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Editor's note:

The Guangdong-Macao Co-operation Joint Conference 2008 was held in Zhuhai on December 4. The two places agreed, apart from expanding the all-round cooperation, to put emphasis on the cooperation in three areas, namely livelihood issues, trade and economics, and cultural and education. Eight cooperation agreements were signed after the meeting.

Constructed in concerted effort by Macao Economic Services, Legal Affairs Bureau, and Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute, the CEPA dedicated website was officially launched to provide a wide range of useful information about CEPA, trade and investment laws and regulations in both the Mainland and Macao, to businesses and the public.

From 2009, three more Macao produced goods will be added to the CEPA zero-tariff product list, resulting in a total of 670 products for which the rules of origin have been confirmed under CEPA Trade in Goods.

1. The Guangdong-Macao Co-operation Joint Conference 2008 was held in Zhuhai

The Guangdong-Macao Co-operation Joint Conference 2008 was held on December 4 in Zhuhai. The Governor of Guangdong Province, Mr. Huang Huahua and the Chief Executive of Macao SAR, Mr. Ho Hau Wah, led delegations of the two places to participate in the Conference and delivered keynote speeches. Both sides agreed that with the tremendous support from the central government and the genuine cooperation of the Guangdong and Macao governments,

Guangdong-Macao cooperation has reached a new level. On top of the existent all-round collaboration, the two sides will put more emphasis in advancing the cooperation in the areas of livelihood issues, trade and economics, and cultural and education. In the coming year, both sides will deepen and raise the level of cooperation in the spheres of livelihood issues, services, trade and economics, infrastructures, social and cultural affairs, etc. In respect of livelihood issues, cooperation includes strengthening the existent and relatively matured mechanism, promoting food safety, water supply safety and stable electricity supply, enhancing cooperation in environmental protection, and ensuring continuous improvement on people’s livelihood. In the areas of services and trade and economics, Macao SAR will strive to take advantage of the early and pilot implementation measures of the Guangdong province and make most of the CEPA



Governor of Guangdong Province, Mr. Huang Huahua, and Chief Executive of Macao SAR, Mr. Ho Hau Wah, met with media after the Joint Conference. (Courtesy photo from the Government Information Bureau)

preferential treatments in order to advance its mutually beneficial cooperation with Guangdong in MICE, tourism, logistics, Chinese medicine, and cultural services. Furthermore, Macao will also exploit the “service platform between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries” to enable entrepreneurs from both sides to work closely in exploring overseas markets.

After the Conference, the two sides signed eight cooperation agreements in the areas of tourism, Chinese medicine, cultural, education, sports, city planning, crisis management, and establishment of the Zhuhai-Macao specialized cooperation task force.

2. CEPA dedicated website was officially launched

To embody transparency in laws and regulation under Trade and Investment Facilitation in CEPA, and also to make available a hassle-free tool to the public for having a grip of the business and investment laws and regulations of the Mainland and Macao, Macao Economic Services joined hands with the Legal Affairs Bureau and Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute in constructing the CEPA dedicated website. The CEPA website, which

is based on the information provided on the webpages of Macao Economic Services, serves to provide all-round and in-depth information about CEPA. The website, presented in four



Front page of the CEPA dedicated website

languages, which are traditional and simplified Chinese, Portuguese and English, covers topics in six areas, namely “Business Opportunities Provided by CEPA”, “CEPA News and Publication”, “CEPA Useful Information”, “Investing in Macao”, “Investing in the Mainland”, and “CEPA Zero-Tariff Goods”.

Also, as a measure to implement transparency in laws and regulation under Trade and Investment Facilitation in CEPA, the CEPA website allows users to browse easily through “Investing in Macao” and “Investing in the Mainland” to understand more about the tax systems, sectoral regulations of relevant industries, and other trade and economic laws and regulations of the Mainland and Macao.

Apart from CEPA information and trade and economic regulations of both places, one of the major features of the website is the ‘search function’ of the tariff codes and corresponding rules of origin for all CEPA zero-tariff products. On the front of Trade in Services, the website also accommodates all the liberalization measures in 40 service sectors in CEPA and its Supplements. Users can target their searching according to their specific requirements to quickly obtain the information they need.

The CEPA dedicated website is now open for public use. Welcome to visit the website at www.cepa.gov.mo.

