

BOLETIM MACAENSE

A Publication of the Macau Cultural Association
(Casa de Macau) of Western Canada
"A Primeira Casa de Macau em Canada"
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The Macau Cultural Association ("A Primeira Casa de Macau em Canada") is a non-profit organization founded in the autumn of 1989 for the cultivation of Macanese culture, heritage and interest. It is the first such association established here in Canada and forms an integral part of the network of "Casas de Macau" established throughout the world. Sister organizations are located in major cities like Lisbon, Toronto, Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, San Francisco, Hong Kong and Sydney.

Our Association Website is located at www.casademacau.net
Explore our website for information of activities
"Click" into our "Photo" section and view the very many photographs

MAY 2006

"OPEN LETTER No. 2"

In essence this 'OPEN LETTER NO. 2' dated 7th May is intended to induce officials of Casa de Macau Club to respond to our allegations as itemized below. For a long time they have shown a great deal of reluctance to do so. It is also being sent worldwide by e-mail to a host of individuals for their general information.

We are fully aware that the Club is most anxious to get on with the discussions on the question of a Joint Acquisition of a Clubhouse here in Vancouver. However, there are some observations we wish to make before we, if ever, get around to the subject matter.

As far as this Association is concerned we want enough time to completely and entirely review our relations with the Club to ascertain whether or not, having regard to the incidents that have occurred in the past eleven grueling years, it is practical for us to continue in this direction. We intend therefore to go through some of the many incidents that have occurred during the ensuing years. We must ask you and everyone else to be patient as we, step by step, go over this extremely whole messy issue.

POINT 01: HOW IT ALL STARTED: The elections in 1994 were slated for 20 November 1994. At the General Meeting held on 16 October 1994 there were an unusual number of non-members expressing a desire to join our Association but not really enough to cause any concern. Then there was a second wave of new applicants who applied for membership after 2 November 1994, less than two weeks before the elections. These second lot of applicants, according to the prevailing rules at that time, would not have qualified to participate in the Elections but most importantly, on Election Day itself, these new applicants had not yet been approved as members (we meet only once a month for business) and so technically they were not eligible to vote period. It became clear that there had been a rush for membership for the sole purpose of electing one particular individual as President in the Elections and others to the Executive. The troublemakers in question then protested loudly and demanded that those applications for membership should be approved immediately in order that those individuals would be permitted to vote. The Association's position in all this was simply that these would-be members have yet to be approved for membership by the Executive and they were, quite rightly, not yet qualified to vote. The troublemakers attempted to produce a piece of paper showing a list of these individuals listed as members and arranged for their names to be even published in our newsletter but it was merely a piece of paper and carried no

validity nor legality. The individuals who had applied for membership after 2 November were simply not yet members.

DO THE TROUBLEMAKERS BELIEVE THAT THEY ARE WITHIN THEIR RIGHTS TO DEMAND A SPECIAL TREATMENT FOR A NUMBER OF THESE WOULD-BE MEMBERS (BUT NOT YET MEMBERS) THAT MIGHT HAVE CHANGED THE RESULTS OF THE ELECTIONS?

POINT 02: DEMAND TO HAVE BY-LAWS IMMEDIATELY CHANGED: The By-Laws of any association are not taken lightly. Proposed changes would have to be presented to the membership for approval BEFORE any changes are made. BUT having failed to swing the Executive Committee to allow these new applicants to vote, the troublemakers demanded that the By-Laws be changed on the spot and immediately to make it legal for these individuals, not only to be accepted as members, but also to permit and allow them to vote in the Elections that were about to take place momentarily. It became abundantly clear that we were witnessing a hostile takeover bid instigated by these troublemakers. We might add that if they had succeeded they might have taken over the control of our Association, lock, stock and barrel, including our Association's assets and that might have been the end of our Association. Some of the principal troublemakers included our ex-Vice President, Margie Rozario, Marizinha Rozario Duguay, Editor, Angelina Rozario and a few others. In any event their motion to change the By-Laws immediately and to allow this group of applicants to be accepted immediately as members and to vote in the Elections were soundly defeated. The conspiracy to get John Carvalho elected (he came third out of three candidates) and his other conspirators to the Executive in 1995 failed thanks to the timely intervention and alertness of Laura Cordeiro assisted by the majority of loyal Association members.

