

Macau and the Maritime Silk Road

Kam, Man Hin (Anthony)

I like Chinese food, and Chinese Kung Pau Chicken is one of my favourite dishes. But do you know where the ingredients for this dish originally came from? It is only recently that I have realized that without the Silk Road, we may not be able to enjoy this dish because the main ingredients are from the countries along the Silk Road.

Some of you may ask, 'What does the Maritime Silk Road have to do with Macau?' In fact, Macau has been a gateway to the outside world since the Ming Dynasty. Goods from China such as silk and porcelain were exported to Europe and foods such as chili and grapes were imported into China via Macau.

Thanks to President Xi Jinping's proposal of the Belt-and-Road Initiative, the concept of the Maritime Silk Road has been revived. In this new era, guided by the Silk Road concept, Macau is bound to create a new image for itself. For more sustainable long-term development of the economy and the well-being of the citizens, Macau should move away from her heavy dependence on the gaming industry. I am sure active participation in the new Silk Road initiative will help Macau diversify the local economy and foster new drivers of economic growth.

With its unique historical and geographical background, and the whole-hearted support of our motherland, Macau is repositioning itself as a world-class tourist destination as well as a commercial service platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries. We can make use of our competitive edge to establish economic and cultural ties with the outside world for both Macau and China. It is certainly a win-win situation, isn't it?

The 21st Century Silk Road will not only facilitate the transport of tangible goods and products, but will also make possible the exchange of knowledge, culture and technology. For a better Macau, we should equip ourselves well, step out of our comfort zone and realize our full potential by participating in the Silk Road initiative.

In conclusion, success always comes when preparation meets opportunity. Macau is ready to set out on the Maritime Silk Road. We are the new generations building a more prosperous Macau and I am ready to embrace new challenges and opportunities.