

Foreword

The Macao Special Administrative Region received its record-breaking 20 millionth visitor for the year in December 2006. It was once again demonstrated the sustainable development of the tourism industry under the impetus of positive factors.

In the meantime, the Institute For Tourism Studies, who has been taking charge of part of the nurture of tourism professionals in Macao has restructured its curriculum, in order to continue with its development at steady paces. In addition, various intensive as well as on-job training programmes have been offered to respond to the changes and the needs for development of the tourism market in Macao. IFT's efforts in striving for excellence throughout the past decade have received recognition and certitude from the community. The quality education that the Institute has been providing is also internationally recognised. In 2000, IFT became the first higher education institution being granted the Themis TedQual Certification by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). It ascertained that the quality of IFT's education and training has reached international standard. In 2004, the Institute once again passed the UNWTO's TedQual evaluation, and the Certification was extended to 2008.

With the great support of the Central Government, the national travelling policy has been further liberalised. Meanwhile, the boom of gaming tourism is boosting the already fast-growing tourism industry to another whole new horizon. Macao, as a tourism city, is becoming more internationalised. With the joint effort of the SAR Government and the industry, Macao has been unceasingly enhancing its facilities in both software and hardware in the recent years, to cope with the needs of the tourism industry. Being a higher education institution supported by public resources to offer professional tourism training, IFT has always been playing a significant role in nurturing tourism professionals. The SAR Government will continue to provide persistent support to IFT, allowing the Institute education autonomy to further extend its global reach, to pursue academic exchange with international higher education institutions, to attain latest information and research findings, to be on a par with international standards, and thereby widen its international vision and broaden its academic development, and enhance its competitiveness in the international arena.

In the future, I wholeheartedly hope that IFT will keep on devoting to the education of high-calibre tourism professionals for the tourism industry of Macao.



Chui Sai On
Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture