## 20th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Macao Customs Service

The Third Plenary Session of the Preparatory Committee for the Macao Special Administrative Region of the National People's Congress hold on 19<sup>th</sup> September 1998 stipulated that after the Establishment of the Macao Special Administrative Region, the Macao Customs Service would be set up in accordance with the Basic Law. In compliance with Article 2/1999 of the Law on Government Organization Outline, the Customs Service of the Macao Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China was set up and officially operated on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2001.

The Macao Customs Service is mainly responsible for leading, executing and monitoring all the measures related to customs policies, and undertakes the police nature functions like managing and supervising related affairs. The Macao Customs Service monitors and patrols Macao's maritime and coastal areas to prevent illegal activities in order to safeguard citizens' safety and property. Since its establishment, the Macao Customs Service performs duties according to the law, maintaining public safety and economic stability.

With the development of Guangdong–Hong Kong–Macao Greater Bay Area, the Macao SAR started officially manage 85 square kilometers of coastal area since 20<sup>th</sup> December 2015. And the openings of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, the Hengqin New Port and to other regional integration processes, the Macao Customs Service have kept in pace with the development of the Macao SAR. Macao Customs Service consolidates itself, forge ahead in unity and continually promote the simplified customs clearance procedures in order to create more favourable conditions for movement of people, transportation and trading activities. In addition to carrying out civil protection and fighting against illegal activities with other law enforcement departments in Macao, the Macao Customs Service continues to strengthen exchange and cooperation with the international and regional communities in order to prevent, combat and curb customs fraud, trafficking, illegal border crossings and copyright infringement.

Looking ahead, the Macao Customs Service will continue to enhance its capability of fighting against crimes to ensure safety of the citizens and economic development of the city. We will continue to unwaveringly defend the country's sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity, fully implement policies for the country and the city, and relentlessly optimise our public services. We will continue to contribute to Macao's integration into the country's national development and the successful implementation of the principle of "one country, two systems".

Macao SAR Customs Service Translation: NextVector Consultants Ltd.