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closer Economic Partnership Arrangement

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Editor' s Note:

The plaque of China-Portuguese Speaking Countries Cooperation and Development Fund Company Limited was unveiled at the inauguration ceremony of The 8th International Infrastructure Investment and Construction Forum on 1 June, officially marking the settlement of the China-Portuguese Speaking Countries Cooperation and Development Fund in Macao, providing solid support for the establishment of Macao as a commercial and trade cooperation service platform between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries.

In order to encourage local enterprises to better utilize the zero-tariff incentives of CEPA trade in goods and foster their development in the Mainland market, the Macao Economic Services held the “Seminar on the Implementation of CEPA Trade in Goods” on 6 April, soliciting opinions and suggestions on the implementation of CEPA trade in goods, and introducing the strategic situation of China Pilot Free Trade Zones.

Starting from 1 July 2017, there will be 27 additional and 10 revised CEPA Rules of Origin in place. Items

of CEPA Zero-Tariff Goods will be increased to 1,527.

In addition, to implement the specific work of the “Guangdong-Macao Quality Inspection and Certification Task Force” under the “Guangdong-Macao Cooperation Framework Agreement”, the Macao Economic Services organized the “Guangdong-Macao Quality Inspection and Certification Study Tour”, visiting the inspection organizations for food products, dietary supplements and pharmaceuticals in Guangdong Province.

Moreover, to enhance the mutual understanding among public officials in the Pan Pearl River Delta of each other’s intellectual property (IP)-related work, and to foster cooperation and exchange in IP protection, the Macao Economic Services and the Intellectual Property Department of Hong Kong SAR jointly organized the “Pan Pearl River Delta Staff Exchange Program”.

1. Plaque unveiling of the Macao Headquarter of the China-Portuguese Speaking Countries Cooperation and Development Fund

The plaque unveiling ceremony of China-Portuguese Speaking Countries Cooperation and Development Fund Company Limited was successfully held at the inauguration ceremony of The 8th International Infrastructure Investment and Construction Forum on 1 June, officially marking the settlement of the China-Portuguese Speaking Countries Cooperation and Development Fund (CPDFund) in Macao, providing solid support for the establishment of Macao as a commercial and trade cooperation service platform between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries. A signing ceremony was arranged during the plaque unveiling. Strategic agreements on investment cooperation were signed by the CPDFund with local enterprise CESL Asia - Investments & Services, Limited, and with China-based enterprise China Gezhouba Group Overseas Investment Company Limited respectively for strengthening cooperation and encouraging enterprises to invest in Portuguese-speaking countries (PSCs).

Guests of the plaque unveiling ceremony included: CHUI Sai On, Chief Executive of the Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR); YU Jianhua, Vice-Minister of Commerce of People’s Republic of China (PRC) and Deputy China International Trade Representative; YAO Jian, Associate



Chief Executive CHUI Sai On unveils the plaque of the China-Portuguese Speaking Countries Cooperation and Development Fund

Director for Liaison Office of the Central People’s Government in the Macao SAR; YE Dabo, Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the PRC in the Macao SAR; LEONG Vai Tac, Secretary for Economy and Finance of the Macao SAR Government; DING Xiangqun, Vice President of China Development Bank (CDB); XU Yingzhen, Secretary-General of the Permanent Secretariat of the Forum for Economic and Trade Co-operation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries – Macao (Forum Macao); FANG Qiuchen, Chairman of China International Contractors Association; and CHI Jianxin, President of the CPDFund.

The CPDFund, which is one of the cooperation measures announced by the

PRC Government during the 3rd Ministerial Conference of Forum Macao in 2010, has been committing to foster cooperation in the fields of finance, investment and trade collaboration between enterprises in China (including the Macao SAR) and PSCs since its official establishment in June 2013. Currently, the total amount of the CPDFund is USD1 billion, jointly funded by the CDB and the Macao Industrial and Commercial Development Fund, with administration entrusted to the China-Africa Development Fund. The CPDFund actively promotes project cooperation between China and PSCs and has gradually evolved into a major financing platform for promoting China-PSCs trade cooperation under the framework of Forum Macao. Tracking over 20 projects at present and striving to cover all PSCs, the CPDFund has provided support

for a number of projects in countries such as Mozambique, Angola and Brazil, promoting agricultural modernization, and production capacity cooperation in the fields including manufacturing and energy industry of the aforementioned countries.

Following the official settlement in Macao, the CPDFund will provide services such as consultation and finance sourcing in Macao for enterprises, assist enterprises in mainland China and PSCs jointly participating the Belt and Road Initiative, and in turn enhance the role of Macao as the financial and commercial cooperation platform for China and PSCs. The temporary office of the CPDFund is located at the 19th floor of China Civil Plaza at Alameda Dr. Carlos D'Assumpção, and its permanent office will be located inside the China-PSCs Commercial and Trade Service Platform Complex in future.

