Seleções dos Arquivos - Recortes de Noticias e Outras Notas
Selections from the Archives - News Clippings and Other Notes
(1992 - 2021)

Professor Rui Martins
5 Boxes A3
2 Boxes A4
5 Volumes
1820 Pages
Preface (Invited)

Since joining the University of Macau (UM) more than two decades ago in 1992, Prof Rui Martins has dedicated his best years to the University, making it his home and taking research as his lifetime pursuit. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to express my sincerest gratitude to him.

With the concerted efforts of Prof Martins and many UM members, the University has worked meticulously to lay a foundation for the design and R&D of integrated circuits. In 2011, the Analog and Mixed-Signal VLSI Research Laboratory of UM founded by Prof Martins was upgraded to a State Key Laboratory, becoming the first State Key Laboratory in the field of engineering in Macao. The laboratory has nurtured numerous local talents over the years, and its research findings are among the world’s best, providing a foundation for Macao to develop cutting-edge research in the field of electronic systems. Besides, Prof Martins has also played an important role as a bridge of communication. He has been actively promoting Sino-Portuguese academic exchange and strengthening the training of Chinese and Portuguese bilingual talents in Macao.

These volumes cover 29 years of events from 1992 to 2021, containing a collection of newspaper clippings in Chinese, English and Portuguese related to the University and Macao collected by Prof Martins, as well as his personal notes, especially records of achievements and breakthroughs of his research team in the field of microelectronics. It also includes correspondence between him and his friends from both inside and outside the University, programme booklets showcasing major university events, course proposals and curricula, and a wide range of other documents. The collection presents an invaluable source of information as it exhibits the University’s many significant milestones, depicting its changes and foci at different times in its development as well as the difficulties and challenges it faced.

Since Macao’s return to the motherland, the SAR government has always adhered to the philosophy of ‘helping Macao thrive through education and building Macao with talent’ and tirelessly supported the development of education in Macao. With the support of all sectors of the society, UM has made remarkable progress. Prof Martins’ selected personal archive, presented as a gift to the university for its 40th anniversary, not only demonstrates his deep affection and devotion for the University and for Macao, but also bears witness to the paths taken by numerous UM members. His pursuit of excellence and dedication to scientific research are evident throughout the pages of this work, and should bring inspiration to all his readers.

Dr. Peter Lam Kam Seng
(Chairman of the University of Macau Council)

UM Campus, January 2021

Preface (Invited)

Professor Doctor Rui Martins - is undoubtedly a renowned figure at the University of Macau, and a friend that I greatly admire and respect. I have known for some time that Prof Rui Martins was reorganising his personal archive, and the idea of publishing the items considered most useful or important from that archive came out during the lockdown triggered by Covid-19.

The items selected by him have now been published in five volumes as official publications of the University of Macau, a part of the celebration of its 40th Anniversary in 2021. It was a fortuitous decision by the University of Macau in all respects, because, in fact, the five volumes, entitled: Selections from the Archives – News Clippings and Other Notes, span more than 28 years from 1992 to 2021, recording milestones and information related to UM as witnessed by Prof Rui Martins during said period.

However, the content of the books does not focus exclusively on the University of Macau. Clippings aside, equally important are the comments and personal notes added by the author, in order to clarify the facts and documents presented in the book, whenever necessary.

In addition to the topics that pertain to the University of Macau, the value of these volumes also lies in the treasure trove of information and materials provided therein, offering a glimpse of other events that occurred during the period, even though they may not be directly related to the University.

This is a book that captivates the reader from the beginning, because it does not treat us solely to opinions, interpretations or conclusions about facts that occurred and were witnessed by the author, as is usually the case - rather, we have the possibility of experiencing the events and information in a direct dialogue and interaction with the selected materials, which are as vast as they are varied.

We are grateful to Professor Rui Martins for his remarkable and time-consuming work in gathering and documenting information that stand as priceless memoirs. We are also grateful for his sharing this material with us, in addition to his invaluable contributions as a teacher and researcher in the disciplines and organisations he managed or created, and the brilliance and dedication with which he has served, since 1997, as Vice-Rector of the University of Macau.

