector of the community that also condones those illegal activities," he told journalists.

Tang replaces a retiring chief and was approved by Beijing after being nominated by Lam's government.

Lam, asked whether she would seek help from Chinese troops based in Hong Kong, said her government remains confident it is able to cope with the situation. AP

A CHAIN STORE HATED BY HONG KONG PROTESTERS SEES DOUBLE DIGIT DROP

JINSHAN HONG
& YVONNE MAN

SNACKS chain Best Mart 360 Holdings Ltd. has seen revenue drop by double digits as its stores come under attack by radical Hong Kong protesters in the ongoing anti-Beijing movement that's gripped the city.

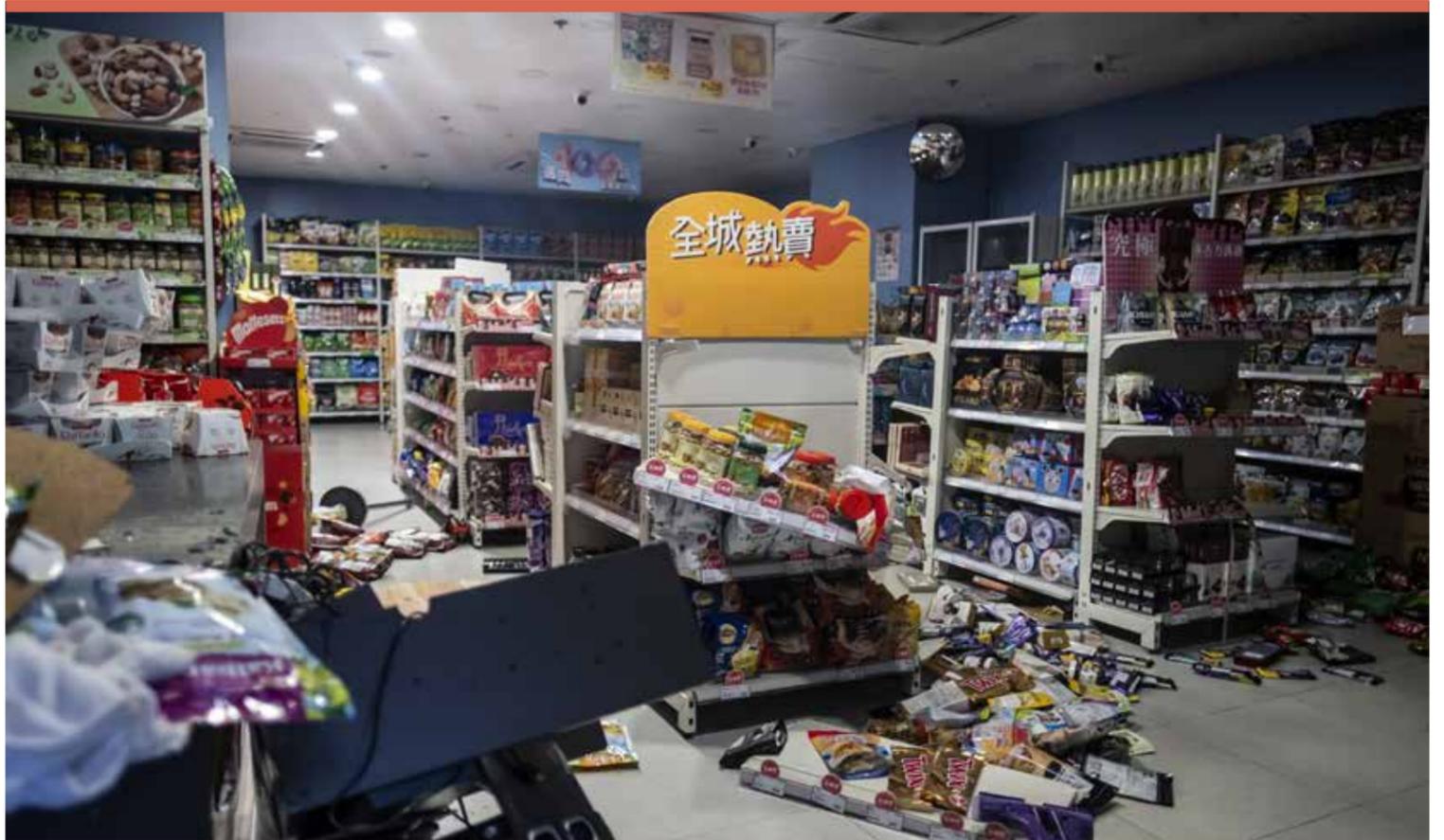
As protests become increasingly violent, more than 70 of its 102 stores have been vandalized in over 180 instances, Chairman Lin Tsz Fung said in an interview this week with Bloomberg TV. The company has been targeted because some protesters believe that Lin has ties to pro-Beijing gangs from the Chinese province of Fujian, an accusation he denies.

Protesters have shattered store windows and broken shelves, set goods on fire, and sprayed graffiti on walls.

"I've lived in Hong Kong for more than 30 years," he said. "I don't know how Hong Kong can become like this, a war field. The government should establish an independent inquiry committee to give Hong Kong people an explanation."

The company's shares fell as much as 3.9% yesterday in Hong Kong trading, compared to a 1% advance in the benchmark Hang Seng Index.

As the protest movement rages into its sixth month with few signs of resolution, tensions between demonstrators and pro-Beijing factions, including mainland citizens living in Hong Kong, have flared into violence and businesses have been dragged into the fray. In August, some Fujian natives allegedly attacked protesters with poles during a march in the North Point neighborhood, an in-



cident that catalyzed the grudge against Best Mart.

It's not the only business that's regularly attacked by protesters. Starbucks Corp. outlets are also now often vandalized, after anti-protester comments made by a member of a billionaire family which operates the coffee giant's stores in the city. And Chinese financial institutions like the Bank of China Ltd. and Industrial & Commercial Bank of China Ltd. have seen their ATMs and branches destroyed.

On the other side, companies have also been censured by Bei-

jing for any sign that they are supporting the movement. Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd. faced a clampdown from Chinese regulators

Protesters believe that [the company's boss] has ties to pro-Beijing gangs from Fujian, an accusation he denies

after some employees took part in demonstrations, and its chief executive and chairman resigned amid the unrest.

About 1.2 million Fujian people are living in Hong Kong, including many businessmen, out of Hong Kong's population of 7.5 million.

Lin said that it was "not very responsible" to link all Fujian people to gangs just because of the North Point incident.

Known for offering a wide collection of imported snacks at attractive prices, Best Mart 360 listed on the Hong Kong stock exchange in January. So far, it's managed to avoid layoffs, forcing workers to go on no-pay leave, or reducing salaries, said Lin. Some of its landlords have granted the chain rental re-

ductions ranging from 10% to 30%, he said.

Lin is trying to focus on the future: the company plans to open 15 to 20 stores in Macau next year or the year after, and it's also exploring entering mainland China.

Despite the current situation, "we don't have any change in our plan for Hong Kong," he said. "I still have confidence in Hong Kong and I think this movement will pass."

"I never thought my company could be targeted like this," said Lin, who migrated to Hong Kong in the late 1980s. "Until today, I don't understand why. I am innocent." **BLOOMBERG**

CORPORATE BITS

Sands Retail Academy honours 8th graduating class



A group of over 200 employees from among the retailers at Sands Shoppes Macao were recognised at a graduation ceremony for the Sands Retail Academy held yesterday at the Four Seasons Hotel Macao.

According to a statement is-

sued by the gaming operator, the group of retail employees represented over 50 brands from several retail categories, such as fashion, watch and jewellery, and general retail.

It was the eighth group of graduates to complete the Sands Retail Academy custo-

mer service training programme.