DO THE TROUBLEMAKERS BELIEVE THAT THE ASSOCIATION BY-LAWS MUST BE CHANGED IMMEDIATELY AS DEMANDED BY THEM?

POINT 03: ASSOCIATION MEETING ON 18 DECEMBER 1994: Having failed to achieve their objectives on Election Day on 20 November 1994, these troublemakers then returned to the next meeting on 18 December 1994 and attempted to put forward a motion to have the Elections that had taken place only a month earlier, reversed and declared null and void. Tension was still high. We recall a very youthful Antonio Amante who asked why these people were coming back for more trouble and stated that if they were not happy they should resign, or words to that effect. We think that it is most ironic that Antonio Amante is today the President of the troublemakers' Club. (But that is entirely a different story that may still be told one day). **Luiz Souza** was very critical of the attitude, behavior and deportment of a number of the troublemakers but he was also the first Association member who at that meeting on 18 December 1994, called upon both parties in the dispute to put aside their differences and to work for the betterment of our Association.

THIS WAS THE FIRST OLIVE BRANCH OFFERED TO THE TROUBLE MAKERS BY SOMEONE FROM THE ASSOCIATION.

POINT 4: LETTERS TO MARGIE ROZARIO & RICARDO ROZARIO. Laura Cordeiro wrote separate letters to both Margie Rozario and Ricardo Rozario, in response to their complaints about the Elections. In those letters Laura provided them each with a full, clear and concise explanation of the events that had occurred and explained to them why they were dead wrong in their assumptions and "ungentlemanly" behavior. There was never ever a reply from those two individuals.

THIS WAS THE SECOND OLIVE BRANCH OFFERED TO THE TROUBLEMAKERS BY SOMEONE FROM THE ASSOCIATION.

POINT 05: ASSOCIATION MEETING ON 15 JANUARY 1995. At our Meeting on 15 January 1995 Carlos Cordeiro proposed that those troubles at the Elections in November 1994 should be laid to rest and that we should carry on with the task of running our Association. This proposal received all round support **including one from John Carvalho** who turned up unexpectedly for this Meeting. Everyone at the Meeting breathed a sigh of relief and we all expected the troubles to finally go away.

THIS WAS THE THIRD OLIVE BRANCH OFFERED TO THE TROUBLEMAKERS BY SOMEONE FROM THIS ASSOCIATION.

Despite the fact that between 18 December 1994 and 15 January 1995 three separate olive branches were offered to the troublemakers, their response was to meet **secretly in the home of John Carvalho still determined in their resolve to establish their own club. Within a matter of just two months our Association offered three separate olive branches to the troublemakers who rejected them by still going ahead to form their own club.**

BY THEIR ACTIONS THESE TROUBLEMAKERS HAVE SHOWN THEIR COMPLETE LACK OF CREDIBILITY, INTEGRITY, AND SINCERITY.

POINT 06: When the results of the Elections did not go their way, these troublemakers then refused to accept the democratic Election results and refused also to accept that changes can only come about by playing the game fairly under prevailing rules and By-Laws.

POINT 07: In mounting its initial membership drive after “breaking away” from our Association, the Club used our Association’s membership list to poach and try to persuade our members into joining their Club. We are aware that this poaching is still going on right up to this very day. Margie Rozario, Ex-Executive of our Association took great pleasure in making use of our Association’s membership list without permission and without any authorization from this Association.

