

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR  
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

**72<sup>nd</sup> SESSION**

**Science, Technology and Innovation  
for Sustainable Development**

**Statement by Director of the Macao Economic Services  
Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region**

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**Bangkok, Thailand 18 May 2016**

*Chairperson,*

*Under-Secretary-General of UNESCAP, Madame Shamshad Akhtar,*

*Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

On behalf of the delegation of Macao, China, we are delighted to participate in the 72<sup>nd</sup> Session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. We would like to congratulate Your Excellency on your election as the Chairperson. Also, we would like to express our appreciation to the ESCAP Secretariat for the excellent organisation in this meeting, and the Thai Government for their warm hospitality.

### **Sustainable Development Goals**

With the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) being the most successful anti-poverty push in human history, Members of the United Nations advanced on adopting a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in September 2015. The ambition of these 17 goals is to pursue further economic and social development, but this time, the SDGs also summon for universal action on climate, life below water and life on land, which meant to be a response to the pressing issue of environmental protection that is of paramount importance to the sustainable development for our future.

In light of the global development trend and the Thirteenth Five-Year Plan of the Mainland, the Macao SAR has drawn up our own Five-Year Development Plan (2016-2020). Under this draft master plan, Macao cited several development goals that are also coincided with the SDGs, they are, namely, levelling up the education standard, attaining stable economic growth, nurturing new industries, accelerating environmental protection, and exploring regional cooperation and international exchanges. With all these development goals permeated through the economic and social policies in the years ahead, the MSAR Government is determined to establish Macao as world class tourism and leisure centre, a liveable city, a healthy city, a Smart City, a cultural city and a city with good governance. The MSAR Government is now collecting public opinions to improve this draft master plan that will be followed by all bureaux for crafting the future of Macao.

### **Science, Technology and Innovation Policy**

To deliver the SDGs, global leaders identified that Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) are the indispensable means, henceforth, STI agenda is no longer an option but indeed a primary policy for developed and developing countries alike. The Macao SAR Government also places high regard on this agenda.

The STI policy of Macao is primarily carried out by the Science and Technology Development Fund, which was established in 2004. The objectives of the Fund are to provide financial assistance to the development of education, research and projects that meet the science and technology policy of the Government.

### **Smart City Scheme**

Making our hometown a better place to be is unquestionably the centrepiece of STI strategy. To attain this goal, the MSAR Government shall initialize the study of Smart City Scheme, placing economic diversification, urban construction, industry upgrades, livelihood services, inter-governmental data exchange and Open Data Initiative in the heart of the study. By putting forward this Smart City Scheme, the MSAR Government wishes not only to drive the upgrade of existing industries but also the emergence of new industries. As the construction of Smart City requires a big pool of professionals, the MSAR Government shall elevate the overall research quality through the current financial assistance on science and technology projects, which shall lay the foundation for constructing a Smart City.

### **Regional Cooperation**

Coping with our capability and capacity constraints, the MSAR Government seeks cooperation with the Mainland in our science projects. Among them, the principal projects are the establishment of the “State Key Laboratory of Quality Research in Chinese Medicine” and “State key Laboratory of Analog and Mixed-Signal VLSI” with the Ministry of Science and Technology; as well as the “Macao University of Science and Technology Lunar and Planetary Science Laboratory” with the Chinese Academy of Sciences. With dedicated support to the establishment of the State key laboratories in Macao, we not only manage to maintain our breakthrough in several research areas, but also level up other research areas by

pulling in some internationally outstanding scholars to Macao to lead projects that enhance the science and research quality in Macao and pave way for the STI development in the future.

Other cooperation that are initiated by the Macao Science and Technology Development Fund include one that works hand-in-hand with the Ministry of Science and Technology and National Natural Science Foundation of China; while the other is the "Horizon 2020" project of the European Union.

All in all, the objective of providing financial assistance to STI projects is to cultivate opportunities for the researchers and institutions in Macao to exchange, cooperate and participate in international projects, which will ultimately render our society with higher research quality and contribute to the diversification of economic structure.

#### **Industry-Academia-Research Cooperation**

The MSAR Government is also considering launching other programs that encourages Macao enterprises to initialise and commercialise applied science projects. On application, enterprise has to prescribe the applied scope of technology and the matching academy or institute in Macao, the Science and Technology Development Fund will then provide financial assistance to the academy or institute that carries out the research. If the project is successful, the enterprise can solely or jointly enjoy the result with the institute, plus receiving a one-off subsidy from the Government. It is only when the enterprise is able to earn profits from the research result that it has to reimburse the subsidy to the Government on proportion of its profits. Through this mechanism, the Government shares the risk of the enterprise without taking its profits away afterwards.

#### **Big Data Centre**

To facilitate the development and application of big data, the MSAR Government is going to set up a big data centre on urban management and is formulating the data collection and release standards thereof. By sharing the big data, the MSAR Government expects the

acceleration of urban construction and modernization of industries, which is essential in building a liveable, easy to travel and tourist destination city.

### **Conclusion**

With limited geographical size of about 30 square kilometres, the development of Macao in many aspects has its own constraint. The STI development, in particular, requires substantial support from the Government. Meanwhile, Macao is still nurturing our science and technology sector. We are aware that there is ample space for improvement and require resources to construct a more complete and organised internal STI ecosystem.

Nonetheless, challenge is also the drive to excellence. The MSAR Government believes that implementing the Sustainable Development Goals is, likewise, a road with predicaments; they could be overcome, however, with science and technology breakthrough and joint action from the international community, as we firmly trust the doctrine that where there is a will, there is a way.

I thank you.

