



Casa de Macau Cultural and Recreational Centre in Ontario

4168 Finch Ave East PH39, Scarborough, Ontario, M1S 5H6, CANADA

www.casademacau.ca

Newsletter No. 8/2024

27/12/2024

Dear members,

We hope that you are enjoying this most festive holiday season. As the year 2024 comes to an end in a few days, the Board of Directors would like to say "Thank You" to everyone for your continued support, and may 2025 be filled with great joy, peace and love.

Jose Cordeiro would like to share with you a journal of his experience at the 2024 Encontro:

1. Encontro das Comunidades Macaenses 2024

Once again, the Macanese community from around the world had the opportunity to meet in Macau. I am pleased to share with you what I felt as a "filo-filo di Macau". I arrived in Macau relatively early and on November 23rd I went to the Conselho das Comunidades Macaenses (CCM) office to collect our participants' name badges and to resolve some pending issues.

Upon my arrival at the office, the staff were very busy, bustling about in preparation for the upcoming Encontro events. I was glad to have crossed paths with President Dr. Sales Marques, but unfortunately we did not have sufficient time to have a proper discussion as Dr. Marques had a very packed schedule.

On the 25th I returned to the CCM office to pick up several missing name badges and also to arrange the date and time for our members to receive their subsidy.

Official program

November 30

We started distributing name badges to our participants at the Sintra Hotel, at 3.30pm, finishing around 4.15pm. At 4:30 PM the shuttle bus arrived to take us to the Welcome Party venue. The day that we had been waiting for, for almost 5 years, had finally arrived. This year, the Welcome Party was held at the impressive Generations International School which had recently opened up this past summer in Coloane.

The welcome session took place on the 2nd floor with more than 200 seats arranged in a theatre setting. At the beginning of the session, Dr. Leonel Alves, President of the CCM General Assembly, welcomed all the participants and emphasized the importance of maintaining the Encontro tradition. Dr. Sales Marques, President of the CCM Standing Committee and the Organizing Committee (OC) of Encontro 2024 also welcomed us and described the preparations that the Organizing Committee had completed to ensure a successful Encontro for our worldwide communities. He said that this Encontro had been very challenging and during the preparation period, they encountered and resolved many unexpected issues. Afterwards, the guests went to the ground floor where we were served a light meal with traditional Macanese food. During the convivial party, we met many friends from other Casas and everyone expressed their pleasure of joining the Encontro again.

December 1

The day started with an informal meeting between CCM and all Casa Presidents/Representatives in attendance. The meeting was co-hosted by Dr. Leonel Alves and Dr. Sales Marques. Both gentlemen reiterated the importance of keeping the Encontro alive. After the pandemic and the re-opening of the Macau border in the summer of 2022, Macao Chief Executive, Mr. Ho Iat Seng suggested that CCM reinstate future Encontro events as soon as possible. Both leaders mentioned that the preservation of the Macanese culture is protected by the Basic Law which was signed by the Portuguese and the P.R. of China before the 1999 Macao hand-over, therefore the Encontro should continue and become more important than ever before. It was discussed that the promotion of Macau overseas should include gastronomy, culture and customs. The CCM and all Casas should maintain communication and keep each other informed; and again there were discussions about the operation of the 2024 Encontro.

We were then invited to describe our own Casa activities and express any thoughts on the current Encontro. On behalf of our members, I thanked the OC for their efforts in organizing the Encontro. With acknowledgement of the difficulties that arise in organizing a large scale event such as this, I did also offer some constructive comments for future improvements. Since the OC started requiring online documentation for the subsidy allowance, I noticed that the office was not replying to my emails and after the contact that I had on the 23rd with them, it was confirmed that the secretariat was greatly under-staffed. I therefore shared my opinion that the Encontro is for all institutional members and not just for those in the diaspora. There are several institutional members in Macau and they should be obligated to supply manpower to OC as it could not solely depend on those from the secretariat. I provided an example: Our Casa had 55 participants and up to 5 volunteers to assist them.



