

Analysis Report: 15 Years After Macao's Handover

- **Fernando Chui is reelected as chief executive; social demand for universal suffrage emerges.**
- **The people of Macao become more active in participation in public policy.**
- **The judiciary remains independent but has room for improvement in judicial efficiency and quality of personnel.**
- **The economy continues to grow, though development concerns exist.**
- **The Mainland and Macao continue to integrate; issues arising from personnel exchanges attract concerns.**
- **The international community affirms Macao's development but has concerns over civil, political, and human rights, freedom of the press and freedom of speech.**
- **Substantive relations between Taiwan and Macao continue to improve; cooperation and exchanges advance.**

Overall Evaluation

The overall operations in Macao remained generally stable over the past year. In the political sphere, Fernando Chui was re-elected as Macao Chief Executive (hereinafter the "Chief Executive") and made a major reshuffle of principal government personnel. Demands for universal suffrage emerged in Macao society. How to respond to this demand will be a topic that Macao must squarely face in the future. At the social level, the people of Macao took a more active participation in public policy as civic awareness awakened. In May this year, the people of Macao rallied and surrounded the Legislative Assembly to successfully press the Macao government to withdraw the controversial bill for the "Guarantee Scheme of the Holders of the Post of Chief Executive and the Principal Officials Assuming Office, In Office and Leaving Office."

Regarding the economy, the unemployment rate in Macao remained low. However, the consecutive monthly falls in gaming revenues continued, affecting Macao's economic performance and drawing attention to the problem of the single-industry structure. Over the past year, the international community remained positive about the overall development of Macao. However, it continued to closely watch the issues of civil, political, and human rights, freedoms of the press and of speech in Macao.

Civilian interaction and exchanges between Taiwan and Macao remained very lively. Official interaction also continued to improve. In February this year (2014), the heads of the mutual representative offices of Taiwan and Macao signed the "Air Transport Agreement between Taiwan and Macao." Following Chief Executive Fernando Chui's re-election, Taiwan and Macao are expected to deepen exchanges and cooperation on the existing stable foundation and further promote the development of benign interaction in relations between the two sides.