(a) DO YOU THINK THAT THE TROUBLEMAKERS HAD THE RIGHT TO USE OUR MEMBERSHIP LIST, AMONGST OTHER THINGS, WITHOUT ANY PROPER AUTHORISATION FROM OUR ASSOCIATION? and

(b) DO YOU THINK THAT THE TROUBLE MAKERS HAD THE RIGHT TO MAKE USE OF OUR MEMBERSHIP LIST TO TRY AND POACH ON OUR ASSOCIATION MEMBERS AND TO PERSUADE THEM TO JOIN THE CLUB?

Point 08: The troublemakers claimed that they broke away because they could not agree with the focus and direction our Association was taking.

- (1) Are they not aware that in each and every organization there are processes under which changes can be made in a truly democratic fashion? And**
- (2) Since the Club broke away, Club activities have been no different from those of this Association. Even their By-Laws are substantially similar. From our observations the Club appears to have merely parroted those activities conducted by our Association.**
- (a) WE NOTE THAT THE NAME CHOSEN BY THE TROUBLE MAKERS WAS: “CASA DE MACAU CLUB – VANCOUVER” WE FOUND THIS BEHAVIOR QUIXOTIC TO US AS WE WERE ALREADY KNOWN AS “CASA DE MACAU - VANCOUVER”**
- (b) WHY DO THEY WANT TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH A NAME SO CLOSELY RELATED TO AN ORGANIZATION WHOSE FOCUS AND DIRECTION THEY CANNOT AGREE WITH?**
- (c) WHAT THEN AND WHERE THEN ARE YOUR TRUE MOTIVES, FOCUS AND DIRECTIONS?**

Point 09: Fernanda Pina HO, a Notary Public by profession, threatened to sue our Association over the use of the words “Casa de Macau “ in our Newsletters and in our letterhead. We have copies of our Association newsletters and letterheads dating back to the 1993s and 1994s that show those words were in use by our Association long before the Club was even established. This leads us to conclude that it is really Casa de Macau Club that has used those words again without approval and authorization from our Association. Part of this problem stems from the fact that Margie Rozario, an ex-Association Council member who had access to and made use of privileged information without any official authorization from this Association. **We hold copies of our newsletters for June, September, October, November and December 1993 and for January 1994 proving beyond any doubt that the words “CASA DE MACAU OF VANCOUVER, B.C.” are printed and published in our newsletters before the Club was even established.**

WE ARE CONVINCED THAT ON THE EVIDENCE AVAILABLE FERNANDA PINA HO IS WAY OFF BASE WHEN SHE THREATENED IN WRITING TO SUE OUR ASSOCIATION OVER THIS MATTER.

POINT 10. Then there is the matter of “stealing” the use of the name “Casa de Macau of Vancouver, B.C. from our Association. **We hold copies of two letters written by Mr. Rene Ozorio, at that time President of our Association addressed to (1) Mr. Joao Manuel Amorim from Fundacao Oriente in Macau and (2) to Mr. Jose M. Calvao, Director of Fundacao Oriente in Lisbon, Portugal, both dated 1 February 1993, announcing officially that our Association members have voted to change the name of our Association to “CASA DE MACAU” of VANCOUVER, B.C.**

WE QUESTION FERNANDA PINA HO AND THE REST OF THE TROUBLEMAKERS WHETHER THEY FEEL JUSTIFIED WITH THEIR CLUB’S ATTEMPT AND THREAT TO SUE OUR ASSOCIATION IN WRITING OVER OUR RIGHTFUL USE OF THE NAME “CASA DE MACAU OF VANCOUVER, B.C.”?

POINT 11. **We have reason to suspect that a one-time President of the Club might have attempted to utter a document purporting to verify the signature of Mario Brandao of Fundacao Oriente whilst he was in Portugal and the Club’s President was in Vancouver, Canada.** Brandao unwittingly wrote a letter to inform us (and we have no reason to doubt him) that he had signed the document and had sent the signed document on to this individual in Vancouver to countersign and verify the signature. **Everyone should be aware, including any Notary Public, that the two individuals must physically be present in the same place to witness and verify any signatures to be authentic and legal. In the event it was Mr. Tony da Rosa of our Association who called Mario Brandao’s attention to this irregularity and persuaded him to prepare the right documentation through his lawyer in Lisbon, Portugal.**

POINT 12: Michael Guterres came out with his disparaging remarks in his insulting Editorial published on the Club's webpage around January 1998. Such remarks of a personal nature have no place in a civilized society and the author of that Editorial has refused to issue an apology or to issue a formal retraction on the Club's webpage. Just removing the offending article by itself is not, repeat not enough.

