

Newsletter

MACAU CULTURAL ASSOCIATION (CASA DE MACAU) OF WESTERN CANADA

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REPORT ON THE 3rd REUNION OF MACANESE COMMUNITIES MACAU - MARCH 22-26, 1999

The 3rd Reunion of Macanese Communities has come and gone ! As with previous Encontros our Association members must be immensely proud of our attendance and participation in almost every event in the extremely busy program from Sunday, March 21 right up to the finale on the evening of Friday, March 26, 1999. The Macau Encontro Organising Committee headed by Arqto. José Celestino Maneiras did a sterling job in organising the event and each and every member of that Committee are to be congratulated for a task extremely well conceived and carried out. We are grateful to the very many individuals from the Macau Tourist Information Office and other government departments who performed all the secretarial work and who helped and guided us around throughout the entire week of events, from meeting us at the Macau International Airport on our arrival on Friday, March 19, 1999 right up to our departure from Macau at the conclusion of the Encontro. We are grateful also to members of the Macau Red Cross for their help and assistance to those of us who were less able to move around.

We are ever so grateful, once again, to the Macau Government, the Fundação Oriente and all the other benefactors for sponsoring this momentous event made all the more important in the eyes of the world by the presence of the President of Portugal, His Excellency Dr. Jorge Sampaio. This last Encontro held in Macau under Portuguese administration will remain in our minds and hearts for the rest of our lives.

The 3rd Reunion was attended by members of the Macanese communities from Australia, Brazil, Canada, Hong Kong, Portugal; and the United States to strengthen the friendship, affection and respect of our communities throughout the world. Despite some of the adverse press reports on conditions in Macau, our Association's contingent numbered 72 members compared with 75 members in November 1996 for the 2nd Reunion..

The Association's official party lead by the President was met on arrival in Macau on the evening of March 19, 1999 by Exmo Senhor Carlos Gracias Coelho and our first TV exposure took place at the airport that very same evening when our 2nd Vice President, Mrs. Isabel Jorge Ma was interviewed by Teledifusão de Macau. In the subsequent days other members of our Executive Committee who had ALL travelled to Macau, (António Amante, Seérgio Pina, Natércia da Rosa & Luiz Souza) were all interviewed on television, radio and by members of the press in Macau. This is quite an achievement indeed. The President himself was interviewed on TV alongside an old 1929 family photograph of his family (he was then four years old and possibly younger !) which is on display on the top floor of the Macau Museum located in Monte Fort in Macau.

Inaugural Opening

The official inauguration and opening of the 3rd Reunion of Macanese Communities took place on Monday, March 22, 1999 and was attended by the President of the Portuguese Republic, His Excellency Dr. Jorge Sampaio, and His Excellency the Governor of Macau, General Vasco RoCha Vieira. We append below excerpts of some of the speeches delivered.

President's Address

In his address His Excellency Dr. Jorge Sampaio, President of the Portuguese Republic, stressed that his presence at the inauguration and opening session of this Encontro was a good enough reason for his coming to Macau as he wanted personally to convey Portugal's message, a message of encouragement and confidence, now that Portugal's responsibilities for the territory of Macau for over four centuries are about to end. Powers and empires may Change but the nature of people, generated and strengthened in history, shall remain in history - that of the past, the present and of the entire future ahead.

Governor's Address

His Excellency General Vasco RoCha Vieira, Governor of Macau welcomed the presence of the President of Portugal, His Excellency Dr. Jorge Sampaio at the opening ceremony of the 3rd Reunion of Macanese Communities which made the occasion a particularly special event. He extended a warm welcome to everyone present and to all members of the Macanese communities living and working in various parts of the world who are doing a splendid job in upholding the memory of their land and their forefathers as they look with great hope and expectations to a future of peace and prosperity. This great Macanese family has an outstanding capacity to integrate into diverse cultures and societies but with each new generation it is renewed, maintaining strong and vigorous ties with the land of their birth and ancestry. His Excellency the Governor threw down a Challenge to the younger generation to strengthen their cultural ties with the land of their parents and ancestors. There will always be strong ties of solidarity between Portugal and Macau and the interests of the Macanese communities and those who have deep roots in Portugal and, out of affection, historical reasons or cultural ties, will always be protected under all circumstances. His Excellency the Governor, General Vasco RoCha Vieira concluded his address by stating there can be no stronger message nor more important symbol of our confidence in the future than the presence here today of the President of the Portuguese Republic, His Excellency Dr. Jorge Sampaio.