Tuesday's group of graduates completed three of the academy's complimentary training programmes: Service Enhancement, with over 110 graduates; Because We Care core values, with more than 50 graduates; and the debut of the new Manager Competence Development module, with more than 30 graduates.

"Sands China is very pleased with the ongoing success of this valuable programme to support our retail partners with service and leadership training for their team members," said David Sylvester, executive vice president of global retail for Las Vegas Sands Corp.

MGM Cotai receives architecture accolade



MGM Cotai has been declared the world's best new skyscraper in 2018 by the Emporis Skyscraper Awards, one of the most renowned architecture prizes for skyscrapers,

the gaming operator announced in a statement.

Being the first building in Macau to receive this accolade, MGM Cotai, designed by Kohn Pedersen Fox Associa-

tes, was selected from almost 500 new skyscrapers around the world for its spectacular and innovative design.

The Emporis Skyscraper Award jury, comprised of international architecture experts, awarded the property for its unique structure, which is based on the idea of nine Chinese jewelry boxes stacked upon each other, forming two interconnected towers.

Grant Bowie, CEO and executive director of MGM China Holdings Limited, said "With innovation ingrained in our DNA, we are extremely proud to have MGM Cotai [selected] by the jury, making the year's best new skyscraper stand in Macau."

DEBBY WU & MIAOJUNG LIN

Taiwan bid to lure firms from China paying off, gov't says

TAIWAN'S push for its companies to invest in advanced manufacturing at home after decades of focusing on China is helping off-set the effects of Beijing's trade war with the U.S., the government said.

Taiwanese companies have pledged to invest almost NT\$1.2 trillion (\$39 billion) at home since the government initiated a program at the beginning of the year to attract investment from local companies with facilities in China.

"We will see additional annual investments of NT\$300 to NT\$400 billion a year over the next two to three years thanks to the return of Taiwanese companies," Minister without Portfolio Kung Ming-hsin told Bloomberg News last Thursday. "We are confident that we will see solid growth momentum for the next three to four years."

The plan to lure local companies to invest back home is one of two competing economic visions for Taiwan as voters weigh their choices ahead of the Jan. 11 presidential election. While incumbent President Tsai Ing-wen is pinning Taiwan's economic future on developing industries such as advanced manufacturing, clean energy and defense domestically,

her opponent, Han Kuo-yu of the opposition Kuomintang, advocates further removing barriers to doing business with China.

SHIFTING PRODUCTION

Taiwanese companies like Hon Hai Precision Industry, which makes gadgets for many of the top global electronics brands, began investing in China in the late 1980s, kicking off a transformation that's made China the world's factory floor. But faced with ongoing trade tensions and tariffs between Taiwan's two biggest overseas markets, the leaders of those companies are increasingly shifting production to Taiwan and Southeast Asia to protect their wafer-thin margins.

The government announced a record NT\$70.1 billion investment in Taiwan by Hon Hai's panel-making affiliate Innolux Corp. last week.

Taiwanese companies have moved facilities producing high-end networking gear, lap-



tops, servers and bicycles back to Taiwan this year, while manufacturing of lower-margin products has gone to Southeast Asia, Kung said. The minister identified smart manufacturing and connected devices as new areas Taiwanese companies could compete in.

Despite the trade war taking a toll on growth in Asia's export-dependent countries, Taiwan is on track for GDP to rise 2.5% this year. The island's shipments to

the U.S. rose almost \$4.2 billion in the first half of 2019, gaining from China's loss of exports to America, a recent United Nations Conference on Trade and Development report noted.

Kung said that the government is readying land in southern Taiwan homecoming companies can begin moving into starting from 2021. Taiwanese officials are also working to expand an existing science park in southern Taiwa-

nese city of Tainan and creating a brand new one in the neighboring Kaohsiung city, Kung said.

"We will only have three to four years to reshape our industries, and the outcome will decide our future for the next decade or two," Kung said. "We are planning to turn Taiwan into an advanced manufacturing center because companies now are moving production of their premium products home." **BLOOMBERG**



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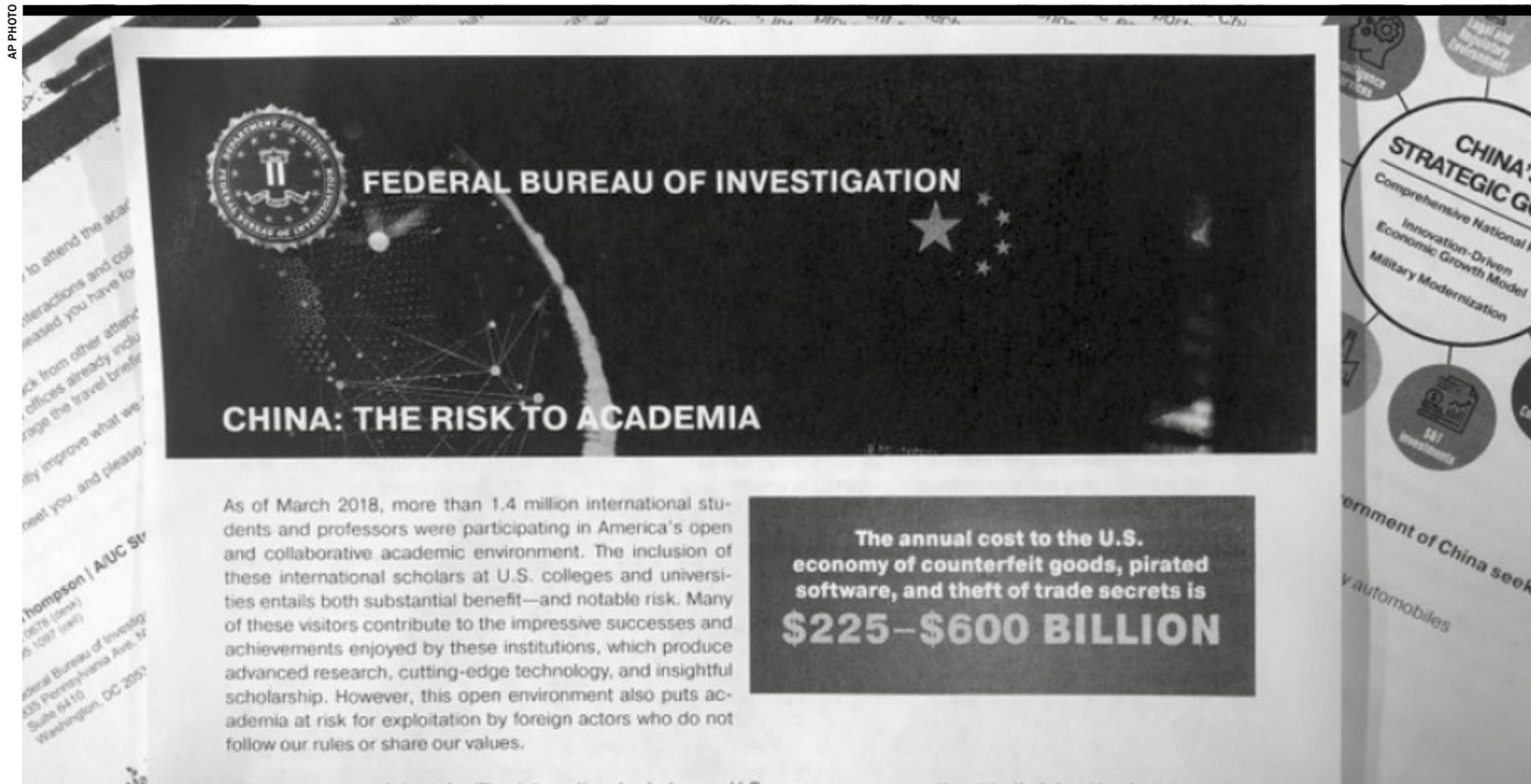
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This Oct. 4, 2019 photo shows a copy of an FBI pamphlet and related emails

US FAILING TO STOP CHINA FROM STEALING RESEARCH, REPORT SAYS

ERIC TUCKER, WASHINGTON

The United States government has failed to stop China from stealing intellectual property from American universities and lacks a comprehensive strategy for dealing with the threat, a congressional report concluded Monday.

