



MELCO RESORTS & ENTERTAINMENT ABANDONS ITS PURSUIT OF AN INTEGRATED RESORT DEVELOPMENT IN THE CITY OF YOKOHAMA, JAPAN P2

MAINLAND LAW PREVAILS IN COMMERCIAL DISPUTES ON HQ COOPERATION ZONE: SECRETARY LEI P2

THE UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH HAS RECEIVED BEIJING'S PERMISSION TO ADMIT POST-GRADUATE STUDENTS FROM MAINLAND CHINA: RECTOR MORGAN P2



South Korea's competition watchdog plans to fine Google at least \$177 million for allegedly blocking smartphone makers like Samsung from using other operating systems, in what would be one of the country's biggest antitrust penalties ever. Google said it plans to challenge the fine. It has accused South Korean authorities of disregarding how its software policy benefits hardware partners and consumers. South Korea began enforcing a revised telecommunications law that prohibits app market operators from requiring smartphone users to pay with their in-app purchasing systems.



Russian President Vladimir Putin has observed military exercises being conducted in coordination with Belarus that have raised concerns in bordering countries. Putin on Monday attended exercises at a training ground in the Nizhny Novgorod region, 450 kilometers east of Moscow. The exercises included what the Defense Ministry said was the first use in a combat environment of two new robotic fighting vehicles that are equipped with machine guns and grenade launchers.



German police are investigating the source of a balloon that caused a massive blackout in and around the eastern city of Dresden. Authorities said the metal foil balloon caused a short-circuit at an electricity substation in Dresden, causing a power outage that affected hospitals, trams, factories and about 300,000 households. Dozens of people were trapped in elevators until electricity about an hour later.

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SHADES OF GREY

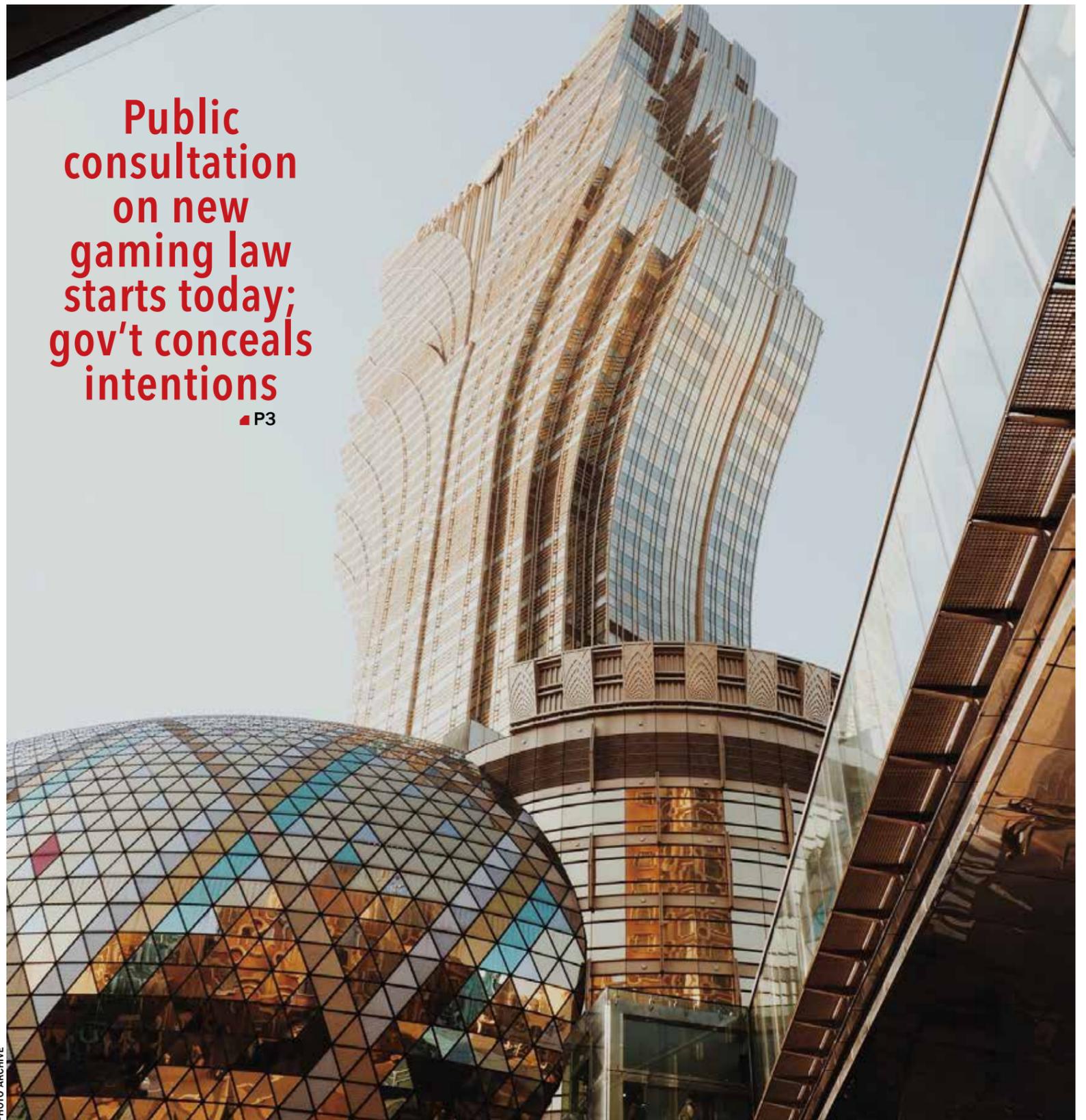


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A LOOK AT THE ELECTIONS

A NON-VOTE STATEMENT FROM POP

MAINLAND LAW PREVAILS IN COMMERCIAL DISPUTES ON HENGQIN

ANTHONY LAM

WHEN commercial disputes arise in the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone on Hengqin, mainland law will apply, Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lei Wai Nong, said yesterday.

The government is set to host a series of media briefings to introduce the Master Plan on the Cooperation Zone. Yesterday's session was presided by Lei, and focused on his sector.

Lei's revelation came in response to media asking if a Macau or foreign company that has offices in Hengqin fall into a commercial dispute, whether mainland or Macau will have prevailing legal authority over the case.

The senior official began by saying the commercial disputes happen in all places of commercial activity. He assured that Hengqin will have mediation and arbitration channels for handling these cases.

"In addition, there will be corresponding judicial measures," he added. "These areas will be



polished gradually to construct a free, fair and transparent commercial environment."

Nonetheless, he did not give a direct response about which legal system would have jurisdiction. Therefore, he was then asked to clarify on this point.

"On this matter, we abide with the territorial principle and so commercial disputes will [be

subject] to the laws of mainland China," Lei said.

On the currency used in the Cooperation Zone, Lei revealed that Chinese yuan will be used in all transactions. This means that the national currency will be the legal tender, as well as the means and medium of exchange within the Cooperation Zone, despite the Zone being co-administered

by both Guangdong and Macau.

"It is similar to mainland tourists spending in Macau," Lei said, adding that the Macau pataca can be exchanged in Hengqin for the Chinese yuan. However, considering that the Chinese yuan and Hong Kong Dollars are widely accepted in Macau, the pataca may be accepted by businesses within the Cooperation Zone in the future.

Lei added that civil servants representing Macau to work in the Cooperation Zone will have their salaries paid in patacas.

Lei believed that the Macau brand will be popular in the Cooperation Zone. Nonetheless, he stressed that Macau is not selling its products in Hengqin. Instead, it should promote and market itself as a brand.

"Tourists who come to spend in Macau have faith in the quality of commodities sold here," Lei expressed. "Frankly, many souvenirs we see in Macau are manufactured on the mainland."

In terms of financial income, the senior official introduced on the revenue sharing scheme,

which stipulates that return on investment made prior to 2024 will remain in the Administration Committee of the Cooperation Zone. The funds will be used for the zone's future development.

As for commercial development, the Cooperation Zone will focus on synergic collaboration in the tourism and MICE trades. For instance, the government boasts Macau's MICE software and hardware and will attempt to attract or stage larger events.

Furthermore, the tourism industry can develop newer products that incorporates the island nature of Hengqin and the resort nature of Macau.

In his opening speech, the Secretary attributed Macau's development difficulties to its geographical limitations and the dominance of a single industry.

Like every other government official, Lei is confident that the additional 106 square kilometers of geographical space on Hengqin Island will help achieve economic diversification and livelihood stability.

Today, the government will host the last session in the series of briefings. It will be co-chaired by Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak and Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raimundo do Rosário.

GAMING

Melco withdraws integrated resort bid in Yokohama

LYNZY VALLES

MELCO Resorts & Entertainment has stopped its pursuit of an integrated resort development in the city of Yokohama, the company announced in a statement yesterday.

This decision comes after the opposition-backed Takeharu Nakayama, who campaigned on an anti-IR platform, won the Yokohama mayoral election.

