

Macao Special Administrative Region

Macao Youth Policy (2021-2030)

The Education and Youth Development Bureau

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1 Preamble

President Xi Jinping said, “A country will prosper if its young people thrive; the country will have a future and the nation will have hope only when its younger generations have aspirations, abilities and a strong sense of responsibility.”

The Macao Special Administrative Region Government has always attached importance to nurturing whole-person development of the youth since its establishment. In 2013, the SAR Government promulgated and implemented the “Macao Youth Policy (2012-2020)”, focusing on four main directions of youth work, namely “encouraging social participation”, “promoting physical and mental growth”, “creating a caring atmosphere” and “increasing social mobility”. In 2014, the SAR Government set up a “Youth Policy” Interdepartmental Follow-up Group. Until 2020, the group was comprised of members from a total of more than 10 departments under the offices of the five secretaries, launching over 300 action plans together, thereby creating the appropriate environment and conditions to gather social cohesion and promote whole-person development of the youth.

The SAR Government entrusted research institutions to review and evaluate the effectiveness of the Macao Youth Policy (2012-2020). It is concluded that the vision of the youth policy is comprehensive and the objectives are clear; the youth policy meets international standards and has local characteristics; it emphasises education as well as training and there is abundant allocation of resources; there is a wide range of action plans and the policy coverage is comprehensive; the physical and psychological development of the youth is healthy, and young people have less deviant behaviour; the social atmosphere is harmonious and the willingness to participate in the society has been enhanced; exchange activities outside Macao have been increased and integration into regional cooperation has

been promoted. All sectors generally agree that the policy has achieved considerable results and has laid a good foundation for the future youth work in Macao.

With major national development strategies such as the Outline of the National Development Plan, “Belt and Road” Initiative, “Outline of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Plan”, Macao’s development positioning and goals of establishing the “World Tourism and Leisure Centre”, “Commercial and Trade Cooperation Service Platform between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries”, “Base for Exchange and Cooperation where Chinese Culture is the Mainstream and Diverse Cultures Coexist” and “Tourism Education and Training Base”, as well as changes in the current world situation, regional integration, development of diversified industries, and so forth, have all brought more development opportunities and challenges to Macao youth. The tasks of youth work are how to strengthen the subject consciousness of young people in the new era, cultivate patriotism, foster correct values, enhance their comprehensive qualities and core competitiveness, broaden their international horizons, enhance their willingness to face opportunities and challenges, help them integrate into regional cooperation and national development, broaden the experience of the youth, cultivate their sense of taking responsibilities, encourage them to participate in the society actively and make contributions to local and national development.

With the support and participation of the Youth Affairs Committee and various departments of the “Youth Policy” Interdepartmental Follow-up Group, the Education and Youth Development Bureau has formulated the consultation text of the Macao Youth Policy (2021-2030), after paying attention to the views and expectations of more than 100 relevant organisations and groups on the new round of youth policy. Public consultation was conducted from 12th November to 11th December, 2020.

Through the participation of the youth, various sectors of the society and their presentation of opinions, the Macao Youth Policy (2021-2030) is now finalised, after consolidating the opinions of relevant departments, organisations, experts and scholars. It is published as a blueprint for Macao youth work in the next ten years.

In the future, the Youth Affairs Committee and “Youth Policy” Interdepartmental Follow-up Group will continue to play a collaborative role, and continue to promote close cooperation among the youth, Government, educational institutions, associations, community, families and enterprises to implement the new round of youth policy fully.

2 Definition of youth

Considering factors such as extension of the average life expectancy and education period, the starting age for employment has been postponed, the proportion of young people in the population, being in line with the youth policies of the country and cities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area as well as meeting diverse needs of more youth groups, the “Macao Youth Policy (2021-2030)” extends the defined age range of youth from 13 - 29 years old in the past to 13 - 35 years old.