3. The ‘3rd Symposium on Regional Development on Chinese Medicine Industry’

The 3rd Symposium on Regional Development of Chinese Medicine Industry, which was organized by Economy and Trade Committee of Guangdong Province, Macao Economic Services and Macau Institute for Applied Research in Medicine and Health (MIAR) of Macau University of Science and Technology Foundation, was held on October 10 at the Convention Center of Macao Tower. The Symposium was jointly officiated by Secretary for Economy and Finance of Macao SAR, Mr. Tam Pak Yuen, and representatives from the organizers. More than a hundred of participants from the academic and business sectors in the Mainland, Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan and the United States attended the Symposium.



Secretary for Economy and Finance, Mr. Tam Pak Yuen, together with other representatives of the Symposium organizers, officiated the opening ceremony.

Aimed to bolster the sustainable development of local Chinese medicine industry and promote Macao’s role as a business service platform, speakers in the Symposium focused their discussion and exchanged views on specific topics of “Business Opportunities in the Mainland and Overseas

Markets”, “Marketing Strategies for Exploring the International Chinese Medicine Market”, and “Experience of Successful Chinese Medicine Businesses”.

4. Official from the Ministry of Commerce of PRC came to Macao introducing CEPA



The Director of the Department of Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau Affairs of the Ministry of Commerce of PRC, Mr. Liu Zhenhua, was invited to the workshop as keynote speaker.

Legal and Judicial Training Centre of Macao held a three-day workshop on International Laws from November 18 to 21. The Director of the Department of Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau Affairs of the Ministry of Commerce of PRC, Mr. Liu Zhenhua, was invited to give an introduction to CEPA and its five Supplements to Macao public servants on November 19.

Mr. Liu pointed out in the workshop that CEPA is a ground-breaking arrangement for economic development under the “One Country, Two Systems” mechanism. CEPA on one hand ensures the economic and administrative independence of the two places and, on the other hand, eliminates the major systematic impediments to economic interaction; hence it promotes the information exchange between the two sides. Against this background, the implementation of CEPA not only rejuvenates the economy of Macao and enhances trade and economic exchanges between the two places, but it also helps facilitating the development of service industries on the mainland. CEPA has been successfully implemented so far, and the trade and economic relation between the Mainland and Macao has been stably advancing. From January to September of 2008, imports and exports trade between the two places totaled USD2.24 billion. Until the end of September 2008, the Mainland has accumulatively authorized 11,871 FDI projects from Macao, with realized capital of about USD 8.11 billion. Also, until the end of 2007, the Mainland has invested a total of USD 620 million in the non-financial sectors of Macao.

Also in the workshop, the Head of the Regional Economic Affairs Division of Macao Economic Services, Ms. Cheng Kam Vong, was invited to brief on the implementation of CEPA in Macao.

5. ‘The Product Safety Technical Group Meeting 2008’ was convened by General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of PRC and Macao Economic Services

The General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of PRC and Macao Economic Services jointly held the ‘The Product Safety Technical Group Meeting 2008’ on September 25, 2008 in Xian, Shanxi Province, discussing the plans for deepening and strengthening the cooperation in product safety between the Mainland and Macao. The Meeting

was presided over by Deputy Director General of the Department of Supervision on Inspection, Mr. Wang Zhiyong, together with the Acting Director of Macao Economic Services, Mr. Sou Tim Peng.

In accordance with the “Cooperation Arrangement on Product Safety and Place of Origin” signed by the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine and Macao Economic Services, both sides undertook to set up dedicated product safety working group to handle follow-ups of the Arrangement.



Delegates from both sides took pictures after the Meeting.

In the Meeting, the two sides exchanged views on the current status of product safety supervision and quality and safety of products circulating in the market. Both the Mainland and Macao affirmed the achievements attained in the course of cooperation in fulfilling the planned targets and relevant projects and rolled out the

objectives and project arrangement for the following year. In addition, both sides agreed to step up collaboration and exchange of opinions on consumer products, such as home electrical appliances and like products, toys and other products for children, apparels, cosmetics, etc. Also, both sides will enhance information notification, exchanges of experts, academics, and law enforcement personnel on different levels, technology exchange and training, and arrangement of specific promotional sessions on relevant products and projects. Besides, the two sides will also engage in consultation and communication on a wide-range of issues, including safety standards and product safety inspections governed by pertinent laws and regulations, with an aim to establishing a precise and handy interactive information platform.