Secretary of State for Portuguese Communities

In his capacity as Secretary of State for Portuguese Communities, Eng. José Lello stated that the great Macanese family meeting in their land of Macau for the last time under Portuguese administration was highly symbolic in nature. The Macanese diaspora must be likened to the Portuguese diaspora which took place during the Age of Discoveries. The Portuguese from Macau are also seeking in their host countries for a life better than what their homeland may be able to offer them. In most cases they are seeing their personal and family aspirations come to fruition thanks to their own creativity and remarkable vitality. They succeed admirably in creating associations in their adopted homelands that provide the necessary framework for retaining their sense of loyalty to their roots, respect for their traditions and, where possible, respect for their own way of life.

The future Portuguese Consulate General in Macau will serve the Portuguese community in Macau, thus ensuring the continuation of strong ties existing between Portuguese and Macanese lands and between the Portuguese people living in Europe and their brothers and sisters living in Macau.

President of Macau Organising Committee

In his speech Arqto. José Celestino Maneiras, President of the Macau Encontro Organising Committee, extended a warm welcome to the presence of the President of the Portuguese Republic, His Excellency Dr. Jorge Sampaio and thanked him profoundly for the tremendous honour in presiding over this solemn ceremony. He also extended a warm welcome to the Governor of Macau, His Excellency General Vasco RoCha Vieira, Members of the Government, and other Authorities, and, most of all, extended a heart-felt, fraternal "Abraco Macaense" to all the "fila-fila" and "filo-filo di Macau" from all corners of the world and especially to all those whose co-operation, hard work and perseverance has made this 3rd Encontro possible.

The Macanese - the "filhos da terra" are a blend of bloods and cultures who are familiar with different cultures and traditions. The Macanese always carried the best of both worlds within them. It is very gratifying to see the flourishing Macanese communities scattered across the globe who display a deep-rooted sense of being Portuguese whilst they enhance and dignify the name of Macau and devotedly cultivate our values and traditions.

Comendador Arnaldo de Oliveira Sales

In a short address Comendador Arnaldo de Oliveira Sales gave a brief history of Club Lusitano which has been the traditional social centre of the Portuguese Community of Hong Kong for a hundred and thirty three years or more. It has also been a focal point for that community with Changing needs. The Club is in the process of rebuilding anew on its own land in Ice House Street. This will be the third structure there in effect and is intended to meet the more exacting needs and requirements of the foreseeable future. In its own way also, the Club hopes that it will enable the community to face the future with renewed confidence in the Challenging times ahead in the next millennium.

Association's Address

In the Association's inaugural address delivered on Monday, March 22, 1999 we expressed the hope and appealed to everyone present to help make the 3rd Reunion the best one and most successful one ever. (Our hope and appeal did not go unanswered and indeed this has been the most successful Encontro ever).

Our Association appealed to all the Casas world wide to take action to revive the interests of our younger generation in order that our Macanese communities world-wide may continue to carry on with our "mode de viver".

We expressed our optimism on the future of Macau whose inhabitants will undoubtedly continue to work for the common good and prosperity of our beloved City of the Name of God. We, members of the Macanese communities, will not and must not give up on our heritage and on our sense of belonging to Macau. We will continue to feel that way about Macau after December 1999 and sincerely hope that the new Macau will also feel the same way towards their "filhos da terra" who are now scattered in all corners of the world.

Miscellaneous

We regret that space will not permit us to give an outline or excerpt of all the speeches made by speakers of all the other Casas de Macau. It is gratifying to note that the majority spoke with reverence and respect for the solemn occasion and did not resort to speaking on matters of a frivolous nature which would obviously be out of place with the Solemn Official Opening of the 3rd Reunion.

During the course of the courtesy call on His Excellency the Governor of Macau on the afternoon of March 22, 1999 Luiz Souza personally handed over a letter written by the Honourable Glen Clark, Premier of British Columbia addressed to General Vasco RoCha Vieira conveying warm greetings from the government and people of British Columbia on the occasion of the 3rd Reunion of Macanese Communities.

Club Lusitano Reception

Following the 3rd Reunion of Macanese Communities in Macau, Club Lusitano held a "Chá Gordol" Reception on the grounds of Clube de Recreio on Sunday, March 28, 1999. In a short address Luiz Souza, taking a cue from the word "nostalgia" used in the official program, romped through memory lane and provided a very quick recitation of the names of some of the more prominent Macanese sportsmen over the years.

