

MY DREAM

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(Julia)

This year is of historic significance to both Macau and China. We are celebrating the 21st anniversary of the establishment of the Macau SAR as well as the 71st anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

People may ask, "What is it like living in this small city of China?" Well, this is what I will tell them. Macau is my hometown. It is the melting pot of the east and west. Despite its size constraint, it is full of creative legends and heartwarming stories. This is the place where local people would volunteer for a typhoon debris clean-up. This is the place full of wonderful people and close relationships. In this people-centric community, all of us are sharing the underlying core values of hospitality and collaboration.

Since the handover in 1999, Macau has been blessed with rapid economic growth. Our GDP per capita is among the highest in the world. What's more, we have been successful in terms of a high employment rate, a good social welfare system, and a stable and prosperous economy over the past 21 years. Macau has indeed created its value of existence with its unique DNA.

I am lucky to be living in this vibrant city, which is ideal for young and energetic people. Its bright future is attributed to its wide range of interpersonal, digital, economic and political networks. The development of the Greater Bay Area entails cross-boundary collaboration in diverse sectors. Macau has no doubt found its place among the world's vibrant cities by collaborating with its counterparts in these physical and virtual contexts.

Like every other city in the Greater Bay Area and around the world, Macau is often faced with opportunities and challenges. Challenges may appear in the midst of new opportunities. But we are not afraid. We welcome both opportunities and challenges with open arms. We understand that if we are united and determined, we will overcome all obstacles hand in hand.

This small city has given me the privilege to embrace a more global context. I have been dreaming of being my own boss and setting up my own business in Macau or in the GBA. It sounds like an impossible dream now. But Macau has shaped my vision and ahead of me are countless opportunities. I believe that if I commit myself to lifelong learning, I will be able to seize any opportunity that falls upon me. Like Macau, I will have a bright and prosperous future.