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How is it possible for OC to operate efficiently when they have almost the same number of volunteers for more than 1000 participants? Regarding the Encontro's itinerary, it seemed that there was a lack of new ideas. With regard to the promotion of Macanese culture, it is incomprehensible not to hold the popular Patua theater performance when this year there were more than 1,000 participants in Macau. In closing, I mentioned again that Casa de Macau (Toronto) is ready to offer its service if CCM could provide us with future promotional and cultural plans. At the end of the meeting, we were treated to a lunch at Clube Militar, organized by CCM.

In the afternoon, our members received their subsidy allocation at the CCM office according to the schedule set a week ago. The distribution was completed in approximately 2 hours, thanks to our committee members (Zito, Robert and myself) and our volunteer, Cristina Cordeiro, who managed to help complete the forms prior to our members' arrivals.

In the evening, we celebrated the Opening Ceremony at the Venetian Macau Ballroom that saw over 1,200 people. The Macau Chief Executive was the main guest among other dignitaries and sponsors.

December 2

Macao International Institute (IIM) hosted a cultural event at their facilities. Initially, it was supposed to be held in the Macau University, but due to transportation concerns, the location was changed. Dr. Jorge Rangel, President of IIM, started the event by welcoming all guests and briefly presenting the latest edition of the IIM publication. This was followed by several speakers giving presentations related to their research areas. After the presentation, IIM presented this year's IIM Identity Award to 2 local individuals and Merit and Recognition Certificates to all Casa Presidents/Representatives.

In the afternoon, we went to APOMAC (Retired Macau Civil Servant Association) to attend a book launching event. The name of the book is "The Major Defeat of the Dutch in the East", written by Manuel Basilio. We met many local Macanese and Casa representatives at this special function.

December 3

In the morning, all Casa Presidents/Representatives attended a ceremony in honor of the Macanese Diaspora. Meanwhile, Encontro participants joined a tour to historical places guided by Macau Cultural experts. In the afternoon, all participants took the traditional group photo on the steps to the Ruins of St. Paul. In conclusion to the day's program, a "Te-Deum" Mass was held in Sé Cathedral by the Bishop of Macau, D. Stephen Lee. After the Mass, all officials of CCM and Casas took a group photo with the bishop.

December 4 *(Article provided by Andrew Brander)*

On Wednesday evening, youth participants of the Encontro were invited to a forum focused on preserving our language, culture and links to the Macanese Identity hosted by Macanese Youth Association (AJM) at the Instituto Internacional de Macau (IIM). A number of participants from the Casa de Macau (Toronto) attended the intimate, invite-only evening including Andrew Alves Brander, Austin Simoes-Gomes, Lavon, Lavurn and Lavien Lee. The evening was broken into three parts, with a presentations on Patuá by Paula Carion (Macau, and niece of *Ivone Carion*), an in-depth exploration of historical Macanese days of significance by Mariana Pereira (Lusitano, U.K.) and a demonstration from Ben Altschuler (Virtual) who spoke about how, through the use of AI, we can restore lost or dying languages. The session was moderated by António Monteiro (Macau, and the President of the AJM). Following the fascinating presentations, participants were invited to the courtyard of the IIM for Chá Gordo including minchi, samosa and pastéis de nata. The youth participants were invited to stay, socialize and continue the discussion about what the next generation can continue to do to preserve our shared Macanese identity and culture.

December 5

There was a guided tour to Hengqin Island (China) provided to all Casa participants, including 3 from our Casa.

December 6

The closing ceremony took place at the Venetian Macau Ballroom and it was the last opportunity for gathering and meeting with our communities. The principal guest was the Vice-President of the Macao Legislative Assembly, Mr. Chui Sai Cheong. Another special guest was the Secretary of State, Dr. Jose Cesario, who came from Portugal to present the Merit plaque to CCM for their excellent service provided to the Macanese Community. In accordance with previously adopted protocol, the 2 Presidents of the CCM, Dr. Leonel Alves and Dr. Sales Marques, addressed all participants and acknowledged the success of this year's Encontro. All Casa Presidents/Representatives received a beautiful souvenir presented by Dr. Sales Marques.

The above is my observation and personal opinion. On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank all of our Encontro participants for having joined and supported us. I hope you had a wonderful stay in Macau, and that you were able to enjoy the culinary delights, visit places that you longed to see, and had the opportunity to spend precious time with friends and family.



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Photos related to the Encontro will be uploaded together with our 2025 New Year lunch at a later date.

