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**Editor's Notes**

In late July, 136 Macao residents successfully passed the National Vocational Qualification Examination and obtained relevant certificates. For those who passed the Examination, not only their qualifications are recognized, but windows of opportunities are also opened for them entering the Mainland.

Recently, two more enterprises were granted the Macao Service Supplier Certificates and can now provide conventions, exhibitions and management consultancy services in the Mainland. As more liberalization measures for convention and exhibition service were included in Supplement III to CEPA, Macao Service Suppliers are allowed to set up wholly-owned, joint venture or cooperation-enterprises in the Mainland to organize outbound exhibitions to Macao and Hong Kong, thus giving new business opportunities to the MICE operators in Macao.

Macao Economic Services and the General Administration of Customs of PRC held a regular session on Trade in Goods under CEPA in August, summarizing the implementation of CEPA during the first half of 2006. Also, petition of Macao manufacturers for enjoying the zero-tariffs treatment in the coming year were submitted to the Mainland.

- 1. The National Vocational Qualification Examination Certificate presentation ceremony**

More than 200 people attended the National Vocational Qualification Examination Certificate presentation ceremony held by the Macao Productivity and Technology Transfer Centre on 27<sup>th</sup> July at the Macao World Trade Centre. Officiating guests of the ceremony included Mr. Francis Tam Pak Yuen, Secretary for Economy and Finance of the MSAR, Mr. Huang Songfu, Deputy Commissioner of the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign



Mr. Francis Tam Pak Yuen, Secretary of Economy and Finance, delivered a speech during the ceremony.

Affairs of the People's Republic of China in the Macao SAR, Mr. Zhou Zhikui, Director of the Economic Affairs Department of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government, Mr. Zhou Guotian, Representative of the Guangdong Bureau of Labour and Social Security, Mr. Hoi Sai Iun, President of the Board of Directors of the Macao Chamber of Commerce, Ms. Pan Yulan, Chairwoman of Federation of Association Operations, Mr. Victor Manuel Kuan, Director General of the Macao Productivity and Technology Transfer Centre.

Ms. Helena Lei, Deputy Director of the 'Macao Centre for National Vocational Qualification Assessment' stated in the ceremony that the Centre was established by the Macao Productivity and Technology Transfer Centre in February 2005 to promote the National Vocational Qualifications system and arrange for Macao residents to sit the examinations. Since then, the Centre has organized three rounds of National Vocational Qualifications Examinations, with 139 examinees participating in the first round of examinations held from October to November last year. Subjects in the examinations included: Chinese cuisine, Chinese noodle and dim sum cuisine, beauty treatment, hairdressing and logistics. The second round of examinations was held between January and July this year, and 136 out of the 181 examinees passed the examinations. More subjects had been included in the latest round, such as: western cuisine, western noodle and pastry, examinations for electricians and CAD apparel evaluation staff, and National Examination on High-Tech Computer Information. The third round of examination will be held between August and November this year. The overall passing-rate of the first two rounds of examinations reached 84%.

With regards to the plans for the coming year, the Centre is prepared to offer examinations of advanced level on existing subjects. Moreover, they have also been

studying the feasibility of offering other kinds of examinations, such as hotels, restaurants, convention and exhibition, tourism, services for individuals, etc. to meet the demand for social and economic diversification of Macao.

## 2. Two enterprises which recently obtained the Macao Services Supplier Certificates talked about strategies of entering the Mainland market



The manager of a business consultancy company received the certificate.



The director of a convention and exhibition company received the certificate.

More enterprises engaging in the convention and exhibition and management consultancy sectors have successfully obtained Macao Service Supplier Certificates, demonstrating that the advantages arising from CEPA are no longer limited to the logistics industry but to a wide array of sectors. In an interview with the manager of the convention and exhibition enterprise, he agreed that CEPA has brought about economic benefits to the overall economic development of Macao. When asked of how CEPA has helped improving the convention and exhibition industry, he stated that Macao is unique in terms of serving as a regional tourism hub and trade platform. He claimed that through training of local professionals and strengthening communication with relevant governmental departments in the Mainland, a facilitating environment can be created for the development of the convention and exhibition industry of Macao in the future. In the meantime, his company is planning to set up branches in major provinces and cities of China. Another enterprise that has obtained a service supplier certificate also expressed their interest in providing management consultancy services in the Mainland.