2. “Seminar on the Implementation of CEPA Trade in Goods” held by the Macao Economic Services



DSE Seminar on the Implementation of CEPA Trade in Goods

In order to encourage local enterprises to better utilize the zero-tariff incentives of CEPA trade in goods and foster their development in the Mainland market, the Macao Economic Services held the “Seminar on the Implementation of CEPA Trade in Goods” on 6 April, with Director DENG Weiguang, Section Chiefs ZENG Qingwen and FENG Feng from the Place of Origin Management Office of Gongbei Customs invited to solicit opinions and suggestions on the implementation of CEPA

trade in goods from the participating industrial representatives, and provide an introduction to the strategic situation of China Pilot Free Trade Zones.

The Seminar, through which the representatives from Gongbei Customs exchanged with and solicited views from enterprises on the implementation of CEPA, was crowded with over 90 representatives of enterprises and related industry associations who showed great enthusiasm in expressing views and giving suggestions on the formulation of rules of origin, inspection and supervision of goods, tariff classification of goods, and the customs valuation and clearance, creating a positive effect on fostering the CEPA trade in goods.

Furthermore, Sector Chief ZENG Qingwen provided an introduction to and review of the current overall development of China Pilot Free Trade Zones, and the rules of origin of each China Pilot Free Trade

Zone, enhancing the participants' understanding of the foreign trade environment of Mainland China and the situation of the developing new trends; and enabling local enterprises to grasp business opportunities in the midst of the ongoing development of China Pilot Free Trade Zones. Under the agreement of Pilot Free

Trade Zone, trade in goods is generally preferred by the implementation of tariff reduction or exemption which benefits importers and exporters directly. The introduction has provided more information for the industries, and in turn enabled local enterprises to better utilize the CEPA incentives.

3. Additional and revised Rules of Origin for CEPA Zero-Tariff Goods effective on 1 July 2017

To actively respond to the industries' needs for CEPA development and further enlarge the range of Macao goods exporting to the Mainland eligible for zero-tariff preferences, the Macao Economic Services (DSE) has completed the rules of origin consultation with the relevant Mainland authorities for goods applying for zero tariffs in the first half of 2017. Starting from 1 July 2017, 27 additional rules of origin for goods such as food and beverages (propolis, spices, dried coconut meat, peanut butter, sparkling wines, cocoa powders, etc.), plant waxes and gems will be in place. Among which, part of the applications were proposed by Brazilian enterprises that are looking to process their local natural resources in Macao in order to enjoy CEPA Zero Tariff, so as to expand and develop the Mainland market. Meanwhile, considering the actual production conditions of Macao industries, the rules of origin for 10 items of food products will be revised. By lowering the requirements of rules of origin, enterprises will be able to meet the CEPA requirements more easily, benefiting the

further development of manufacturing industries in Macao. Access the official website of DSE for the relevant list of goods and their rules of origin: (http://www.economia.gov.mo/zh_TW/web/public/pg_cep_a_tig?_refresh=true).

Since 1 July 2017, Macao has had an aggregate of 1,527 items of goods entitled to CEPA Zero Tariff Preference which has enhanced the price competitiveness of local products exporting to the Mainland, fostering the sales of made-in-Macao products in the Mainland.

2017 marks the 14th year of implementation of the CEPA trade in goods. From the implementation in 2004 up to May 2017, the value of export totaled MOP801 million with MOP58.47 million of taxes exempted, and 3,837 CEPA Certificates of Origin were issued by the DSE. 153 CEPA Certificates of Origin were issued from January to May this year, a year-on-year increase of 12.5%.

4. “Guangdong-Macao Quality Inspection and Certification Study Tour” organized by the Macao Economic Services visited inspection organizations in Guangdong Province

To implement the specific work of the Task Force under the “Guangdong-Macao Cooperation Framework Agreement” and to promote exchange and cooperation between Guangdong and Macao in the field of inspection and certification, the “Guangdong-Macao Quality Inspection and Certification Study Tour”, organized by the

“Guangdong-Macao Quality Inspection and Certification Task Force” and led by the Macao Economic Services (DSE), visited the inspection organizations for food products, dietary supplements and pharmaceuticals in Guangdong Province on 6 June. The Study Tour comprised of over 40 participants from the Macao side members

of the Task Force – the DSE, the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) and the Macau Productivity and Technology Transfer Center (CPTTM); from Guangdong-Macao Traditional Chinese Medicine Technology Industrial Park Development Company Limited and also industrial representatives from local trade associations.