The report says the FBI should be more effective and consistent in warning colleges and universities about the threat of Chinese economic and industrial espionage. It also says agencies that award research grants or provide visas for scientists don't do enough to monitor or track the recipients, and says universities themselves must do a better job identifying foreign funding sources and conflicts of interest among scientists on their campuses.

The problem is especially urgent, says the report from the Senate's Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, because billions of dollars in taxpayer-funded research have "contributed to China's global rise over the last 20 years" and to its goal of being a world leader in science and technology by 2050.

"As American policy makers navigate an increasingly complicated relationship with China, it is not in our national security interest to fund China's economic and military development with

taxpayer dollars," the report says.

The report is the most recent government study to analyze Chinese intellectual property theft on college campuses and to scrutinize the shortcomings of government agencies in addressing the problem. It focuses on Chinese programs that recruit scientists with access to cutting-edge technology in the U.S. and incentivize them to conduct research for Beijing's gain and even to steal the work of American academics.

In recent years, the report says, the programs have been exploited by scientists who have downloaded sensitive research files before returning to China, filed patents based on U.S. research, lied on grant applications and failed to disclose money they'd received from Chinese institutions.

"The U.S. academic community is in the crosshairs of not only foreign competitors contending for the best and brightest, but also of foreign nation states that seek to transfer valuable intellectual capital and steal intellectual property," the report states. "As the academic community looks to the federal government for guidance and direction on mitigating threats, the U.S. government must provide effective, useful, timely and specific threat infor-

mation and tools to counter the threats."

The report takes aim at the lack of transparency in how the programs are run, recommending that agencies that distribute research grants stop funding participants in them absent full disclosure of the terms and conditions of membership.

The most prominent of the programs, known as the Thousand Talents Plan, has gone underground amid heightened U.S. scrutiny, with some Chinese government websites deleting online references to it. But it's conti-

The programs have been exploited by scientists who have downloaded sensitive research files before returning to China

nued operating. Participants are asked to sign legally binding contracts that include non-disclosure agreements and that make clear that Chinese institutions will retain the rights to at least some of the intellectual property created by the researcher in the U.S.

The report singles out multiple agencies for criticism, saying for instance that the National Science Foundation — which funds about a quarter of all federally

funded basic research at colleges and universities — has taken insufficient steps to vet grantees and avoid misappropriation of their funds. It cites as one example a Virginia Tech researcher who was accused of using NSF grants for research he knew had already been done in China.

In a statement Monday, the NSF said it is in the process of clarifying policy guidance for researchers on requirements to disclose foreign and domestic funding. It has also barred members of its workforce from participating in talent recruitment programs operated by certain countries, and has commissioned a study on how to "maintain balance between openness and security of science."

"This is a challenging and important issue," the NSF said.

The report says the Energy Department clarified only this year that employees and contractors are prohibited from participating in foreign talent recruitment programs, and that the State Department does not systematically track visa applicants linked to China's recruitment programs even though some applicants have stolen research in the past. The State Department said it was aware of the report and reviewing it.

In addition, the report says the FBI "has yet to develop an effective, nationwide strategy to warn universities, government laboratories, and the broader public of the risks of foreign talent recruitment plans." It says FBI headquarters did not take centralized control of the bureau's response until the middle of last year, and that the FBI itself was slow to recognize the threat from talent recruitment plans.

The Associated Press last month, relying on hundreds of pages of documents obtained through public records requests, reported that the FBI has been reaching out to colleges and universities across the countries to warn them of the threat. But the report says universities are mixed in their response. In one case, according to the report, the FBI provided a school with a list of suspected participants in the Thousand Talents Plan but did not say what to do next.

An FBI spokeswoman declined to comment on the report ahead of a Senate hearing on the same topic.

FBI officials previously told AP that the bureau had received consistently positive feedback from universities about the outreach efforts, and that the FBI is committed to helping universities understand the scope of the threat and how to protect their research. They said they consider the briefings vital because they say universities, accustomed to fostering international and collaborative environments, haven't historically been as attentive to security as they should be. **AP**

Taliban say they freed US, Australian hostage for 3 Taliban

KATHY GANNON, ISLAMABAD

THE Taliban said they freed yesterday an American and an Australian hostage held since 2016 in exchange for three top Taliban figures who were released by the Kabul government and flown out of Afghanistan the previous day.

The hostages — American Kevin King and Australian Timothy Weeks — were released in southern Zabul province, ending their more than three years in captivity.

According to a Taliban official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to talk to the media, the release took place in the province's Naw Bahar district, a region largely under Taliban control.

The two hostages, both professors at the American University of Kabul, were handed over to U.S. forces and transported from the area in a U.S. helicopter.

Their freedom came hours after the Afghan government freed three Taliban prisoners and sent them to Qatar. They included Anas Haqqani,

AP PHOTO



The kidnapped teachers Australian Timothy Weekes (left) and American Kevin King

ni, the younger brother of the Taliban's deputy Sirajuddin Haqqani, who also leads the fearsome Haqqani network.

It appears the Taliban had refused to hand over the two professors until they received proof their men had reached Qatar.

The American University of Afghanistan confirmed the release of the two professors, saying in a statement that its "community shares

the relief of the families of Kevin and Timothy, and we look forward to providing all the support we can to Kevin and Tim and their families."

Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan also welcomed the release of the two professors, saying he appreciates "steps taken by all involved to make it possible." Pakistan wields some influence over the Taliban and has played a behind-

-the-scenes role in trying to restart peace talks.

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani a week ago announced the "conditional release" of the three ranking Taliban figures, saying at a press event broadcast live on state television that it was a very hard decision he felt he had to make in the interest of the Afghan people.

King and Weeks, the two captives held by the Taliban were abducted in 2016 outside the American University in Kabul. The following year, the Taliban released two videos showing the captives. A January 2017 video showed them appearing pale and gaunt. In the later video, King and Weeks looked healthier and said a deadline for their release was set for June 16 that year.

Both said they are being treated well by the Taliban but that they remain prisoners and appealed to their governments to help set them free. It was impossible to know whether they were forced to speak.

Subsequently, U.S. officials said that American forces had launched a rescue mission to free the

two, but the captives were not found at the raided location.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and U.S. National Security Adviser Robert O'Brien made separate calls to Ghani on Monday to discuss the prisoners' release, Ghani's spokesman Sediq Sediqqi said.

The release and swap were intended to try to restart talks to end Afghanistan's 18-year war and allow for the eventual withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan.

The United States had been close to an agreement in September with the Taliban but a fresh wave of violence in the Afghan capital that killed a U.S. soldier brought talks and an impending deal to a grinding halt.

The agreement called for direct talks between the Taliban and Afghan government as well as other prominent Afghans to find a negotiated end to the war and set out a roadmap for what a post-war Afghanistan would look like.

Ghani in his discussions with Pompeo and O'Brien said he wanted a reduction in violence and an all-out cease-fire, his spokesman said.

