

## “The 33rd National Lotus Flowers Exhibition and the 19th Macao Lotus Flower Festival” to be held in Macao in June

Macao, a city with an area of about 32 square kilometres and a population of over 600,000, is located in the southern part of China. It is one of the two special administrative regions of China. Before land formation by reclamation on Macao Peninsula, its terrain was likened to a lotus in bud and hence its name “Blessed Land of Lotus”. A lotus in blossom is on the regional flag and regional emblem of the Macao Special Administrative Region. Its image and name are also used for its currency and landmarks, etc. Thus, it can be seen that Macao has long history with lotus and Macao people have special love for lotus flower.

In June every year, “National Lotus Flowers Exhibition” and “Macao Lotus Flower Festival” are held in Mainland China and Macao respectively. In the past, Macao had organised twice “National Lotus Flowers Exhibition”: The first time was in 2000 shortly after Macao’s return to the motherland and it was the start of “Macao Lotus Flower Festival”; the second time was in 2009 in celebration of the 10th anniversary of Macao’s return to the motherland. This year, in celebration of the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People’s Republic of China and the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Macao Special Administrative Region, Macao gained the right to organise “National Lotus Flowers Exhibition” for the third time. The Municipal Affairs Bureau will co-organise “The 33rd National Lotus Flowers Exhibition and the 19th Macao Lotus Flower Festival” with China Flower Association on the theme of “The Scent of Lotus Perfumes Macao for Two Decades”, which carries special meaning to China and Macao.

“The 33rd National Lotus Flowers Exhibition and the 19th Macao Lotus Flower Festival” will be held from 3 to 16 June. There will be two major exhibition venues. The principal venue will be in *Avenida da Praia* in Taipa. On the theme of “Splendours of the Tang Dynasty”, the overall design will use the theme flower ‘Haojiang Qing’ (*Nelumbo nucifera* cv. ‘Haojiang Qing’) and other flowers to showcase the splendours of the great era of the Tang Dynasty, bringing the visitors to meet the lotus fairies. The second venue will be in Tap Seac Square in Macao and there will be 26 distinctive exhibition areas of lotus from provinces and cities in China, which feature the customs and characteristics of different regions in China. In addition to the exhibition areas, there will be over 13,000 potted lotus displayed across Macao, along with a series of activities to promote the lotus culture. The activities will include “Retrospective Exhibition on the Past National Lotus Flowers Exhibitions”, floral art exhibition, photography exhibition, lotus culture exhibition, competitions of various kinds, workshops, etc. This event will allow those who like lotus flowers to appreciate them in Macao and celebrate the festival.

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