Some words would not be out of place about the author, whom I have had the honour of regarding as a friend for many years, even before joining the University Council. Working with him in the Council, I have had the privilege to get to know Prof Rui Martins up close, and come to appreciate his exceptional intellectual and human qualities, his righteousness, his integrity, his values and principles. Moreover, I have had the chance to closely observe his boundless discretion, sincerity and inner strength in his professional, personal and family life. I have often seen him express his views, even though he is aware that it is neither the most prevalent nor the most popular opinion. When any point needs clarification, he would either do so at the meeting or, if necessary, later in an appropriate occasion.

In these published works, the reader will find situations that corroborate my statements.

Professor Rui Martins is undoubtedly worthy of our admiration, applause, respect and gratitude.

Dra. Anabela F. X. Sales Ritchie
(Member of the University of Macau Council)

Macao, January 2021
Preface (Invited)

Timely greeting to an exemplary academic

The publication of these "Selections from the Archives - News Clippings and Other Notes", in five volumes, constitutes an event worthy of the joyful celebration, now underway, of the 40th anniversary of the University of Macau. There, a lot of material is gathered, of the greatest utility to encourage the study of the very relevant mission embraced by the University.

In addition to the celebrations and commemorative acts, this is a favorable occasion to remember a rich and extraordinary journey, which began with the establishment and operation of the then University of East Asia (UEA), in 1981. A few years later, a period of profound transformations, which culminated in its necessary conversion from a private entity to a public institution, when the University of Macau (UM) was formally created in 1991, with a new structure and reformulated objectives. And, with the Macao SAR already in place, it was decided to install it on a vast and modern campus, in Hengqin, which provided the conditions for a rapid growth and valorization, with the aim of its affirmation as a central center of advanced training in the Pearl River Delta.

The various functions that I performed in the territory, as a deputy, member of the Governor's Advisory Council, Secretary for Education, Culture and Tourism, first president of the Macao Foundation, empowered by the Governor to launch the changes carried out at the University and promote its rapid development in the transition period, and again as a member of the Government, with the supervision of Education and Public Administration, allowed me to closely monitor the life of the University until 1999, having chaired the Education Council and the University Council, in representation of the Chancellor. I was also a member of the University Assembly.

Thus, I was able to know and appreciate the remarkable work developed by Prof. Dr. Rui Martins since his arrival in 1992. For almost three decades, he has provided very relevant services to the University and Macau, first as a professor and researcher and assuming, due to his recognized competence and dedication, academic management functions, within the Faculty of Science and Technology, of which he was director, and as vice-rector, performing these high functions proficiently for more than twenty years. The biographical note, inserted in the first volume, unequivocally attests to its brilliant service record, having guided and driven internally scientific research to the level of excellence. And we cannot forget his worthy action within the scope of international organizations, always projecting Macao abroad, with special emphasis on the Association of Portuguese Speaking Universities (AULP), where he represented UM in a praiseworthy presidency.

Prof. Dr. Rui Martins and his work will remain indelibly linked to the history of the University of Macau. The publication of this documentary collection, which has been painstakingly compiled since his arrival in Macao, is an opportune moment to pay our tribute to him.

Dr. Jorge Rangel
(President of the International Institute of Macao,
Doctor Honoris Causa by UEA / UM)
Lisbon, March 2021

Preface (Invited)

We have always been proud of the University of Macau where numerous graduates have benefited from the wisdom and expertise of its excellent faculty members. Among our strong team of renowned scholars, I appraise Professor Rui Paulo da Silva Martins, an expert in microelectronics, whose enthusiasm and dedication to the University of Macau have touched the lives of our colleagues and students in immeasurable ways. In celebration of the 40th anniversary of the University of Macau in 2021, it is with heartfelt appreciation and utmost gratitude that I thank to Professor Martins for his extensive collection of materials concerning the University of Macau and the development of higher education of Macau between 1992 and 2021. The amount of materials collected delineates his comprehensive knowledge and great passion for the University of Macau as well as his lifelong devotion to the teaching and research of electronic engineering.