"Unfortunately, the citizens of Yokohama have decided [...] and the mayoral election results give a clear verdict. The new mayor [...] has now closed the door on

the process we engaged in with our partners," said Lawrence Ho, Chairman and CEO of Melco Resorts & Entertainment.

"While we are disappointed, we are grateful for the friendships that we have formed throughout the process and [we] express our sincere gratitude to the people and government of Yokohama, as well as our business and community partners, for their tremendous support," he added.

Melco partnered with the Japanese construction and civil engineering company Taisei Corporation for the in-

tegrated resort bid; and qualified for the city's Request for Proposal (RFP) to develop an integrated resort.

With this farewell in the race, the company pledged that it remains committed to Japan and will continue to explore development opportunities in the country.

"Melco has been working on the ground in Japan for over a decade. We firmly believe in the country's long-term potential and remain committed to exploring opportunities to develop the world's best integrated resort in Japan. We will be closing our Yokohama office while

maintaining a representative office in Tokyo," Ho concluded.

Across Japan, four cities have proclaimed their intention to create their own integrated resorts: Osaka, Yokohama, Wakayama and Nagasaki. Japanese policymakers have been eyeing companies with experience in operating high-end resorts in the Asia-Pacific region.

Since the applications for integrated resorts opened in Japan, gaming operators and junkets from Macau have applied. However, many of these applicants withdrew their application earlier this year.

USJ NOW ALLOWED TO ACCEPT MAINLAND POST-GRADUATES

THE University of Saint Joseph (USJ) has received Beijing's permission to admit post-graduate students from Mainland China, rector of the university, Rev. Prof. Stephen Morgan, announced in a statement.

"I was delighted to receive the formal notification from the Ministry of Education of the Central People's Government of the permission for the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) to recruit students, on a trial basis for the current academic year and beyond, to our post-graduate programs in Architecture, Business Administration, Information Systems and Science," the rector wrote.

The Catholic clergyman thanked Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng, Secretary for Social

Affairs and Culture Elsie Ao Ieong and the Education and Youth Development Bureau for their constant attention to the application. "Key to this process has been the constant advocacy of our case [by these officials]," the priest stressed.

"We will closely observe the detailed regulations concerning this permit and will spare no effort in seeking to repay the trust and confidence of the Ministry of Education, as we seek to demonstrate that we are a university in, of and for Macau, in, of and for China," the priest added.

Morgan revealed that the USJ had developed a "close working relationship" with a number of higher education and research institutions in Mainland China over the last few years. **AL**

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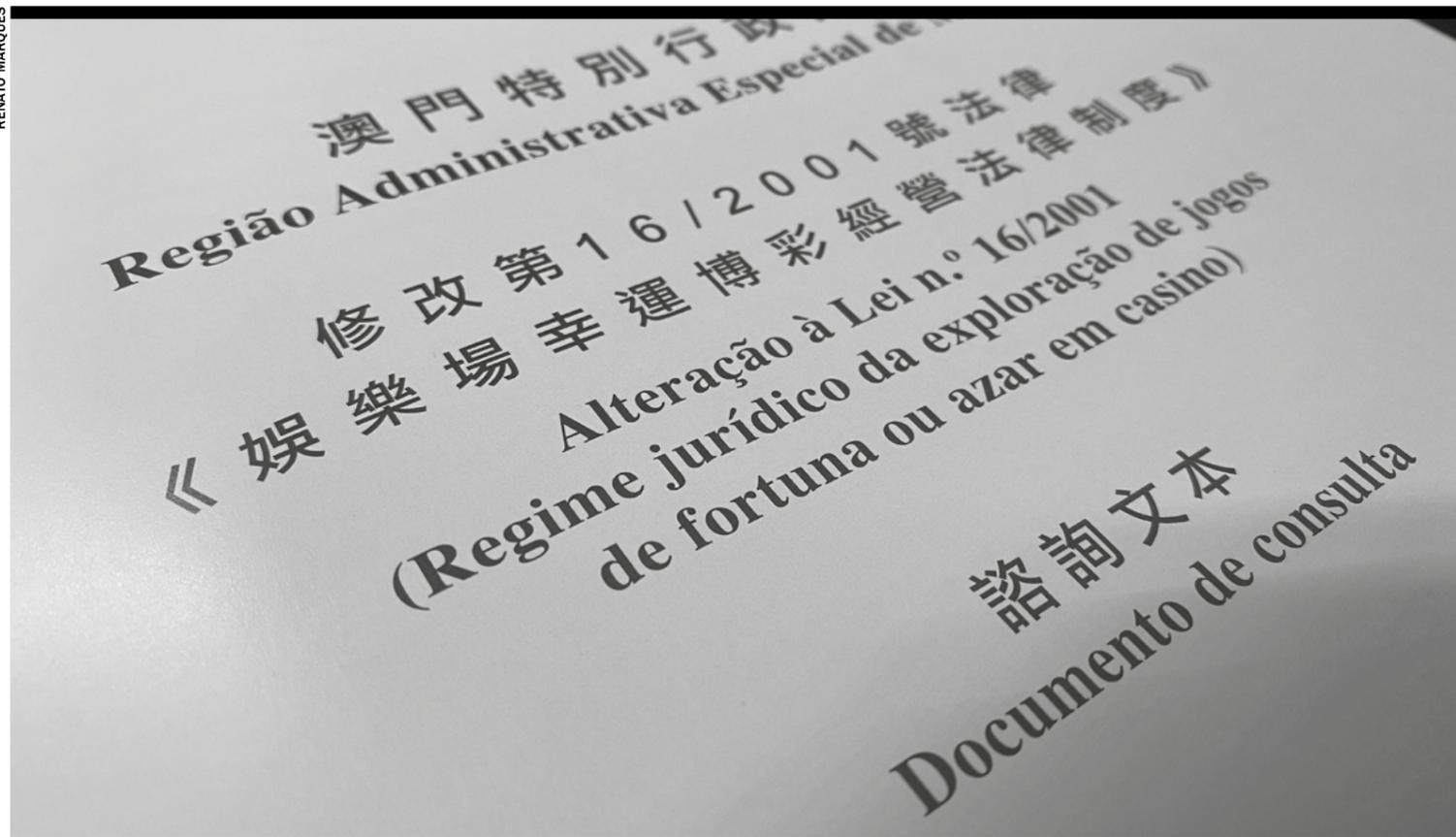
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RENATO MARQUES



Public consultation on new gaming law; gov't conceals intentions

RENATO MARQUES

FOR the next 45 days, the government will conduct a public consultation on the amendments to the gaming law (Law 16/2001).

In a press conference hosted at the government headquarters yesterday afternoon, the Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lei Wai Nong, officially launched the public consultation, drawing attention to the aspects of the law which the government is seeking to revise.

Despite this speech, Lei revealed very little about the government's real reasons behind this revision, and the public consultation document provides similarly little insight. Only a few hints suggest the picture that the government is painting for the future of the local gaming industry.

Still, the Secretary noted that the amendments aim at three main aspects: perfecting the inspection juridical regime, raising the general competitiveness, and developing a healthy and stable gaming sector.

NINE MAIN ASPECTS IN FOCUS

Presenting the public consultation document in more detail, Ian I Lin, an advisor from the Office of the Secretary explained that there are nine main aspects about which the government wishes to hear the opinion of both the public and the gaming sector.

The nine areas are: the number of gaming concessionaires, the duration of concessions, additional

regulations regarding inspections, the increase of workers securities, the reinforcement of verification mechanisms for concessionaires as well as gaming promoters and partners, the introduction of new delegates from the government, promotion of non-gaming projects, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), and a new sanctioning regime of both criminal and administrative responsibilities to the concessionaires.

Despite many questions on the first topic about the number of gaming concessionaires, Lei avoided giving a direct answer, saying only that before deciding on what would be a reasonable number of gaming concessionaires, the government wishes to consult public opinion.

"[As the public consultation document states] to increase the number of concessions can bring an unhealthy competitiveness.

This can mean that the government might maintain or even reduce the number of concessionaires," Lei said.

The government was opening the door to changing the current duration of 20 years

"We are open to suggestions. We are going to listen [to what the public has to say]. But we will maintain the main principle [which is that] the size of [the gaming industry] cannot be significantly reduced so that we can ensure the basic needs for the lives of our residents and the investments [in infrastructure and others] that come from the gaming tax collection."

The only certainty is that the new gaming law will not allow the establishment of gaming sub-

-concessions, so all concessions granted will be have the same rights and responsibilities as the government.

Similar replies were given by Lei with regard to the length of the new concessions. He indicated that the government was opening the door to changing the current duration of 20 years, but did not explicitly say if the intention is to reduce or increase this period.

Lei said, "We know that most of the infrastructure and operations are already established so we believe that we should consider the duration of the gaming licenses." He went on to hint that the new licenses might be shorter in duration than in the previous tender.

What is clearer is the government's intention to increase the share capital of the gaming concessionaires as well as to ensure an increase of the percentage of this ca-

pital owned by shareholders who are permanent residents of Macau.

