

From the Editor

The Education and Youth Affairs Bureau commissioned the University of Macao to conduct research on the Macao Youth Indicators Profile Project in September 2001. In February 2003, the University submitted the research report “Macao Youth Indicators Profile Project”, which initially set out 10 areas of research and 80 indicators. It also defined the age range of “Youths” in Macao as those individuals aged 13-29.

In early 2004, the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau initiated specific efforts to collect data for the various indicators covered by this report: Youth Indicators of Macao 2004. The main purpose of the exercise is to enable the public to have a better picture, through these indicators, of the current situation of young people aged 13-29 in Macao, thereby gaining a more comprehensive understanding of the different interests and needs of the younger generation. The data will also provide good reference for relevant departments of the Special Administrative Region government when formulating future related policies.

Twenty-five of the indicators presented in this report have been compiled by “data collection”, mainly from various government departments. Among these 25 indicators, 2 made use of research results from social surveys conducted previously. The successful collection of data on these indicators owed largely to the unreserved assistance and valuable comments rendered by various departments and individuals.

Apart from the above 25 indicators, data for the remaining 17 indicators presented in this report has been sourced from 6 social surveys carried out throughout 2004. These surveys include: Research on Indicators Related to the Physical and Mental Status of Young People, and Research on Indicators Related to Concern Accorded by the Community on Youth Problems, both undertaken by Macao Polytechnic Institute on commission; Research on Indicators Related to Youth’s Perception of Values, undertaken by Sheng Kung Hui Macao Social Service Centre; Research on Indicators Related to Information Technology and Youth Development, by Macao New Chinese Youth Association; and Research on Indicators Related to Youth Consumption and Quality of Life and Research on Indicators Related to Participation in Activities by Young People, by Education and Youth Affairs Bureau ⁽¹⁾.

The publication of the Youth Indicators of Macao 2004 report also signifies the beginning of the next phase of research. It is anticipated that the subsequent stage of research on youth indicators will make up for the inadequacy of this report and provide an even more complete reflection of the young people in Macao.

Finally, we sincerely hope this report can assist the various organizations devoted to youth service in better understanding the situation faced by youths in Macao, as well as their needs, thereby ensuring youth work in the Special Administrative Region truly meets the needs of the community.

Note: 1. Results of Research on Indicators Related to Participation in Activities by Young People has been incorporated into the report on Research on Indicators Related to Youth Consumption and Quality of Life.