Through the perspective of vice rector Professor Martins, whom I have thoroughly enjoyed working together, this book showcases the history and prospects of the University of Macau and its impressive research achievements, particularly in the field of microelectronics. The scope of this book embraces various aspects of the University with five volumes filled with notes, news cuttings, letters, photos, brochures, etc., covered in Chinese, Portuguese and English languages. There are also some rare reports and fragile clippings that Professor Martins has carefully kept for over two decades and have become increasingly rare and valuable. It is our hope that readers will find the materials covered in this book informative and useful.

Prof. Yonghua Song
(Rector of the University of Macau)
UM Campus, January 2021

Encontra-se em Licença Especial, no IST, desde Outubro 1992, sendo Docente no Departamento de Engenharia Electrotécnica e de Computadores, da Faculdade de Ciências e Tecnologia (FCT), da Universidade de Macau (UM), Macau, China, onde é Professor Catedrático de Mérito desde 2013. Na FCT foi Director da Faculdade entre 1994 e 1997 e tem sido Vice-Reitor da UM desde Setembro 1997. Entre Setembro 2008 e Agosto 2018 foi o Vice-Reitor (Investigação), desde Setembro 2018 e até Agosto 2023 é o Vice-Reitor (Assuntos Gerais). No âmbito da sua actividade de ensino e investigação lecionou 21 cadeiras de licenciatura e mestrado, e orientou (ou co-orientou) 47 teses, de doutoramento (26) e de mestrado (21). Publicou, em co-autoria: 7 livros e 12 capítulos de livro; 36 Patentes, nos EUA (32), Taiwan (2) e China (1); 537 artigos em revistas científicas (217) e em actas de conferências (120); e mais 64 trabalhos académicos num total de 656 publicações. Criou em 2003 o Laboratório de Investigação em Circuitos Analógicos e Mixtos (VLSI) da UM, que foi em Janeiro 2011 elevado a Laboratório de Referência da China (o primeiro em engenharia em Macau), sendo o seu Director-Fundador. Foi o Director-Fundador da UMTEC (empresa da UM) entre Janeiro 2009 e Março 2019, tendo apoiado a incubação e criação em 2018 da empresa Digifluic, o primeiro "spin-off" da UM, cujo Presidente é um doutorado do Laboratório de Referência. Foi, igualmente, um dos co-fundadores da Chipidea Microelectrónica (Macau) [agora Synopsis-Macau] em 2001/2002.


Painting by Prof. Rose Lai
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**Volume I**

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<td>Arrival to Macao on 29 October 1992.</td>
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<td>1993</td>
<td>Proposal and publication of the Bachelor, Master and PhD programs in Engineering and the First PhD Thesis in Literary Studies in English Language.</td>
<td>33-56</td>
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<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>Official publication of the Decree-Law regulating the Masters and PhDs in UM and sending of the first 6 Electrical &amp; Electronics Engineers to INESC in Portugal, supported by UM and in an important part (financial) by the Macao Foundation. Dean of the Faculty of Science and Technology.</td>
<td>59-73</td>
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<td>1995</td>
<td>INESC-Macao (first steps), EPMESC V &amp; UMCHIP.</td>
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<td>1996</td>
<td>Creation of INESC-Macao.</td>
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<td>1998</td>
<td>Honoris Causa Doctor Degree to President of Mozambique - Dr. Joaquim Chissano and the VIII Meeting of AULP – First in Macao.</td>
<td>165-251</td>
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<td>2000</td>
<td>A new Millennium, first PhD in Electrical and Electronics Engineering, system of Automatic Translation Portuguese-Chinese and vice-versa.</td>
<td>343-363</td>
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<td>2002</td>
<td>Ceremony of Decoration to Rui Martins by Macao SAR Government, first paper in ISSCC, honoris causa doctor degree to Joseph Stiglitz and 3rd PhD in Electronics, double-degree (second) with Instituto Superior Técnico.</td>
<td>401-449</td>
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Rector Li Tianqing
1991-1994

President
Mário Soares
Portugal
1993

Honoris Causa

6 Rectors
Expresso - Portugal 1994

1st Batch of ECE Graduates
Rector Nascimento Ferreira
1994-1997

Visit to Beijing
HK/Macao Affairs Office
Beijing U, Tsinghua U, Beijing Foreign Studies U
1996
Rector Zhou LiGao
1997-1999

Honoris Causa
President Joaquim Chissano
Mozambique

1998
Vice-Rector
1997

B. Soc. Sc. in Contemporary China Studies / FSH - 1998

First PhD @ UM
Sandra Adams
1993/1997
Asia's Search for Excellence

The region's students are opting to study in their own and their neighbors' world-class universities. Asiaweek takes a look at Asia's top 50 centers of higher learning.

