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## The Implementation Situation of the "Continuing Education Development Plan" in the Year 2011

With the continuing development of the society, there is a need for constant update of different kinds of knowledge. To maintain our competitiveness, we must pursue continuing education so as to catch up with the development of the society. In order to support the public's lifelong learning and to continue enhancing the individual quality and skill for promoting the sustainable development of the society, the Government of the Macau Special Administration Region launched the "Continuing Education Development Plan" in July 2011. This plan provides each Macao resident aged 15 or over with a subsidy amount of Mop5,000.00 for participating in continuing education.

Since the launch of the aforesaid plan, it has been actively participated and supported by the residents and all walks of life of the society. Up to the end of the year 2011, 85,000 residents had accessed their accounts online and via the information kiosk. During this period, 63 continuing education institutions, 9 tertiary education institutions, 3 public entities, 78 associations, and 54 entities with training and education functions, i.e. a total of 207 organizations had submitted nearly 15,000 applications for offering continuing education courses, tertiary education programmes and certification examinations. After analysis and evaluation, a total of 11,954 of these applications were approved providing over 220,000 learning spaces for Macao residents.

In the year 2011, there were 44,639 residents (by frequency) participated in local items and the total subsidy amount was MOP80,968,812.00. Details of participation were as below:

Type	Continuing Education	Tertiary Education	Certification Examination	Total
Subsidy Amount (MOP)	46,505,353	34,365,177	98,282	80,968,812
No. of Participants	37,503	6,880	256	44,639

The situation of residents participating in local continuing education courses was as below:

	Vocational Skill	Academic Education	Liberal Arts	Elderly Education	Driving Practice
No. of Participants	14,423	938	11,397	1,536	9,209
Participation Proportion	38.5%	2.5%	30.4%	4.1%	24.5%

For overseas items, the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau received 1,552 applications. Of which, most applications were for tertiary education programmes, occupying 86%. The main places of study were Mainland China and Taiwan. The approval and funding situation of overseas applications was as below:

	Continuing Education Course	Tertiary Education Programme	Certification Examination	Total
No. of Applications	143	1,346	63	1,552
No. of Approvals	69	1,331	11	1,411
Funding Amount	MOP214,628	MOP6,609,700	MOP19,754	MOP6,844,082

A total of 29,036 residents participated in continuing education through this plan as at 31 December 2011. The number of participating residents and the age range were as below:

Age Range	15-24 years old	25-60 years old	>60 years old
No. of Participating Residents	13,433 persons	13,848 persons	1,755 persons

The situation of using the subsidy amount by residents was as below:

Used subsidy Amount (MOP)	1-1,000	1,001-2,000	2,001-3,000	3,001-4,000	4,001-5,000
No. of Participants	6,433 persons	5,394 persons	4,183 persons	1,437 persons	11,589 persons

For application details, please visit the website of the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau at [www.dsej.gov.mo](http://www.dsej.gov.mo). If you need more detailed information, please call the inquiry hotline for this plan at 2842 5199.

Lifelong learning can help to adapt to the changes of the new era and is also the cornerstone for promoting personal growth and sustained social development. The SAR Government will promote the development of continuing education with a more positive attitude. It is expected to further advocate the concept of lifelong learning, create diverse learning opportunities and consequently form a lifelong learning society through the implementation of this plan.

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