Additional regulations are also expected for the transfer and distribution of profits to shareholders that will require authorization from the government.

Besides enforcing measures to ensure local employment, the concessionaires will also be under tighter scrutiny from the government which will have added powers to verify the background of both the staff hired by the concessionaires or entities who work with them, or those who seek to establish partnerships with the concessionaires. This purview also extends to the gaming promoters and their collaborators.

Besides the inspection of the casino operations, which is currently done by the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ), the government wants to implement government delegates to "increase direct inspection from the government over the concessionaires."

How this new inspection figure would work, and whose responsibility it would be, were also questions Lei avoided answering. He only said that these delegates will be assigned per concessionaire and not per casino.

Questioned by the media as to whether they would be part of the concessionaires' administration, Lei refused to answer.

It was already known that the government intended to enforce CSR by the concessionaires beyond the percentage that is currently derived from gaming taxes. The government wants the concessionaires to become motors of diversification, supporting several sectors from Small and Medium Enterprises to ensuring labor rights, pay support to philanthropic activities, and the mandatory hiring of people with disabilities, among other considerations.

Lastly, the government wants to propose two types of criminal responsibility that would apply to gaming operators, namely illegal money deposits as well a crime of disobedience for obstructing the work of the DICJ inspectors.

During the 45 days of public consultation to October 29, the secretariat will host five opinion collection sessions, one of them solely dedicated to hearings from the gaming sector.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION REPORT BEFORE MAY 2022

QUESTIONED on when could the public expect a final report on the public consultation, the Secretary explained that the report will be done as soon as possible after the consultation is concluded. Without giving even a tentative date for the publication of the report, Lei explained that it will

be a close model for the draft law that will then be discussed, which makes it a very important document. He also noted that according to the rules, there is a maximum timeframe of 180 days for this report to be presented, which means that the report will be ready on or before May next year.

ONLINE GAMING OUT OF THE QUESTION

SECRETARY Lei Wai Nong was pragmatic when he was questioned on the possibility of the new gaming law to include provisions allowing virtual gaming operations (online gaming). He stated, "We do not wish to have any online gaming activities. This would be contrary to our plan and purpose." He additionally noted, "We need the people here [physically] because that is what will support [not just the gaming industry] the other businesses such

as the hotel industry, retail and all the other industries. Only by having people coming in [to gamble], we will be able to secure the employment of the residents in this and all the other industries." Lei also remarked that the introduction of an online component to the gaming industry would cause "a lot of social problems." "We think we need to have a prudent attitude regarding this matter," he concluded.

Low turnout in AL elections deemed as a

LYNZY VALLES

IN what was deemed a reasonably predictable election, there were still a few surprises.

Aside from the lowest voter turnout since 2001, the wins and losses of some candidates have alarmed some watchers.

Commentators agreed that most, if not all, pro-democracy supporters abstained from voting by not casting ballots or voiding the ballots they did cast.

In early July, the electoral committee announced that 21 aspiring candidates in six groups for this year's Legislative Assembly (AL) election were disqualified due to "factual evidence" proving that they neither support Macau's Basic Law nor are loyal to the Macau SAR.

The announcement was a surprise to the disqualified candidates and also sparked criticism from the public.

The verification of election ballots on Monday revealed there were several ballots containing inappropriate drawings and words which expressed strong opposition toward the elections.

One of the ballots contained a shape that formed

the letters "DQ," which stands for disqualified.

Political expert, Eilo Yu, admitted, "Yes, the result surprised me," noting that "the effect of the disqualification is more severe than expected."

"Besides, the low turnout rate might be also contributed to by non-prodemocracy supporters. If all the supporters of the four pro-democracy candidate lists who voted in 2017 had not come out last Sunday, the turnout rate [would have dropped] about 10%," said Yu, who is an associate professor of the Department of Government and Public Administration at the University of Macau.

Lawyer-cum-political scientist Sérgio de Almeida Correia noted that considering the events which occurred prior to the election's exclusion of candidates under "very questionable grounds, not to mention illegal ones," there were three possible explanations for the results of the September 12 elections:

First, voters may have chosen to maintain the status quo: going to the polls turning a blind eye to previous events, supporting the government and

all previous administrative and judicial decisions to exclude pro-democracy activists.

Second, voters may have decided to vote without having a preferred candidate.

Correia's final option was that voters may have expressed their discontent by voting null or blank. "I think that what happened was a combination of the second and third hypotheses," Correia told the Times.

"What happened was exactly the opposite of what the government asked of the population, meaning that the turnout was the lowest ever since colonial times, and blank and null votes doubled or tripled the figures of previous elections," the expert calculated.

For him, the results came as a "resounding defeat for the government and for the political forces supporting the exclusions."

"This is the conclusion that has to be made."

CANDIDATE EXCLUSION 'NOT SMART'

The exclusion of candidates and associations played a major role in the record low voter turnout.

The elections for the seventh Legislative Assembly registered the



The pandemic is likely to create a Legislative Assembly with a good sense of moral responsibility for society.

LI SHENG

lowest turnout rate ever, with only 42.38% of voters showing up at polling stations.

Sonny Lo, veteran political commentator, expressed that the low turnout showed "many young voters did not vote because of the disqualification of so many candidates."

For Correia, the "exclusion decision was not, politically, very smart."

"The disqualification explains the brutal increase in the number of blank

votes and null votes, despite the reduction in the number of voters," said the expert.

In the 2001 elections, the voter turnout rate was 52.34%; while in 2005 it was 58.39%. In 2009 it was 59.91%, in 2013 it was 55.02%, and in the last elections of 2017, it was 57.22%.

To better understand the fall in turnout, the total number of eligible voters in 2017 was 305,615, 174,872 of whom voted.

This year, the size of the electorate reached 323,907 registered voters, corresponding to 137,279 votes cast in a ballot box. With 18,292

more registered voters, 37,593 fewer people voted.

In press briefing held on Sunday after the closing of the polling stations, president of the Legislative Assembly Electoral Affairs Commission (CAEAL), Tong Hio Fong, blamed the pandemic for the low turnout.

However, Correia did not find this explanation convincing, citing the absence of local cases.

In 2017, there were 944 blank votes, and the null

votes were 1300. In 2021, they were 3141 and 2082 respectively.

Therefore, he believed that the increases are certainly not explained by the fear of the pandemic, nor by the heat, "because these people took to the trouble of going to vote and voting blank or null despite the efforts that were made to avoid it."

"If we look at the figures, we realize what a turnout disaster these elections were. In fact, the numbers of voters in the previous election (2017) on the lists of Ng Kuok Cheong, Au Kam San and Sou Ka Hou amounted to 30,673," said Correia.

"Now, compared with the results of the 2017 elections, it appears that the number of people who voted for the lists of the three excluded is much lower than the number of those who did not even go to vote."

The political scientist also refused to interpret the increased number of votes for José Pereira Coutinho's New Hope list as a victory for the government. Coutinho, he believed, was "the only [lawmaker] whose proposals systematically failed in the Legislative Assem-

ELECTIONS2021

Agnes Lam attributes poor showing to low voter turnout

LYNZY VALLES

FORMER lawmaker and candidate for the Legislative Assembly elections Agnes Lam admitted that it was surprising to see a low number of votes for her list, Civil Watch, which won only 3,729 votes in the low turnout election.

"The [defeat] was not expected. I did not expect that the number would be small," Lam told the Times.

However, she admitted that the low turnout on Sunday affected her team's calculations as to whether they would secure at least one seat.

Lam said that her team had sent representatives to polling stations and noticed that most voters were senior citizens – and she said that she assumed that that demographic voted for the traditionalists.

"Our targets were the mi-

ddle-aged and younger ones. Around mid-day, the turnout was very low, and I knew that if it was that low, I would not win a seat," she said,

"My calculation was [that I needed] at least 45% voter turnout; that would be [the] bottom line. If it [were] over 55% I would be safe. All those traditional organizations were fixed, while mine was fluctuating," she added.

According to Lam, during the two-week election campaign, the association focused on influencing the public to vote through different means, including leaflet distribution and going live on social media pages.

Lam was the only former lawmaker not reelected. On the night of the election day, she said in a statement that she "respects the election results and has no regrets."

"In the past four years of

[my] parliamentary career, my team and I have had the opportunity to serve the people of Macau on the frontline, to contribute to everyone, to deliberate bills in the AL and to serve every Macau resident who asks for help."

Lam won a seat for the first time in the 2017 elections with 9,590 votes. She was seen as a centrist in the AL.

As leader of the Macao Civic Power association, Lam focused on prioritizing employment opportunities in her electoral platform, noting that the current employment rate has slumped due to the pandemic.

She previously said that the group has achieved results in areas such as securing livelihoods for ordinary people, urban infrastructure, cultural conservation, rights for the disadvantaged, and education.

LYNZY VALLES



setback for the establishment

bly" as part of the government's success.

Coutinho secured two seats at the AL with 18,232 votes, which is 3,846 votes more than he received in the previous election.