The Editorial refers to our Association members as "people who make lots of noise on paper but are dumb as donkeys when challenged in person. Their leaders are nothing more than puppets who have no thinking minds of their own. There is an old saying which goes: It is better to be quiet and let people think you are stupid than to open your mouth and to remove all doubt. How appropriate for those puppets!!" (Unquote)

WE SIMPLY ASK EVERYONE TO READ THE ABOVE EDITORIAL AND SAY THAT THERE IS NOTHING WRONG WITH SUCH INSULTS BEING SPLASHED ACROSS ANY WEBSITE?

INCIDENTALLY ACCORDING TO MICHAEL GUTERRES, ANTONIO AMANTE IS ALSO A "DUMB DONKEY" AS HE WAS AT THAT POINT IN TIME STILL AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF OUR ASSOCIATION.

Point 13: Club officials have shown clearly that they are money hungry and money crazy. Here are just a few examples:

- (a) In the days that immediately followed their "HOSTILE" TAKE OVER BID" Margie Rozario had the audacity to send word to our Association that the Club would expect a share of the Association assets. **After failing in their take-over bid did the Club really expect that our Association would open any purse strings to them?**
- (b) Much later during the joint discussions that took place with Dr. Gabriela Cesar, one-time President of the Foundation for the Co-operation and Development of Macau, Monica Remedios Carvalho suddenly asked point blank for a share of all the monies our Association had received from Macau. Gabriela was taken by surprise by Monica's request but recovered after a few moments and confirmed that the monies had been given to the Association and will remain with the Association. She added that the discussions going on were in respect of the possible grant to finance the clubhouse and nothing else.
- (c) In those same discussions Gabriela subsequently returned to Macau where after some weeks she sent a letter to the Club and the Association JOINTLY to make an offer for a grant to finance the clubhouse. On receipt of that offer we wrote to the Club in an attempt to discuss strategy but received no response whatsoever. It came to our knowledge later that Michael Guterres had responded on his very own and almost immediately to Gabriela to inform her that the Club would accept the offer. The Club had no right to accept the offer without consulting our Association because the offer was made jointly to both parties and in that matter of days not even the Club's own members could have been consulted. **Did Michael Guterres feel that by beating us to the punch Fundacao Macau would give the grant to the Club instead? We questioned Michael on this matter and he claimed that what he wrote to Macau was a private matter purely between the Club and Macau. That is not the case as the offer from Macau, on this particular occasion, was in respect of an offer made JOINTLY to both parties and both parties were expected to respond JOINTLY. We do wonder therefore how many times the Club has written to Macau behind our backs and they probably still do today as evidenced by Antonio Amante's letter of complaint to Dr. Victor NG of Fundacao Macau recently.**

POINT 14: In a speech of welcome to Rocha Vieira during the latter's visit to Vancouver Michael Guterres declared that the Club was in favor of "ONE UNITED MACANESE COMMUNITY" concept. It is a great pity indeed that he failed to mention also to Rocha Vieira the fact that he was also one of the ringleaders who took part in staging a hostile take over bid launched by the trouble makers; in breaking away from our Association and in establishing the Club. How in heaven's name can this individual reconcile those two entirely different points of view and how did he manage to dupe Rocha Vieira into believing him.

Does the Club intend to persuade Michael Guterres to try and dupe Dr. Victor NG, President of Fundacao Macau this time around into believing that there is complete unity amongst the Macanese Community in Vancouver and that the Club ought to be placed in charge of establishing the Macau Community Centre in Vancouver. ARE WE ABLE TO TRUST CLUB INDIVIDUALS WITH SUCH UNRELIABLE BEHAVIORAL PATTERNS?