According to a U.S. State Department statement Tuesday, Pompeo told Ghani the United States was "committed to work closely together to address violence if the President's decision does not produce the intended results." AP

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JAPAN

TOYOTA WORKER'S SUICIDE RULED WORK-RELATED AFTER HARASSMENT

YURI KAGEYAMA, TOKYO

AN engineer at Toyota killed himself after being constantly ridiculed by his boss, authorities have ruled.

Toyota Motor Corp. acknowledged the case after reports of the ruling emerged yesterday. The company said it hopes to prevent further such cases and expressed condolences over the death.

The case came amid growing awareness of problems with what the Japanese call "power harassment."

A regional labor bureau ruled in September that the 2017 suicide entitled the victim's family to compensation under a law regarding job-related deaths. Such rulings in Japan are sometimes not disclosed for weeks or longer.

Yoshihide Tachino, the attorney for the victim and his family, said Toyota was responsible for mismanagement for allowing the harassment to continue.

"When a worker suffers psychologically from the traumatic experience of harassment, that worker may continue to suffer even after he or she is able to re-



turn to work," Tachino said in a telephone interview yesterday.

Tachino said the 28-year-old worker was repeatedly called an idiot by his boss, and told he should die. His name was withheld due to privacy concerns.

After earning a master's degree at the prestigious University of Tokyo, he joined Toyota in 2015. After a year of training he was sent to the company's headquarters in Toyota city in Aichi Prefecture, central Japan.

That's when the harassment

started.

The young engineer's boss bullied him with constant insults, ordering him not to take days off and ridiculing his educational background, since his undergraduate degree was from a less elite school, according to an investigation into the case.

The engineer told those around him that he could not endure the harassment and would rather die to be freed from suffering.

He was often so nervous his hands shook, Tachino said.

The engineer took some time off in 2016, citing mental stress. When he returned to work, Toyota assigned him to another section, but he was still working on the same floor as his former boss.

"Our son joined Toyota with great hopes," his family said in a statement.

"But his life took a wrong turn because of the extremely cruel, violent words of his boss. And he is now gone," it said.

"We cannot forget our son. We miss him unbearably, each day."

The case highlights a tragic but endemic problem in Japan, where a workaholic corporate culture and zealous loyalty to an employer are often taken for granted.

Despite government efforts to change that, workers often forego vacations and put in many hours of overtime without pay.

Few workers would opt to leave such a respected company as Toyota; job-hopping tends to be for the adventurous in Japan, where mid-career job changes usually result in steps down, not advancement.

The Japanese workplace is

also fraught with social pressures. Being liked by co-workers and maintaining harmony tend to take precedence over assessments of performance and ability.

In 2018, 199 suicides were ruled job-related, or "karojisatsu," according to the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare. The term, which means "suicides from overwork" was coined from the word "karoshi," or "death from overwork," used to describe workers who die suddenly after putting in extremely long hours.

One in five workers in Japan puts in an average of 49 hours of work a week or more, and 60% of workers clock more than 40 hours a week, according to government data.

Other high-profile companies have seen deaths from overwork.

In a 2015 case at Tokyo-based advertiser Dentsu, Matsuri Takahashi jumped to her death from her apartment balcony after working 100 hours of overtime a month. She had been coming home at five in the morning after working all day and night.

In an ongoing case, Canadian Glen Wood has sued brokerage giant Mitsubishi UFJ Morgan Stanley, demanding his job back as equity sales manager, alleging he was harassed after he took paternity leave. AP

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US, South Korea cut short meeting over sharing defense costs

KIM TONG-HYUNG, SEOUL

U.S. and South Korean officials yesterday publicly acknowledged the allies remain far apart in negotiations for increasing South Korea's contributions to the costs for maintaining the American military presence on its soil.

U.S. negotiator James DeHart said the U.S. side decided to cut short a meeting that lasted less than two hours because Seoul's proposals "were not responsive to our request for fair and equitable burden sharing."

Seoul's Foreign Ministry said Washington has been calling for a "drastic increase" in South Korea's contributions which the country finds unacceptable.

The turbulent negotiations come at a delicate time for the allies, which face a growing North Korean threat and have squabbled over Seoul's declaration to terminate a 2016 military intelligence-sharing pact with Japan amid a bilateral row.

"We look forward to resuming our negotiations when the Korean side is ready to work on the basis of partnership and the basis of mutual trust," DeHart said, reading out a prepared statement in front of cameras in Seoul. He did



James DeHart, U.S. Department of State's senior advisor for security negotiations and agreements

not take questions from reporters.

Jeong Eun Bo, a South Korean negotiator, told reporters that the countries have scheduled their next round of talks, but didn't spe-

cify when.

Jeong refused to say how much the Americans were asking for. But he said Washington has demanded Seoul cover a broader

range of costs than what it has been providing, which includes the wages of South Korean employees at U.S. bases and costs for facility construction and logistics

support.

"It is true that there is a considerable difference between the proposals by the U.S. and the principles we are putting forward," Jeong said. "We will continue to make efforts with patience so that we reach a mutually acceptable agreement."

Despite their differences over how much South Korea should pay, the allies have not discussed the possibility of reducing the U.S. military presence in the country, Jeong said. The United States stations about 28,500 troops in South Korea, mainly to deter aggression from the North.

Washington and Seoul in February signed a new cost-sharing deal for 2019 that required South Korea to pay about 1.04 trillion won (\$890 million), shortly before a summit in Vietnam between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un that collapsed over disagreements in exchanging sanctions relief and disarmament. South Korea in 2018 provided about \$830 million, covering roughly 40 percent of the cost of the U.S. troop deployment that year.

The Trump administration has been pushing for South Korea to pay more. During a visit to South Korea last week, U.S. Defense Secretary Mark Esper pressed Washington's case that South Korea must pay a bigger share of the costs for maintaining U.S. troops in the country.

"This is a very strong alliance we have, but Korea is a wealthy country and could and should pay more to help offset the cost of defense," he said. AP

Germany's Merkel urges more investment in African nations

KIRSTEN GRIESHABER,
BERLIN

GERMAN Chancellor Angela Merkel yesterday urged more investment in African countries to improve their living standards and help prevent migrants from coming to Europe as part of the Compact with Africa initiated through the G20.

Meeting with several African leaders and international partner organizations, Merkel said that "we should do everything to cooperate with Africa, not to talk about Africa but to do something together."

She welcomed Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi along with leaders from Ethiopia, Benin, Ghana, Morocco, Tunisia and elsewhere.

Both Europe and Africa will profit from European investment but more transparency in Africa is essential



so that German companies will have enough trust to invest there, Merkel said.

Instability and extremism, especially in the Sahel region, also keep

Western countries from further investment in Africa, she said.

Africa is "a continent with more opportunities than risks but there's still a

lot to do," Merkel told ARD public television.

The Compact with Africa was initiated in 2017 during Germany's presidency of the Group of 20 indus-

trialized and developing nations. Twelve African countries have joined the initiative: Benin, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Morocco, Rwanda, Senegal, Togo and Tunisia.

Working with the World Bank, International Monetary Fund and the African Development Bank, the goal is to bring about the conditions in African countries needed to attract private investment. Those include economic stability and protection for investments by fighting corruption.

Europe and Africa face many common challenges such as climate change, digitization and migration that need to be tackled together, Merkel said.

Germany, which took in more than one million migrants in 2015 and 2016, has been leading European efforts to prevent another

surge with a strategy that includes focusing on development aid and other support to address the root causes that prompt people to flee their home countries.

Several global powers are pushing hard to exert more influence in Africa, taking advantage of the seemingly waning U.S. interest in the continent under President Donald Trump's administration.

In October, Russian President Vladimir Putin courted more than 40 African leaders at the first-ever Russia-Africa summit, hailing the continent's "enormous potential for growth" and negotiating deals to tap its riches including diamonds, uranium and oil.

