

Chief Executive opens new nursery wing



Chief Executive Fernando Chui Sai On yesterday inaugurated the new wing of the Holy House of Mercy nursery, which will open for a further 120 children

The nursery at the Holy House of Mercy has opened a new wing that will allow it to more than double the number of children it can accommodate.

The expansion of the institution was officially unveiled yesterday, in a ceremony that was presided over by Chief Executive Fernando Chui Sai On. The new wing is located in a space granted by the government in the NAPE district.

The nursery managed by the brotherhood opened in 2002 and up until now was able to take care of around 100 children. But with a new wing in operation this threshold will rise to about 220.

Yet the expanded space may still be too little for existing demands.

Last year the director of the nursery, Isabel Marreiros, told Macau Daily Times the waiting list for the institution included 420 children.

The new wing was originally slated to open in early 2011. Last year the Holy House of Mercy convenor António José de Freitas said the brotherhood was just waiting for approval to begin renovations.

The decisive boost was given in May 2010, when Chui Sai On visited the nursery, the Blind Rehabilitation Centre and the Old Ladies House, all three run by the Holy House of Mercy. "He encouraged us to move forward with the expansion," Freitas told MDTimes.

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IPIM counts on MIF success

Over 1,650 booths have been set up for the 16th Macau International Trade and Investment Fair (MIF), which kicks off tomorrow and runs until Sunday at the Venetian Macao.

The number of booths represents an increase of 18 percent year-on-year, and the organising committee says that more than 3,700 local and overseas guests and trade visitors have already confirmed their presence, up 12 percent from last year.

"This shows that MIF, an exhibition accredited by The Global Association of the Exhibition Industry, [...] is eventually gaining wider recognition by business communities at home and abroad," said Jackson Chang, president of the Macau Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM).

According to IPIM, the more than 350 delegations who have registered this year are coming from over 60 countries and regions.

"Besides Nepal and Kenya, which are participating in MIF for the first time, other countries such as India, Pakistan, Vietnam and Peru are also setting up their debut exhibitions at the fair," Chang added.

This year's event will include an 'International Trade and Investment Forum 2011' with ministerial level officials and business leaders from Mainland China, Macau and Portuguese-speaking countries.

The chief economist of the Bank of China, Cao Yuanzheng, will also be delivering a keynote speech on the macro-economic and financial situation.

As usual, there is also a series of activities for small and medium enterprises and over a 1,000 business matching sessions are already scheduled.