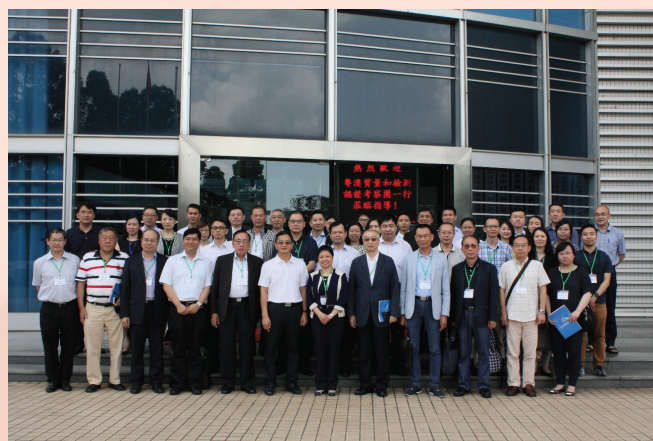
Warmly received by GAO Guosheng, Deputy-Director General of the Administration of Quality and Technology Supervision of Guangdong Province; HUANG Jianshang and TANG Suiping, Secretary of the Party Committee and Deputy Managing Director of Guangdong Testing Institute of Product Quality Supervision (GQI) and other leaders, the Study Tour visited the food inspection center of GQI at Shunde and the Guangdong Institute for Food and Drug Control. Deputy Director of DSE CHAN Tze Wai indicated that the Special Administrative Region (SAR) Government assists the industries to grasp opportunities arising from the “One Centre, One Platform” and CEPA Zero Tariff policies; actively promotes the moderate diversification of Macao economy; supports the development of manufacturing industries including food and health food, pharmaceutical, high-end apparel, jewelry, casino gaming equipment and electronic entertainment device; and widen the space of development for the manufacturing industries by means of promoting innovation and fostering regional cooperation; being well-reputed, food products, dietary supplements and pharmaceuticals manufactured in Macao are trusted by consumers for their qualities and safety; the high potential of Mainland consumer market has provided enormous business opportunities for products made in Macao. Deputy Director CHAN further indicated that this tour, organized under the cooperation mechanism of the “Guangdong-Macao Quality Inspection and Certification Task Force”, aims to enhance

the understanding and knowledge among industries in Macao of the services, equipment and technology of the Mainland inspection organizations from direct viewing through site visits; and hopes to assist industries in Macao to acquire comprehensive and detailed information regarding the inspection requirements on the related products in the Mainland, so as to create better conditions for their products to enter the Mainland market. Chairman of the Industrial Association of Macau FONG Son Kin expressed his hopes for the Mainland to provide facilitations for the inspection and quarantine of importing made-in-Macao products, and also breakthrough and support in terms of policy.

Deputy-Director General GAO Guosheng indicated that both Guangdong and Macao have extensively and intensively promoted exchange and cooperation in the field of quality inspection and certification since the establishment of the Task Force; the Administration of Quality and Technology Supervision of Guangdong Province will actively accommodate to the needs of industries in Macao, assisting industries and inspection organizations in Macao to understand the inspection and certification standards of the Mainland on different products; at the same time, the Mainland can provide support in terms of talent and technology, realizing mutual complement of advantage and co-development.

Accompanied by the technical experts of the inspection organizations, the Study Tour visited the laboratories of the food inspection center of GQI at Shunde and the Guangdong Institute for Food and Drug Control; listened to the introduction to the scope of services and inspection technologies of the centers provided by the staff members; and conducted ample communication on information such as the inspection processes of food products, dietary supplements and pharmaceuticals; credibility of inspection results; and time and service fees for

inspection. This Study Tour has helped industries in Macao to deepen their understanding of inspection technologies in the Mainland; and at the same time built a bridge for effective exchange and communication between industries in Macao and inspection organizations in Guangdong Province, enabling the industries to grasp the inspection requirements of the Mainland on food products, dietary supplements and pharmaceuticals, helping them to make reasonable plans and arrangements for exporting the related products to the Mainland.



The “Guangdong-Macao Quality Inspection and Certification Study Tour” visits the food inspection center at Shunde

5. “Pan Pearl River Delta Staff Exchange Program” jointly organized by the Macao Economic Services and the Intellectual Property Department of Hong Kong SAR

Jointly organized by the Macao Economic Services (DSE) and the Intellectual Property Department (IPD) of Hong Kong SAR Government, the “Pan Pearl River Delta Staff Exchange Program” was held between 24 May and 26 May, with the aim to enhance the mutual understanding among public officials in the Pan Pearl River Delta (PPRD) of each other’s intellectual property (IP)-related work, and to foster cooperation and exchange in IP protection.



Group photo of the Macao and Hong Kong representatives

Representatives from the DSE attended the exchange activities held in Hong Kong on 24 May and 25 May. On 26 May, all representatives visited the DSE to learn about the overview of IP administrative management and execution of IP laws in the Macao SAR. They visited the University of Macau afterwards to find out the development of scientific research capability and academic standard in Macao. The seminar and sightseeing activities have enabled a comprehensive understanding of IP protection in Hong Kong and Macao, while deepened the mutual understanding among the PPRD.