This youth policy classifies Macao youth into four basic groups:

1. Studying youth: young people who are attending non-tertiary education or tertiary education and whose main identity is students;
2. Working youth: young people whose main status is employed or self-employed;
3. Working and studying youth: young people who are working and studying at the same time;
4. Non-working youth: young people who are neither studying nor working.

By the end of 2020, there were 213,000 young people aged 13 to 35 in Macao, accounting for 31.18% of the total population, of which 103,000 were male and 110,000 were female.

3 Vision

Nurture the body and mind, develop moral values and talent; have the courage to take responsibilities and build the future. Promote Macao youth's sense of belonging to and participation in the country and society, cultivate aspiring new generations, with devotion to the Motherland and international perspectives, who are physically and mentally healthy, versatile, highly competitive, take account of their rights and responsibilities, have virtues and talent as well as integrate knowledge into practice.

4 Policy directions and objectives

4.1 Policy direction and objective 1: Promoting the spirit of loving the Motherland and Macao, enhancing the devotion to the Motherland

Loving the Motherland and Macao is the core value of Macao society. Through systematic education and diversified activities, youth's sense of identity and sense of belonging to the country and Macao are enhanced, and the spirit of loving the Motherland and Macao is passed down.

Enhance youth's understanding of the history, culture, land and folk customs of the Chinese nation, knowledge of and reflection on the development course and achievements of the country as well as comprehensive insights into the local and multi-cultural, historical and social development of Macao. Enable young people to have a deep understanding of, respect and uphold the "Constitution of the People's Republic of China" and the "Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China"; correctly understand the relationship between the country and Macao under "One Country, Two Systems", and Macao's positioning and role in national development.

4.2 Policy direction and objective 2: Improving morality, enhancing physical and mental qualities

Promote moral education, foster excellent traditional Chinese virtues, learn the spirit of world civilisation, pay attention to the physical and mental health as well as leisure life of young people, and enhance their morality.

Cultivate youth's regular exercise habits, enhance their physical health; encourage them to develop diverse leisure interests, enrich their lives and enhance their humanistic literacy; promote life education, mental health education and legal education; cultivate good psychological and moral qualities of young people, and guide them to establish correct values; cultivate youth's sense of responsibility, community adaptability, the abilities of self-guidance, resilience and stress resistance, and the ability to resist temptation and cope with setbacks; establish youth's law-abiding awareness, so as to prevent and reduce deviant and illegal behaviour.

4.3 Policy direction and objective 3: Enhancing comprehensive ability, promoting all-round development

Deepen the building of a learning society, improve the comprehensive quality and core competitiveness of youth, and promote their all-round development.

Promote the professional growth of young people and cultivate young talent in different fields; promote and coordinate social resources, pay attention to the development of the disadvantaged and grass-roots youth; assist young people to deepen their career planning and expand the space for youth development. With the opportunities of Macao diversified economic development and regional cooperation, create conditions and provide support for young people's outbound exchange, internship, education, employment and entrepreneurship, encourage and promote youth development in diverse areas; broaden their international horizons and development paths, and enhance their sense of competition.

4.4 Policy direction and objective 4: Jointly creating a harmonious atmosphere, building an inclusive society

Assist young people to establish good interpersonal relationship and promote humanistic care.

Establish an exchange and communication platform for different youth groups, eliminate cultural barriers and social exclusion, and jointly create a harmonious social atmosphere with respect, tolerance, acceptance and equality; cultivate empathy and compassion among young people, and spread the spirit of care, love and dedication; raise the awareness of youth to help the disadvantaged; cater for the needs of different youth groups, ensure that young people of different classes and groups have equal opportunities for development, especially in terms of education, employment and social participation, and provide appropriate services and support to young people in need.

4.5 Policy direction and objective 5: Promoting social participation, integrating into national development

Respect youth's dominant status and personality development, enhance their willingness to pay attention to, serve and participate in the society, promote youth participation in regional cooperation and outbound exchange, encourage youth to integrate their own development with national development and make contributions to Macao and the country.