HONG KONG

Competitive Shooting: Peter Rull and Henry Souza

Snooker & Billiards: Mano & Luiz Osmund, Spotty Pereira

Swimming: Wilfred Lawrence, Sonny Monteiro, Celeste Guterres & Lionel Roza Pereira

Soccer: Adelino (Lino) Gosano and many others

Cricket: Pereiras, Pratas, Noronhas, Gosanos

Lawn Bowls: Spotty Pereira, Saco Delgado amongst very many others. The trio of Naty Rozario, Marie Rozario and Elvie Correa Chok who represented Hong Kong internationally.

Field Hockey: Willy Reed. Probably the best ever field hockey centre half Hong Kong had ever seen.

Softball: A host of players who played for Club de Recreio, St. Joséph's Club and the Madcaps softball teams over the years..

Particular mention was made of the Gosano brothers, Adelino (Lino), Bertie, Eddie, Gerry, Zinho, & Luigi (have I missed anyone ?) who were all exceptional in a number of sporting activities.

MACAU

Field Hockey: Federico Nolasco, Alexandre Airoso, Alberto Airoso, Lourenco Ritchie, Albertino Almeida, Federico Cordeiro, Augusto Jorge, Luís Cunha, and many others.

Soccer: Alfredo Cotrim, Alexandro Cotrim, Augusto Ritchie, João Rocha, Luis Cunha, Luís Badaraco, Santiago Badaraco, Mário Alberto, António Collaco and many others.

SHANGHAI:

Soccer: Adidi Costa, Luiz Marcal, Vasco Souza, Bobby Favacho and Tom Aldeguer.

Boxing: Rigo Roliz

Softball: George Souza, Irene Souza and Verna Souza

The speaker apologised for mentioning only a handful of names in the time available but took time to digress for a moment during his recitation to call upon members of the Macanese communities present to join him in wishing Carlinho Roza Pereira, prominent in lawn bowls and water polo, and now retired in Vernon, British Columbia, Canada, a VERY HAPPY 93rd BIRTHDAY on March 28, 1999.

Luiz Souza then reminded those present that Comendador Arnaldo [Sonny] de Oliveira Sales himself has been an outstanding figure in Hong Kong's public life for many years and served with great distinction as President of the Urban Council for four consecutive terms during the 1970s. [Sonny] has also been involved with the International Olympic movement since 1951 and served as Mayor of Hong Kong. It comes as no surprise that he has been affectionately referred to as the [Portuguese Godfather] ! The speaker then concluded with the words [Viva os Macaenses do Macau, Shanghai e Hong Kong.]

APIM Alumni

The APIM Alumni Gettogether on March 24 was a great event when many of our Macau-born members including António Amante and others met up with their fellow schoolmates. It would appear that one Casa was conspicuously absent from this event because that they had no members who were born and went to school in Macau.

Our sincere thanks go to each and every member of the Macau Encontro Organising Committee lead by Arqto. José Celestino Maneiras and to all their support staff who worked so very hard to make the 3rd Encontro an unqualified success. Congratulations are in order to one and all.

We would like also to take this opportunity also to mention, by name, a number of individuals who were instrumental to helping members of our Association throughout the Encontro. They were constantly there to help us in whatever way possible. They are: Alorino Noruega, João Sales, Alfredo Rosa, Alberto Campos, António Lopes and Rui Cid. Special mention must also be made of some of the Secretariat support staff : Anne da Câmara, Luísa Ritchie, Fátima Poupinho, and Isabel Augusto. We would like to thank them all profusely for their kind help and assistance during the 3rd Reunion.

Finally we would like to thank each and every member of our own delegation for attending the 3rd Reunion of Macanese Communities in Macau recently. Their assistance and co-operation are very much appreciated. We would like however to single out Eduardo dos Remédios for the extra efforts he made in helping out Association members during the course of the Encontro. His assistance deserves a special mention in this Report. Needless to say we are also grateful to members of our Executive Committee for their contributions during the course of our visit to Macau.

From the Office of the Premier

Attached is the salutation from the [Prime Minister of British Columbia](#) to the Governor of Macau on the "3º Encontro das Comunidades Macaenses" conveyed through this Association.

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