POINT 15: Most of the time the Club (except money) really does not know what they really want. Permit us to explain this a little further. In their letter dated 13 February 1997 the Club advanced the suggestions to consolidate the two rival factions by

(a) Undertaking a survey of both organizations to ascertain whether the majority are in favor of "consolidation followed by; (b) arrange meetings of committees from both organizations followed by; © set up a series of joint general meetings followed by; (d) draw up a new Memorandum and Articles of Association followed by; (e) draw up a new set of By-Laws followed by; (f) draw up new Nomination procedures followed by; (g) draw up new election procedures followed by; (h) arrange an Annual General Meeting when fresh elections will take place followed by; and (i) **adopt another name for the new combined organization which will incorporate the words "Casa de Macau".**

YOU WILL NOTE THE ABOVE SUGGESTION CALLS FOR A WHOLE SERIES OF MEETINGS TO BE POSSIBLY ATTENDED BY A LARGE NUMBER OF MEMBERS FROM BOTH ORGANIZATIONS.

Our Association suggested simply instead that (a) members of the Club interested in the "one united Macanese community" concept should join and/or re-join the MCA; and (b) the normal MCA procedures for dealing with new applications for membership would then apply.

We are opposed to adopting any new name. MCA is the first "Casa de Macau" to be established not only in Vancouver but also in all of Canada, and its current name already incorporates the words "Casa de Macau".

By the same token if there were to be some amalgamation in California one day we would not want to see the demise of UMA Inc. because they were the original "Casa de Macau" in California. But that is really none of our business!

On another occasion MCA suggested in August 2000 that our two Treasurers should meet but the Club's response was strange to say the least. Quote from Club: **YOUR SUGGESTION THAT THE TREASURERS OF OUR RESPECTIVE CLUBS MEET IS NOT POSSIBLE. OUR TREASURER IS NOT AUTHORISED BY OUR MEMBERS TO ACT ON BEHALF OF THE CLUB. THE ONLY ELECTED OFFICER PERMITTED TO DO SO IS OUR PRESIDENT.** Unquote. So, it is only the Club's President who is allowed to act on behalf of the Club. This is democracy in its very highest form!

In 1997 the Club wanted all members from both Cases to attend the discussions. In the year 2000 ONLY your President can represent the Club. In 2006 the Club is supposed to be represented by your President and two appointed Executives.

WHY DOES'NT THE CLUB HAVE ANY CONSISTENCY IN THESE MATTERS?

When we started to write this review we promised ourselves that we should not go on beyond four pages of manuscript. That being the case we think we would like to stop to allow you and everyone to reflect on what we have written. If necessary we would be more than prepared to continue on this subject.

Since the Club broke away in 1995 there has been several attempts at reconciliation but without success. That was due to the confusing way the Club comes across in expressing their views and purposes. They have never expressed their real position and the benefits of reconciliation. They have also failed to provide an explanation as to why they really separated in the first place. All we keep hearing about is this new focus and direction but concrete examples are not forthcoming.

In view of the above it would be prudent to defer any decision on the question of the Joint Acquisition of a Clubhouse in Vancouver until we have received substantial responses from your Club in regard to all the allegations mentioned above. This "open letter no. 2" is also being copied to officials in Macau because we feel that we have an obligation to warn those officials that the Club's behavior over the years has been unreliable to say the least. This letter will, we hope, clearly explain some details of their trickery and behavior in our relations with them over the past eleven or twelve years.