Russia was following the lead of China, which has invested hundreds of billions of dollars in infrastructure and other projects across Africa in recent years. AP

what's ON



EXHIBITION OF TUBEROSE

TIME: 10:30am-6:30pm (closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: November 30, 2019

VENUE: 10 Fantasia, Kei Luen Bld, R. de São Miguel 17

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 4582

2ND MACAU OCEAN CULTURE FESTIVAL - CREATIVE DESIGN COMPETITION EXHIBITION

TIME: Open 24 hours

UNTIL: December 19, 2019

VENUE: Sai Van Lake

ADMISSION: Free

FACEBOOK: porthistorymacau

THE WORLD AS WILL AND IDEA - COLLECTIVE EXHIBITION OF EMERGING ARTISTS FROM MAINLAND CHINA

TIME: 10am-7pm (No admittance after 6:30pm, closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: February 23, 2020

VENUE: Macau Contemporary Art Centre - Navy Yard No.1, located at Rua de S. Tiago Da Barra

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

LINGUA FRANCA - 2ND ANNUAL ARTS EXHIBITION BETWEEN CHINA AND PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING COUNTRIES

TIME: 10am-7pm (Closed on Monday)

UNTIL: December 8, 2019

VENUE: No. 55-57, Avenida do Coronel Mesquita, known as Green Townhouses; Former Municipal Cattle Stable

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

Offbeat

CAMEL, COW, DONKEY FOUND ROAMING TOGETHER ALONG KANSAS ROAD

AP PHOTO



Authorities discovered a camel, a cow and a donkey roaming together along a Kansas road in a grouping reminiscent of a Midwestern Christmas Nativity scene.

The Goddard Police Department asked for help Sunday in locating the owners of the "three friends traveling together (towards a Northern star)."

Police said in a Facebook post that if they couldn't find the owners, they would be "halfway toward a live Nativity this Christmas season."

Sedgwick County Sheriff's Lt. Tim Meyers says the animals belong to an employee of the nearby Tanganyika Wildlife Park.

One person who replied to the Facebook post inquired, "Are there 3 wise looking men near?" Another speculated that they "may lead you to the Second Coming."

Goddard is about 15 miles (24 kilometers) west of Wichita.

TV canal macau



13:00 TDM News (Repetição)

13:30 Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)

15:00 Agua de Mar

15:30 BING

16:00 Photo Madeira

16:30 Quem Quer Ser Milionário

17:30 Mar de Letras Sr.2

18:00 Império (Repetição)

18:55 TDM Entrevista (Repetição)

19:10 A Essência

19:30 Ouro Verde Sr.1

20:30 Telejornal

21:15 Semana Internacional

21:50 Tesouro Pirata nas Caraíbas Sr.1

22:20 Império

23:15 TDM News

23:50 O Último Reino Sr.2

00:50 Telejornal (Repetição)

01:35 RTPi Directo

cinema



CINETEATRO

14 - 20 Nov



FORD V. FERRARI

ROOM 1

2:30, 4:0, 9:00pm

Director: James Mangold

Starring: Roberta Sparta, Caitriona Balfe, Christian Bale

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 152min



CHARLIE'S ANGELS

ROOM 2

2:30, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30pm

Director: Elizabeth Banks

Starring: Kristen Stewart, Naomi Scott, Ella Balinska

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 118min



DOCTOR SLEEP

ROOM 3

2:30, 4:30, 9:30pm

Director: Mike Flanagan

Starring: Ewan McGregor, Rebecca Ferguson, Kyliegh Curran

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 152min

GUILTY BY DESIGN

ROOM 3

5:00, 9:30pm

Director: Siu Kwan Lai, Wing Tai Lau

Starring: Nick Cheung, Kent Cheng, Hans Zhang

Language: Cantonese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 93min

this day in history



1995 DIANA ADMITS ADULTERY IN TV INTERVIEW

Diana, Princess of Wales, has spoken openly for the first time about her separation from the Prince of Wales in a frank interview for the BBC's Panorama programme.

During her hour-long conversation with BBC reporter Martin Bashir, she admitted to an adulterous affair with her riding instructor, James Hewitt.

She also described her hurt at her husband's relationship with long-term friend Camilla Parker-Bowles, but said she did not want to divorce.

The Princess spoke freely about her depression and bulimia, her children, the media and the future of the monarchy.

When Mr Bashir asked her about her relationship with Mr Hewitt, who had claimed to have had an affair with her, she admitted her relationship did go beyond a close friendship.

"Were you unfaithful?" asked Mr Bashir.

"Yes," answered the Princess. "I was in love with him. But I was very let down."

In June last year, Prince Charles admitted he had also had an affair with Mrs Parker-Bowles in a similarly frank interview with the BBC's Jonathan Dimbleby.

The Princess spoke of her hurt over the affair, saying, "There were three of us in this marriage, so it was a bit crowded."

"Friends of my husband's were indicating that I was unstable, sick and should be put in a home of some sort to get better so I wouldn't be an embarrassment."

She also said she did not think she would ever be Queen.

"I'd like to be a queen of people's hearts, in people's hearts, but I don't see myself being Queen of this country," she said. "I don't think many people will want me to be Queen."

The one-hour interview was watched by an estimated 15 million people, a record for the programme and one of the BBC's highest-ever audience figures.

The Princess's decision to go public has been highly controversial.

The BBC chairman, Marmaduke Hussey, is reported to be extremely unhappy that senior executives did not tell him about the programme in advance.

Lord Wakeham, chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, has also warned that the princess would only have herself to blame if she triggered a tabloid onslaught on her private life.

Buckingham Palace has confirmed Geoff Crawford, the Princess's press adviser, is to step down in the wake of her decision to speak to the BBC without informing him or the Queen.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

A month later, the Queen wrote to her son Charles, Prince of Wales, and to Princess Diana asking them to seek an early divorce. Their marriage ended with the issue of a decree nisi on 28 August 1996.

As part of the divorce settlement Diana was stripped of her royal title - Her Royal Highness - and instead became known as Diana, Princess of Wales.

It is understood she was awarded a £17m lump sum and £350,000 a year to run her private office. Diana and Charles agreed to share custody of their sons.

On 31 August 1997 Diana died in a car crash with her companion Dodi Fayed in Paris.

A French investigation found the driver had drunk too much and was driving too fast, and criticised photographers chasing the car for their behaviour.

Prince Charles and Camilla Parker-Bowles were married in April 2005 in a small, private civil wedding followed by a blessing by the Archbishop of Canterbury at Windsor Castle.

The Queen did not attend the wedding, although she was there at the blessing and hosted a reception afterwards.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

There are two paths ahead of you, and both look equally promising. Take the one that intimidates you the most - it will be the one to lead you on the most interesting and fulfilling journey.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

A very shocking revelation won't be a surprise to you today, but it's not because you're jaded - it's because your intuitive powers are stronger than ever. You knew it all along, and are able to take the news in stride.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

As quickly as you can, you need to get away from warring factions and go off alone. Knowing yourself as well as you do, you can find a great deal of safety and security on your own.



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

You are responsible for deciding whether or not a disagreement goes on to the next level, so you should appreciate the power you have and not take it for granted. Snapping back at someone could cost you today.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Examine each thought that pops into your head and figure out where it's coming from. File it away in its appropriate place - and you'll be able to move through the rest of the day easily.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

Doing your work well and not making waves is a great strategy for getting ahead in your career or getting better grades, but when you keep your head down all the time, you are liable not to get noticed!



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

You should know by now that only an intellectual connection can create a solid foundation for a real relationship, whether it's a romance, a friendship, or a business partnership.



