The First Step in Strengthening Macau’s Sino-Latin Bridging Role

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Abstract

Macau, the former Portuguese enclave and present Special Administrative Region of the People’s Republic of China, based on the Sino-Luso Joint Declaration to preserve its cultural identity, has moved an important step towards implementing the strategy of strengthening its role as a platform and bridge to promote China’s ties with the Roman speaking countries. In October 2003, Macau hosted the first official business meeting between the PRC and 7 Portuguese speaking countries, attended by the Vice-Premier in Beijing, urging Macau to play a better bridging role in the future to reduce the gap between China and the Portuguese speaking community in economic and cultural terms. To attain this goal, it is necessary to improve its hard and soft ware qualities, such as in language and professional training, upgrading its judiciary and administrative system, as well as its information and service industries. It is possible to do so with the support of the strong financial backing of the gaming industry which is entering a new boom in the 21st century. It is estimated that with this gaining momentum, Macau can become an important hub to bring the most populous country with the highest speed in economic growth in the world, closer to the Latin speaking community, especially in Latin America, which altogether comprises 1/6 of the world population.