

# **Analysis Report: 14 Years After Macao's Handover**

- **Political operations steadily develop; the Legislative Assembly election concluded successfully.**
- **The economy remains stable; the single-industry structure remains a closely watched issue.**
- **The judiciary remains independent, though judicialization of political issues emerges.**
- **Mainland-Macao relations grow closer.**
- **The international community affirms Macao's development but has concerns over civil, political, human rights and freedom of the press.**
- **Substantive relations between Taiwan and Macao continue to improve.**

## **Overall Evaluation**

The overall political operations of the government of Macao remained generally stable over the past year. On the political front, it continued to develop steadily as the fifth Legislative Assembly election was concluded successfully. The Macao government enacted laws on asset disclosure for public officials, earning widespread recognition and support. In the economic sphere, the economy grew at a pace of 10.5% in the first three quarters of this year, roughly similar compared to the 10% gain in the first three quarters of last year. There remains opportunity to maintain positive growth. However, the single industry structure remains a closely watched issue. The judiciary in Macao maintained its independence, in principle, over the past year. However, judicialization of political issues emerged and the judiciary was pressured in some cases, which could affect judicial independence in Macao in the future.

The international community basically affirmed Macao's overall development last year, but expressed concerns over civil and political rights, human rights, and freedom of the press in Macao.

Cooperation between Macao and mainland China continued uninterrupted and grew closer in economic development, personnel exchanges, and other areas. However, the government of Macao must heed the task of ensuring balanced social development and the interests of residents as it develops cooperation with the Mainland.

Civilian interaction and exchanges between Taiwan and Macao remained lively. A historic breakthrough was achieved in official interaction between the two sides this year with the visit

to Macao by Mainland Affairs Council Minister Wang. Taiwan also responded with goodwill to requests for simplification of entry and exit procedures for Macao students in Taiwan. This has laid a good foundation for the long-term development of Taiwan and Macao relations.