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Don't waste time working on a solution, as you know who you should talk to and what you should say. Trust your gut today - it knows what it's talking about!



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Your attitude will be mismatched with your company today - the people around you will be on a completely different wavelength than you are. Luckily, that won't bother you one tiny bit!



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Complicated ideas will be swirling around your mind today - it can't be helped. The universe is sending you a rapid influx of mental energy, and your brain is going to need big ideas to keep it occupied.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

And if you don't belong to a gym, guess what? The sooner you join one, the better. If you put off getting in better shape much longer, you will inevitably feel pangs of regret.



PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

There is a lot of potential for hot romance right now, but you should go against expectations and just let things cool off a bit. Put this cutie on the back burner and just keep them simmering for a while.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

EASY

2		5			9	4		
		8	9	6				
6	3			8				
	6	3			2			
3		1	6		7			
	1		9	4				
	8			7	1			
	1	5	4					
7	4			8		3		

EASY+

6	3				9			
		9	6	8				
9						2	6	
	5						4	
		7	1					
3					8			
2	5					7		
		4	7	5				
4					1	5		

MEDIUM

8		6		5				
	4			6	9			
1		4	5					
7		2						
	6		7	4				
			6		1			
		3	7		6			
9	7				3			
	8		2		9			

HARD

	1	7	3	6				
3			9					
	9	5	6				8	4
			2					
1			4					
8	4							5

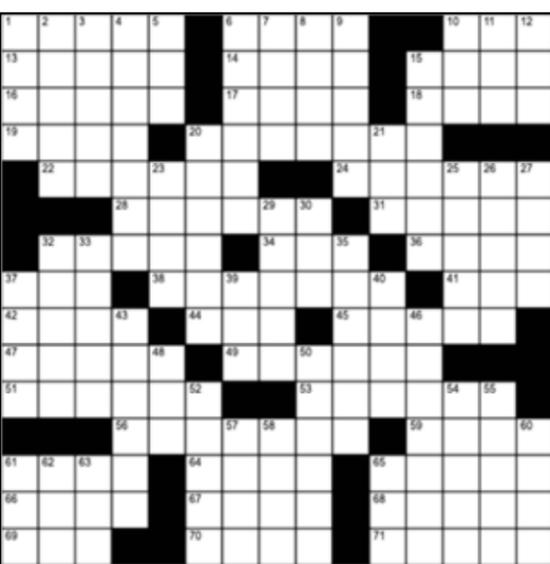
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	7	17	cloudy
Harbin	-3	6	drizzle
Tianjin	8	15	overcast
Urumqi	0	6	clear
Xi'an	4	18	clear
Lhasa	2	17	cloudy
Chengdu	14	19	cloudy
Chongqing	15	18	overcast
Kunming	12	18	shower
Nanjing	10	22	cloudy
Shanghai	12	21	cloudy
Wuhan	12	24	cloudy
Hangzhou	9	23	cloudy
Taipei	16	22	cloudy
Guangzhou	15	28	clear
Hong Kong	21	26	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	3	6	drizzle
Frankfurt	-1	9	clear
Paris	4	10	drizzle
London	3	7	drizzle
New York	0	4	clear

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1-71% is under water; 6- Bloody conflicts; 10- Class for U.S. immigrants; 13- Regal topper; 14- Monogram ltr; 15- Soup pod; 16- Taboos; 17- Brief letter, paper money; 18- Cat sound; 19- Baseball family name; 20- Rattle; 22- Certifiable; 24- Less messy; 28- Lively wit; 31- Genuinely; 32- Somewhat, informally; 34- Miss Piggy's query; 36- Busy as ___; 37- Japanese honorific; 38- LAX, e.g.; 41- Ques. response; 42- On the rocks; 44- Deserved; 45- Alley Oop's girlfriend; 47- Sorrow; 49- African antelopes; 51- That's cheating!; 53- Chaucer pilgrim; 56- Not straight; 59- Corrida cries; 61- Roman tyrant; 64- Kimono ties; 65- First name in cosmetics; 66- Biblical paradise; 67- Aquatic vertebrate; 68- ___ Janeiro; 69- Ames and Asner; 70- Biological bristle; 71- Syrian president;

DOWN: 1- Sicilian mount; 2- Garlic sauce; 3- Babbled; 4- Legging; 5- Owns; 6- Victor; 7- Prolific "author"; 8- Liturgy; 9- Severe; 10- Barely make, with "out"; 11- B'way posting; 12- Legal science; 15- 1998 Masters winner Mark; 20- Owing; 21- Dachshund doc; 23- Cinema canine; 25- Like ziti; 26- Actress Verdugo; 27- Deli breads; 29- Drive forward; 30- Also; 32- Prefix with iliac; 33- ___ by land...; 35- Pressed; 37- Indication; 39- Feel sorry about; 40- Brouhaha; 43- Member of the clerical order; 46- Subtle absorption; 48- Douglas ___; 50- Mohammed's favorite wife; 52- Summits of buildings; 54- Choir section; 55- ___ lift?; 57- Off-Broadway theater award; 58- Star-___ tuna; 60- Tournament favorite; 61- Born as; 62- Byrnes of "77 Sunset Strip"; 63- Hi-___; 65- Slice of history;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
- Fire department 28 572 222
- PJ (Open line) 993
- PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
- PSP 28 573 333
- Customs 28 559 944
- S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
- Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
- Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
- IAM 28 387 333
- Tourism 28 333 000
- Airport 59 888 88
- Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
- Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
- Telephone - Report 1000
- Electricity - Report 28 339 922
- Macau Daily Times 28 716 081



FOR SALE

Manhattan, Central Taipa
HK\$12,980,000 3 2 1,720 ft²

FOR RENT

Ocean Garden Sakura Court, Taipa
\$35,000/mth 4 4 3,700 ft²

FOR SALE

- [Taipa] Hoi Wan Garden 2 1 900 ft² \$5,100,000 (ref: 19106001)
- [Macau] Unique Loft 2 2 2,200 ft² \$9,990,000 (ref: 15115464)
- [Macau] One Central lakeview 2 2 1,269 ft² \$12,980,000 (ref: 19070002)
- [Cotai] One Grantai 4 2 2,556 ft² \$25,600,000 (ref: 19096000)

FOR RENT

- [Macau] Furnished apartment 2 1 700 ft² \$12,500/mth (ref: 19101007)
- [Taipa] Taipa Village 1 1 740 ft² \$11,800/mth (ref: 19101006)
- [Taipa] Manhattan 3 2 1,720 ft² \$23,800/mth (ref: 19091006)
- [Cotai] One Grantai 3 3 2,122 ft² \$23,000/mth (ref: 19030001RT)

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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

ADVERTORIAL

G R E A T T I M E S

Grill 58 "THE Menu": A Taste of Personalization

GRILL 58 is taking your dining experience to a whole new level. From the moment we arrived, we knew we were in for something special.

The dining environment, which felt relaxed, yet sophisticated. The chef began by asking us what we were in the mood for. Based on our responses he immediately took the creative reigns and started designing "THE Menu" for us. He was extremely detailed with his questions, asking if we wanted meat or seafood, a heavy or light meal to cater our different preferences.



After taking in all our answers, he disappeared into the kitchen, coming back with an impressive platter of fresh ingredients. He explained each one, making sure to check that we were not allergic to anything and he even let us remove any items that we didn't like.

The real entertainment began as our chef unveiled his culinary expertise by beginning to cook right in front of our eyes! The entire time he kept conversation with us, explaining his next steps. One of the most thrilling highlights of the meal was when he lit the whole grill on fire. Feeling the heat of the flames was quite exhilarating!