Through more flexible and innovative channels, strengthen two-way communication to understand what young people think, want and need; integrate youth volunteer resources and gather the strength of youth volunteers; support the development of youth associations to perform the

leading role in youth social participation; enrich the channels and forms of youth social participation, broaden the experience of youth to improve their ability to discuss issues and politics, and cultivate their sense of taking responsibilities.

5 Major measures

5.1 Strengthening patriotic education, enhancing devotion to the Motherland

- Promote schools to deepen the education of loving the Motherland and Macao, optimise curriculum provision, publish a series of supporting teaching materials, implement diversified extracurricular experience activities on devotion to the Motherland, strengthen relevant teacher training, and provide support for creating a patriotic atmosphere in school.
- Organise and hold the following activities, as well as support schools and youth associations to organise the activities for teaching staff, students and youth of different groups to promote traditional Chinese culture, understand national development, enhance their self-confidence and pride in Chinese culture, local culture and development positioning of Macao.
- Establish an education base with the theme of loving the Motherland and Macao, integrate various facilities and resources for education on national conditions, and optimise the facilities for youth patriotic education activities.
- Strengthen cooperation with government departments and various sectors, promote the publicity and education of the “Constitution of the People’s Republic of China” and the “Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region of the People’s Republic of China”, and assist young people to correctly understand and implement “One Country, Two Systems”.

5.2 Strengthening moral education, advocating healthy living

- Promote cooperation at different levels among schools, families, associations, enterprises, related departments and the society; strengthen moral education, carry out relevant activities for young people with different characteristics in diverse ways, cultivate correct values of young people; organise activities of life education, mental health, humanistic care, family education, as well as activities enhancing happiness, resilience and stress resistance, and provide appropriate support.
- Strengthen publicity and promotion, increase supporting facilities, promote youth to exercise regularly, have a healthy diet, and develop good living habits.
- Organise, support and encourage young people to participate in diverse leisure activities, develop a wide range of interests, advocate lifelong learning, and enhance their humanistic literacy.
- Organise various environmental education activities for young people to raise their environmental awareness, advocate green living, and support their participation in environmental protection work.
- Strengthen interdepartmental cooperation to jointly prevent deviant and illegal behaviour such as youth drug abuse, cybercrime, school bullying, pornography, violence and gambling; promote relevant publicity and education, and provide counselling and support.

5.3 Improving comprehensive literacy, enhancing core competence

- Through enhancing education, encouraging further studies, providing diversified training, promoting social participation and practice, enhance youth's comprehensive literacy and core competitiveness, emphasise the development of young people's thinking skills such as rational analysis and critical thinking, so as to assist them to make independent judgements, distinguish right from wrong and make scientific analysis. The related abilities include professional knowledge, innovative thinking, critical thinking, critical sense, arts and humanities, scientific literacy, language, expression, interdisciplinary collaboration, problem solving, response capacity, teamwork and leadership.
- Establish a platform for exchange and learning between local and foreign youth, support and encourage young people and youth associations to participate in major events and international activities, including contests, competitions, leadership and talent training, exchange and study visits, seminars, scientific research cooperation and other activities. Broaden the international horizons of young people and enhance their sense of competition.
- Support associations, encourage enterprises and organisations to provide diversified training activities for young people with different characteristics and specialities, so as to enhance their versatility.

