



My Macau

我的澳門

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Macau has transformed my life in ways that I could never have anticipated. February 16, 2003, the day when I arrived in this city, is still vivid in my memory. For me, a European in an Asian city, an entirely new stage of life was about to begin.

Before setting foot in Macau, I had regarded it as a distant, mysterious and exotic place that had been under Portuguese administration for centuries. I remember quite well watching with my father the live broadcast of the Handover of Macau to China. Neither of us could have imagined that three years later this city would become my home, to which I was both physically and affectively attached.

During my first few days in town, I was aware of a seemingly ambiguous sense of strangeness and familiarity, an oneiric effect from the people, culture and even the odours pervading the streets. One could say that it

澳門在很多方面改變了我的生活，這是我始料不及的。對於2003年2月16日踏足這座城市的那天，我仍然記憶猶新。對我這個生活在亞洲城市的歐洲人來說，一個全新的人生階段就這樣開始。

遷來澳門之前，這座經歷葡萄牙幾個世紀統治的小城，曾一度被我認為是一個遙遠、神秘、充滿異域風情的地方。我還清晰記得和父親一起觀看澳門回歸中國的實況轉播，當時我倆都沒有想到，三年後，這座城市會成為我身心都依戀着的家。

初到這個城市的首幾天，我察覺到一種既陌生又熟悉的感覺，那是來自人群、文化甚至瀰漫在街道上的氣味的夢幻效



was a dream come true, but the fact was that until just a few weeks before my boarding the flight from Lisbon, via Paris, to Hong Kong, coming to Asia had not been on my radar.

A week went by and I had the perception that despite being a small-sized city, Macau had many fascinating layers all related to a rich and diverse culture. Gradually, I became increasingly interested in the local Chinese culture and language.

This has enabled me to broaden my horizons and attempt to look at the daily life and the city itself through a different lens from that I was used to while living in Portugal. The city makes me feel welcome and provides a friendly ambience for Portuguese-speaking professionals willing to embrace this place as their home.

I was fortunate enough to arrive in 2003, the same year of the establishment of the Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries. Since then, local authorities and social groups have offered many incentives and set up favourable policies to promote the Portuguese language and culture as well as establishing ties with Portuguese-speaking countries. Since 2004, I have witnessed the opening of new casino-resorts, which has boosted the city's economy, propelling Macau to become the world's top gaming jurisdiction.

果。這可能可以解釋為夢想成真的感覺，但實際上，就在我登上從里斯本經巴黎飛往香港

的航班的前幾週，我還從未考慮過要去亞洲。

一個星期後，我有一種感覺，澳門雖然是個小城，但它有許多迷人的層面，這些層面都與豐富多樣的文化相關。漸漸地，我對當地的中國文化和語言越來越感興趣。

這讓我開闊了視野，我開始嘗試用不同於我在葡萄牙生活時的視角，來看待日常生活和這座城市本身。我在此生活感到賓至如歸，這裡的環境對於以葡語為母語的專業人士也相當友好，讓他們願意以此為家。我有幸在2003年定居澳門，也是這一年，中國與葡語國家經貿合作論壇正式成立，自始，地方當局和社會團體提供了許多獎勵，並制定了傾向性政策，以促進葡萄牙語及文化繁榮並茂，同時，與葡語國家廣結互通。自2004年以來，我見證了新賭場度假村的開業，推動了澳門的經濟發展，助力澳門成為全球最大的博彩管轄區。

To witness history in the making has been my privilege as a journalist. As a reporter and financial news editor for Radio Macau, I followed these developments closely and with great interest – I interviewed key players and told their stories to the citizens, thus fulfilling my social role satisfactorily. Later on, while working for TDM's English language news desk – as chief editor – I had the opportunity to shape the news agenda and host talk shows on current affairs with interesting guests from all walks of life.

Since March 2018, I have embraced a new exciting project: I have been editor-in-chief of a weekly bilingual (Portuguese-Chinese) newspaper. This has allowed me to learn new skills and have a better understanding of the different cultures and conceptual approaches to current affairs as I lead a multicultural team of journalists comprising reporters from Portugal, Macau and mainland China. The newspaper's name – Plataforma Macau (澳門平台) embodies the spirit of Macau as a cultural and knowledge platform between East and West, primarily focusing on China, Macau and Portuguese-Speaking countries such as Portugal, Brazil, Guinea-Bissau, Cape Verde, Sao Tome and Principe, Angola, Mozambique and East Timor.