We got to see first-hand chef's talent and creative technique from the meal's start to finish. The entire experience felt like witnessing a work of art and there wasn't a moment where we weren't impressed.

You too can enjoy this interactive 8-course grill menu for \$998 at Grill 58 in MGM COTAL. Rest assured that each dish will be personalized to your taste buds!



ITALY'S WHITE TRUFFLE HUNTERS WORRY ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE

RISING global temperatures are worrying truffle hunters around the Italian town of Alba, where the most prized specimens can fetch twice the price of gold.

This particularly warm October, eight out of 10 white truffles unearthed by Carlo Olivero with his trusty 3-year-old dog Steel were dark, withered and dried out.

"They are clearly signs of the temperatures," Olivero said, holding one that he kept in his pocket. The rest he consigned to the soil, allowing the spores to spread and hopefully replenish future production.

Alba, located in the northwestern region of Piedmont, has earned the moniker "white truffle capital of the world" for its particularly fragrant variety of truffle, its truffle fair each fall and its annual charity auction, which pushes prices of the tuber magnatum pico up into the stratosphere.

A truffle weighing 1,005 grams (2 pounds, 3.4 ounces) fetched 120,000 euros (\$133,000) — more than twice the price of gold — from a Hong Kong buyer at this year's auction.

The longer-term impact of rising temperatures on the highly prized white truffles is still being studied, but they, like other fungi, grow best in cool, rainy conditions. Climate change has in effect delayed peak production from October into November.

"It has been a few years that we have been worrying about truffle production," said Antonio Degiacomi, president of Italy's national center for truffle studies. "We have had over the last three seasons one terrible year, one excellent season and one that is decent."

To stave off the longer-term climate change impact on the production of the highly prized white truffle, experts have launched initiatives to better preserve the territory where they grow. The goal is to safeguard the symbiosis between the truffle and the host plant by encouraging symbiosis between the truffle hunter and the land owner — whose interests often conflict.

Olivero recalled a maker



Above: A white truffle weighing 1,005 grams, which was sold for \$133,000.
Above top: Carlo Olivero and his dog sniff out the truffles

of the region's famed Barolo red wine who wanted to cut down two oaks — trees that are perfect hosts for truffles — that were shading his vines.

"I told him, 'The day you take all the oaks, only you will drink your wine,'" Olivero said. "Because the truffle and the Barolo are two formidable components. It is a system that works on the table, but needs to go together first in nature."

Unlike the more common black truffle, delicate white truffles cannot so far be cultivated, which makes preservation of their environment critical.

Incentives include a program paying 24 euros (\$26) a year to property owners to maintain host trees they might otherwise remove. Truffle associations also strike agreements with absentee landowners to keep their wooded property cleared in a way that

promotes truffle growth.

This year's charity auction white truffle price — 12,000 euros for 100 grams (\$13,200 for 3.5 ounces) — compared with a high price at this year's fair of about 380 euros per 100 grams (\$400 for 3.5 ounces). The fair price can increase to as much as 750 euros (\$850) per 100 grams in years of scarce production.

After an unusually hot and long summer, this November's damp, foggy weather has proved perfect for truffle hunting around Alba.

"In these days, the quality is especially high," said truffle judge Stefano Cometti. "The low temperatures augment the organic characteristics of the truffle and force it to retain the aroma."

That included a 730-gram (1 pound, 9.75 ounce) white truffle unearthed by Davide Curziotti on Saturday, the largest of the

annual truffle fair to date. Judges certified the provenance of the behemoth tuber, which Curziotti sold immediately to a restaurant in Osaka for 3,800 euros (\$4,200).

Even after more than four decades on the truffle hunt, Olivero still gets emotional when Steel stops his energetic sniffing of the damp ground.

Steel's nose is faultless. Through a carpet of wet autumn leaves and muddy earth, the dog picks up the sweet, distinctive aroma of a white truffle and signals his find by rapidly digging on the surface.

"I call it the magic moment, because it means that there is something under there that we were looking for. We still don't know the dimensions, how big it will be, but the heartbeat speeds up because in that moment, we know there is something," Olivero said.

FOOTBALL

Italy has swagger back with winning streak and glut of goals

DANIELLA MATAR, MILAN

ITALY 9, ARMENIA 1

ITALY'S impressive form is posing problems for coach Roberto Mancini.

Who to leave behind next year for the European Championship?

The Azzurri signed off their qualifying campaign in style yesterday [Macau time], beating Armenia 9-1 for their biggest win in 71 years.

For the first time, Italy had seven different goalscorers. Three of them — Nicolò Zaniolo, debutant Riccardo Orsolini, Federico Chiesa — opened their international accounts.

"They're all young lads who are improving match by match," Mancini said. "We have six months to prepare for the European Championship, we have to improve a few things, and then the difficulty will be to unfortunately leave someone at home who de-

AP PHOTO



Italy's Jorginho (left) celebrates after he scored his side's seventh goal

serves to be there."

The 20-year-old Zaniolo, who also plays on the wing, was used up front for the first time by Italy along with Ciro Immobile and Chiesa, and scored twice.

"I'm very happy, I made ano-

ther dream come true, but I know I still have to improve," Zaniolo said. "I'm happy both on the wing and as an inside forward, but wherever I have to play, I'll play, and I'll always try to give my all.

"If the call-up for Euro 2020 comes I would achieve another dream."

Monday's result was just shy of Italy's biggest ever win — a 9-0 victory over the United States in 1948 — but a slew of other records did tumble.

Not only was it the first time seven different players scored in an Italy match, it was also the first time Italy completed a qualifying campaign — for either a European Championship or a World Cup — with a perfect record, and the first time the Azzurri recorded 10 successive victories in a calendar year.

It was also a record-extending 11th successive victory for the national side. That run started a year ago with a 1-0 victory over the United States, thanks to a last-minute goal from Matteo Politano.

That friendly came just over a year after Italy's embarrassing failure to qualify for the 2018 World Cup, leading to the dismissal of

Gian Piero Ventura and the hiring of Mancini, six months later.

Things took a while to click as Italy managed just two wins in Mancini's first eight matches, and it didn't score more than one goal in any of those games.

Italy put in an impressive performance in its last UEFA Nations League match against Portugal but failed to find the back of the net in a scoreless draw at home. Italy sports daily Gazzetta dello Sport screamed from a front-page headline "Where are the goals?"

Italy responded. Victory against the United States came days later and that was to be the last time the Azzurri scored less than two goals in a match.

Italy went on to score 37 goals in its 10 qualifying matches, tied for the most with England. Italy conceded just four, which was bettered by only three other sides.

Some may point to the quality of the opposition but Italy has often beaten so-called smaller teams by narrow margins.

For Italy's Brazil-born midfielder Jorginho there are echoes of his home country.

"There's something of Brazil here: An attacking mentality, enjoying ourselves, and always trying to score," said Jorginho, who came to Italy when he was 15. **AP**

AD



We are happy to offer a 10% discount to casino employees and ILCM members.

Please present your employee ID or ILCM member card to enjoy this discount.

(Not applicable on public holidays and for set menus)

OPENING HOURS ARE: Lunch: 12 - 14:30pm - Dinner: 18:30 - 22:30pm

Saturday & Sunday 12-22:30pm

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+853 28250148



OPINION

Macau Matters

Richard Whitfield



TEACHING AN OLD DOG NEW TRICKS

Based on research from Rutgers University, Solidia Technologies (www.solidiatech.com or Solidia Video) is commercializing a new way to make concrete which can dramatically reduce the environmental impact of this major global industry. Like my earlier (23 October 2019) article about the Hazer Group, this is another great example of how farsighted business-people are learning how to profit from improving our planet instead of destroying it. Again, I wish we had more university-industry collaboration in Macau that is similarly focused on counteracting climate change.

