

Another era of prosperity for Macau

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Macau is a blessed land. A unique share has always been reserved for Macau in many of the country's major development plans in recent years. While the establishment of the Greater Bay Area undoubtedly connects Macau with the mainland and other countries along the Belt and Road, what then is Macau's role as part of the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road?

The Portuguese merchants discovered this wonderland in the Far East over four centuries ago. At that time, the sea was a better alternative to land in terms of inter-continental trade between Asia and Europe. Thanks to marine traffic, Macau immediately became a trading hotspot and enjoyed decades of thriving economy followed by centuries of decline and fall. It was not until the rise of the gaming industry that Macau managed to regain prosperity and stability. But, is Macau as much as it can be already?

The 21st Century Maritime Silk Road seems to be an alternative for Macau to achieve another era of prosperity, a promising solution to our over-reliance on the gaming industry, as well as the key for our hometown to become a world-famous tourist destination. In many people's eyes, Macau's size limits its possibilities for development. However, Macau's strategical location in China makes it the perfect pivot to connect her with other countries along the Maritime Silk Road. Macau's unique historic and cultural connections with many Portuguese speaking countries serve to deepen and widen the linkages between China and the Lusophone nations. It can be expected that through further inter-cultural interaction and integration, more international investors will be attracted. In addition, Macau will be serving as a platform showcasing China's best to the world.

Opportunities being ahead of us, we must all be well prepared for changes such as the influx of foreign cultures and possibly new lifestyles brought in through the Maritime Silk Road. I, as a university-student-to-be, expect to see Macau with a more diversified economy and culture in the near future. Only through deepened international cooperation will more possibilities be opened. Maybe, at present, Macau is still best known for Blackjack games and slot machines, but in the future, I anticipate a stronger sense of pride to echo in people's minds and hearts when they speak of Macau.