REPLY TO CASA DE MACAU

On 4 May 2006 Sergio de Pina also responded to Amante's letter and a copies (for information) are attached as an ENCLOSURE to this newsletter.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Our Association has received confirmation on the dates and times of upcoming meetings to be held in the Community Room at the Metropolis in Metrotown for the months of May through to August 2006. These are as follows: -

- **Sunday, 21 May 2006** Time: 2.00 p.m. – 6.00 p.m. *Victoria Day Long Wknd.
- **Sunday, 18 June 2006** Time: 1.00 p.m. – 5.00 p.m. *Father's Day
- **Sunday, 16 July 2006** Time: 12.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.
- **Sunday, 20 Aug 2006** Time: 1.00 p.m. – 5.00 p.m.

Members should please take note of the different times that have been arranged for these Association meetings for the particular Sunday in each of those four months.

What's been happening in our Association?

Mahjong Social – 2 April 2006: We had a full house of five mahjong tables going. Dr. Alexandra Henriques, Professor at U.B.C. has joined our Association and has taken an interest in Mahjong. Cakes, cheese toast and other goodies were supplied for afternoon tea and twenty four members were present for a dinner of Porco Bafa Assa prepared by Josefina do Rosario, Minci Funsy by Luiz Souza accompanied by mixed vegetables. Everyone had a wonderful time at this gathering.

“Mad Greek Dinner” 19 April 2006: 34 members turned up for our “Mad Greek” dinner social and during that dinner we circulated the initial copy of our “OPEN LETTER” to each and every member attending the dinner. Members attending the dinner all had a great meal and members received a small rebate.

Members’ Reno Bus trip – 23-29 April 2006: The Association organized a Bus Tour to Reno with about a dozen members participating as part of a full busload. Everyone enjoyed the trip immensely but the winnings have been kept confidential!!

Mahjong Social – 7 May 2006: Another of our very successful Mahjong Socials took place with four tables of mahjong. Sergio & Fina prepared a Baked Salmon Casserole (Portuguese style) that went over extremely well whilst Alexandra Henriques cooked a Portuguese Rice Pudding for dessert.

Monthly Meeting on Sunday, 21 May 2006: Sergio & Fina will be away and Luiz Souza will take the Chair. As announced above, the meeting will be held at Metropolis in Metrotown from 2.00 – 6.00 p.m. This is the normal time schedule for our meetings.

There will not be any Mahjong Socials for the months of June, July and August 2006. The organizers are taking a break.

Monthly Meeting on Sunday, 18 June 2006: The Monthly Meeting this month will be held at Metropolis in Metrotown from 1.00 – 5.00 p.m. Please take note that the meeting will be held a full hour earlier than usual and will allow time for members to enjoy Father’s DAY with one’s family.

Chinese Dinner on Wednesday 21 June 2006: A Chinese Banquet Dinner is being organized and will take place at **WAH Sun Restaurant, 2178 Kingsway in Vancouver**. Members wishing to attend are requested to book AND pay Helen no later than Sunday, 21 May 2006. (Cost: \$20 per person less \$5 rebate for members only) Not many people are aware that 21 June is the feast day of St. Luiz Gonzaga.

Monthly Meeting on Sunday, 16 July 2006: The Meeting will be held at Metropolis in Metrotown from 12 Noon – 4.00 p.m. Please note the change in the meeting times for this month.

Association Summer Dance: A Dinner/Dance will be held at the Royal Restaurant at 200-8040 Garden City Road, in Richmond on Sunday, 16 July 2006. (Cost 35 per person less \$10 rebate for members only) Armando Santos who played for us at the New Year’s Eve Dance will be playing again for us. Ticket sales will be limited to make it comfortable for all those attending. **BOOK YOUR TICKETS EARLY.**

Macaense CD by Armando Santos.

This is the first of the series and is titled “LEMBRANCAS DE MACAU”. We have received a total shipment of 75 CDs that will be on sale at \$15 per copy. Helen Xavier will handle those sales on a first come first served basis. Part of the proceeds will be used to help finance our social events.