By Evan Rezsen

The region's students are opting to study in their own and their neighbors' world-class universities. Asiaweek takes a look at Asia's top 50 centers of higher learning. In recent years, many students from Asian countries have been drawn to study in the United States, Europe, and other regions to pursue higher education. However, in recent years, many students from Asian countries have been drawn to study in their own countries and neighboring regions as well. This is partly because of the rising cost of living in many of these regions, as well as the perception that education in these areas is of a higher quality.

Tokyo U 1st
Hong Kong U 3rd
Beijing U 7th
Fudan U 28th

UM Ranked 30th
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Volume II

2003  UM above 5000 students, XIII Meeting of AULP - First in Macao, Young Researcher Award of Macao International Institute - IIM. 453-492

2004  Visit of the Minister of Culture from Brazil, Gilberto Gil, to UM, Macao among the best in PISA program from OECD coordinated in Macao by UM. 495-527

2005  UM as Vice-President of AULP, First PhD in Mathematics. 531-601

2006  Silver Jubilee of University of Macau, XVI Meeting of AULP - Third in Macao, First PhD in the Department of Portuguese. 605-702

2007  IIM – Identity Award 2006 attributed to UM, EU Euro-Infocentre at UM, Jean Monnet Chair, Conference about the 50 years of EU attributed to UM. 705-757

Rector Iu Vai Pan
1999-2008

20-Years

2001
University Council Chair

Daniel Tse Chi Wai

2001-2014
Rector Iu Vai Pan
1999-2008

Silver Jubilee
2006
Expresso Portugal

1st Chip ISSCC 2002

Doutoramento na Universidade de Macau

Doutor chip

Realiza-se no próximo dia 21 de Junho pelas 10h00 horas na Sala do Senado, da Universidade de Macau – UM, o quadro Doutoramento da Faculdade de Ciências e Tecnologia – FCT. O candidato a Doutor será U. Song Pan, Ben, assistente da mesma Faculdade, tendo já realizado igualmente o Mestrado em 1997.

U. Song Pan ia defender uma tese na área de Engenharia Electrónica e Electrónica Iniciada, Tecnica de Intepelation em Filtres Multicampos com Condensadores de Filtro para Interfaces Analógicas com Filtres de Alta-Frequecia ou na sua designação em Ingles: "Multiste Switched-Capacitor Interpelation Techniques for Very High-Frequecy Analog From-end Filtering".

O juri de Doutoramento será composto pelo Reitor da UM - Prof. J. Vai Pan (Presidente); pelo Prof. Kaeli Bruce de Souza, Vise-Reitor da Universidade Técnica de Lisboa – UL; e pelos seguintes Professores Catedráticos: Prof. Rui Martins (Vise-Reitor da UM e Superintendente do trabalho de Teses), Prof. Joel Francis (Instituto Superior Técnico – IST/UL); Lisboa, Portugal, e Co-Supervisores: Prof. Han Ying-Doo (Universidade de Taitiguia, Pequim, da UMT; Membro da Academia da Engenharia da China), Prof. Manuel M. de Medeiros Silva (IEE/UTL, Lisboa, Portugal) e Prof. Chyung Yu Wu (Departamento de Engenharia Electrónica, Universidade Nacional de Ciao-Tung, Formosa).

Este Doutoramento será realizado no âmbito de uma Convenção de Co-Tutela entre a Faculdade de Ciências e Tecnologia da UM e o Instituto Superior Técnico da UTL, sendo atribuído ao candidato um diploma pela Universidade de Macau e o ouro pela Universidade Técnica de Lisboa.

