

4.1 Continuously optimising the “triliterate and quadrilingual” education

(1) “Chinese-Portuguese bilingual classes” and Portuguese courses

In order to tie in with Macao’s development orientation to build “One Centre, One Platform” as well as assist students to develop their Chinese-Portuguese bilingual potential in a more targeted and systematic way, so that they are well-prepared to enrol in various local and non-local tertiary education programmes related to Chinese-Portuguese bilingualism after graduation, the DSEJ has offered the “Chinese-Portuguese bilingual classes” in Primary 1 and Form 1 of Escola Oficial Zheng Guanying and in Primary 1 of Escola Primária Luso-Chinesa da Flora since the academic year 2017/2018. In the academic year 2018/2019, the “Chinese-Portuguese bilingual classes” of public schools were extended to Primary 2 and Form 2, that is, Escola Oficial Zheng Guanying offered one “Chinese-Portuguese bilingual class” in Primary 1 and 2, as well as Form 1 and 2 respectively, while Escola Primária Luso-Chinesa da Flora offered one “Chinese-Portuguese bilingual class” in Primary 1 and 2 respectively.

In the academic year 2018/2019, there were a total of 132 Portuguese classes offered in the public schools under the DSEJ, with 2,246 students attended the classes; as well as 15 leisure activities and 17 supplementary courses, with the participation of 426 students. Besides, the DSEJ sent Portuguese teachers to teach in private schools, and also subsidised private schools to recruit Portuguese teachers through the Education Development Fund, with the aim of promoting Portuguese teaching in private schools. In the academic year 2018/2019, a total of 37 private schools offered Portuguese courses, with 4,435 students attended the courses.



Chinese-Portuguese bilingual class



Chinese-Portuguese bilingual class

The DSEJ has entrusted Escola Portuguesa de Macau to organise intensive Portuguese courses for students after school since 2007 in order to improve the Portuguese learning environment. In the academic year 2018/2019, there were 9 classes of intensive Portuguese courses with 170 students. The DSEJ provided a free Portuguese online reading platform for all secondary and primary school students in Macao, subsidised senior secondary school students to take internationally recognised Portuguese proficiency tests through the Education Development Fund, and also provided relevant training for participating students before taking the tests.

(2) “Extraordinary Grant” and “Special Grant”

The “Extraordinary Grant” and “Special Grant” of the “Tertiary Education Grants Scheme” aim to cultivate different kinds of professionals for Macao. The “Extraordinary Grant” has subsidised students who attend law programmes in both Chinese and Portuguese languages. The number of current students benefiting from the Scheme in the academic year 2018/2019 reached 124 (as expected).

The “Special Grant” has supported students to study Portuguese-related programmes or Chinese-Portuguese Translation, language therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, nursing, cultural and creative industries, social work, psychological counselling, infant education, primary education, special education, and go to Portugal to attend the bachelor’s degree programmes. The number of current students benefiting from the Scheme in the academic year 2018/2019 reached 1,322.

(3) Training programmes for language teachers

In the academic year 2017/2018, the DSEJ organised 56 language training activities, with the participation of 1,470 teachers (by frequency). As for the subject of Chinese, training activities related to the skills in teaching Putonghua, Chinese reading and writing were implemented. Concerning the subject of Portuguese, multiple school-based practices as well as teaching experience sharing activities were carried out for Portuguese language teachers. Regarding the subject of English, in addition to the TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) programme in English speaking countries for teachers, which has been launched since 2002, the DSEJ also organised teacher training courses on language proficiency certification tests (IELTS, TOEIC and TOEFL) as well as the Cambridge Teaching Knowledge Test (TKT), so as to enhance the teaching competency of English language teachers and encourage them to participate in international certification examinations.

Table 11: Training programmes for language teachers in the academic year 2017/2018

Subject of the training programmes	Number of training programmes	Number of participating teachers (by frequency)
Chinese	11	360
Portuguese	6	90
English	39	1,020

(4) Organising students to attend summer language learning programmes outside Macao

The DSEJ held 3 summer language learning programmes outside Macao between July and August 2018, namely the “Summer Language and Culture Trip to Zhengzhou”, “Summer Language and Culture Trip to Portugal” and “Programme for Improving the English Language Proficiency of Secondary School Students – Summer Camp in Australia”. 115 Form 4 and Form 5 students were selected to participate in the programmes. The participants took the relevant language tests and attended the learning experience sharing sessions after completing the programmes.

