

abstracts

The (in)compatibility between the Legal Regime of Municipalities of the Territory of Macau and the Municipal Organs Statute of the future Macau Special Administrative Region (I Part)

António Malheiro de Magalhães

(pp. 319)

As we initiated this project, we only intended to concentrate on the questions about the "(in)compatibility" between the current legal regime of Municipalities of the Territory of Macau and the statute of the "Municipal organs", as specified in the articles 95 and 96 of the Basic Law of the future Macau Special Administrative Region.

Nevertheless, we believe that we were led to go beyond our initial intention. We departed from the main subject to include the general theories of governmental decentralization and the local autonomous governments based on the principal of separation of powers, especially in its vertical dimension.

In this way, we have to mention the figure of the Municipal and its unquestionable importance under the natural and historical aspects of the autonomous governments, as well as the role of this institution played and plays in the political government structure of Macau.

Consequently, this part of the discussion occupied a large part of our text. Admitting this fact, we would have been exposed to the risk of overlooking our initial and also the most important subject. In fact we would have concluded that the current legal regime of Municipalities of the Territory of Macau is incompatible with the "municipal organs" statute of the future Macau Special Administrative Region.

This incompatibility, in public and legal terms, corresponds to the weakening of the autonomous power of the Municipal Authority and makes the Municipalities become local organs under direct governance of the future Special Administrative Region.

Language teaching: its theoretical foundations & its methods put in practice

Raul Leal Gaião

(pp. 353)

The teaching or learning of a foreign language is an art that undergoes constant redefinition. It is difficult to evaluate the efficiency of a

teaching process but neither is it easy to assess a particular method. A scientific era of language teaching settles its foundation in the concept of learning and in the scientific notion of language.

In this article, four teaching methods with different objectives are being discussed. They are the audio-oral method, the audiovisual method, the communicative method and the natural method. The audiooral method aims to create automatism in oral capacity. Learners listen, imitate and repeat the second language without the aid of translation. As a result they are able to speak spontaneously. For the audiovisual method, learners use books and audiovisual materials such as films to familiarize themselves with the basic use of the second language. They listen, repeat, understand and memorize dialogues through exercises and games. The communicative approach concentrates on the nature of language. Through autonomous exercises and partial memorization, learners study rules for construction of sentences. They obtain the capacity to communicate according to a particular intention and situation. They think and form their own statements instead of mere imitations. Auxiliary tools are books, authentic documents and audiovisual materials. The last method is called a natural approach. It intends to develop the capacity of comprehension and communication, stressing that people are able to acquire a second language only when they truly understand and know how to use it. The content corresponds to the needs and interests of the learners, who do not have to memorize grammatical rules. The learning process is an unconscious one, just like a child acquiring his mother tongue. Supporting materials are radio, television and publications and other visual means.

Despite the fact that all these methods tend to find a linguistic or psychological foundation, the resulting scientific status is only a provisional one. The learning and teaching of language remain distinct from linguistics and psychology. The art of teaching lies in the process when a student learns a language with the help of a teacher.

The first shipping route towards the East — the beginning of a new era

Huang Hong-Zhao, Li Baoping (pp. 367)

In 1498, the Portuguese fleet which was led by Vasco da Gama found the new shipping route across the Atlantic and reached India. This article attempts to reveal details about this discovery. Meanwhile, the author tries to analyze it's influences in the cultural exchange between East and West.

Pedro Nolasco da Silva and Luís Gonzaga Gomes — Sinologists and distinguished Macanese

Celina Veiga de Oliveira (pp. 373)

During the 16th century, the Portuguese settled in the Far East. In Macau, there were no common languages for communication between

the Portuguese and the Chinese, which made it different from other regions inhabited by the Portuguese in the same period. Because of this, the interpreters-translators became indispensable where they were not only linguistic but also political and diplomatic intermediaries.

These interpreters had to undergo intensive training that required them to master the civilizations of China and Portugal. Since mid-19th century, Portugal began to be responsible for the administration of Macau. Many of these interpreters-translators became Sinologists because of their capacities, cultural curiosity and the work and research they did. They have accomplished works about Chinese history and culture, and translations of some books in Chinese. Researchers who were not bilingual were able to read these books because of their efforts. Two of these distinguished interpreters-translators in question are Pedro Nolasco da Silva and Luís Gonzaga Gomes. Their merits are ranked in a very high level in the history of Macau.

Unearthing primitive archives. Reappearing the original features of the history of Macau

Wu Zhiliang, Jin Guo Ping

(pp. 379)

The translations of historical data about China and Portugal enable researchers compile the history of Macau in a scientific and realistic way. In the past few years, Macau, China and Portugal have paid much attention in unearthing, organizing and publishing historical primitive files. The Macau Foundation, being of the pioneers in this job, has completed a number of collections covering the history of Macau as well as the relations between China and Portugal.