5.4 Strengthening talent cultivation, promoting diversified development

- Enhance the guidance for further studies and orientation of career planning for different groups of young people; provide internship, training and compile information on industry development and talent demand to enable young people to understand different professional content, characteristics of industries, development prospects, Macao development positioning, regional cooperation, national development planning, employment and entrepreneurship support measures for youth in Macao and cities in the Bay Area, employment environment, opportunities and challenges for entrepreneurship, and so forth, so as to help young people to plan their career at different development stages and expand the space for their development.
- Capitalise on the advantages of academic and scientific research of Macao tertiary education institutions, cultivate professionals to meet the needs of social development; promote external cooperation of Macao tertiary education institutions and integration of industry and academic research to cultivate scientific research talent.
- Strengthen cooperation with tertiary education institutions, international institutions, public departments and advanced enterprises in the mainland and foreign countries to provide Macao youth with opportunities for learning, further studies, training and internship; provide relevant subsidies and incentives to enhance the cultivation of Macao elites.

- Strengthen the cooperation with different public departments and enterprises to provide Macao youth with vocational and technical skill training at different levels to enhance their professional competence; set up an incentive mechanism to encourage young people to continue to study and obtain professional certification to improve their professional standards.

5.5 Strengthening outbound exchanges, expanding space for development

- Strengthen interdepartmental cooperation; jointly organise, support and encourage youth participation as well as hold different types of outbound exchanges, study tours, and cooperation activities. Enhance young people's understanding of mainland China, other countries and regions and build a platform for youth exchanges and cooperation in the future.
- Provide young people with information on regional cooperation and national development planning, including information about regional situations, people's conditions and economic characteristics as well as the support and preferential measures related to the development of Macao's youth. Encourage young people to integrate personal development into national development and the development of the Greater Bay Area and provide them with assistance and training.

5.6 Strengthening two-way communication, creating a positive atmosphere

- Expand and deepen rational communication and exchanges with different groups of young people in a close and diversified manner. Encourage young people to express their opinions, listen to their thoughts, ideas and needs.
- Support, encourage and assist in building communication platforms among different youth groups in a flexible manner. Enhance young people's understanding and knowledge of diverse cultures in various regions. Promote acceptance, tolerance of and respect for different cultures.
- Cultivate young people's network literacy and enable them to correctly examine the information in cyberspace. Teach young people to use the Internet in a responsible manner and create a positive Internet culture.

5.7 Promoting social inclusion, ensuring equal opportunity

- Promote young people's understanding, knowledge, acceptance, tolerance of and respect for cultural diversity. Remove cultural barriers and social exclusion derived from differences in nationality, descent, race, gender, language, religion, politics, belief, culture and custom. Promote social inclusion.
- Promote and teach young people to actively participate in volunteer services/volunteer work, encourage them to show concern and respect for others. Improve the database of youth volunteers, integrate and better develop the social volunteer force.

- Strengthen care and concern for young families, new immigrants, ethnic minorities, young people with special needs or underprivileged young people. Provide them with appropriate assistance.
- Provide resources and measures to ensure that youth groups, young people with special needs or underprivileged young people can have equal opportunities for education, employment and social participation.

5.8 Supporting youth associations, making use of the power of associations

- Provide training and support for youth associations. Encourage young people to establish associations for promoting social participation and social services, assisting the vulnerable groups and supporting sports, artistic and cultural development.
- Assist young people to establish more influential youth associations and encourage their participation. Guide youth associations on how to give full play to their role in leading youth development and social participation as well as organise diversified activities. Generate the enthusiasm of young people with different traits.
- Support and encourage the establishment of a cooperative partnership between local youth associations and that between local and non-local youth associations.

5.9 Fostering a sense of participation, showing concern for social development

- Strengthen interdepartmental cooperation. Provide multiple channels and establish platforms for young people to express their opinions. Encourage young people to pay attention to social affairs and express their views on social issues.
- Provide different groups of young people with a diversified platform for practice, encourage and support young people's participation in social affairs. Widen their experience, foster their hard-working spirit as well as their sense of responsibility.