(5) Organising summer language learning activities for students

The DSEJ continued to organise a variety of local language learning activities for Macao students during the summer holidays in order to enhance their understanding of relevant languages and culture. During the period of July to September 2018, the DSEJ provided a 300-hour intensive Portuguese learning programme for students who would go to Portugal to pursue further studies; and the Escola Portuguesa de Macau was entrusted to organise Portuguese language and culture activities for students during the summer holidays. Students were also subsidised to take the summer class of Portuguese language and culture organised by the University of Macau. In addition, the DSEJ organised the English summer camp and English summer conversation fun classes on the theme of arts. The aforementioned activities were attended by about 400 secondary and primary school students.

(6) Cooperation between China and Portugal

In order to strengthen the support for Macao senior secondary graduates to study in Portugal, the “Subsidy Scheme for Nurturing Portuguese Language Teachers and Language Professionals” was launched from the academic year 2013/2014 to the academic year 2017/2018. A total of 81 secondary school graduates were subsidised to go to the Catholic University of Portugal (Universidade Católica Portuguesa) and take the one-year preparation course of Portuguese Language and Culture jointly organised by the DSEJ and the University. After completing and passing the course, the students would be subsidised to study the bachelor’s degree programme in Portuguese and Spanish as well as the master’s degree programme in Portuguese and Spanish Education, or the bachelor’s degree programme and (or) master’s degree programme in Applied Foreign Languages. In the academic year 2018/2019, the DSEJ deepened the cooperation with the Catholic University of Portugal and jointly organised the one-year preparation course of Portuguese Language and Culture, upon completing and passing the course, students can directly enrol in one of the 13 bachelor’s degree programmes organised by the University. 7 students enrolled in the related programmes in the academic year 2018/2019.

Meanwhile, starting from the academic year 2008/2009, the Faculty of Law of the Catholic University of Portugal offers a one-year preparatory course of Portuguese Language, History and Law for the Macao students who are granted the Extraordinary Grant to study in Portugal. Upon completing and passing the course, the secondary graduates can directly enrol in the bachelor’s degree programme in Law organised by the Faculty of Law of the Catholic University of Portugal. As of the academic year 2018/2019, a total of 192 students enrolled in the related programmes.

In accordance with the *Protocol on New Cooperation Project in the Area of Education between the Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region of the People’s Republic of China and the Government of the Portuguese Republic* signed in September 2013, the Escola Portuguesa de Macau was responsible for the academic recognition of secondary school graduates who study in schools not using Portuguese language as a medium of instruction, which simplified the procedures for Macao students to apply for relevant academic recognition, thus facilitating students to study in Portugal. As of December 2018, the DSEJ provided the relevant documents for 154 graduates to obtain the related academic recognition.

4.2 Promoting community language education

In order to tie in with Macao’s orientation of “World Tourism and Leisure Centre” as well as “Business Cooperation Service Platform of China and Portuguese-speaking Countries”, the “Continuing Education Development Plan” supports institutions to offer courses in Portuguese, Putonghua and English, promotes language education actively and cultivates residents to possess certain levels of language proficiency, so as to reserve talents with relevant language proficiency for the sustainable development of Macao.

As of December 2018, the DSEJ subsidised residents to take courses and certification examinations related to language education through the third phase of the “Continuing Education Development Plan”, with the participation of about 24,000 people (by frequency).

Table 12: The number of subsidised residents taking courses and certification examinations related to language education

Number of participants (by frequency) of the language courses (local and non-local)				
Putonghua	Portuguese	English	Others	Total number of participants (by frequency)
829	2,776	9,719	9,065	22,389
Number of participants (by frequency) of the language certification examinations (local and non-local)				
Putonghua	Portuguese	English	Others	Total number of participants (by frequency)
9	27	1,013	234	1,283

In addition, the Centre of Languages and Centre of Permanent Education of the DSEJ continue to offer a variety of language learning programmes, such as Putonghua courses (including courses for foreigners), Cantonese, Portuguese, English and Japanese courses, so as to provide the residents with opportunities to learn foreign languages. About 550 residents enrolled in the courses.

4.3 Promoting reading education based on the results of the “Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS)”

Macao took part in the “Progress in International Reading Literacy Study” (hereinafter referred to as the “PIRLS”) for the first time in 2016. This Study mainly evaluates the reading competence and level of Primary 4 students worldwide to explore the factors affecting students’ reading competence and look for teaching strategies to improve reading. The experience of advanced regions is taken into account to optimise the education policy and planning of Macao.

After the publication of PIRLS 2016 results in December 2017, the DSEJ followed up the related study results, promoted reading education, visited 56 schools to interpret the PIRLS study reports, held a number of lectures for parents and teachers, invited 6 schools to participate in primary school thematic reading research, printed different publications to publicise parent-child reading education, uploaded the produced “fun reading” videos to “Community of Education and Youth” as well as designed resources for teaching and evaluating reading competence. Through the aforementioned ways, parents are enabled to understand the importance of parent-child reading and encouraged to participate in parent-child reading activities actively. At the same time, through continuous professional training for teachers, the quality of learning and teaching reading is optimised so as to improve students’ reading competence.