He was alongside traditionalists Si Ka Lon and Ella Lei in winning the three highest vote tallies.

APPEAL TO VOTE DIDN'T WORK

On the election day, the Chief Executive, with the city's five Secretaries, appealed to citizens to exercise their right to vote and fulfill their civic duty.

However, the massive appeal for participation made by CAEAL seems to have had no effect.

According to Correia, from a political-electoral point of view, the low turnout and the high number of null and blank votes in direct suffrage are a "perfect disaster for the establishment."

AGNES LAM'S DEFEAT A SURPRISE

The defeat of Agnes Lam was also unexpected. According to Yu, the dis-

qualification of the pro-democracy candidates did not benefit centralist candidates like Agnes Lam and Ron Lam.

"The disqualification may anger the centralist supporters. Certainly, Agnes'



The result surprised me. [...] The effect of the disqualification is more severe than expected.

EILO YU

defeat may also imply that her approach and political position in the past four years did not convince her supporters who may feel angry about the disqualification," said Yu.

Agnes Lam was the only candidate not re-elected, gathering only 3,729 votes, whereas Ron Lam won 8,763 votes.

However, according to Yu, Ron's share might not have secured his seat if the democrats had run in the election.

"I would also say that

the disqualification did affect the two Lams, instead of benefiting them, while the impact seemed to be much bigger on Agnes, probably because of her [checkered] record in the past four years, said Yu.

Correia echoed similar sentiments, noting that voters believed Agnes Lam should not remain in the AL following her preceding four years.

He added that Ron Lam fought a good campaign and spoke on important issues that interested the entire population, many of which were also addressed by Agnes Lam.

For Lo, Agnes Lam suffered from the reluctance of her supporters to vote, while Ron Lam relied on his hard work in the past as he gained 1,500 votes more this time compared to his last candidature.

"Lam was defeated as her mobilization ability was no match with other traditionally pro-government and pro-Beijing groups," said Lo.

THREE SEATS EXPECTED

The Fujianese group led by Si Ka Lon seems to have benefitted from the disqualification, as well as the retirement of Melinda Chan and Angela Leong's move to the indirect elections, according to Yu.

By comparing the number of votes received by Si Ka Lon and Song Pek Kei in 2017 and 2021, the Fujianese group received 26,593 this year, an increase of 1611 votes from the 2017 election in which Si and Song ran in two separated lists.

"These extra votes may be from Leong and Chan's supporters. Nevertheless, the numbers of votes for other candidate lists from traditional social groups increased more than the Fujianese group," Yu explained.

Lo added that Si's group was strong in the past and so, through electoral mobilization of voters, it could



The exclusion decision was not, politically, very smart.

SÉRGIO DE ALMEIDA CORREIA

THINKING DEEP

Li Sheng, professor of Political Economy and Public Policy at the University of Macau, said that the pandemic has prompted AL candidates to think more deeply on how to improve the social welfare system in the process of internationalization of Macau.

This means that candidates must take public opinion into account when

constructing the public health and safety system from the practical point of view, and also develop a sense of moral accountability based on procedural accountability.

The effects of the pandemic, such as the economic downturn and the distribution of social resources have allowed voters to pay more attention to how the government can effectively find a balance between fighting the pandemic and boosting the economy.

"Thus, the pandemic is likely to create a Legislative Assembly with a good sense of moral responsibility for society and a community that will [...] cooperate with the implementation of public policies," said Li, who is also the associated dean (Academic Affairs) of Faculty of Social Sciences.

For Correia, the people have shown dissatisfaction with the choice of candidates and with the current political system.

"What became more evident is this moment of economic and social crisis that Macau is going through," he added.

CE CONGRATULATES NEW AL LAWMAKERS

THE Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng has congratulated all those elected to sit in the Legislative Assembly (AL), following Sunday's election.

Ho said that, looking

ahead, the government will maintain good communication and cooperation with the Legislative Assembly, supporting the body's work in its new term.

Ho's message was

made after the official results of the election were announced yesterday by the General Audit Committee of the Legislative Assembly Election. The results confirmed the 14 directly-elected legislators and the 12 seats for indirectly-elected members to the AL.

The top official said he looks forward to "working closely with the newly-elected AL members and with the Macau public in order to seize the historic opportunities created from the Guangdong-Macau Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin."

This also includes the facilitation of Macau's economic diversification and for the newly elected to take part proactively in the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area. LV

OFFICIAL TALLY OF VOTES

Candidate	Number of votes
Si Ka Lon	26,599
Ella Lei Cheng I	23,761
José Maria Pereira Coutinho	18,232
Zheng Anting	16,813
Leong Hong Sai	15,102
Wong Kit Cheng	14,232
Song Pek Kei	13,299
Leong Sun lok	11,880
Che Sai Wang	9,116
Lam U Tou	8,764
Lo Choi In	8,406
Ngan Iek Hang	7,551
Ma lo Fong	7,116
Lei Leong Wong	6,649

Master Plan of the Development of the Guangdong-Macau Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin



Mutual Discussion, Joint Construction, Joint Administration and Shared Benefits

New Opportunities

Four Nascent Industrial Sectors

1. Scientific and Technological Research and High-end Manufacturing Industries

- Establish an important pivot of the international science and technological innovation centre in the Greater Bay Area.
- Develop **integrated circuit, big data, artificial intelligence, Internet of Things (IoT), and biomedicine industries.**
- Establish high standard **industry-academia-research demonstration bases** and develop a **technological innovation and transformation centre.**
- Develop a synergetic innovation environment for **artificial intelligence.**

2. Traditional Chinese Medicine and Macao Branded Industries

- Permit the use of "**production supervised by Macao**", "**produced by Macao**" or "**design by Macao**" signs on traditional Chinese medicine products, food products and health products approved and registered in Macao and produced in Hengqin.
- **Prioritise the licencing evaluation and approval** of new pharmaceutical products that are produced in Macao and conform to the relevant regulations.
- Develop **rough diamond processing industry.**



Master Plan (full version)



Corresponding Contents

#METOO

BYSTANDERS HARASS CHINESE WOMAN GOING PUBLIC IN COURT CASE

HUIZHONG WU & SAM MCNEIL, BEIJING

A Chinese woman was shoved by antagonistic bystanders as she headed to court yesterday in one of the few remaining #Me-Too cases from a tamped-down movement whose legacy remains uncertain.

Zhou Xiaoxuan, a former intern at Chinese state broadcaster CCTV, became the face of the country's #MeToo movement after going public with accusations against a prominent CCTV host in 2018. Since then, the movement has been largely shut down by authorities as activists found their online posts censored and faced pressure from authorities when trying to hold protests, but Zhou has continued to speak out.

"I'm very thankful for everyone, whether we win or lose, I'm very honored to have experienced these last three years," Zhou said to reporters outside the court, as unidentified men and women came up and tried to push her along.



Zhou Xiaoxuan, a former intern at state broadcaster CCTV, speaks outside a courthouse in Beijing yesterday

One woman yelled "pandemic safety," trying to prevent Zhou from speaking, while a man questioned whether it was appropriate for her to speak alone.

A transgender woman who tried to hold up a sign saying "Standing Together" was quickly

surrounded by police and had the sign ripped out of her hand. She said later that police then asked for her national identification number.

The hearing was the final one in a lawsuit brought by Zhou against CCTV host Zhu Jun, whom she ac-

cused of groping and forcibly kissing her in 2014. She is asking for a public apology as well as 50,000 yuan (\$7,600) in damages.

While the movement no longer has protests and lawyers and others helping victims take legal action, some people are still pushing to get justice for victims of sexual violence, even if they do not cite the #MeToo label.

A series of sexual assault and rape accusations in recent weeks has drawn national attention. The most prominent was an accusation of sexual assault made by an Alibaba employee against two men. Chinese-Canadian singer Kris Wu was also arrested in Beijing on suspicion of rape over accusations made online.

In August, accusations posted online by victims led separately to the detention of a math teacher on charges of forcible molestation and the firing of a popular TV host at Hunan Television. Shanghai police, who initially declined to press charges in the latter case, have said they have reopened the investigation.

"These incidents are a part of #MeToo, without a doubt," said Lu Pin, the founder of Feminist Voices, an online publication that was shut down by censors in 2018. "Without #MeToo, it's impossible to imagine these types of things coming out."

After the #MeToo movement swept China defined sexual harassment in the civil code, a massive effort approved in 2020 that organized civil laws and promised certain rights to citizens.

Still, victims of sexual violence face legal and social obstacles to seeking justice.

Zhou's case lingered in the dockets for two years before a Beijing court agreed to hear it last December. The second part of the hearing, originally scheduled for May, was canceled on the day by the court.

A few dozen supporters came yesterday to support Zhou, though many kept their distance because of the large number of police. Many police were in plainclothes and stood on the street filming. **MDT/AP**

AD



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The houses are set in the heart of the World Heritage Site of the Douro Valley and its famous winery landscape where the world's Ports are produced. Both restored relics overlooking the Rio Douro, these eight rooms houses have been blessed with gorgeous wooden floors, plush queen beds and marble baths; the best have dazzling river views. But it is the welcome that makes this place stand out from the crowd.



