



**T**HE hotel industry witnessed a 16 percent year-on-year increase in annual revenue in 2012, reaching MOP21.93 billion. Information from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) indicated that there were 100 hotels and guesthouses operating last year, an increase of five year-on-year, and comprising 67 hotels and 33 guesthouses.

Room sales, the major source of revenue, increased by 20 percent to MOP10.25 billion, with five-star hotels making up 78 percent of the total re-

## Hospitality industry pockets MOP21.93b in 2012

venue.

In addition, revenue from food and beverage (MOP4.91 billion) and space rental services (MOP3.83 billion) also registered year-on-year increases of 21 percent and 25 percent respectively.

The number of staff employed increased by 20 percent year-on-year to 39,647 at the end of 2012. Eighty percent of those workers (31,695 people) were recorded as working in five-star hotels. Meanwhile, guesthouses re-

corded only 178 workers, less than one percent of the total. The total expenditure of the hotel industry amounted to MOP19.45 billion in 2012, up by 26 percent year-on-year. The GVA (Gross Value Added), which measures the sectorial

contribution to the economy, was MOP10.34 billion, up by 11 percent year-on-year. With new hotels beginning operations, the DSEC recorded Gross Fixed Capital Formation as tumbling by 50 percent to MOP8.24 billion in 2012.

## New industrial property bill to be presented next year

**T**HE legal regime regulating industrial property, including the protection of trademarks and patents, is under revision, the Director of the Economic Services Bureau revealed yesterday. On the sidelines of a seminar titled "Industrial Property, Unfair Competition", which took place at the Rui Cunha Foundation, Sou Tim Peng said that the government is due to present a new bill in the beginning of next year, but did not disclose further details regarding the changes.

"We will present the bill next year, but currently [the diploma's revision] is still in the discussion phase and I am unable to disclose any further details," he stated. Speaking to reporters, Sou Tim Peng revealed that the government is revising the legal regime



of industrial property, which includes the protection of trademarks as well as patents. He explained that they intend to "enlarge the scope of protection", making the regulations closer to other international conventions, so as to include intellectual property rights as well.

Moreover, the bill is also intended to encourage

people and enterprises to register their trademarks or brands, allowing them more legal protection.

As an officiating guest, Sou Tim Peng attended the Rui Cunha Foundation seminar on Industrial Property and Unfair Competition. The seminar was conducted by two speakers, lawyer João Assunção and Gonçalo Cabral, legal adviser

to the Secretary for Economy and Finance.

Speaking about the industrial property diploma, Gonçalo Cabral stressed that over the years he had noticed various flaws in the document. Lack of rigor, lack of clarity and inapplicable clauses are just some of the issues he pointed out.

"I don't think this diploma was well drafted,"

he said, referring to the current industrial property legal regime, which was enacted in 2000. He went even further to say that "this diploma was not drafted for Macau," as it was inspired by European legislation on the matter and therefore did not take into account the local market and its realities.

Referring to specific clauses in the diploma, he commented that "those who do not know the European law might not understand this regulation and what kind of protection it implies."

During the seminar, Gonçalo Cabral provided the audience with examples of specific flaws that he has discovered in the regulation; for instance, the clause regulating the "appellation of origin and geographical indications". In his opinion, there isn't a huge differ-

ence between these two concepts. "This complexity is unnecessary," he declared.

Gonçalo Cabral believes the regulation on industrial property should be revised, but stressed that such a process can "take many months." He defended the diploma's revision, emphasizing that "it is not a diploma that can be rapidly improved. It takes time and implies a great reflection; it would be ideal to have a large public consultation, with lawyers, companies and the community [involved in the matter]," he concluded.

Lawyer João Assunção holds a similar opinion on the diploma. He believes that there is a need to revise regulation on industrial property and to introduce further clauses which would be included in an autonomous diploma. **Staff reporter**



### HOLLYWOOD ROOSEVELT HOPES TO BRING SOPHISTICATION

The Hollywood Roosevelt hotel is scheduled to open by mid-2015. Promoters hope to bring Hollywood glamour and "a different lifestyle"

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### NEW INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY BILL TO BE PRESENTED NEXT YEAR

The legal regime regulating industrial property, including the protection of trademarks and patents, is under revision

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### EUROZONE DEBT BURDEN RISES AGAIN IN Q2



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## WORLD BRIEFS

**CHINA** A newspaper makes a rare front-page appeal for police to release one of its reporters after he was detained for writing reports alleging financial misdeeds at a large, state-owned construction equipment company. *More on p11*

**CAMBODIA** Thousands of opposition supporters begin a three-day rally to protest what they say was a rigged election and the illegitimate return to power of Prime Minister Hun Sen. *More on p14*

**AUSTRALIA** More than 100 fires have killed one man and destroyed more than 200 homes in New South Wales state. A military training exercise ignited the largest of the wildfires that have ravaged Australia's most populous state over the past week, investigators say.

■ The Australian Rugby Union will slash test match payments to players from next season and impose salary caps on the five domestic Super Rugby clubs to curb escalating costs.

**INDIA** accuses Pakistani troops of firing guns and mortars on at least 50 Indian border posts overnight in disputed Kashmir, calling it the most serious cease-fire violation between the nuclear-armed neighbors in a decade. *More on p12*

**GERMANY** Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservatives have launched negotiations with Germany's main center-left party on forming a new government — kicking off what is expected to be lengthy haggling over policies and positions.

■ The European Central Bank has launched a yearlong review of 130 of Europe's biggest banks, a huge exercise that is meant to get to the bottom of the problems plaguing the continent's financial system.

# Hotel industry pockets 21.93b in 2012, up 16% year-on-year

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AP PHOTO



## China, India sign border cooperation agreement

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