

110th Anniversary of the Macao Chamber of Commerce

Before 1911, there was no commercial association organized for businessmen of Macao. Whenever accidents or problems arose, the collective discussion for resolution took place at Kiang Wu Hospital. In 1911, Shiu Ying-chau, a Chinese merchant, initiated to organize a chamber of commerce and presented an agenda to the Macao Government of that time. Consequently, on December 14, 1912, the Lisbon Government approved the Chamber's registration by the name of "Macao Chamber of Commerce", which was officially established in 1913. In the meantime, the Chamber was also approved for registration by the then Chinese Government Department of Industry and Commerce under the name of "Macao Overseas Chinese General Chamber of Commerce". In 1916, it was officially designated the "Macao Chinese General Chamber of Commerce" (also known as "Macao Chamber of Commerce").

After the founding of the People's Republic of China, Ho Yin was consecutively elected Chairman of the Board of Directors for 18 terms and President of the Chamber for 2 terms. Since 1983, Ma Man Kei was consecutively elected President of the Chamber for 11 terms. In 2010, Ma Iao Lai was elected President of the Chamber, with Kou Hoi In taking as Chairman of the Board of Directors and the Bank of China, Macau Branch as the President of the Board of Supervisors. In 2021, Chui Sai Cheong was elected President of the Chamber, with Ma Chi Ngai Frederico taking as Chairman of the Board of Directors and the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (Macao) Limited as the President of the Board of Supervisors. Ma Man Kei, Ho Hau Wah and Ma Iao Lai were appointed as Permanent Presidents. The Macao SAR has awarded the Chamber the "Medal of Merit – Industry and Commerce" and the "Golden Lotus Medal of Honour" in recognition of its contributions.

For over 100 years, the Chamber's accomplishments were not only made by the members' dedication to upholding "one country, two systems" and the loyalty and commitment of uniting business and industry, but also their love of the country, the nation, the society and also the trust and support of people from all walks of life.

The Chamber aggregates the opinions of its members and representatives of the business community into a report each year. The Chamber presents it to the Chief Executive for reference in the formulation of relevant policies by the SAR Government; hosts business seminars to learn about and exchange on the operation of different industries; and publishes research studies and articles on a regular basis to offer recommendations and guidance to facilitate appropriate economic diversification of Macao.

The subsidiary departments of the Chamber, including Seong Fan Evening Middle School, Qingzhou Secondary School and Reading Room, offer educational opportunities to Macao residents of all ages, fostering the development of talent and providing a variety of services to the community.

In order to better serve its members and the business community, as well as to fulfill the objective of "going out and bringing in", the Chamber has set up the "Macao Chamber of Commerce (Guangdong Office)" in the Guangdong-Macao In-Depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, facilitating Macao to better integrate into the national development.

The Chamber will cooperate with all sectors of the Macao community in the future to fully, accurately, and unwaveringly implement the "one country, two systems" policy in an effort to make greater contributions with a more upbeat spirit and a more forward-thinking mentality.