O trabalho apresentado nesta tese foi já alvo de várias comunicações em diversos congressos e publicações em revistas científicas nacionais e internacionais, nomeadamente, os resultados de projecto de teste de um circuito integrado inovador em termos mundiais, apresentado recentemente na maior conferência anual da área de microeletrónica, realizada em São Francisco, USA.
First 2 East-Timor Students Graduated 2008

Zulmira da Silva

Judge in East-Timor

[10 years after arriving to Macao]
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<th>Year</th>
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<td>2009</td>
<td>UM on Hengqin Island - 1 km2, Honors College inaugurated at UM, First UM Patent in the United States - Electronics, Portuguese Eloquence Contest.</td>
<td>829-901</td>
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<td>2010</td>
<td>XX AULP Annual Meeting - Fourth in Macao, Correspondent Member of the Academy of Sciences of Lisbon, Portugal, HLHL Foundation Award from China, UM Prestigious Professors, Announcement of 2 State Key Laboratories of China in Macao.</td>
<td>905-970</td>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>Romano Prodi – Former President of EU at UM, Inauguration of 2 State Key Laboratories of China in Macao, Twelve Honoris Causa of the UM’s Rector in Portugal, Visit of the Minister of Science &amp; Technology of Portugal to UM, Announcement of the new Director of the Portuguese Department, UM’s 30th Anniversary Ceremony.</td>
<td>973-1032</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>National S&amp;T Award for the first time awarded to Macao - Electronics’s Team, Lecture at the Academy of Sciences of Lisbon, EU Academic Program in Macao approved, Installation of the Director of the Department of Portuguese, S&amp;T Awards in Macao, Launch of the Thematic Dictionary of Macao – DITEMA, Garry Kasparov – Ex-World Champion of Chess in UM.</td>
<td>1035-1074</td>
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Rector Wei Zhao
2008-2018

Pearl Jubilee
2011
1st 4 UM Patents in USA

"00 MNN" - Macao Daily News - 3 June 2009

"UM Microelectronics research achieved a US PATENT!"
IEEE Chapter/ Macao was awarded World Chapter of the Year!"
Honours College - 2009

1st National Science & Technology Award for Macau - 2011
Top Student @ Bachelor level – 1998
Choi Lai-U, Ruly

[from Pui Ching Middle-School]
PhD in HKUST - 2003
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Volume IV

2013  DITEMA, First PhD in Law (Portuguese Language), Inauguration of the new UM Campus in Hengqin, UM Microelectronics on the "World’s Top Ten", PhD Honoris Causa - Prof. Sérgio Machado dos Santos.  1077-1163

2014  First (Positive) Assessment of the UM’s State Key Laboratories, Visit of the President of Portugal – Prof. Cavaco Silva to UM, Macao Science and Technology Award attributed to the State Key Lab in Microelectronics, XXIV AULP Annual Meeting - Fifth in Macau, UM in the Presidency of AULP (2014-2017), UM in the 300 Top Universities according to the world ranking from Times of Higher Education - THE.  1167-1258

2015  History of the University of Macau - South China Morning Post, Visit of the President of China - Xi Jinping to UM (report from 2014), Appointment as Chairman of the Board of Architecture, Engineering and Urbanism - CAEU (Macao Government).  1261-1300

2016  UM is the 6th most International University in the World, International Conference - IEEE ASPDAC 2016, XXVI Annual Meeting of AULP - First in Timor-Leste, XXX Summer Course on Portuguese Language and Culture, FDCT S&T Awards in Macao - UM wins half of the awards.  1303-1368

2017  Medal of Merit awarded to UM by the Macao Government, 24 PhDs in Microelectronics, XXVII Annual Meeting of AULP in Campinas, Brazil – End of UM’s Presidency, Second (Positive) Assessment of the UM’s State Key Laboratories, 20 Years as Vice-Rector, Annual Science and Technology Meeting - China / Macao, New Rector of UM - Prof. Yonghua Song.  1371-1469
Almeida Machava
Assistant Professor in
U Eduardo Mondlane
Maputo, Mozambique

1st PhD in Law [Portuguese Language] – 2013

O dia 29 de Maio de 2013 durante o ato de entrega à Faculdade de Direito da Universidade de Macau do 1º PhD em Direito da Faculdade de Direito da Universidade de Macau (FUDM), Almeida Machava Machava foi convidada como a primeira Doutora em Direito. Com 24 anos, compareceu ao ato com uma sensação de orgulho e de felicidade por ter conseguido finalizar o curso de lei. Numa altura em que o número de doutores em Direito por país ou região é relativamente pequeno, esta cidadã do Camarões recebeu a reconhecimento e o respeito de todos.