6. Working meeting with the China (Guangdong) Pilot Free Trade Zone Office and the Department of Commerce of Guangdong Province

To further follow up the work of the Guangdong-Macao Task Force Meeting on Promoting Guangdong Pilot Free Trade Zone and strengthen the communication between both sides, a meeting was held between the Macao side and the China (Guangdong) Pilot Free Trade Zone Office in Guangzhou on 26 May 2017, with major focuses on communicating on the latest policy measures of Guangdong Pilot Free Trade Zones and other topics of common interest.

In addition, delegates of the Macao Economic Services (DSE) conducted a meeting with the Trade in Services Division of the Department of Commerce of

Guangdong Province in the afternoon of the same day, discussing on the major tasks of the next stage of Guangdong-Macao service industry cooperation.



Working meeting between the delegates of the two sides

7. Seminar on “Food Labeling Law” jointly organized by the Macao Economic Services and various commercial and industrial organizations

Aiming to deepen the understanding of “Food Labeling Law (FLL)” among local businesses, the seminar on FLL was held by the Macao Economic Services (DSE) on 29 May, 31 May, 15 June and 22 June in collaboration with The Industry and Commerce Association of Macau Northern District, The Federal General Commercial Association of Macau Small and Medium Enterprises (FGCAMSME), Federação da Indústria e Comércio de Macau Centro e Sul Distritos and The Industry and Commerce Federation of Islands of Macao. To push on our “Door-to-Door Service Program”, representatives were dispatched to the abovementioned organizations to host the seminar which attracted the attendance of retail enterprise representatives from various industries who raised their questions actively. The seminar hosts introduced the requirements of food labeling to the vendors and emphasized that for the sake of protecting consumer rights and their right to

know, the information of all pre- and non-pre-packed foods must be displayed in accordance with the Law. It was generally concurred by the participants that the seminar has helped to improve the understanding of the Law among their industries and enhanced their sense of compliance.



Seminar on “Food Labeling Law”

8. “Online Enquiry on Application Progress of Import License or Export License” and “Online Enquiry on Application Progress on Registration for Controlled Foreign Trade Operations” launched by the Macao Economic Services

To step up the work on electronic foreign trade and further facilitate administrative procedures, two e-enquiry services, namely “Online Enquiry on Application Progress of Import License or Export License” and “Online Enquiry on Application Progress on Registration for Controlled Foreign Trade Operations” have been launched by the Macao Economic Services (DSE) since 10 April 2017.

With these two e-enquiry services, enterprises which have lodged their applications for controlled foreign trade operations registration, import license or export license will no longer need to enquire about their application progresses by going to or calling the DSE offices. Instead, they can conduct such enquiries by accessing “Administrative Services >> e-Services >> Information Enquiry” of the DSE official website on their own. This has significantly

improved the efficiencies for enterprises by saving their time and facilitating them to process the import-export procedures.

Based on the principles of facilitating and benefiting the public, detailed operational manuals of the two e-enquiry services have been published on the official WeChat account of the DSE since 10 April, enhancing the connection and communication between the Government and the industries on one hand, making further efforts to promote Macao’s import and export trade on the other hand.

9. “Enforcement Law of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)” to be effective on 1 September

Law No. 2/2017 <<Enforcement Law of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)>> (referred to hereafter as Enforcement Law) will be effective on 1 September 2017, with Decree-Law No. 45/86/M << Regulation for Application in the Territory of Macao of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)>> repealed on the same date. Main content of the Enforcement Law includes further strengthening of the regulations on trade in specimens of species included in Appendices I, II and III to CITES; designation of the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM)

as the scientific authority and its competence; new compulsory registration regime; and heightening of penalties against violations.

For better implementation of CITES, the Enforcement Law stipulates, in a more orderly manner, the requirements and documents required, including the procedures for issuing CITES certificates and licenses by the Macao Economic Services (DSE) as the management authority, for importing and exporting endangered species. Apart from that, the Enforcement Law does not impose any substantial changes to the current procedures

for license application. Only more detailed regulations are formulated without increasing the complexity of procedures for entrepreneurs who practice trade legally.

Besides, in accordance with the Enforcement Law, the trade in all specimens of endangered species, regardless of live or dead, part or its derivative, shall be subject to supervision. Specimens of species included in Appendix I to CITES (such as elephants,

rhinoceros, and tigers) are prohibited from commercial trade. For specimens of species included in Appendix II and Appendix III which are commonly found on market, such as orchids, American ginseng, crocodile skin products, etc., their import and export require application for CITES certificates and licenses in advance. Violation of the regulations shall be subject to penalties.