作為一名記者，我有幸見證歷史的發展歷程。作為澳門電台的記者和財經新聞編輯，我懷著極大的興趣密切關注這種社會發展——並採訪關鍵人物，向市民講述他們的故事，從而圓滿地履行我的社會角色。後來，在澳廣視英文新聞台擔任總編輯期間，我有機會為澳廣視制定新聞議程，並主持時事脫口秀節目，邀請到來自各階層的有趣嘉賓。

自2018年3月以來，我接受了一項令人興奮的新任務：我擔任一家雙語(葡語-漢語)週報的主編。期間我帶領一支來自葡萄牙、中國內地和澳門的記者組成的多元文化團隊，過程中，我習得了新的

技能，也對不同的文化、處理時事的不同理念有了更深入的理解。報紙的名字——《澳門平台》，包含了澳門作為東西方文化和知識平台的精神核心，刊物重點關注中國、澳門以及諸多葡語國家，如葡萄牙、巴西、幾內亞比





Bringing cultures and peoples together is our motto and I believe that Macau, as a special administrative region of China, is in a privileged position to attain this goal on account of its history and special relation with the Portuguese-speaking world. When people from different nations learn about one another's language and culture, they become more tolerant and more capable of widening their views of the world, thus enriching themselves both personally and professionally.

Over the course of the 16 years of my living and working in Macau, I have been humbled by the generosity of this place and the local citizens. I am grateful for the friendship that I have forged here and for the job opportunities that I have been granted. Additionally, as a journalist and researcher, I have been to a number of cities across China and the rest of Asia. A couple of years ago, I started teaching at a local higher education institution, something that put me in contact with local youngsters, opening up my eyes to their values and to the way they see the world. Being a teacher, like being a news reporter, is an honour as we are entrusted with a role in others' knowledge acquisition or cognition of social reality. To teach is also primarily about sharing with and learning from our students.

Despite my willingness to master conversational Chinese, I still fall short of my



紹、佛得角、聖多美和普林西比、安哥拉、莫桑比克和東帝汶。

我們的口號是把不同的文化和人民凝聚在一起。我堅信，澳門作為中國的一個特別行政區，基於它的歷史和與葡語國家的特殊關係，是有能力達成這個目標的。當來自不同國家的人們瞭解彼此的語言和文化時，他們變得更加寬容，更樂於拓寬自身看待世界的眼光，從而在人格與職業技能方面更趨充實。

在澳門生活和工作的16年當中，我深深被這座城市和居民的慷慨所感動。我為在這裏建立的友誼，以及賜予的工作機會而感恩。此外，作為一名記者和研究人員，我去過中國和亞洲其他一些城市。兩年前，我開始在一所高等教育機構教書，這令我可接觸到本地的年輕人，看到他們的價值觀，瞭解他們看待世界的方式。作為一名教師，就像一名新聞記者，是一份



own expectations. However, as time goes by, I have been able to pick up Cantonese sentences and expressions, which have been very helpful in my daily life. The basic-to-elementary Cantonese that I speak has also played a role in making me feel more at home, as the feedback from the local Chinese citizens is warm and friendly.

Macau is the place I now call home. I am fortunate enough to have an original home country – Portugal, which I visit every year - and a city that has become my home and the place where I found my precious and beloved wife, 16 years ago, and where our two children were born. With them, together as one, Macau is my home and my life. This initially temporary assignment has turned into a new life. It all began when I took that first step in February 2003. As the Taoist saying goes: “A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step”.

榮譽，因為我們在他人的知識獲取或社會現實的認知上，被委以一個角色。教學的初衷也是關乎與學生分享，以及向學生學習。

儘管我希望能精通漢語會話，但還是沒有達到自己的期望。然而，隨著時間推移，我已經學會了廣東話的句子和表述，這對我的日常生活幫助極大，也讓我對這裡產生更濃烈的家的感覺，因為我會講基本日常廣東話，當地的中國人總是報以溫暖而友善的回答。

澳門是我如今稱為家的地方。我很幸運，我的根在我的祖國——葡萄牙，我每年都會回去看看，我還有座城市容身安家，在16年前，我在這裏找到了我摯愛的妻子，我們的兩個孩子也在這裏出生。與他們一起，澳門就是我的家，也是我的生活所依。這個最初的臨時任務，已經成為了新的生活。這一切都始於我2003年2月邁出的第一步。正如道家所言：“千里之行，始於足下。”