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DIPLOMACY

Top China, Singapore officials meet to reaffirm ties

CHINA'S top diplomat met yesterday in Singapore with the wealthy city-state's prime minister, reaffirming the importance of trade and diplomatic ties between the two countries.

In a Facebook post, Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said he had a "productive and candid" discussion with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi covering international and regional developments.

"Singapore welcomes China's continued contribution in our part of the world, and will continue working with China to build a more harmonious and peaceful world," Lee wrote.

Singapore's foreign ministry said in a statement that Wang and Lee also affirmed "the positive momentum in both countries' cooperation amidst COVID-19."

Wang is on a week-long official tour, and had visited Vietnam and Cambodia prior to the two-day working trip in Singapore. He is expected to visit South Korea after Singapore.

Wang's visit comes weeks after U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris visited Southeast Asia and stopped in Singapore and



Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong (right) and Foreign Minister Wang Yi at the Istana Presidential Palace in Singapore yesterday

Vietnam. Chinese state media have described Harris's trip as one that "sought to pit countries against China."

While in Singapore last month, Harris had criticized China for its actions in the South China Sea, describing them as intimidation and coercion. She said that the U.S. would "stand with our allies and our partners" in the face of Chinese threats.

On Monday, China's Wang

also called on Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister Heng Swee Keat and Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan.

They discussed further ways to strengthen relations between the two countries, including advancing co-operation with China on Singapore's government projects and exploring new areas of co-operation such as the digital economy.

Balakrishnan also welcomed

China's interest in the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, which is a free trade agreement between 11 countries that include Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Singapore and Vietnam.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry said last week that the countries that Wang is visiting are close neighbors and important partners. **MDT/AP**

FLIGHTS RESTORED AS TYPHOON CHANTHU LINGERS OFF SHANGHAI

TRANSPORT links in the Chinese commercial hub of Shanghai were largely restored yesterday as a typhoon remained offshore.

Typhoon Chanthu brought high winds and rain to the country's largest city and the surrounding region, but not at the level it would have if it had made landfall.

The storm has been weakening and on Tuesday was lingering about 225 kilometers east of Shanghai, packing maximum sustained winds of 126 kilometers per hour, the China Meteorological Association said.

It was due to begin moving northeast toward South Korea and Japan on Thursday.

Shanghai on Monday had suspended flights, trains and subway services, and closed schools and offices in anticipation of the storm's arrival. Around 100,000 people were evacuated from vulnerable areas, according to state media.

Chanthu drenched Taiwan with up to 13 centimeters of rain on Sunday as the storm's center passed the island's east coast, before heading north to Shanghai.

The storm grazed the island of Luzon in the Philippines last week, but no flooding or damage was reported.

Typhoons are called hurricanes or cyclones in other parts of the world, but are the same weather phenomenon.

Typhoon In-fa made landfall south of Shanghai in late July, disrupting flight schedules and prompting evacuations for about 330,000 residents of Fengxian District on the city's southern edge.

Torrential rains and flooding in July caused the deaths of at least 292 people in Zhengzhou, a major city in the central province of Henan, including some trapped in the city's subway tunnels. **MDT/AP**



GUO WENGUI

Chinese tycoon's companies pay \$539M in US securities case

THREE companies linked to a Chinese businessman who is a prominent critic of his country's ruling Communist Party have agreed to pay \$539 million to settle charges they conducted an illegal securities offering, according to regulators.

The New York- and Arizona-based companies linked to Guo Wengui raised \$487 million from 5,000 investors who bought stock in GTV Media Group Inc. and a digital asset called G-Coins or G-Dollars, the Securities and Exchange Commission said yesterday [Macau time].

Guo, who lives in New York City, left China in 2014 during an anti-cor-



ruption crackdown led by President Xi Jinping that ensnared people close to the businessman, including an intelligence official. Chinese authorities have accused Guo, also known as Miles Kwok, of rape, kidnapping and bribery.

The companies were accused of failing to register the securities with regulators, according to the SEC. It said they sold stock and the digital asset through videos on GTV's and Saraca's websites and on YouTube, Twitter and other social media.

GTV and Saraca Media Group Inc. agreed to disgorge \$434 million plus \$16 million interest and to pay a civil penalty of \$15 million each, according to the SEC. It said Voice of Guo Media Inc. agreed to disgorge \$52 million plus \$2 million in interest and to pay a civil penalty of \$5 million. The SEC said the companies also agreed not to participate in any offering of a digital asset security.

"The remedies ordered

by the Commission today, which include a fair fund distribution, will provide meaningful relief to investors in these illegal offerings," said the director of the SEC's New York office, Richard R. Best, in a statement.

A former civil servant turned real estate developer, Guo has ranked China's ruling party by launching accusations of corruption on social media. His lawyer said in 2017 he had applied for political asylum in the United States.

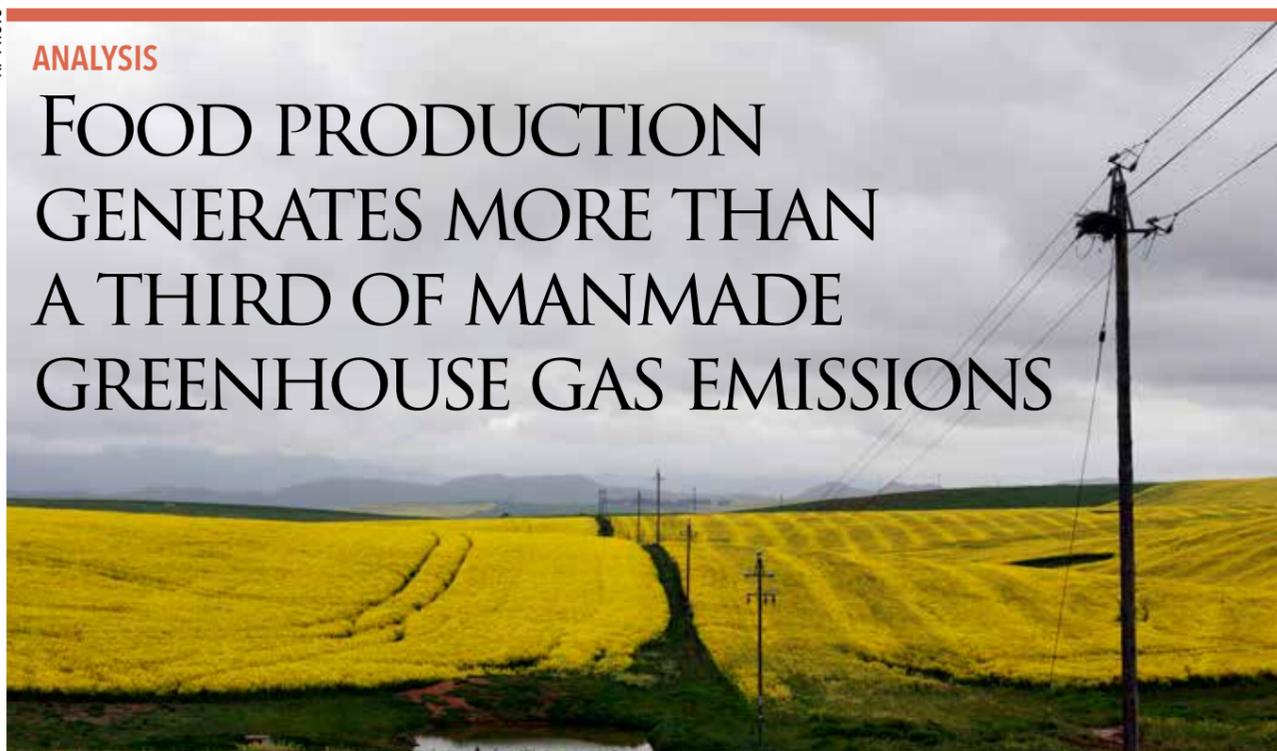
Last year, Guo and Steve Bannon, a former political strategist for then-President Donald Trump, announced the founding of the "Federal State of New China," an initiative to "overthrow the Chinese government."

Guo was one of China's richest businesspeople, with a fortune estimated by Forbes magazine at \$1.1 billion in 2015. His current net worth is unclear. **MDT/AP**

AP PHOTO

ANALYSIS

FOOD PRODUCTION GENERATES MORE THAN A THIRD OF MANMADE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS



XIAOMING XU,
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

PRODUCING enough food for a growing world population is an urgent global challenge. And it's complicated by the fact that climate change is warming the Earth and making farming harder in many places.

Food production is a big contributor to climate change, so it's critically important to be able to measure greenhouse gas emissions from the food sector accurately. In a new study, we show that the food system generates about 35% of total global man-made greenhouse gas emissions.