6. Three more Macao products are allowed to export to the Mainland tariff-free next year

The General Administration of Customs of PRC and Macao Economic Services engaged in consultations on the rules of origin for the products that Macao manufacturers applied for zero-tariff treatment in the second half of 2008. Both sides reached consensus that from January 1, 2009, three more Macau-made products will be added to the CEPA zero-tariff list, namely ‘products manufactured from teas and maté’, ‘compounded rubber with carbon black or silica’, and ‘textile hosepiping and similar textile tubing’. The tariff codes and corresponding rules of origins for these products can be downloaded from the website of Macao Economic Services at http://www.economia.gov.mo/public/docs/CEPA_TIG/index/tc/blist-c08a.doc. The three above-mentioned categories of products produced by Macao manufacturers are eligible for CEPA zero-tariff treatment from January 1, 2009, provided those products fulfill the stipulated rules of

origin required in CEPA.

Since CEPA came into force, the Mainland and Macao have formulated rules of origin for a total of 670 products (2008 Mainland tariff codes). For the products of which the rules of origin have not yet been stipulated, Macao manufacturers can apply to Macao Economic Services for exporting to the Mainland with the zero-tariff treatment of CEPA. For applications submitted before February 15 of each year, the products concerned can be exported to the Mainland tariff-free from July 1 of the year. For applications submitted after February 15 but before August 15, the products concerned can enjoy the zero-tariff treatment exporting to the Mainland from January 1 of the following year. Please visit the website of Macao Economic Services for further information and downloading relevant application forms.



Delegates of the General Administration of Customs and Macao Economic Services took pictures after the Meeting

(http://www.economia.gov.mo/public/docs/CEPA_TIG/index/tc/cp-po-applyfm1.doc)

7. Leading MICE operators from Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao explored future cooperation direction

To advance the implementation of the liberalization measures in the MICE sector conceded by the Mainland to Macao under CEPA, and to promote the regional cooperation in the MICE industry among Guangdong, Hong Kong, and Macao, the “Macao International Convention and Exhibition CEO Forum 2008” and the “2nd Forum of Exhibition Co-operation of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao” were held on October 23 in Macao. The Secretary for Economy and Finance of Macao SAR, Mr. Tam Pak Yuen, alongside with the Vice Chairman of China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, Mr. Dong Songgen, and the President of Asian Federation of Exhibition & Convention Associations, Mr. Edward Liu, were invited to deliver speeches in the Opening Ceremony.

During the first session of “Macao International Convention and Exhibition CEO Forum 2008”, keynote speakers introduced the 2010 World Expo to be held in Shanghai, and analyzed the emerging Asian markets, especially China and India, in the context of current economic environment, highlighting that those markets will play a pivotal role in the future MICE industry.

Held back to back with the CEO Forum, the “2nd Forum of Exhibition Co-operation of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao” featured the stimulating discussion on the development of MICE industry in the three places by the President of Guangzhou Convention and Exhibition Industry

Association, Mr Bu Canxiong, the Chairman of Hong Kong Exhibition & Convention Industry Association, Mr. Stanley Chu, and Representative of Associations of Convention and Exhibition Industry in Macao, Mr. Li Zhizhong. After the Cooperation Forum, representatives from the MICE associations of the three places also presided over a Q&A session, sharing their experience in developing the MICE industry with other participants.

8. The National Vocational Qualification Examination Certificate Presentation Ceremony was held by Macao Productivity and Technology Transfer Center

Macao Productivity and Technology Transfer Center (CPTTM) held the National Vocational Qualification Examination Certificate Presentation Ceremony at the Lotus Hall of World Trade Center of Macao on December 2, conferring certificates to 202 examinees. The Ceremony was officiated by Director General of the Department of Economy, the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in Macao SAR, Zhou Zhihui, Director General of the Department of General Affairs, the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of PRC in the Macao SAR, Mr. Ma Yaou, and the President of Board of Directors, Macao Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Hoi Sai Iu. CPTTM has been the coordinator for the National Vocational Qualification Examination held in Macao since 2005. Until 2008, total examinees having registered for the examinations reaches 1,000, and examination subjects has been increased from 5 at the beginning to 17 in the current stage. In the future, CPTTM will continue to explore the possibility of arranging examinations on more new subjects, including hotel, F&B, convention and exhibition, tourism, and personal services, etc., to keep pace with the market demands under the policy of 'moderate diversification' of Macao's industries.



Officiating guests took pictures with the examinees conferred with certificates after the Ceremony.