

70th Anniversary of the Macao Federation of Trade Unions

The labour movement in Macao has a long history, and the birth of the trade unions can be traced back to the 1920s. The trade unions have gone through different stages in a century of vicissitudes, such as the founding, banning and revival. In 1949, inspired and called by the founding of New China (People's Republic of China), some patriotic trade unions in Macao advocated the establishment of a joint organization to unite the forces for supporting the national construction and protecting the rights and interests of workers. In spite of the relatively unstable political and social situation in Macao, twelve trade unions broke through difficulties as well as obstacles, and the "Macao Federation of Trade Unions" was formally founded on 20th January, 1950.

In the early days of its establishment, the Federation took "Patriotism, Unity and Welfare" as its call and made great efforts to develop the Trade Unions' work with the main line of supporting the construction of the Motherland, striving for workers' rights and interests, establishing medical facilities and schools, as well as developing workers' welfare services. During this period of time, the development of labour movement allowed the Trade Unions to expand its membership continuously. The Federation and its subordinate trade unions have laid a strong social foundation in Macao and became the most representative labour organizations in Macao.

With the reform and opening up of the Motherland, the formal establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Portugal, and the transformation of economic structure of Macao, the focus of the Federation has gradually shifted to participating in the legislation of the labour legal system, opposing the import of foreign labour policy by the Macao-Portuguese government, as well as actively taking part in the work during the transition period of Macao's return to the Motherland. Meanwhile, employee service and social service undertakings of the Federation developed rapidly at this time. Various service organizations were set up successively in all districts of Macao, the "Employee Welfare Fund" was established in order to provide emergency assistance to workers in various industries systematically.

Since the return of Macao to the Motherland, the Federation has insisted on loving the Motherland and loving Macao, and participated in the affairs of the Macao Special Administrative Region with the sense of ownership, as well as promoted the successful practice of "one country, two systems"; meanwhile, it has earnestly fulfilled the responsibilities of the builders of the MSAR, the defenders of workers' rights and interests, and the promoters of a harmonious society; in addition, the Federation keeps pace with the times and strengthens its own construction, consolidates and develops the grass-roots trade unions, and expands the social service network.

We are proud of what we have achieved in the history; and we have a long way to go in the future. In the face of new opportunities and challenges, we will adhere to our beliefs to be unity and solidarity, carry forward our fine traditions and devote ourselves to reform and innovation. And we will hold together and rely on the grass-roots organizations and the masses of workers to compose a new chapter in the history of patriotic industry of trade unions.

On the occasion of the 70th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Macao

Federation of Trade Unions, to mark its important historical milestone, Macao Post and Telecommunications Bureau issued the stamp with the theme of the "70th Anniversary of the Macao Federation of Trade Unions" on 20th January, 2020. This issue includes a set of four stamps on the theme of "Unity for the building of the Federation", "Establishing medical facilities and schools", "Services for physical and mental health" and "Defense of rights", and a souvenir sheet showing the epitome of the 70-year history of the Macao Federation of Trade Unions.

Macao Federation of Trade Unions
Translation: NextVector Consultants Ltd.