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Foreword by the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture

“The tourism industry has a profound effect on the economic development of Macao”. This saying is applicable to our past, present and even future. In addition to bringing considerable revenues to both the society and the residents of Macao, tourism has created a wide range of employment opportunities. In recent years, the Macao SAR Government has put much emphasis on the development of the tourism industry. Driven by the open policy, the demand for professionals within the industry has been increased. This brings about the importance of professional education and training of international standard. Since the establishment of the Institute For Tourism Studies of Macao (IFT) seven years ago, IFT has been charged with this important responsibility and made several accomplishments.

In the year 2000, IFT became the first tourism education institution in the world to be granted the two-year “TedQual Certification” by the World Tourism Organization (WTO). This certification is an international indicator for excellent quality in tourism education. Furthermore, after a careful review by WTO in the middle of this year, IFT got the renewal of this Certification. Such renewal confirms the effort of IFT in maintaining its academic excellence. Moreover, the “Macao Occupational skills Recognition System” (MORS) established by IFT for the tourism and hospitality industry has not only expanded the field of professional education, but also enhanced the quality of local tourism and hospitality industry. This system was awarded the Gold Award in “Education and Training” by the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) in spring this year.

Besides, after a 3-year joint cooperation with the European Union, the “Macao-Europe Centre for Advanced Tourism Studies” (ME-CATS) of IFT is now bringing its functions into full play. It integrates and applies innovative European concepts into the tourism development in Macao, Mainland China and even in the Asia Pacific Region. Locally, in line with the Policy Address of the Chief Executive of Macao SAR this year, IFT has fully utilized its educational resources to help the unemployed to upgrade themselves, and has provided professional training for a total of 1,200 students.

The Macao SAR Government attaches great importance to higher education. Meanwhile, IFT has devoted itself to teaching and training for the tourism sector of Macao. The future economic growth of Macao depends heavily on high quality human resources. Hence excellent professional education is the key to the success of the society. I strongly believe that IFT will continue to serve Macao with its efforts and dedication in the field of education and training.



CHUI SAI ON
Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture
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