Dr. Alexandra Henriques, UBC

1. A copy of an article by Dr. Alexandra Henriques re “Taking Portuguese in Vancouver” is still being held back due to space constraints. It is available on request.
2. We have received a “thank you” note written by two of the students on behalf of the whole class and it reads as follows: -
Muito obrigado Sergio, por vir a nossa aula de Portugal na UBC no dia 9 de Marco. Nos agradecemos o seu discurso sobre Macau. A sua apresentacao foi muito informativa e interessante, e aprendemos muito. Obrigado maisuma vez e gostaríamosde agradecer ao Luiz, Helena e Ana Clara.
“Todos os alunos de Portuguese 102”
3. We have also received a letter of thanks from Dr. Alexandra Henriques herself dated 28 April 2006.
A copy is attached as an ENCOSURE to this newsletter.

BIRTHDAYS IN MAY

We take this opportunity to wish all our members whose birthdays fall in May and we wish them all the very best. We hope one day to publish the names of the birthday people as we have been doing in the past.

NEWS FROM MACAU

Extracts come mostly from “Macau Travel Talk” and are in keeping with our Association’s dedication to achieve a maximum level of public relations on behalf of Macau.

MACAU DUBBED ASIAN LAS VEGAS

An article written by Peter Goodman (Washington Post) recently made the headlines worldwide referring to Macau as the Asian Las Vegas. Companies that erected many of the more prominent casinos in Las Vegas are investing millions of dollars in this former Portuguese colony. **VIVA MACAU!**

MGTO STAGES SPECTACULAR

LAUNCH OF 2006 MACAU WORLD HERITAGE YEAR

Dr. CHUI Sai On, Macau’s Secretary for Social Affairs & Culture, officiated recently at the launching of 2006 Macau World Heritage Year with **Dr. Joao Manuel Costa Antunes, Director of MGTO** and **Mr. WONG Sai Hong, Deputy Director of Cultural Affairs Bureau**.

MACAU’S NEW FISHERMEN’S WHARF

Details have already been provided in our Newsletter for March 2006.

GRAND EMPEROR HOTEL – NEW CASINO OPENS

The massively gold-decorated hotel casino, Grand Emperor Hotel was formally opened recently. The HK\$2 billion project in the Nam Van area is the 16th casino under the banner of Stanley Ho’s SJM. The European style building houses entertainment and dining facilities and more than 300 rooms. Its lobby is laden with 78 pieces of 1-kilogram gold bars underneath – thus earning the name “Golden Avenue” and which is guarded 24/365.

17th Macau Arts Festival

Organizers of the 17th Macau Arts Festival has referred to this year’s festival as a “showcase of cultures” when performers from a number of countries has entertained the audience with music, dance, opera, and orchestra. The Patua Group “Doci Papiacam di Macau” staged a new play “Paradise Village” at the Cultural Centre whilst another group “Theatre Farmers” staged a story “Everlasting Beauty, a satire on the society of Macau. Both plays were very successful.

AIR MACAU – Macau’s National Airlines

AIR MACAU has opened offices in Vancouver and Toronto to service passengers to Macau. AIR MACAU has touched base exclusively with the Macau Cultural Association to assist in the promotion of MACAU and AIR MACAU in Vancouver. Our meeting so far has been very fruitful and the exchange of information has been significant. Our Association is looking forward to a mutually beneficial working relationship between AIR MACAU and the Macau Cultural Association.

Until next month,

Luiz Souza.

EDITOR, Boletim Macaense

Macau Cultural Association

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28 Abril, 2006

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Exmo. Senhor Sérgio de Pina, Presidente
Casa de Macau de Vancouver

Cara amigos da Casa de Macau em Vancouver, gostaríamos de, por este meio, agradecer-lhes pela excelente apresentação que fizeram à turma de português de primeiro ano no dia 9 de Março de 2006 na Universidade da Colúmbia Britânica.

A delegação da Casa de Macau, composta pelas senhoras Helena Xavier, e Ana Clara Rodrigues Telles, e pelo senhor Luíz de Souza, e chefiada pelo senhor Sérgio de Pina, decorou a sala com cartazes de Macau e expôs uma colecção inédita de livros sobre a história de Macau.