Breaking down this share, production of animal-based foods – meat, poultry and dairy products, including growing crops to feed livestock and pastures for grazing – contributes 57% of emissions linked to the food system. Raising plant-based foods for human consumption contributes 29%. The other 14% of agricultural emissions come from products not used as food or feed, such as cotton and rubber.

We are atmospheric scientists who study the effects of agriculture and other human activities on Earth's climate. It's well known that producing animal-based foods generates more greenhouse gas emissions than plant-based foods, which is why shifting toward a more plant-based diet is recognized as an option for curbing greenhouse gas emissions and climate change.

But to quantify the potential impact of such a shift, we saw a need for better tools to estimate emissions from individual plant- and animal-based food items, with more

details about how emissions are calculated and covering all food-related sub-sectors, such as land use change and actions beyond the farm gate.

We have developed a comprehensive framework that combines modeling and various databases. It enables us to estimate average yearly global emissions of the greenhouse gases carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide from the production and consumption of plant- and animal-based human food. Currently, our study covers the years 2007-2013. Here are some of the insights it offers, using data that represents an average of those years.

GREENHOUSE GASES FROM FOOD PRODUCTION

We considered four major sub-sectors of emissions from plant- and animal-based food production. Overall, we calculated that the food system produces emissions that are equivalent to approximately 17.3 billion metric tons (17.318 teragrams) of carbon dioxide yearly.

Land use change – clearing forests for farms and ranches, which reduces carbon storage in trees and soils – accounts for 29% of total food production greenhouse gas emissions. Another 38% comes from farmland management activities, such as plowing fields, which reduces soil carbon storage, and treating crops with nitrogen fertilizer. Farmers also burn a lot of fossil fuel to run their tractors and harvesters.

Raising livestock generates 21% of greenhouse gas emissions from food production. It includes methane belched by grazing animals, as well as methane and nitrous oxide released from livestock manure. The remaining 11% comes from activities that occur

beyond farm gates, such as mining, manufacturing and transporting fertilizers and pesticides, as well as energy use in food processing.

WHICH FOODS GENERATE MOST EMISSIONS?

Our framework makes it possible to compare how different food products and food-producing regions affect Earth's climate.

Among animal-based foods, beef is the largest contributor to climate change. It generates 25% of total food emissions, followed by cow milk (8%) and pork (7%).

Rice is the largest contributor among plant-based foods, producing 12% of the total greenhouse gas emissions from the food sector, followed by wheat (5%) and sugarcane (2%). Rice stands out because it can grow in water, so many farmers flood their fields to kill weeds, creating ideal conditions for certain bacteria that emit methane.

This helps to explain why South and Southeast Asia have the greatest food-production-related emissions by region, producing 23% of the global total. This region is the only place where plant-based emissions are larger than animal-based emissions. South America is the second-largest emitter at 20%, and has the largest emissions from animal-based food, reflecting the dominance of ranching there.

Among individual countries, China, India and Indonesia have the highest emissions from plant-based food production, contributing 7%, 4%, and 2% respectively of global food-related greenhouse gas emissions. The countries with leading emissions from the production of animal-based foods are China (8%), Brazil (6%), the U.S. (5%) and India (4%).

HOW FOOD PRODUCTION AFFECTS LAND USE

Our framework also shows that raising animal-based foods consumes six times as much land as producing plant-based foods.

Worldwide, we estimate that humans are using 18 million square miles of land to produce food – about 31% of Earth's total land area, excluding areas covered by snow and ice. Of this, 30% is cropland and 70% is various types of grazing land.

Looking at how these areas are managed, we estimate that 13% of total agricultural land is being used to produce plant-based foods. The other 77% is being used to produce animal-based foods, including croplands that are growing animal feed and grazing lands. The remaining 10% is being used to raise other products, such as cotton, rubber and tobacco.

Our study uses a consistent framework to provide a complete estimation of greenhouse gas emissions from food production and consumption, covering all food-related sub-sectors, at local, country, regional and global scales. It can help policymakers identify the plant- and animal-based food commodities that contribute the largest shares to climate change, and the highest-emitting sub-sectors at different locations.

Based on these results, governments, researchers and individuals can take actions to reduce emissions from high-emitting food commodities in different places. As U.N. leaders have stated, making food production more climate-friendly is essential to reduce hunger in a warming world.
MDT/THE CONVERSATION

this day in history

1964 THE SUN NEWSPAPER IS BORN



The Sun newspaper is published today for the first time.

It is replacing the Mirror Group's Daily Herald, which has been losing readers and advertising revenue for several years.

The newest arrival on Fleet Street is promising to follow a "radical" and "independent" agenda – unlike its predecessor which had strong ties to the Labour party. The TUC sold its 49% stake in the paper in 1960.

Mirror Group Newspapers (MGN) and the International Press Corporation (IPC) took over ownership of the Herald in 1961.

It was previously owned by Odhams Press, which had seen it reach a circulation of two million in 1933, the highest in the world at the time.

In a bid to broaden the Herald's appeal once more, MGN, is relaunching the paper as the Sun, with the slogan "A paper born of the age we live in".

Editor Sydney Jacobson said his new paper would be "totally independent, no ties with any party or movement... totally free to make up its own mind."

The paper's launch coincides with the announcement of a general election next month.

Prime Minister Sir Alec Douglas-Home, whose Conservative party has been in power for 13 years, will be up against the man described as Labour's thrusting new grammar school boy, Harold Wilson.

Asked where his party's loyalties would lie in the coming election battle, Mr Jacobson replied: "The Sun is a radical newspaper. Can a radical newspaper support the present government?"

It is a competitive time for newspapers. Faced with rising costs, the Daily Sketch was the first to raise its cover price from 3d to 4d in June, but others are expected to follow suit.

The Daily Mirror – The Sun's stablemate – has a current circulation of five million but even so it is not expected to be able to resist the price increase beyond the end of the year.

The Mirror Group is splashing out on free beer and christening mugs for new babies to promote the Sun's arrival and Herald's demise.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Five years after its arrival on Fleet Street, the Sun was up for sale partly because of losses dating back to its predecessor, the Herald.

As a broadsheet, the paper was attracting a daily readership of one million.

There were two key players interested in buying: the millionaire Labour MP Robert Maxwell and the right-leaning Australian newspaper proprietor Rupert Murdoch, who already owned The News of the World.

Mr Murdoch clinched the deal and immediately relaunched the Sun as a tabloid – shortly followed by the introduction of the Page Three girls.

In 1978 The Sun overtook its closest rival The Mirror in the circulation war.

In 1986 Mr Murdoch introduced new print technology and moved the Sun to Wapping.

In 1997 the Sun returned to its Labour roots and backed Tony Blair for Prime Minister.

In early 2006 the paper's circulation was 3.1 million.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Today's cosmic landscape sends your focus towards your ambitions. The moon's presence in can-do Capricorn draws your attention towards the goings-on in your current career trajectory.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

You're likely to find yourself longing for greener pastures today, Taurus. The moon's presence in ambitious Capricorn pushes you to seek adventure and widen the scope of your experience.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

You're likely to be running extra sensitive to everything in your environment as the melancholic Capricorn moon highlights that within you that craves deeper healing.



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

It's an ideal day to talk things through, soak in a body of water, or actively release. Luna transitions into soulful Pisces later on, lightening the mood and increasing your need for fresh perspectives.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Today's skies push you into action on the work environment. The moon glides through ambitious Capricorn all day, directing your energy towards any unfinished errands needing completion on your to-do list.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

Today's skies nudge you in this artistically playful direction as the moon meanders through can-do Capricorn. Luna's square with your ruler, communicator Mercury, may highlight financial tensions that need sorting out.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

Remove yourself from the demands of the world today, Libra. You're in the mood to hide away and cultivate a cozy home environment as the moon meanders through solitary Capricorn.



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Wednesday's skies thrust you into action, Scorpio. The moon's presence in can-do Capricorn has you tackling errands, having conversations, and helping you tell your own story.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

You're in the mood to get productive and bring your skills to life today. The moon glides through all day, sending your attention towards the state of your finances and your ability to validate your skills.



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Luna's square with mental Mercury highlights career conversations that may rock the boat while her meet-up with intense Pluto illuminates unhealed wounds around your sense of independence.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Aquarius people regularly need to remove themselves from society to recharge. Today's cosmic landscape encourages your need to go into hiding as the moon treks through solitary Capricorn.



PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Luna's square with Mercury may highlight tough intimate conversations to be had, while her union with intense Pluto reveals dormant tensions around long-term goals.