Professor Tse Shek Kam from PIRLS 2016 research institute assisted in holding the lecture for parents



New teachers participating in the PIRLS 2016 lecture for teachers

4.4 Participating in the thematic conference of the “Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)”

The “Programme for International Student Assessment” (hereinafter referred to as the “PISA”) is organised by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (hereinafter referred to as the “OECD”). It evaluates the reading, mathematical and scientific literacy of secondary students aged 15 of the participating countries / economies in a three-year cycle. From 2003 to 2018, Macao participated in 6 tests in total.

The Director of the DSEJ and member of the PISA Governing Board (PGB) from Macao, China, Mr. Lou Pak Sang, attended the 45th and 46th meetings of the PISA Governing Board organised by the OECD in Stockholm, Sweden and Prague, the Czech Republic in April and November 2018 respectively. Mr. Lou and the representatives of the participating economies discussed the related technical issues and expressed their opinions to explore the future development of PISA together.

The assessment field of PISA 2018 was based on reading literacy, supplemented by scientific and mathematical literacy. The assessment was completed in May 2018. A total of 3,778 secondary students aged 15 from 46 schools participated in the assessment, and the response rate of various questionnaires of the assessment (including schools, students, parents and teachers) was over 99%.

In order to strengthen Macao education sector’s understanding of the latest trends of international education development, on 2nd June, 2018, the DSEJ invited the world renowned international assessment expert, the Director for the Directorate of Education and Skills at the OECD as well as the “Father of PISA”, Mr. Andreas Schleicher, to Macao to give a PISA thematic presentation on “Preparing Students for Their Future, Not Our Past” at the DSEJ. There were nearly 200 participants, including the Director of the DSEJ, Mr. Lou Pak Sang, heads of the DSEJ, members of the Non-tertiary Education Committee and the Teaching Staff Professional Committee, personnel from the PISA Centre of the University of Macau as well as school principals or representatives.

In addition, the DSEJ held the launching ceremony of the “PISA 2021 Mathematical Literacy Assessment” on 16th October, with the participation of more than 170 people, including the personnel from the PISA Centre of the University of Macau, the DSEJ and schools.



The photo taken in the Meeting of the PISA Governing Board (PGB) – The Director of the DSEJ, Mr. Lou Pak Sang and the Director for the Directorate of Education and Skills at the OECD, Mr. Andreas Schleicher

4.5 Strengthening the evaluation work of education quality

According to the provisions of Law No. 9/2006 - *The Fundamental Law of Non-tertiary Education System*, the Student Assessment System is governed by special statutes, thus the DSEJ implemented the legislative work of the *Student Assessment System of Formal Education of Local School System* (hereinafter referred to as the “*Student Assessment System*”) in an orderly manner. In order to tie in with the legislative work of the *Student Assessment System* and further optimise the content of the regulations, the DSEJ launched the second round of school visits from February to May 2018 to discuss the relevant content in depth with schools. A total of 63 schools completed the interviews. With reference to schools’ opinions, a draft of the administrative regulations for the *Student Assessment System* was formulated and applied to go through the legislative procedures in September 2018. The DSEJ will continue to promote the relevant legislative work and support schools in preparing for the implementation of the regulations.

In order to ensure the education quality of schools, schools are encouraged to establish a systematic self-evaluation system, which is an important mechanism to improve and develop the school in a continuous way. In 2018, the DSEJ implemented a “Pilot Project of the Integrated Evaluation of Schools, Considering School Self-evaluation as the Core and Combining with External Evaluation” (hereinafter referred to as the “*School Self-Evaluation Pilot Project*”). 5 schools participated in the project in 2018.

In order to tie in with the implementation of the “*School Self-Evaluation Pilot Project*”, the DSEJ held an explanatory session on “*School Self-Evaluation Pilot Project*” for Macao schools on 11th June, 2018. A total of more than 300 people, including the principals, middle and senior management staff and representatives of more than 70 schools as well as leaders and heads of the DSEJ attended the explanatory session. In addition, in order to assist the 5 schools participating in the 2018 “*School Self-Evaluation Pilot Project*” to implement systematic self-evaluation and develop structured school self-evaluation system, 34 workshops were held, with the participation of a total of 774 teaching staff (by frequency). Besides, the webpage of the “*School Self-Evaluation Pilot Project*” was launched on the website of the DSEJ and a telephone hotline was set up to support school self-evaluation and provide relevant information for schools.



“Explanatory session on School Self-Evaluation Pilot Project” – Group photo