A apresentação, durando quase hora e meia, começou com alguns momentos da abertura dos Jogos da Asiad de 2005 em DVD, seguidos pela palestra preparada pelo presidente da Casa de Macau em Vancouver, o senhor Sérgio de Pina. Esta palestra, rica em detalhes, foi interessantíssima e expôs todo assunto possível relacionado a Macau. Os alunos fizeram com sucesso o exercício que lhes tinha sido dado, porque a língua falada estava a um nível óptimo para estes alunos de primeiro ano.

Nas aulas que se seguiram, os alunos eles mesmos afirmaram ter achado a apresentação interessante e ter aprendido muito sobre a história e cultura de Macau, lugar que muitos desconheciam até aquela aula.

Mais uma vez, gostaríamos de reconhecer a vossa contribuição ao sucesso das aulas de português no ensino superior desta província.

Atenciosamente,
(SIGNED)
Alexandra Henriques
Professora de português

COPY

Macau Cultural Association
ENCLOSURE 1
March 2006 Newsletter

Mr. Antonio Amante
President
Casa de Macau Club
P.O. Box 78087 Northside
Port Coquitlam, BC V3B 7H5

March 26, 2006

Dear Sir,

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter of March 15, 2006.

The disturbing tone and wording in your letter under reply reveal that you and the so called leaders of your Club, have no desire, intention nor the sincerity to hold any constructive and progressive discussions with a view of finalizing or realizing any remote possibility of acquiring a clubhouse in the Vancouver area.

You and a small number of your members caused all the pain and heartaches when you broke away and separated from our Association. The Macanese Community in Vancouver continues to suffer.

Your disgraceful decision and actions are well known in the entire Macanese Community throughout the Macanese Diaspora around the world, that we feel it is completely unnecessary to go into any of the shameful and embarrassing details involving some of the actions perpetrated by some of your members or so called leaders of the past.

Having stated these facts, we now turn to the important matter at hand which is the project of the planned joint acquisition of a clubhouse.

The initial proposals made in our letter of 28 February 2006 will remain unchanged, except for the date of the meeting between the two Presidents, which will now be set for 26 April 2006. The time and venue to be arranged by the two Presidents personally.

We reiterate clearly that our past and present position which is to make a concerted effort to reconcile our differences for the sake of the former Governor General V. Rocha Vieira, under the previous Portuguese administration, Dra. Gabriela Cesar, the former President of the F.C.D.M., and more recently, Dr. Victor NG, current President of the Fundacao Macau.

These attempts at reconciliation have been rejected time and again by your Club, and frankly, by your negative behavior, we have to assume that your Club has neither the desire nor the wish to see this project of the clubhouse come to fruition.

With the poor and negative attitude displayed by you and your members, there is no point in arranging further meetings as you are not willing to co-operate with us on the joint acquisition of the clubhouse in any way, unless you place unacceptable conditions even before we sit down to meet and discuss anything. Sharing a clubhouse will merely perpetuate the problems we have encountered with your Club for over ten years. In view of this, we, at the Macau Cultural Association, are not prepared to join forces with your Casa de Macau Club in any attempt at duping the Government of Macau S.A.R., or any of its Authorities or Foundations into believing that all is well in Vancouver, and to take the money and run, as it has perhaps been the case elsewhere.

There is no unity in Vancouver, and as such, we do not deserve to have a "Macau Cultural Centre", and we should not mislead Dr. Victor NG of the Fundacao Macau, or for that matter any other Authorities in the Government of Macau S.A.R. and anyone else in the Diaposra around the world.

Yours truly,

Sergio Rui da Pina
President
Macau Cultural Association (Casa de Macau) of Western Canada

- c.c. Dr. Victor NG, President, Fundacao Macau
- c.c. Dr. Jose M. de O. Rodrigues. President of APIM & CCM
- c.c. Members of the Executive Council, Macau Cultural Association
- c.c. Mr. Luiz M. Souza, MBE AE, Editor, Boletim Macaense