

abstracts

Staffing in the Civil Service between 1980 and 1988

Isabel Barreto

(pp. 353)

The Home Office has been carrying out annual surveys on manpower within Macau's Civil Service since 1985 in order to gather the data required for formulating new staffings policies.

The Home Office only has reliable information from 1985. Prior to this date there were no surveys providing statistics relating to the Civil Service and so the budget and other sources have been used to establish estimates of the numbers of staff. A pattern in the development of the Civil Service has been arrived at by using these figures and other data gathered from staffing levels in 1987 and 1988.

This study covers all public departments in Macau, the Macau Security Police, institutions with administrative and financial autonomy, the municipal councils and special projects departments. It does not include public companies and institutions.

The Labour Exchange: making use of our manpower

Fernando Passos, Luís Fonseca

(pp. 365)

One of the Government's priorities in managing Home Affairs is the increased utilization of local labour in the Civil Service.

The Home Office has carried out extensive studies in an attempt to train locals for integration into the Civil Service. The end result has been the introduction of Portuguese and Chinese language courses intended to encourage staff to use both languages in public departments, and a study programme in Portugal. Most important, however, has been the introduction of a local labour exchange intended to attract available manpower in Macau and to respond to staffing requirements in the Civil Service.

The authors give a description of the ideas behind the introduction of these policies in November 1984 and chart the most important phases in the development of the plan. Furthermore, they suggest some possible improvements in the system and provide relevant data.

University education and manpower resources in Macau's Civil Service: The Social Sciences

Rui Rocha

(pp. 377)

Macau requires varied sources for recruiting trained staff, particularly for higher education, in view of the fact that there is a shortage of some graduates in high demand on the local labour market.

This shortage is particularly noticeable in the Social Sciences where the present shortfall is as high as twenty per cent.

The traditional solution has been to look to Portugal to make up the shortage but the main disadvantage has been the comparatively short time for which these employees stay in Macau, leading to a potentially difficult situation in which the Government of Macau could suddenly be confronted with an acute shortage in staff.

Thus in order to recruit locally there must be local training which the author believes should be done by the University of East Asia in response to the labour market.

Macau and cultural exchange between East and West

leong Wan Chong

(pp. 385)

Although the Macanese community has undergone major changes in the last few centuries, the dominant culture in Macau is Chinese, with a bias towards the cultural characteristics of Southern China. Increasingly, however, Macau has seen the introduction of elements belonging to western culture and more specifically Portuguese culture with its heavy Latin influence.

The author defines and describes Macau's own culture, both past and present by examining the various social and material effects on the daily life of different social classes. The author believes these effects are the result of Portuguese culture having lived side by side with the dominant Chinese culture for so many centuries and in fact form a cultural heritage which will be an extremely important source for the future development of the Territory.

Cantonese and romance languages (comparative syntax)

T.A.Cheng

(pp. 405)

There has been extensive study in China in the field of traditional linguistics. Results have been particularly fruitful in the areas of phonology, philology and the semantic analysis of ancient texts but as far as grammar itself is concerned, nothing of any lasting importance was produced in China until the end of the last century.

Research in this area is, by its very nature, strongly influenced by Latin concepts of grammar and thus we have an almost generalized tendency towards polishing Chinese grammar according to Latin norms, to impose upon the language concepts which in fact blur its true nature. This situation has only changed in the last forty years.

Increasingly, Chinese linguists are moving away from traditional approaches and are trying to understand the structures inherent to their own language.

This article is based on empirical evidence with an aim to contributing yet another perspective in the field of comparative studies. Of the three methods used in linguistic studies, namely observation, description and explanation, the emphasis here lies on observation with the occasional description.

The railway in the Pearl River Delta linked to Macau will become an accelerator for economic development in the region.

Cheang Tin Cheong, Leong Man U, Kio Pang Nin

(pp. 423)

The article analysed the necessity and profitability of building a new railway in the western side of the Pearl River Delta connecting it with Macau. The study was based on field research, putting several options, among which the line connecting MacaulZhuhai with the Guangzhou-Zhanjiang line passing through Jiangmen and Kaiping is considered by the authors to be the best.

Remarks on the Macau-Guangzhou railway

Wong Chao Son

(pp. 439)

The author commented on the abovementioned paper, and suggested that the new railway should pass cities and towns nearer to the coast where the economy is more developed, hence easier to collect funds for building it.

Different opinions on the theme are encouraged in the discussion of the theme in order to get the best design.

Transport and the development of the Pearl River Delta: a brief note

Gary Ngai

(pp. 443)

Two studies were sent to us in response to Gary Ngai's article «The transportation system and the development of the Pearl River Delta as seen from Macau» in Administração 3/4. We are delighted to include them in this issue.

In a brief note which accompanies the articles, Gary Ngai expresses his agreement with the study produced by three researchers in Canton University's Academy of Geography while he raises some doubts with reference to the article by Vong Chao Son, a member of Macau's Social Sciences Association.

Gary Ngai's note ends by welcoming the two articles as extremely desirable contributions towards debates which must be encouraged in order to reach better solutions.

Demographics in Macau

Alice de Matos

(pp. 447)

Macau has undergone a demographic shift as a result of its social and economic development. This is a situation which has also been seen in other East and Southeast Asian industrialized nations.

Taking into account the birth and death rates and thus the natural increase in the population, it is possible to outline different phases in development. In the case of Macau, however, there are some difficulties in establishing time limits given the lack of data covering a suitably long period of time.

The process begins with a high number of infant deaths and deaths which implies a slower rate of population growth. Then infant mortality is maintained while there is a reduction in the death rate giving rise to an obvious increase in population growth. Next follows a period in which the population increases at a slower rate because of a drop in the birth rate and finally both birth and death rates even out at a very low level leading to a very gradual increase in the population.

The Budget in Macau's Civil Service (II)

Jorge Bruxo

(pp. 455)

In the first part of this article, published in Administração 3/4, the author outlined the principles underlying the budget system and described the conditions under which Macau's Annual Budget is developed.

In this the second part the author examines the structure of the Annual Budget giving a static analysis in order to better understand the various parts of which it is composed prior to looking at how the budget system actually works once it is put into practice.

The author uses as his base the laws presently in force, namely Articles 54 and 66 of Macau's Organic Law, and also Macau's Annual Budget for 1989 and the Report on Planning Investments — PIDDA, 1986/87.

Air Quality Monitoring Project in Macau

J.P.E. Santos, R.A. Carvalho, A. Viseu

(pp. 465)

On 1987, an Air Quality Monitoring Project began to be implemented in Macau, supported by the Macau Government and carried out by the Meteorological and Geophysical Service of Macau (SMGM) in cooperation with several governmental services and the scientific and technical support of the National Institute of Meteorology and Geophysics of Portugal.

This article presents a brief description of the whole components of this project and was presented in an international gathering of pollution experts from all over the world about the Pollution in the Urban Environment in Hong Kong last year.

(Tradução inglesa de Marie McLoud)