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Editor’s Note

‘Moderate Industrial Diversification’ has been accepted as the development direction for Macao. In order to facilitate exchanges and cooperation of local business communities, Macao Economic Services organized the ‘Symposium on Regional Development on Chinese Medicine Industry 2006’ and invited experts to share views on the perspectives of the Chinese medicine industry in Macao.

With further liberalization of CEPA, the State Council of the People's Republic of China has permitted that residents from five more cities (from 44 to 49 cities) of approximately 24 million population can obtain individual visas traveling to Hong Kong and Macao from 1st January 2007. The five cities are Shi Jiazhuang (Hebei Province), Zhengzhou (Henan Province), Changchun (Jilin Province), Hefei (Anhui Province) and Wuhan (Hubei Province). The new arrangement is believed to provide more opportunities for the development of Macao’s tourism industry.

- 1. Macao Economic Services organized the ‘Symposium on Regional Development on Chinese Medicine Industry 2006’**



The Secretary for Economy and Finance and organizers presided the opening ceremony of the seminar

Macao Economic Services organized the ‘Symposium on Regional Development on Chinese Medicine Industry 2006’ on 24th October 2006. Experts, scholars and government officials from the Mainland, the United States, Canada, Hong Kong and Macao were invited to attend the symposium.

Chinese medicine industry is one of the key areas in industries cooperation under Trade and Investment Facilitation of CEPA. To promote the development of Chinese medicine industry and shape Macao into a commercial platform, the seminar were sectioned into ‘Market Trend of Chinese Medicines and Health Care Products’, ‘International Standards for Chinese Medicines and Health Care Products’, ‘Marketing Strategy of Modernized Chinese Medicines’ and ‘Advantages of the Development of Chinese Medicines and Health Care Products in Macao’ to facilitate discussion and exchange of views.

2. The Seminar on Development Strategies for Macao MICE Industry was held in Macao

After the handover, service industry has been the major economic thrust of Macao and Macao has been gradually developed into a regional trade and services hub. Against this background, the MICE industry has garnered much attention of the society. Indeed, CEPA provides Macao MICE industry greater opportunities to tap into the



Experts shared their views in the Seminar on the strength and weakness of Macao’s MICE Industry

Mainland market. CEPA IV, which was signed in June this year, allows Macao service suppliers to establish enterprises in the Mainland to organize outbound exhibitions to Macao, and cooperation in convention and exhibition sector was also included in the industrial cooperation of Trade and Investment Facilitation. To promote the development of the exhibition industry in Macao under CEPA, the Macao Convention and Exhibition Association has published the “Study on the

Development Strategies for the Local Exhibition industry” in mid-2006. The research was jointly conducted by the China Convention and Exhibition Society of the Ministry of Commerce of the PRC and the Asia-Pacific Exhibition Research Centre and was presented in the midst of the MIF seminar ‘Strategies for the Development of the Exhibition Industry in Macao’ on 25th September. During the Seminar, experts from the Mainland, Hong Kong and Macao discussed the report and shed lights on the advantages and disadvantages of the development of exhibition industry in Macao.

3. The Secretary for Economy and Finance led a delegation to attend the opening ceremony of the liaison office of the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute in Hangzhou

The first government business promotion liaison office in the Mainland of the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute came into operation in Hangzhou and an opening ceremony was held on 21st October 2006. Mr. Francis Tam, Secretary for the Economy and Finance of the MSAR, Mr. Lee Peng Hong, President of the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute, Mr. Chen Jiayuan, Governor of Zhejiang Province, Mr. Xu Guan, Vice Chairman of the People's Political Consultative Committee of Zhejiang Province, and relevant representatives from Zhejiang and Macao attended the ceremony.



Senior Officials from Zhejiang and Macao attended the opening ceremony of the liaison office

The liaison office is tasked with establishing connections and providing consultation, enquiry and promotional services on trade and investment between Zhejiang and Macao.

Contact Information of the Liaison Office of the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute in Hangzhou:

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4. The General Administration of Customs and Macao Economic Services initiated discussions on the products to enjoy zero tariffs under CEPA in the coming year

Macao Economic Services held the 2006 second consultation meeting with China Customs and other Mainland departments on 25th October to discuss the rules of origin for the CEPA products. On the margins of the meeting, Mainland representative went on a site visit to a Macao manufacturer.

Delegates from China Customs, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Agriculture,



Officials from the General Administration of Customs and relevant authorities from the Mainland visited the production line of Macao coffee manufacturer.

Ministry of Finance, as well as representatives from the Office of Hong Kong and Macao Affairs of the State Council, were accompanied by officials of Macao Economic Services to visit a Macao coffee producer in the morning of 25th October. The delegation was shown the production process of coffee making, and they in return enquired on details such as the production scale and types of products in the hope of facilitating the negotiations on rules of origin for goods under CEPA.

In the afternoon, Macao Economic Services held the 2006 second CEPA rules of origin consultation meeting with the representatives from relevant Mainland departments. Through an in-depth discussion on the manufacturing processes and product information, the two sides reached a consensus on the rules of origin applicable for the CEPA zero-tariffs goods.

5. Foreign insurance institutions are required more than 20 years of operation experiences in order to set up businesses in the Mainland from 1st August 2006

The China Insurance Regulatory Commission announced on 12th July that the 'Measures for the Administration of Foreign Insurance Institutions' Representative Offices in China' would be implemented from 1st September 2006. These measures were also applicable to the insurance institutions of Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan that

have representative offices in the Mainland. In this regard, the former regulations promulgated on 15th January 2004 would be revoked accordingly.

A foreign insurance institution applying for establishing an agency office is subject to the criteria as follows:

- (1) The operation of the institution must be stable and sound;
- (2) Engaging in insurance business for 20 years or more in the case that it has any insurance business, or having established for 20 or more years in the case that it has no insurance business;
- (3) No record of violation of any laws or regulations within 3 years prior to the application date

The phrase "engaging in insurance business for 20 years or more" refers to the fact that the foreign insurance institution has consecutively engaged in insurance business for 20 years or more. In the case that other institution is combined into the institution, or in the case that a new insurance institution is established with other institution, the calculation of the duration that the foreign insurance institution has engaged in insurance business may not be influenced. Also, the duration of engagement in the insurance business of a subsidiary of a foreign insurance institution shall be taken into account since the establishment of the subsidiary.

For further information, please visit:

http://www.circ.gov.cn/Portal0/InfoModule_451/33927.htm

6. The training course for the National Qualification Examination for Patent Agents was held in Macao

To promote the 2006 National Qualification Examination for Patent Agents, a training course was organized to assist examinees to prepare for the examination and those who were interested in the patent system and the related laws in the Mainland. After the first training course held in 2004, Macao Economic Services arranged the second training course from 4th to 8th September 2006 for Macao examinees who were to take part in the National Qualification Examination for Patent Agents.

Ten experts were invited from the Legal Affairs Department, Patent Examination Department, the Patent Re-examination Board and Patent Documentation Department of the State Intellectual Property Office of the PRC to lecture on Patent Law and its

implementation regulations, relevant international treaties, patent application and examination procedures, drafting of patent application documents, application procedures for PCT international patents, draft documents for patent re-examination and invalidation, etc. The syllabus of the training course was specially designed to tailor to the 2006 National Qualification Examination for Patent Agents.

A total of 40 participants, which included candidates for the examination, personnel from intermediary organizations of intellectual property, tertiary educational institutions as well as scientific research institutes, took part in the training course. The examination would be held concurrently in 12 examination centre in different Mainland cities China on 4th and 5th November this year.



The lecturers from the State Intellectual Property Office and representatives from Macao Economic Services