5.10 Ensuring resource allocation, integrating various resources

- Ensure allocation of resources to support all levels of education, various kinds of scholarships and grants, continuing education, training, counselling, and community services.
- Provide necessary support for different youth groups, young people with special needs or underprivileged young people, safeguard the growth and holistic development of young people.
- Strengthen the collaboration of the “Youth Policy” interdepartmental follow-up group. Integrate various types of youth-related software and hardware resources to realise greater synergy.
- Ensure the investment of resources for youth-related work. Encourage and provide subsidies for schools, associations, relevant organisations and institutions to carry out activities, services and training that are conducive to youth development.

- Attach importance to and rationally plan the space for youth activities. Optimise various youth services and activity facilities. Provide flexible and diversified services and simplify the administrative procedures. Offer support to schools, associations and related organisations for optimising the space and facilities for youth activities.
- In line with the SAR Government's promotion of the Smart City and e-government, ample online resources will be provided for young people to help them share information online and build a platform for communication.

6 The implementation of the policy and the review mechanism

6.1 Implementation mechanism

The Education and Youth Development Bureau co-ordinates the “Youth Policy” interdepartmental follow-up group. The “Youth Policy” will be promoted and implemented with the collaboration and support of the Youth Affairs Committee, relevant government departments, educational institutions, youth associations and private social service organisations.

- In accordance with the social situation and the need for youth development, the Education and Youth Development Bureau will introduce the “Youth Policy” into the government annual policy in phases so that the former can be carried out in an orderly manner.
- Co-ordinate the operation of the cooperation and exchange platform of the “Youth Policy” interdepartmental follow-up group. Strengthen information sharing and resources integration among different departments. Improve the joint actions and cooperation mechanism between different departments to realise synergy and increase the overall implementation effectiveness of the “Youth Policy”.
- The Education and Youth Development Bureau will send the “Youth Policy” to other relevant government departments, educational institutions, youth associations and private social service institutions to be used as a reference for planning youth work and a basis for mutual cooperation and support.

- The Youth Affairs Committee provides assistance to the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture in the implementation and evaluation of the “Youth Policy” in accordance with the law and holds regular thematic meetings on the implementation of the policy.
- Establish a regular communication mechanism. Invite educational institutions, youth associations, private social service institutions, relevant social organisations and young people to have an exchange of ideas about policy implementation strategies and effectiveness so as to create more favourable conditions for the implementation of the Policy.

6.2 Review mechanism

The implementation status and effectiveness review mechanisms of the “Youth Policy” include “Constant Consultation and Monitoring” and “Research and Effectiveness Review”.

6.2.1 Constant consultation and monitoring

- The Education and Youth Development Bureau will submit an annual report on the implementation of the “Youth Policy” in the meeting of the Youth Affairs Committee. Representatives from government departments related to the “Youth Policy” will be invited to attend the meeting to provide information on the work relevant to the annual themes and share the results of the work.

- The views and suggestions collected during the implementation of the “Youth Policy” will also have to be reported at the meeting of the Youth Affairs Committee. Thus the departments implementing the policy and other relevant departments can keep abreast of the development needs of young people.
- The Youth Affairs Committee can provide advice and suggestions about the implementation effectiveness. Besides, stakeholders related to the “Youth Policy” can be invited to exchange views and share their opinions at regular meetings, thus playing the role of monitoring.

6.2.2 Research and Effectiveness Review

- The first implementation cycle of the “Youth Policy” will take place from 2021 to 2025. The Education and Youth Development Bureau will commission an academic or a special research institution to conduct the mid-term research review in 2025 to review the implementation status of the “Youth Policy” and adjust the next stage of policy deployment according to the results.
- To be in line with the new youth policy, the “Macao Youth Indicators” system will be adjusted. Appropriate indicators will be developed to effectively reflect on the implementation status of various policy directions and goals. Thus it will provide a scientific basis for effective implementation and continuous optimisation of the “Youth Policy”.

- Carry out continuous investigation and research into different issues relating to youth, understand the trends in youth development in a scientific, constant and systematic manner so as to assist in effectively implementing the “Youth Policy” and reviewing the effectiveness.