2. Below is our 2025 1st Quarter events chart:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Function</u>	<u>Registration</u>
02/01/2025	1 st Thursday Social (Cancelled)	
04/01/2025 10:15AM	Ping-Pong	Robert Chan Cdm2021.chan@gmail.com
09/01/2025 3:30PM	Tai-chi	Jose Cordeiro Cdm2021.cordeiro@outlook.com
5:00PM	Karaoke	Jose Cordeiro Cdm2021.cordeiro@outlook.com
11/01/2025 10:15AM	Ping-Pong	Robert Chan Cdm2021.chan@gmail.com
16/01/2025 3:30PM	Tai-chi	Jose Cordeiro Cdm2021.cordeiro@outlook.com
	3rd Thursday Social (depends on availability)	Jose Cordeiro Cdm2021.cordeiro@outlook.com
18/01/2025	Ping-Pong (Cancelled)	
18/01/2025 11:00AM	New Year Celebration	
23/01/2025 3:30PM	Tai-chi	Jose Cordeiro Cdm2021.cordeiro@outlook.com
5:00PM	Karaoke	Jose Cordeiro Cdm2021.cordeiro@outlook.com
25/01/2025 10:15AM	Ping-Pong	Robert Chan Cdm2021.chan@gmail.com
30/01/2025 3:30PM	Tai-chi	Jose Cordeiro Cdm2021.cordeiro@outlook.com
01/02/2025 10:15AM	Ping-Pong	Robert Chan Cdm2021.chan@gmail.com
06/02/2025 3:30PM	Tai-chi	Jose Cordeiro Cdm2021.cordeiro@outlook.com
5:00PM	1 st Thursday Social Cut-off: 02/02/2025	Jose Cordeiro Cdm2021.cordeiro@outlook.com
08/02/2025 10:15AM	Ping-Pong	Robert Chan Cdm2021.chan@gmail.com
13/02/2025 3:30PM	Tai-chi	Jose Cordeiro Cdm2021.cordeiro@outlook.com
5:00PM	Karaoke	Jose Cordeiro Cdm2021.cordeiro@outlook.com
15/02/2025 10:15AM	Ping-Pong	Robert Chan Cdm2021.chan@gmail.com
20/02/2025 3:30PM	Tai-chi	Jose Cordeiro Cdm2021.cordeiro@outlook.com
	3rd Thursday Social (depends on availability)	Virginia Sanchez virginiazito@gmail.com
22/02/2025 10:15AM	Ping-Pong	Robert Chan Cdm2021.chan@gmail.com
27/02/2025 3:30PM	Tai-chi	Jose Cordeiro Cdm2021.cordeiro@outlook.com
5:00PM	Karaoke	Jose Cordeiro Cdm2021.cordeiro@outlook.com



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01/03/2025 10:15AM	Ping-Pong	Robert Chan Cdm2021.chan@gmail.com
06/03/2025 3:30PM	Tai-Chi	Jose Cordeiro Cdm2021.cordeiro@outlook.com
5:00PM	1 st Thursday Social Cut-off: 02/03/2025	Ivone Carion Cdm2021.carion@gmail.com
08/03/2025 10:15AM	Ping-Pong	Robert Chan Cdm2021.chan@gmail.com
13/03/2025 3:30PM	Tai-Chi	Jose Cordeiro Cdm2021.cordeiro@outlook.com
5:00PM	Karaoke	Jose Cordeiro Cdm2021.cordeiro@outlook.com
15/03/2025 10:15AM	Ping-Pong	Robert Chan Cdm2021.chan@gmail.com
20/03/2025 3:30PM	Tai-chi	Jose Cordeiro Cdm2021.cordeiro@outlook.com
	3rd Thursday Social (depends on availability)	Virginia Sanchez virginiazito@gmail.com
22/03/2025 10:15AM	Ping-Pong	Robert Chan Cdm2021.chan@gmail.com
27/03/2025 3:30PM	Tai-chi	Jose Cordeiro Cdm2021.cordeiro@outlook.com
5:00PM	Karaoke	Jose Cordeiro Cdm2021.cordeiro@outlook.com
29/03/2025 10:15AM	Ping-Pong	Robert Chan Cdm2021.chan@gmail.com

Regards,

The Board of Directors