



Chinese and Western cultures in harmony

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Have you ever seen or noticed one of the sculptures in Macao, the Oriental Arch on Dr. Rodrigo Rodrigues Road? As we view from the roundabout circling the Oriental Arch, we will see there is another sculpture, the Kun lam Ecumenical Centre located on the shoreline of Z.A.P.E. The Portuguese artist created this sculpture on the tunnel of the turning circle between Ho Yin Garden and Dr. Rodrigo Rodrigues Road to express that Macao is the intersection of Chinese and Western culture.

If we highlight Macao as a city which blends both Chinese and Western culture, one should mention one of Macao's most famous squares, the Senado Square. This square is a focal point where the new culture, the blending of Chinese and Western cultures, is best displayed. It is hard to find another city in the world like Macao. A variety of special cultural and religious activities are celebrated in its central square. Aside from the Catholics who participate in these religious activities, Macao citizens and tourists are also attracted by the activities.

In terms of the traditional Chinese activities, Macao celebrates the arrival of the New Year with a Dragon and Lion Dance every Lunar New Year. Everyone wishes to be very powerful and have the blessings of good spirits through the year. As a result everyone seeks to view the Lion jump up to get the branches and the green leaves and crunch on them. All the participants become really joyous and excited.

The blending of the Chinese and Western cultures can also be seen in the naming of buildings. For example, the Chinese name of St. Dominic's church is the name of the temple of St Dominic. The older generation in Macao did not fully understand the difference between a church and a temple. They simply considered that a church and a temple were the same thing.

I am really lucky to be brought up in Macao as I can experience different cultures and religious events in one city and appreciate how people of different cultures can live harmoniously.