### **3. The 2006 China National Judicial Examination will be held in Macao in September**

The registration for 2006 China Judicial Examination scheduled for 5<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> July has been completed. According to the statistics provided by the Legal Affairs Bureau, which arranged and organized the examination, 31 Macao residents signed up for the examination scheduled for 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> September at the Legal and Judicial Training Centre. For more information on the National Judicial Examination, please contact the Legal Affairs Bureau at (Tel: 9872333) or visit its website: [www.dsaj.gov.mo](http://www.dsaj.gov.mo).

### **4. The regular session on Trade in Goods under CEPA was held to conclude the works finished during the first half of the year**

On 7<sup>th</sup> August, Macao Economic Services and General Administration of Customs held a regular session on the implementation of CEPA during the first half of 2006 in Macao. During the meeting, both sides summarized the implementation of Trade in goods under CEPA in the first half of 2006 and discussed the rules of origin for the goods subject to zero-tariffs for the second half of 2006. With regards to the work plan for the second half of the year, they undertook to strengthen communication and cooperation so as to ensure the smooth customs clearance procedures. In addition, they would step up promotion of CEPA to providing more market opportunities for Macao products to be exported to the Mainland.

### **5. Relocation of the CEPA Information Centre**

To provide services to the public in a timely and efficient manner, the CEPA Information Centre of the Macao Economic Services relocated from the 20<sup>th</sup> Floor of Edifício China Civil Plaza to Edifício Luso International on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2006. For any inquiries about CEPA or application for Macao Service Supplier Certificates, please contact the CEPA Information Centre.



The CEPA Information Centre has relocated and will continue to provide services to Macao residents

Address : Rua Dr. Pedro Jose Lobo, 1-3. Edif. Luso-International, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Macao

Tel : (853) 5972 343  
Fax : (853) 2875 5011  
Website : [www.economia.gov.mo](http://www.economia.gov.mo)  
E-mail : [info@economia.gov.mo](mailto:info@economia.gov.mo)

## **6. An interview with the examinees obtaining the National Vocational Qualifications**

Between January and July this year, 136 Macao residents passed the National Vocational Qualification Examination and obtained relevant National Vocational Qualification Certificates. Mr. Tai Kam Un, one of examinee who successfully passed the ‘National Examination on High-Tech Computer Information’, and Mr. Wong Sum Ho, who obtained the CAD apparel evaluation staff certificate, shared their experiences on taking the examinations in an interview with the CEPA Express.



Mr. Tai Kam Un and Mr. Wong Sum Ho, who have both obtained the ‘National Vocational Qualification’ certificates, took a photo at the Professional Examination Resources Centre.

Both of them agreed that participating in the examinations not only enriched their knowledge, but also improved their skills and brought about more opportunities in the Mainland. They said that the application procedure for the National Vocational Qualifications Examination in Macao was simple – they only had to submit an application form and relevant information to the ‘Macao Centre for National Vocational Qualification Assessment’ (the Centre). Mr. Tai said that he had spent two weeks on revising and preparing for the examination, while Mr. Wong

had revised 100 exam-related questions for about 50 hours. In addition, given the differences in cutting and making of clothing between China and Macao, Mr. Wong said that he had to buy extra reference books in order to prepare for the examination. He reminded examinees to pay attention to the differences in terminology between the two places and be familiar with simplified Chinese characters. In conclusion, they both agreed that as long as examinees studied hard for the examinations, they would have no problem passing them.

In order to assist examinees in preparing for the examination, the Centre will provide free tutorial courses before the examinations. For further information, please contact ‘Macao Centre for National Vocational Qualification Assessment’ at 2878 1313.