De acordo com o presidente da Faculdade de Direito da Universidade de Macau, o ato foi uma homenagem à Almeida Machava Machava, a primeira mulher africana a receber um título de PhD em Direito em Macau.

A sua carreira académica começou nos anos 90 quando se formou na Universidade de Camarões, em Douala, com especialização em Direito de Negócios Internacionais. Posteriormente, concluiu um mestrado em Direito dos Estados Unidos e Finalizou o seu PhD na Universidade de Macau.

A sua experiência profissional incluiu várias posições em diferentes instituições, incluindo a Universidade de Camarões, onde foi professor e coordenador do Departamento de Direito.

Almeida Machava Machava destacou-se em vários campos, incluindo negócios internacionais, direito das empresas e direito dos contratos.

A sua contribuição para a universidade de Macau foi reconhecida com várias premiações e distinções, incluindo o Prémio de Excelência Académica em 2013.

Almeida Machava Machava é uma figura emblemática em Macau, demonstrando aos jovens africanos que através do estudo e do trabalho duro, é possível alcançar qualquer objetivo.

Almeida Machava Machava

Dies & 25 de Maio de 2013

Procurando uma versão em português do texto acima, obtivemos a seguinte tradução:

O dia 29 de Maio de 2013 durante o ato de entrega à Faculdade de Direito da Universidade de Macau do 1º PhD em Direito da Faculdade de Direito da Universidade de Macau, Almeida Machava Machava foi convidada como a primeira Doutora em Direito. Com 24 anos, compareceu ao ato com uma sensação de orgulho e felicidade por ter conseguido finalizar o curso de lei. Numa altura em que o número de doutores em Direito por país ou região é relativamente pequeno, esta cidadã do Camarões recebeu o reconhecimento e o respeito de todos.

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University Council Chair

Peter Lam Kam Seng

2014-Present
XXIV AULP Annual in Meeting in Macao 2014

President of AULP 2014-2017
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Volume V

2018
Tenure of the Rector of UM - Prof. Yonghua Song, Agreement FST-UM / IIST-ULisboa in Electrical Eng. and Computers, Agreement between the State Key Laboratory of Microelectronics and INL in Braga, Portugal, "Macao - Las Vegas Trading Casino Chips by Electronics Chips" - South China Morning Post / HK, Visit to Angola and XXVIII Annual Meeting of AULP, 2 New State Key Laboratories of China, First Rectors' Forum of China and PSCs in Macao, 3 Books in Portuguese, Chinese and English about Michel Vaillant with the title: "Macao".

2019
[The most successful year for UM (Electronics) and the most difficult for me (personally)]. State Key Laboratory of Microelectronics (UM) in 2nd place at ISSCC 2019, just behind INTEL, Visits led by the UM Rector to Maputo, Mozambique and Lisbon, Portugal, International Conference - IEEE A-SSCC 2019 (Electronics) in Macao, 20 Years of Macao SAR and Commemorative Stamp Block with a Chip from the State Key Laboratory of Microelectronics.

2020
Important Results from the State Key Laboratory of Microelectronics (UM), "Microfluidics" area, Digifluidic product to deal with the pandemic, Agreement Between UM, Camões Institute (Portugal) and IPOR (Macao), "IC Advances in China" - ICAC 2020 (10,000 Participants) and XXXIV Summer Course in Portuguese Language and Culture, both online via Zoom, Awards for Innovation and Entrepreneurship "Parafuturo de Macau" - Earned by Digifluidic, Ventilator developed by IDQ-Macao and UM donated to Angola and Mozambique, 1st and 2nd FDCT S&T Awards attributed to the State Key Laboratory of Microelectronics (UM).