Human synthesis of rock-like substances for use to make shelters dates back to Neolithic times. Structures made from cob and adobe and other mixtures of sand, stones, mud and other binding agents have been a feature of many cultures for millennia. The Greeks, and later the Romans, knew that if a mixture of volcanic ash and cementitious materials, sand and stone was wet down with water a chemical reaction would occur to turn the material into concrete. Portland cement, the principal binding agent used in modern concrete was developed in the mid-1800's. It is derived mostly from limestone, a carbonate sedimentary rock formed from the skeletons and shells of marine animals.

To make Portland cement nowadays, limestone is crushed with clay and then burnt at high temperature (1,450oC) to initiate the formation of calcium silicates and other cementitious materials and to release carbon dioxide (CO2) as a waste gas. Cement production is responsible for around 8% of global energy consumption and accounts for 5% of the CO2 now being released into the atmosphere.

Most people have seen how Portland cement is mixed with sand, stone and water to make a slurry in concrete batching plants and then transported by cement-mixer trucks to building sites where it is pumped into molds and then hardens over several days, whereupon the molds are removed. The water triggers a chemical reaction that converts the Portland cement into the rock-like material we call concrete. The sand and stone are largely "filler" materials and are not involved in this chemical process, but they do contribute to the final strength of the concrete.

Solidia has developed and patented two fundamental changes to conventional cement/concrete production and use. Firstly, it has developed a new way to make Portland cement from limestone which significantly reduces the energy needed and eliminates 30%-40% of the waste CO2. Secondly, it has found a way to use CO2 (mixed with some water) to initiate the chemical reaction to turn cement powder into rock. Thus the CO2 generated during the process of turning limestone into Portland cement is no longer a waste, but can be reused to trigger the reaction to gradually harden the cement, sand, stone slurry into rock (concrete). This CO2 is thus locked into the structure of the concrete so it is never released into the atmosphere.

If fully adopted by the global cement/concrete industry, Solidia's technology has the potential to reduce global CO2 emissions by 1.5 gigatonnes/year. It could also reduce the water consumed to make concrete by 3 trillion litres/year. As an added advantage, Solidia concrete fully hardens in 1 day, and not the 20-30 days that conventional concrete takes to fully harden.

The Solidia technology is well proven and it has won several industry awards and its investors include Kleiner Perkins and other investment funds and LafargeHolcim, the world's largest manufacturer of building materials, and Air Liquide a major global industrial gases company.

Given the large amounts of cement/concrete used in Macau each year, do you think we could convert the local industry to use this new technology? Yet another way that Macau could become a world leader, if only we had the will.

Lawyer Paulo Cardinal, who has served for more than 25 years in the Legislative Assembly (AL), said that lawmakers have been losing legislative capacity since the handover in 1999.

The legislators were "barred from presenting bills on certain matters" due to amendments to the House Rules, Cardinal told Lusa news agency yesterday on the sidelines of the launching of his latest book, "Lessons on Legislative Procedure in the Parliamentary Law of Macau."

The procedures that were in force during the Portuguese-



se administration had been replaced and amended thereafter, explained Cardinal who is currently teaching law at university level.

Paulo Cardinal's dismissal last year from the AL was seen by the European Union in May as a "sudden decision that raised civil society concerns about growing efforts to put aside foreign expertise." The EU comments also refer to his former colleague at the AL, Paulo Tai-pa, now a member of Lisbon's government in charge of gambling legislation.



Google Vice President Jacqueline Fuller

ANGELA CHARLTON, PARIS

GOOGLE Vice President Jacqueline Fuller says the company is having "a lot of conversations" internally amid worries about the tech giant's bottomless appetite for consumer data and how it uses its algorithms.

Fuller wouldn't comment on specific data privacy controversies dogging Google lately, but says she shares other concerns many have about Big Tech: Cyber-bullying. Hate speech amplified online. The impact of artificial intelligence on everything, from jobs to warfare.

"As a consumer myself, as part of the general public, as a mother, it's very important to understand ... what am I seeing, what are my children seeing," she said in an interview with The Associated Press in Paris, where she's announcing new grant winners Tuesday for projects aimed at teaching digital skills to poor, immigrant or elderly users.

The philanthropic arm she runs, Google.org, is like the company's conscience, spending \$100 million a year on non-profit groups that use technology to try to counteract problems the tech world is accused of creating, abetting or exacerbating.

"Across the world we want to make sure we're a responsible citizen," she said.

But can Google's do-good arm make up for everything else?

At least it's trying, she argues.

"The company is having a lot of conversations around things like access to information and access to data and making sure there's no algorithmic bias," she said.

Public outrage has grown over Google's use of consumer data and domination of the online search market, with governments

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JACQUELINE FULLER

stepping up scrutiny of the company.

Just in the past week, nine groups called for the U.S. government to block Google's \$2.1 billion acquisition of fitness-gadget maker Fitbit, citing privacy and antitrust concerns. Then Google came under fire for a partnership with U.S. health care system Ascension that the Wall Street Journal says gives the search giant access to thousands of patient health records without doctors' knowledge. Both companies say the deal is compliant with health-privacy law.

Fuller wouldn't comment specifically on either case, but said, "We take our users' trust very seriously."

She also insisted that the company has a very "vibrant discussion" internally about sexual misconduct, human rights and other problems that have tarnished Google's reputation.

Its philanthropic arm is

focused lately on limiting damage from breakneck developments in artificial intelligence, notably after employee departures and public pressure over a Pentagon contract pushed the company to pledge it wouldn't use AI in weapons development.

Among projects Google.org is funding are those that help users create and share digital resumes or map job opportunities, as the company tries to figure out "how can we anticipate some of the impacts of AI in an economy, and understand how

can we make sure that everyone has access to jobs that are not only interesting now but jobs that are going to be here in the future," Fuller said.

Google is also holding a competition this year in Europe for projects on "how we can keep children safe," she said.

Digital literacy is crucial, she said: "All of us need to discern what is truthful of what I see online. How do I ask the questions of who is sponsoring this content?"

Despite its philanthropic efforts, Google's critics remain legion — even within the tech universe.

Former Google design ethicist Tristan Harris argues technology is shortening our attention spans and pushing people toward more extreme views. He couldn't get Google to tackle these problems when he was there, so he quit and is pushing for change from the outside, through his Center for Human Technologies. AP

INTERVIEW

GOOGLE VP WORRIES ABOUT ONLINE CONTENT, TOO



Pakistan Ailing former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, who was convicted of corruption, left the country yesterday to travel to London for medical treatment.



Lebanon Thousands of protesters rallying against the Lebanese political elite blocked roads in central Beirut yesterday, preventing lawmakers from reaching the parliament and forcing the postponement of a legislative session. The session had been scheduled even though the country is still without a Cabinet following the prime minister's resignation amid unprecedented demonstrations that have gripped Lebanon since mid-October.



Malta A man arrested in a money-laundering case in Malta claims to have information identifying the mastermind behind the car-bomb assassination of a leading investigative journalist, Maltese officials said yesterday. Maltese Prime Minister Joseph Muscat said he has offered an official pardon to the suspect if his evidence leads to the arrest of the mastermind behind the Oct. 16, 2017, assassination of Daphne Caruan Galizia [pictured].

Sweden A Swedish prosecutor says the alleged rape investigation involving WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, who is currently in prison in Britain, has been discontinued. Deputy Chief Prosecutor Eva-Marie Persson spoke yesterday as she gave an update on the Swedish case.

UK Britain's Prince Andrew is facing further disgrace as charitable backers begin to distance themselves from him amid unfavorable fallout of an interview on his friendship with sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.