"2015 Macao Convention and Exhibition Commendation Awards" Now Accepting Nominations (Press Release)

MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conventions & Exhibitions) as an emerging industry that helps in promoting the moderate economic diversification of Macao, is now heading towards the direction of becoming internationalized, specialized, market-oriented, and creating high-end brands. In order to acknowledge and recognize industry's effort and contribution during the past year, Macao Convention & Exhibition Association (MCEA) is now organizing for the first time the "2015 Macao Convention and Exhibition Commendation Awards" with the objective to build up a platform for industry to share, exchange, and cooperate so as to strengthen industry's cohesiveness as well as to jointly make Macao the quality service leader in exhibition and convention, and continuously in enhancing Macao MICE industry's regional competitiveness and international influence.

With the great support from Macao Foundation, Macao Economic Department, Macau Trade and Investment Promotion Institute, Macau Government Tourist Office, Macau Economic Association, China Convention & Exhibition Society, and Asian Federation of Exhibition & Convention Associations (AFECA) being our supporting organizations and also with both Macau Fair & Trade Association and the Association of Advertising Agents of Macau as our co-organizers, Macao Convention & Exhibition Association (MCEA) is going to organize for the first time the "2015 Macao Convention and Exhibition Commendation Awards" which will be the first contest held for Macao quality MICE events.

There will be 4 categories in this "2015 Macao Convention and Exhibition Commendation Awards" which are the Brand Exhibition Award, Brand Convention Award, Innovative Exhibition Award, and Bid Convention Award. This event is open to all Macao MICE industry peers by means of self-nomination and recommendation by others so as to broadly invite local MICE candidates to participate. A group of judging panel with experts and representatives of the MICE industry will then select the final winners.

Any exhibitions / conventions (including bid conferences) that were held in Macao between 1-October 2014 and 30-September 2015 are eligible to participate. For those who are interested, please visit the website of MCEA at <u>www.mcea.org.mo</u> to download an entry form for nomination. Upon completion of the entry form, please email or deliver it to MCEA Secretariat together with all required information. The submission deadline is on 15-October 2015.

Chief Executive, Chui Sai On attended the Legislative Council in August and had expressed that "Macao SAR Government values and supports the development of MICE industry and at this stage will strongly support local industry to bid for international MICE events to settle in Macao." Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, also pointed that "Macao SAR Government will be supporting MICE industry more precisely in the future." The organizer hopes that by means of this commendation event to encourage local industry peers to move towards the direction of "internationalization, specialization, branding" and also intends to develop this event into an annual grand event of the MICE industry in order to cope with Macao SAR Government's policies in pushing forward the development of MICE industry and fostering of local exhibition & convention brands.