2021
40th Anniversary and UM Open Day
Rector Yonghua Song
2018-Present

Ruby Jubilee
2021

A7澳聞
二零一一年十二月十八日 星期一 甲子年十二月初六
開講儀式

配合特區高教科創領域施政部署方向

澳门大学40周年校庆暨 Inspirational University Award 颁奖典礼
Opening Ceremony for the Celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the University of Macau and Open Day

Secretaria elogia evolução da UM

在澳门大学的改革与发展过程中，我们一起见证了澳门大学的茁壮成长。特别是在学术、研究、人才培养等方面，澳门大学在不断前进，不断超越。

A seçção para os alunos da Faculdade de Ciências da Saúde e daude do IMLACU o presente momento de comemoração. A universidade tem sido um dos centros educacionais mais respeitados do país, e sempre se esforça para oferecer a melhor educação possível. A sequência da história continua, e a Universidade de Macau continuará a liderar o caminho para um futuro brilhante.
Future Rector Song
Consultant of FDCT
October 2004
Visit to UM with Charles Kao
Nobel in Physics
MACAU BETS ON MICROCHIPS TO HIT TECH JACKPOT

State-backed laboratories in a city more famous for its casinos are playing their part in Beijing's strategy to challenge US superiority in key areas.

Tony Cheung

With its skyline at night awash in neon colours, complete with a replica Eiffel Tower, it is no wonder Macau is known globally as the "Las Vegas of Asia". But behind the glitz and kitch of the cities' famous casinos, scientists in Beijing-backed labs are working to help the city become less reliant on foreign technology. Their latest project is a microchip that will allow smartphones to recharge batteries in other gadgets.

"Macau is best known for its casinos, but it is also famous for its electronics chips," said Rui Martins, Vice-Chairman of the University of Macau, which hosts the city's two State Key Laboratories – Institutes that are conducting research crucial to national development.

The former Portuguese enclave is most famous as the world's gambling capital, but on the outskirts of the Cotai Strip there are several laboratories that could provide a game-changing push in China's ambition to challenge the United States' technological superiority in areas ranging from chips to batteries.

They could also help the city in its struggle to fulfil Beijing's wish to diversify its economy.

The state labs have focused on micro-electronics and traditional Chinese medicine since 2010. The city could be setting up two more such labs this year, as Beijing set up a lab on smart cities and the Internet of Things at the university, as well as one on materials science at Macau University of Science and Technology.

Martins, who also leads the University of Macau's micro-electronics lab, said his colleagues have been training researchers to develop independent innovation, rather than use reverse-engineering.

In 10 years' time, probably you don't need to import from the United States

Rui Martins, The University of Macau

"In Silicon Valley, electronics were not created overnight, it took a few decades for them to develop... Now they dominate the technology over there. But I think in the future, this can also happen in China," he said.

He also said that since 2011, the micro-electronics lab, precisely of analogue and mixed signal VLSI, had been one of the Asian institutions with the most inventions at the IEEE International Solid-State Circuits Conference, also known as the "Chips Olympics", in San Francisco.

Its researchers' inventions in the past two years include two chips that can help a smartphone to charge another smartphone's battery wirelessly.

Martins said it was the quality of the researchers and the local government's support that prompted him to stay after Macau was handed over from Portuguese rule in 1999. He revealed that since 2011, the city's science and technology development fund had enabled Rui's lab to expand from US$12 million to US$25 million annually.

In comparison, the University of Hong Kong's science and technology development fund had provided US$37 million a year from the city's government.

Martins, who moved from Lisbon to Macau in 1992, was referring to an incident in April when the Chinese microchip giant ZTE Corp was banned from buying American technology, a ban that has now been lifted, with company paying a huge fine.

"We hope that in the coming years, some other possible spin-offs will appear in China," he said.

Scientists in Hong Kong have long complained of being denied grants from Beijing. But last month, Beijing announced that under new directives issued by President Xi Jinping, Hong Kong's 16 national laboratories – and two in Macau – would enjoy greater access to state funding.

Both Martins and Wang welcomed the initiatives, but they said that instead of a funding sag, it was turning research papers into products that had been their biggest challenge.

So Wang's lab has worked with biotech firms in the Guangdong-Macau Traditional Chinese Medicine Science and Technology Industrial Park in Zhaotou's Hengqin free-trade zone.

Martins' micro-electronics lab has also been trying to transfer technology by cooperating with mainland firms such as Hisilicon, a unit of Chinese giant Huawei.

"We hope that in the coming years, some other possible spin-offs will appear in China," he said.
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