The Macau Foundation has a series of research plans. The first of which is the "Collection of documents for the historical relations between Portugal and China" compiled by António Vasconcelos de Saldanha, translated by Jin Guo Ping and published jointly with the University of Macau. Until now two series in seven volumes have been published. Another book in Chinese published in 1998 is the "Negotiations between China and Portugal about Macau". In this book, documents from 1849 to 1946 are included to reveal the political negotiations between China and Portugal about Macau. "The diary of General Régio Joaquim Machado" is still another which discloses the inside story of the Sino-Portuguese talks to delimit the boundaries of Macau in Hong Kong.

Other editorial projects in process are "Official letters in Chinese of the National Archive of Portugal", "Translations of Chinese letters and the Portuguese letters of the National Archive of Portugal" and "Collection of documents about Macau during the Ming-Ching Period", etc.

The unearthing and publication of historical documents should be systematic. Apart from financial support, we need researchers who are able to select documents with academic and historical value. The difference in languages constitutes the biggest barrier for the cultural

exchanges. The multi-lingual collections of the Macau Foundation lay the foundation for the publication of the Macau history with a scientific base, and thus revealing the cultural value of Macau.

The Portuguese General Consulate in Macau — another way to reveal its presence

Carlos Frota

(pp.391)

Portugal intends to prolong its historical relationship with China by reviving its presence in Macau. In this article, the author looks into the strategic, cultural, historical and human significance of the future Portuguese General Consulate in Macau, stating that its setting up is not for mere political purpose, but also historical, cultural and human reasons. The S. Rafael Building, where the future office is situated, will provide up-to-date information about various aspects of Portugal. Inside the building, there is a Portuguese Cultural Center, which is formed in collaboration with the Institute of Camões and the Oriental Portuguese Institute, with an aim to maintain Macau's cultural link to Portugal. Besides the General Consulate offers other services like library, language learning, promotion of tourism and trade, etc.

Meanwhile, the residence of the Consul General, the Bela Vista Hotel, is carefully selected to enhance efficiency during the Consul's service in Macau, whose main job is to promote the country. It will be decorated with Portuguese characteristics and dignity, for official functions as well as social contacts between the Portuguese and Chinese.

Moreover, The author thinks that just to have the physical installations is insufficient to guarantee public service. To achieve innovative job, a motivated and creative team with enthusiasm is needed. They should be devoted to the noble task of maintaining, in the spirit of friendship and mutual understanding, the relationship of two people who respect and understand each other in the past four and a half centuries.

Public Administration Reform in the 21st Century

Jorge Bruxo

(pp. 399)

In studying the historical evolution of public organizations and services, we come up with the following four models:

1. Seigniorial or Patrimonial Public Administration; 2. Bureaucratic or Liberal Public Administration; 3. Social Public Administration; 4. Postmodern, Managerial or "Citizen-run" Public Administration.

The public administration reform is now entering the fourth stage in which we look for new objectives and adopt advanced technologies, methods, and mechanisms, which have been successfully applied in the private commercial sector. But that does not mean that there are no differences between the public and the private sectors, especially when

we consider the origin and nature of the functional power, the source of finance and the success criteria in implementation.

To realize public administration reform, we must create services that are given parallel power and have a great influence on the center of decision-making.

Modern techniques of reengineering, which have had excellent results in private commercial sector, can be applied in public organizations and services especially when the administrative reform aims at functional reorganization.

A client-orientated Public Service — Implement of qualified system of "Quality's Charter" and "ISO 9000"

Eddie Kou

(pp. 409)

Considering the client playing an important role in the development of public service, this article gives a brief introduction of the qualified system of "ISO 9000" and the experience of implementing this system in Malaysia.

The author suggests that firstly, to build up the system of "Performance Pledge" and secondly, to implement step-by-step the qualified system of "ISO 9000" in the administration of Macao.

Self-evaluation: objectives and results

Jorge Manuel Morais Costa

(pp.423)

The author starts with a brief introduction of administration concepts like organization, management objectives, control system and organizational culture. Then he comes to the main subject — EVALUATION. He thinks, "The administrator who would like to achieve efficiency has to evaluate their work results." He further defines evaluation as a continuing, systematic and carefully structured process that analyses the resources used and the results obtained. According to a predefined aim and criteria, an evaluation can detect insufficiencies and thus the organization can make necessary changes and corrections.

He mentions that, in the process of evaluation, it is important to decide the type, the aim and the content of evaluation.

Moreover, the author explains: "The evaluation of public services is the central element for the modernization of public administration. In other words, the process of evaluation is a means to guarantee and protect the legal rights of citizens and to satisfy their needs and expectations at the same time."

According to the author, to ensure the carrying out of self-evaluation, the Government of Macau has to be practical, transparent and openminded. Only in this way would the administrators dare admit that their organization is not functioning well and problems exist in different areas. They are no longer faced with fear and obstacles.

With this freedom of speech and action, we can trust the Government of Macau and thus its quality of services.

As a conclusion, the author points out that people's way of thinking has to be changed as well. He says: "Today the senior administrators have to think and communicate in a different way. The existing system has to face a new logic of creativity. There are a lot of new concepts for us to explore and different ways of operations put in practice. And it is a must to carry out self-evaluation."