The Born Loser by Chip Sanson



SUDOKU

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

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

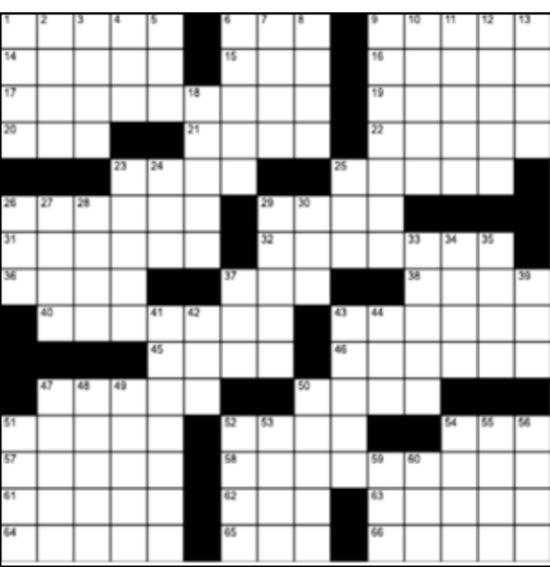
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	17	26	cloudy
Harbin	11	22	cloudy
Tianjin	23	34	fine
Urumqi	21	23	showers
Xi'an	25	32	cloudy
Lhasa	18	25	fine
Chengdu	26	35	cloudy
Chongqing	26	34	thunderstorms
Kunming	27	35	showers
Nanjing	19	28	showers
Shanghai	26	32	cloudy
Wuhan	23	27	rain
Hangzhou	10	22	cloudy
Taipei	19	29	cloudy
Guangzhou	16	21	rain
Hong Kong	18	27	fine
WORLD			
Moscow	7	11	cloudy
Frankfurt	16	22	rain
Paris	14	22	rain
London	12	19	rain
New York	21	31	overcast

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Wharves; 6- Chit; 9- Mikhail's wife; 14- Bony prefix; 15- Literary monogram; 16- Hand woven wall hanging; 17- Pleasant aspect; 19- Jam; 20- Clean air org.; 21- The Beatles' "Back in the ___"; 22- Camp sights; 23- 11th letter of the Hebrew alphabet; 25- 1957 hit for the Bobbettes; 26- Skunk feature; 29- Swenson of "Benson"; 31- Oklahoman; 32- One's first needlework piece?; 36- Realtor's sign; 37- Light touch; 38- Woe is mel; 40- Mosaic piece; 43- Carve; 45- Apple product; 46- Hogpen; 47- Acid type; 50- Flood survivor; 51- Rodeo horse; 52- Black-and-white cookie; 54- Morse symbol; 57- Sierra ___; 58- Behind the scenes; 61- Conger catcher; 62- Bug; 63- Helicopter part; 64- Raucous sound; 65- Some MIT grads; 66- Does'beaus;

DOWN: 1- Prepare to be shot; 2- The jig ___; 3- Europe's highest volcano; 4- Stimp's pal; 5- Salty sauce; 6- Whiskey type; 7- Auto pioneer; 8- Manipulator; 9- Dump; 10- Shakespearean sprite; 11- Peace goddess; 12- Brown; 13- Venomous snakes; 18- Great; 23- Varieties; 24- Mimic; 25- "The Wizard of Oz" studio; 26- Draft org.; 27- Horn warning; 28- Portrayal by an actor; 29- Son of Abraham; 30- Doze; 33- Express mirth; 34- Building wings; 35- Deeply moved; 37- ___-la-la; 39- Hog home; 41- Genuine; 42- Comedian Philips; 43- Ghost; 44- The Company; 47- Staggering; 48- Bread; 49- Type of sanctum; 50- Makes out; 51- Air bubble; 52- Village Voice award; 53- Hard to find; 54- Numbers to crunch; 55- Highly excited; 56- "His and ___"; 59- Grads-to-be; 60- Wee one;



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



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Traditional apartment **HKD 2,680,000**
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AD

AP PHOTO



Monica Ma poses for a photo along the coast of Qinhuangdao in Hebei province

EDUCATION

CHINESE STUDENTS HIT BY US VISA REJECTIONS AMID TENSION

FU TING

AFTER a semester online, Wang Ziwei looked forward to meeting classmates who are returning to campus at Washington University in St. Louis. But the 23-year-old finance student said the U.S. revoked his student visa on security grounds.

Wang is among at least 500 students the Chinese government says have been rejected under a policy issued by then-President Donald Trump to block Beijing from obtaining U.S. technology with possible military uses. Students argue it is applied too broadly and fume at what they say is an accusation they are spies.

"The whole thing is nonsense," Wang said. "What do we finance students have to do with the military?"

The students join companies and individuals whose plans have been disrupted by U.S.-Chinese tension over technology and security, Beijing's military buildup, the origins of the coronavirus, human rights and conflicting claims to the South China Sea and other territory.

The policy blocks visas for people who are affiliated with the ruling Communist Party's military wing, the People's Liberation Army, or universities deemed by Washington to be part of

military modernization efforts.

U.S. officials say they believe thousands of Chinese students and researchers participate in programs that encourage them to transfer medical, computer and other sensitive information to China.

Washington cites Beijing's strategy of "civil-military fusion," which it says treats private companies and universities as assets to develop Chinese military technology.

"Joint research institutions, academia and private firms are all being exploited to build the PLA's future military systems — often without their knowledge or consent," the State Department said in a 2020 report.

Trump's successor, Joe Biden, has given no indication of what he might do.

Chinese officials appealed to U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman to drop the visa restrictions when she visited in July, according to The Paper, a Shanghai online news outlet.

The policy is necessary to "protect U.S. national security interests," the U.S. Embassy in Beijing said in a statement. It said the policy is a response to "some abuses of the visa process" and is "narrowly targeted."

More than 85,000 visas for Chinese students have been approved over the past four months,

according to the embassy.

"The numbers show clearly that the United States stands ready to issue visas to all those who are qualified — including Chinese students and scholars," it said.

Separately, a group of 177 Stanford University professors sent an open letter this month asking the U.S. Justice Department to end the China Initiative, another Trump-era program that investigates researchers in the United States. The letter signers say it has raised concerns about racial profiling and discouraged scholars from staying in or coming to the country.

China is the biggest source of foreign students in the United States, according to U.S. government data. The number fell 20% in 2020 from the previous year but at 380,000 was nearly double that of second-ranked India.

An engineer at a state-owned aircraft manufacturer said he was turned down for a visa to accompany his wife, a visiting scholar in California studying pediatric cancer.

The engineer, who would give only his surname, Huang, has undergraduate and graduate degrees from the Harbin Institute of Technology in China's northeast. It is one of seven schools Chinese news reports say are associated with visa rejections because they are affiliated with the Ministry of

Industry and Information Technology.

"I was insulted," Huang said. "That I graduated from this school means I am a spy? What's the difference between this and racism?"

Huang said his wife's fellowship was two to three years, but she will cut that to one, "sacrificing her career" to avoid being away from their two children for too long.

"It's a pretty big impact on individuals when one country fights with another," Huang said.

Rejection letters received by several students cited Trump's order but gave no details of the decision. However, some students said they received rejections immediately after being asked which university they attended.

Wang, the finance student, said he obtained a visa, but the U.S. Embassy called later and said it was revoked.

Wang graduated from the Beijing Institute of Technology, another university associated with visa rejections due to its connection with the industry ministry. Others include Beijing Aerospace University, Nanjing University of Science and Technology, Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Harbin Engineering University and Northwestern Polytechnical University.

Graduates of the Beijing Uni-

versity of Posts and Telecommunications also say they have been rejected.

Five Chinese scientists at universities in California and Indiana were charged last year with lying about possible military connections on visa applications. Those charges were dropped in July after the Justice Department said an FBI report indicated such offenses often had no connection to technology theft.

The Chinese government complained in August that three students who had visas were refused entry into the United States at the Houston airport after military training photos were found in their phones.

Beijing "strongly deplores and rejects" the policy and appealed to the U.S. government to make changes, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said.

A group that says it represents more than 2,000 students and scholars has announced plans for a lawsuit asking a court to throw out or narrow the restrictions.

At Washington University in St. Louis, a "handful of student visas" were affected, according to Kurt Dirks, vice chancellor for international affairs.

Students can start the semester online or wait until next year, Dirks said in an email.

"Should they continue to face challenges, the university will work with them so they can complete their program online," Dirks said.

Monica Ma, 23, said she was turned down for a U.S. visa to complete a master's degree in information management at Carnegie Mellon University.

The graduate of the Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications said after spending a year in Australia working on her degree, she needs to attend classes in person at Carnegie Mellon in Pittsburgh because they no longer are taught online.

Ma said she has a job offer from an internet company that requires her to complete her degree. She has postponed her attendance for classes until next year in hopes she can obtain a visa by then.

"I cannot change it through my efforts. That's the saddest part," Ma said.

Li Quanyi, an electrical engineering student from the southern city of Guiyang, said he was accepted by Columbia University but failed to obtain a visa. Li graduated from the Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications.

Carnegie Mellon and Columbia didn't respond to questions sent by email.

Li has moved to Hong Kong and said he is happy there.

"I am not going, even if the rule changes," Li said. "The United States rejected me, and I am not going." **MDT/AP**

FOOTBALL

South Africa interested in hosting FIFA's Club World Cup

GERALD IMRAY, CAPE TOWN

SOUTH Africa is interested in hosting FIFA's Club World Cup in December after Japan withdrew because of COVID-19, South African Football Association president Danny Jordaan said this week.

