

120th Anniversary of the Printing Bureau

Printing is one of the four great inventions of ancient China, and is also the precursor of modern human civilization, as it has created the conditions for the wide dissemination and exchange of knowledge. The invention of printing enabled the mass production of printed copies, increased the preservation of books, as well as promoting the popularization of education and the dissemination of knowledge.

As a public service of the Printing Bureau, many of its prints are extraordinarily unique: texts related to policies, regulations and guidelines, which serve as statutory and demonstration authority, can be used as the basis or evidence for the conduct of public affairs or services, and have always had a special role.

Name

The Printing Bureau is one of the public services of the Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR) and has a long history, it was founded on November 16, 1900 and came into operation on January 1, 1901. It was originally known as the “National Press”, renamed later on May 18, 1985 as “Macao Official Press”, and the current name, “Printing Bureau”, was adopted after the reunification.

Location

There were no fixed operating facilities in the early days of the Printing Bureau. That was until January 28, 1954, when it was relocated to a two-storey building in Saint. Lawrence’s Parish (Freguesia de São Lourenço), and the building’s street was renamed from Prazeres Street (Rua dos Prazeres) to National Printing Street (Rua da Imprensa Nacional). With the development of its activities, the facility’s space became severely inadequate and, with the support of the MSAR Government, on May 9, 2019, the Printing Bureau was relocated to its current location: the Multifunctional Government Building at Lot O1 in Pac On, Taipa, Macao.

Functions

The Printing Bureau is a public service with administrative, financial and property autonomy, while the printing activity is conducted according to the industry’s operation model, the Bureau’s functions are not only to provide the public with government information (i.e. the publication of the Official Gazette of the Macao Special Administrative Region), but also to make publications with exclusive publishing rights, such as the Reports of Governmental Policy Address, Management Accounts, books in the legal area, etc., and to provide various types of forms to other public services, such as cheques of wealth partaking scheme, promotional leaflets, examination papers, etc. In addition, the Bureau also assists the public services in Macao in the sale of various types of publications and forms through the operation of physical and online bookstores.

Development

With the continuous development of the society and the advancements in science and technology, the printing technology of the Printing Bureau has also kept abreast of the times, moving from the traditional linotype and phototypesetting to the advanced techniques of computerized zinc plate (CTP – Computer to Plate) and digital printing; and with the widespread use of artificial intelligence (AI), big data and blockchain technology, the Printing Bureau is set to embrace the upcoming phase of upgrading and transformation.

Retrospective and Perspective

120 years is a very long period, Macao's progress has been recorded, the development of the society has been witnessed, and the rapid advances in printing technology has been demonstrated. Over the past 120 years, the Printing Bureau has embraced the hard work and dedication of the previous generations, as well as the spirit of paving the way for the future and is committed to a pragmatic and practical approach. With this set of commemorative stamps, we would like to pay sincere tribute to the contributions of our predecessors and encourage ourselves to provide a better service.

Printing Bureau
Translation: NextVector Consultants Ltd.