

help of André Couto

MACAU GRAND PRIX HISTORY EXHIBITED AT RUI CUNHA FOUNDATION



Every time one of the kids stopped, a group instantly surrounded Couto, shouting: "Me, me, me, it's my turn." One of them asked: "André, André...did you win [at the Macau Grand Prix]?"

He did win. André Couto finished second in the Audi R8 Cup. "It felt really good to be

on the podium. I reached second place and was very happy, of course," he stated, adding that he still doesn't know what is awaiting him next year. "The season begins in March. I still don't know in which country I will be racing, so everything is open at this stage," he added.

Born in Lisboa, André Couto moved to Macau at the age of four. Influenced by the annual Macau Grand Prix, he started his career in the territory, later achieving fame for winning the F3 Grand Prix in 2000. Couto has competed in several car racing championships since then. **Staff reporter**



THE story of the Macau Grand Prix was displayed at the Rui Cunha Foundation until November 17. By viewing the 32 posters, those visiting the exhibition could learn more about the stars of the motor-racing event in the past, such as Ayrton Senna, Michael Schumacher or Teddy Yip. But the recent years of the MGP were also highlighted, providing visitors with further details on local driver André Couto and others like Michael Rutter, Edoardo Mortara and António Félix da Costa, who won last year's race.

Through the exhibition, visitors went back in time to know how it all started: in the spring of 1954, three residents gathered at the Hotel Riviera to discuss the organization of a treasure hunt racing event. They were not aiming high, as Macau had merely a few hundred cars at the time. Having contacted the Automobile Club of Hong Kong, the organization convinced them that the proposed circuit was similar to one of the most famous ones, located in Monaco. The idea to set up a Grand Prix began to flourish.

The exhibition also told the story of many drivers who have competed over the last 60 years in the MGP.

André Couto, for instance, was one of those featured. As a local resident, he became one of the city's heroes in 2000 when he won the F3 Grand Prix. On the 60th edition he went back to the podium driving an Audi.

Famous quotes from similarly famous drivers, like Schumacher, were also highlighted. "The Macau Grand Prix has contributed considerably to the popularity of racing in Asia, and it continues to do so," he says.

The different circuits of the MGP were featured in the exhibition with a special emphasis on the famous Guia Circuit. Titled "Guia Circuit - 6.2 Kilometers of Macau History", the poster told more about the different and challenging bends along the way, particularly the Mandarin Oriental Bend or the so-called Hotel Lisboa Bend.

Furthermore, the exhibit also served the purpose of reminding visitors of special moments, especially victories of the MGP heroes.

In addition, visitors could learn more about how the MGP organizers promoted the event throughout the world. **Staff reporter**



be hard to come back here and win it. But at least we pushed him [Lynn] hard and he had to sweat for it. He drove a magnificent race, so well done to Alex.

- Pipo, you had some good wheel to wheel racing out there. Was it good fun?

Pipo Derani - It was really fun and a hard race,

starting with old tires... We had to use the tires to get a good qualifying lap on the second qualifying. It was really hard over the race, because we had under steering problems. I'm really happy to be on the podium, last year we finished sixth and this year I came thinking that I had to improve my position and we did it. **PB**

COSTA ANTUNES: "THE GRAND PRIX WAS A GREAT SUCCESS"

JOÃO MANUEL Costa Antunes, the coordinator of the Macau Grand Prix Committee, has proclaimed that this year's event "was a great success." Celebrating its 60th anniversary, the MGP was held over two long weekends. Speaking to Radio Macau, Costa Antunes was very positive about the success of the motor-racing event. "Races were quite emotional, with invigorating finals over both weekends. Today [Sunday], our tickets were sold out. We had 30,000 people on the circuit," he told Radio Macau. The revenue also pleased Costa Antunes, "It reached over MOP65 million, and

the new facilities cost less," he said. The coordinator of the Grand Prix added that ticket revenue had increased by 50 percent this year, reaching MOP15 million. Organizers had promised to minimize traffic issues and the coordinator stated that the impact of the Grand Prix on the city's transport infrastructure "was lower than last year", thanks to the support of the people in Macau. Costa Antunes has revealed that he will retire in 2015, but stressed that before that "there will be at least one more Grand Prix. There are always ways for people to get involved in the projects," he said.



**A GUIDE TO THE DELTA
OFF THE BEATEN TRACK**
A Pearl River Delta Guide
was launched last week
aimed at getting travellers
off the beaten track



**SMES APPEAL TO CHUI SAI ON
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The Chief Executive met with
a business delegation that
demands a more liberal policy on
human resources



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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS

CHINA Jailed Chinese political activist Liu Xiaobo, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2010, is appealing his conviction for subversion, his lawyer said. Liu gave approval to his wife Liu Xia to entrust his lawyers to file the appeal last week, lawyer Mo Shaoping said yesterday by phone. Liu was sentenced to 11 years in prison in late 2009 after he helped organize Charter 08, a letter signed by more than 300 Chinese academics, lawyers and activists calling for direct elections and freedom of assembly.

Relatives of a Christian pastor said yesterday that police in a central Chinese city have detained the religious leader and about 20 churchgoers in a crackdown on a state-backed church involved in a local land dispute. Pastor Zhang Shaojie was taken away from his church in Henan province's Puyang city on Saturday by police who provided no identification or basis for the detention, Zhang's wife, daughter and son-in-law said.

JAPAN Workers will begin removing radioactive fuel rods from one of four reactors at the crippled Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant, Tokyo Electric Power Co. said. The painstaking and risky task is a crucial first step toward a full cleanup of the earthquake and tsunami-damaged plant. *More on p12*

INDONESIA Two volcanoes erupt prompting warnings for flights and evacuation preparations. Mount Sinabung in North Sumatra province unleashed volcanic ash as high as 8,000 meters (26,250 feet), the highest of its eruptions in recent days, said government volcano expert Surono.

PAKISTANI police say the government has lifted a curfew in the garrison city of Rawalpindi that was imposed after eight Sunni Muslims were killed in a sectarian clash with Shites marching in a religious procession.

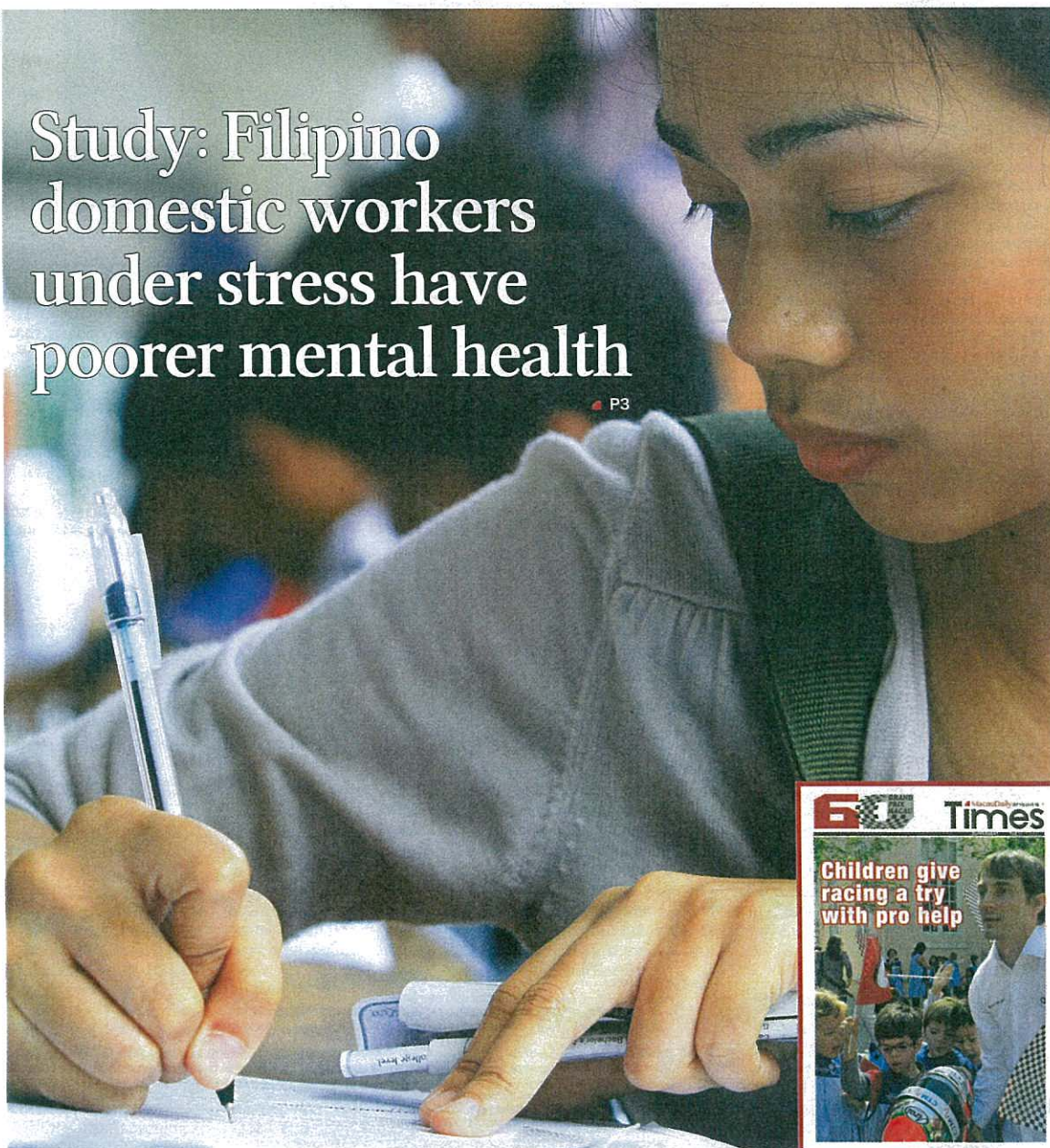
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Times

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