Jordaan told The Associated Press he would meet with FIFA secretary general Fatma Samoura in Lagos, Nigeria this week to get more details on what kind of bid South Africa must present to the world body to host the seven-team men's tournament.

The Club World Cup will feature European champion Chelsea and the other five continental club competition winners. The league champion from the host country also gets a place.

Japan withdrew last week amid fears the tournament would cause a rise in infections in a country that has just staged the Summer Olympics and Paralympics.

FIFA has yet to comment on the alternative host, with Saudi Arabia also keen to step in.

AP PHOTO



An extended 24-team Club World Cup was due to debut this year in China but it was shelved because the pandemic required the rescheduling of national team competitions in June and FIFA

was unable to raise the necessary funding for the planned quadrennial event. So the seven-team format was extended for another year.

The South African Football As-

sociation must get government approval to hold the tournament and meetings with the sports minister were also planned, Jordaan said.

"We'll know our position by the

end of the week," he said.

South Africa has numerous high-quality stadiums that were built or refurbished for the 2010 World Cup but any ambition to host the Club World Cup would depend on its own coronavirus situation.

South Africa went through a mid-year surge in cases and there has been a decrease in virus infections over the last two weeks. President Cyril Ramaphosa announced an easing of restrictions countrywide on Sunday. The government is also formulating plans to allow spectators back into sports stadiums, most likely using vaccine passports, Ramaphosa said.

That would be a boost for plans to host the Club World Cup as no fans have been allowed at any major sports events in South Africa since the start of the pandemic. FIFA would likely not want its tournament to be played in empty stadiums.

Jordaan said the South African Football Association noted the government's indication that it was ready to consider allowing sports fans back into stadiums.

South Africa is still the worst-affected country in Africa with more than 2.8 million virus cases and more than 84,000 deaths reported but there were less than 4,000 new cases on Sunday, down from more than 20,000 a day a few months ago. **MDT/AP**

AD



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OPINION

China Daily
 Editorial, China Daily

WASHINGTON SHOULD NOT TRY BEIJING'S PATIENCE ON TAIWAN

Chinese President Xi Jinping and US President Joe Biden had their second phone call on Friday since the latter took office in January, during which Biden reiterated his administration's support for the one-China principle.

Yet one day later, the Financial Times reported his administration is mulling the Tsai Ing-wen administration's proposal of renaming the island's "Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office" in Washington the "Taiwan Representative Office", quoting "two people with knowledge of the discussions".

The Biden administration is well aware that the Taiwan question is the most important and the most sensitive issue in Sino-US relations, and upholding the one-China principle is the political foundation for Sino-US relations, as the Chinese Foreign Ministry stressed.

The US government should know that there will be dire consequences if it goes ahead with the name change. That the island was allowed to open a "Taiwan Representative Office" in Lithuania in July dealt a heavy blow to the relations between Beijing and Vilnius. Beijing recalled its ambassador to the Baltic country, and demanded it recall its ambassador to China.

Rather than pandering to the provocations of the Tsai administration to create the illusion of the island's de facto independence, Washington should concentrate on the nitty-gritty of the two leaders' phone call, which lasted 90 minutes and was described as "candid" and "strategic", since this points to the right direction for the improvement of bilateral relations.

The phone call indicated the common wish of the two sides to prevent their competition from veering into conflict. It is a difficult balancing act for which the provisions of the three joint communiqués between the two sides provide a safety net. But the effectiveness of the safety net is dependent on the US recognizing that Taiwan is part of China.

The secessionists on the island are the tail trying to wag the dog, with those US politicians hoping to contain China letting themselves be dragged into a dangerous game. Enabling such tricks as the name change is the quickest way to arrive at conflict, which will serve no party's interests, including those of the residents of the island.

No matter what tricks the secessionists have played and will play, they cannot change the fact that the island is an inalienable part of China.

The solution to the Taiwan question will by no means be delayed indefinitely. To realize national reunification has always been an intrinsic part of the Chinese Dream of the great national rejuvenation that the country pursues.

All the patience and composure the Chinese mainland has exercised in the face of the provocations of the secessionists is to win more time for the preparation for an appropriate, final settlement of the question at the minimum cost to Taiwan compatriots.

Any parties underestimating the Chinese people's resolve to settle the Taiwan question will realize in the foreseeable future that they had taken great risks in acting according to their misjudgment of the situation.

COVID: DUTCH ADVISE BOOSTER SHOTS ONLY FOR IMMUNE-COMPROMISED

THE BUZZ

The Dutch government's independent medical advisory body says that booster shots of coronavirus vaccines should be given "with high priority" to people with seriously compromised immune systems.

The Health Council of the Netherlands also said yesterday that giving booster shots to the rest of the Dutch population is not currently necessary. But it said preparations should be put in place to give people a booster shot if it becomes clear that vaccines' effectiveness in preventing serious illness is declining.

The council says that while the protection of some COVID-19 vaccines against infection "has diminished somewhat over time, protection against serious illness has not."

It concludes that there is "currently hardly any room for improving protection against serious illness and death with a booster."

The government generally follows the advice of the health council in its coronavirus decision-making.

Some 62% of the Dutch population of 17.5 million people has been fully vaccinated — that amounts to 77% of adults.

AP PHOTO



AUSTRALIA PREDICTS RECORD FARM PRODUCTION DESPITE CHALLENGES

ROD MCGUIRK, CANBERRA

AUSTRALIA is forecast to reap record farm revenues this year despite pandemic challenges, a mouse plague and a trade dispute with China.

Australian farmers are expected to sell 73 billion Australian dollars (\$54 billion) in produce in the current fiscal year that started in July thanks to favorable weather and grain prices inflated by drought in the United States and Canada, according to a report released yesterday by the Agriculture Department's research branch.

That compares with AU\$66 billion (\$49 billion) earned in 2020-21. That was also a good year for agriculture that followed a prolonged, crippling drought and devastating wildfires across southeast Australia.

The latest forecast is the first time the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences has forecast a return exceeding AU\$70 billion (\$51 billion).

The biggest contribution to growth in agricultural exports would be crops, which are forecast to rise by

17% to AU\$30 billion (\$22 billion).

A mouse plague across much of the eastern Australian cropping land reduced grain and hay production toward the end of the last fiscal year.

With bumper crops of wheat, barley and canola ready to be harvested soon, there are concerns about how many mice survived the Southern Hemisphere winter and how big the mouse population might grow to this year.

The biggest contribution to growth in agricultural exports would be crops, which are forecast to rise by 17% to \$22 billion

Agriculture Minister David Littleproud said a lack of seasonal workers caused by COVID-19 restrictions was a bigger threat to a successful harvest.

"That's the biggest constraint we're seeing on agriculture as we move forward," Littleproud told Australian Broadcasting Corp., referring to labor shortages.

Australian agriculture relies heavily on international backpackers to pro-

vide a seasonal workforce. But Australia has closed its borders to tourists since early last year.

Some Australian states also require farm laborers to go into quarantine if they cross state lines to find work, which worsens labor shortages.

Under a new agricultural visa to be introduced this month, the government expects the number of Pacific islander and East Timorese laborers working in Australian primary industries will double to 24,000 by early next year.

The record financial returns from agriculture are forecast despite disruptions of exports including wine, beef and barley to China due to a souring of re-

lations. Australia angered China by requesting an independent inquiry into the origins of the coronavirus pandemic.

Wine exports suffered the most due to the loss of the Chinese market after steep tariffs were introduced in late 2020.

Export volumes are expected to rise slightly with increased shipments to Britain, but the unit value will fall 13% in the current year, the report said. **MDT/AP**

AP PHOTO



Norway The leader of the country's Labor Party will start talks today in an attempt to build a coalition after the center-left bloc beat the incumbent Conservatives and won Norway's general election. With all votes now counted, the Labor Party and its two left-leaning allies — the Socialist Left and the euroskeptic Center Party — grabbed 100 seats in the 169-seat Stortinget assembly while the current government would get 68. The last seat is going to a northern Norway health-focused protest party, Pasientfokus.

AP PHOTO



Greece Authorities yesterday opened an investigation into the crash of a private plane from Israel that killed a prosecution witness in the corruption trial of former Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Haim Geron, a former senior official at Israel's ministry of communications, and his wife Esther were killed in the crash off the island of Samos. The Israeli Foreign Ministry identified the victims, both aged 69, adding that consular officials and the ministry were working with the family to return the bodies. Geron was one of more than 300 witnesses that prosecutors listed for Netanyahu's trial on corruption charges.

AP PHOTO



Spain's Socialist-led coalition government said yesterday it is slashing energy taxes and imposing a temporary windfall tax on the gains of energy companies in an attempt to drive down household electricity bills, which have surged to record highs and triggered an outcry. Environment Minister Teresa Ribera said the government's urgent measures are in response to an "unprecedented" situation which has emerged at a "sensitive" time — as the economy strives to recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.