Speech by José Carlos Matias （馬天龍）president of the Board of Directors （理事會主席） of the Macau Portuguese and English Press Association 澳門葡英傳媒協會

Cocktail in Commemoration of the 15th Anniversary of AIPIM

Welcome!

Warm greetings to all.

Thank you very much for your presence.

I begin by greeting His Excellency the Chief Executive, Dr. Ho Iat Seng, who, being unable to join us due to his previous commitments, kindly sent us a message of congratulations on the 15th Anniversary of the Macau Portuguese and English Press Association, a message which carries special meaning for us and which we would like to thank. On his behalf we are joined by Ms. Inês Chan Lou, Director of the Government Information Bureau, which we warmly welcome.

Also from GCS we are joined by Deputy Director Louie Wong Lok I.

I also warmly greet Mr. Yin Rutao, deputy director general of the Department of Publicity and Culture of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government （澳門中聯辦宣傳文化部副部長殷汝濤）in the MSAR and the delegation of the Office that accompanies him.

I also extend equally warm greetings to Mr. Zheng Xinyou, Director General of the Department of Public Diplomacy and Information of the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China (公共外交和新聞部主任鄭新友) and the rest of the Commissioner delegation.

 Greetings also to the consular representatives who honor us with their presence:

The Consul General of Portugal in Macau and Hong Kong, Ambassador Paulo Cunha Alves

Consul General of Mozambique in Macau, Ambassador Rafael Custódio Marques

And Consul General of the Republic of Angola in Macau, Dr. Eduardo Velasco Galiano

I would also like to highlight here the presence of an important delegation from the Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries, led by the Assistant Secretary General, Ambassador Paulo Espírito Santo

Ladies and Gentlemen, dear colleagues and friends

This is a special occasion. In a special city. In the Macau Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, which is preparing to celebrate its 21st anniversary.

We are at the end of a difficult year, in which we were all called to fulfill our duty in order to face together this unprecedented challenge posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Being able to be here in this way is something priceless. It is special.

The crisis highlighted importance of everyone's role in society, individually and collectively, including journalists. Journalism and good information have emerged in the eyes of society as a public good, which ought to be protected and cherished.

This encounter bringing together media professionals and

representatives from different institutions and all walks of life is therefore something especially significant.

Our association was born in 2005, but our roots are much deeper and can be traced way back in time, over the city’s two-century press history. Our roots stem from those who preceded us, and who pave the way for today’s vibrant media industry.

We are here to pay tribute to them as well.

Over the past 15 years, we have experienced a period of extraordinary growth and development of the city and of the media in general. Portuguese and English media were no exception. Our association benefited from this development.

During this period, we saw dozens, hundreds of journalists and media professionals arriving in Macau, whom we welcomed and with whom we have been walking together. At the same time, we saw many young local talents being nurtured and becoming key references in the city’s press scene.

Over the years, one of our priorities has been training. We have made a modest contribution to equipping local journalists with new tools in an ever-changing city and world, while promoting integration and better understanding of the society in which we live in.

Another essencial pilar of our action has been the defense, promotion and awareness on something of paramount importance, a fundamental right: freedom of the press accompanied by the right to access to information, two necessary conditions for free and well informed journalism. A public good. A public service.

We have also been focusing on ethical values and practices, as well as higher professional standards. We have also been looking abroad by developing ties with our colleagues from journalists’ associations of Portuguese-Speaking countries. We have joined conferences and welcomed our Portuguese-Speaking counterparts for an important meeting nearly a decade ago. Meanwhile we have also obtained international recognition and accreditation.

As journalists and media professionals, we are also citizens of the Macau SAR, of this city and society that welcomes us, to which we belong and with which we interact. In this sense, there is a structural feature concerning social responsibility. This is translated in the dialogue and interaction with the Government, institutions, civil society and with our colleagues and friends from the Chinese media and with the Chinese language media associations that have kindly joined us and with whom we have been learning so much.

Together we have been working for the past fifteen years within the scope of the Macau Media Workers' Welfare Union （澳門傳媒工作者組織福利會傳媒福利會),, in overseeing the Health Insurance scheme for media professionals, a major achievement, which has the key support of the Macau SAR Government. Over these years, we have forged a spirit of mutual understanding, mutual help and friendship. A special greeting to all members of the Union's governing bodies here.

I also greet the distinguished directors, editors, representatives and frontline reporters of the various Chinese, Portuguese, English and Chinese newspapers who joined us today and those who could not make it. An equally joyful greeting to the delegation of TDM’s Executive Committee and managers who kindly joined this event.

We have been fortunate to be able to count on the support of several entities over the years, who have helped us in many different ways. Not having time to list all of them, I would like to mention here the Governmnet Information Bureau, Forum Macau, Macao Foundation, Orient Foundation and Rui Cunha Foundation.

The place where we are deserves a special word of gratitude as well. The Macau Military Club, a special place that has been a second home for us where we have been holding special events and dinners.

I end with a word of enormous esteem and thanks to the workers of this association: to the founding members of AIPIM, and to all those who have been and are part of AIPIM and its governing bodies over these fifteen years.

And also to the many who, not being partners - several of them are here with us - helped us pro-bono, with a true spirit of public and community service.

Ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues and friends.

Macau is our home and we have a common destiny.

 澳門 是 我們 的 家 ， 命运 共同

*Àomén shì wǒmen de jiā, mìngyùn gòngtóng*

Thank you all very much for everything.

Thank you very much for your presence.

I propose a triple toast

To journalism and the whole community of Macau media professionals in Chinese, Portuguese and English

to the Macau Portuguese and English Press Association

and the Macau Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China