



FOR IMMEDIATE NEWS RELEASE

**World Earth Day 2024: "Planet vs. Plastic"**  
**Artyzen Grand Lapa Macau x Macau IC2 Association Extend Efforts in Sustainable Living and Environmental Protection**

**Macau, April 21, 2024** — Artyzen Grand Lapa Macau, a leader in environmental friendliness and sustainability in the hospitality industry, has partnered with Macau "I Can Too" Association (hereinafter as Macau IC2) for the fourth consecutive year to mark World Earth Day, as well as to celebrate protections for Earth and inclusion across humanity. Both Artyzen Grand Lapa Macau and Macau IC2 share the belief and concept of sustainability, and they are committed to doing their part in protecting the environment.

Established in August 2016, Macau IC2 prides itself as the only government-registered "non-profit organization" in Macau that is operated by people with autism or other mental disabilities. The organization is run by the belief that everybody should be included and be empowered to make their needs fulfilled and voices heard.

Themed "Planet vs. Plastic," the event commenced with a Green Walk to Artyzen Grand Lapa Macau, led by officiating guests, to signify the positive impact on the environment from the event, as well as on personal health from regular exercise. Extending the sporting concept, the Green Walk was followed by a pickleball game demonstration staged to promote wellness and sports for all.

The theme of this year's event aims to trigger contemplation on the use of disposable plastic utensils and similar tools. Not only are they non-biodegradable and harming the planet we rely on, but their production also wastes significant energy and uses a lot of materials.

To accentuate the creativity of Macau IC2 students – many with autistic traits – and add value to existing wastes and recyclables, a fashion show featuring repurposed waste transformed into chic resources was staged as part of the event. Through this, both participants and members of the public are encouraged to recycled used materials and resources, while they strive to utilize Earth's resources in an even more ecofriendly manner. The students also staged a choir performance, supported by sign-language translations of the lyrics, to consolidate the call for inclusion and accessibility.

Continuing the tradition of the initiative, this year's event set plans for another tree to be planted in the ground of Artyzen Grand Lapa Macau, in a symbolic response to the worldwide call to mitigate global warming by natural means, as well as in the attempts to beautify both the hotel and the city as a whole. A simulated tree-planting ceremony was held at the event indoors, meanwhile, due to weather constraint.

The tree to be planted will be a fica tree, a species also collectively referred to as fig trees, was planted alongside the trees from previous years and will continue to be nurtured.

Booth games were held to familiarize guests and participants with the endeavors of Macau IC2, accompanied by a refreshment session, during which healthier delicacies were served to promote a balanced and eco-friendly diet.



A brief but informative environmental talk titled "*Planet over Plastic*" was held and discussed the possibilities entailed in mitigating the use of plastic and eliminating subsequent wastes, as well as the commitment in always prioritizing our planet over pollution.

**Mr. Antonio Luis Leong, President of Macau IC2**, said: "I would like to thank all the companions in the past four years for having faith in our ability to lead and organize such a major event, following event management courses. From four years ago, until this very moment, when the first tree was planted in Artyzen Grand Lapa Macau, we have remained the only rehabilitation organization dedicated to promoting environmentally friendly mentality."

"Artyzen Grand Lapa Macau is thrilled to be a key organizer and stakeholder in the event, helping disseminate the message of environmental protection and the lifestyle of eco-friendliness," said **Mr. Rutger Verschuren, Area Vice President, Macau Operations of Artyzen Hospitality Group and General Manager of Artyzen Grand Lapa Macau**. "We are even more elated to help create an opportunity for Macau IC2 students to showcase their talent and skills by organizing an event on and of their own, which our society can enjoy and benefit from, year after year."

"Not only have we organized Artyzen Grand Lapa Macau x Macau IC2 World Earth Day event today, we also take concrete steps to gradually phase out non-biodegradable disposable utensils, such as plastic water bottles," added **Mr. Verschuren**. "Artyzen Grand Lapa Macau and Artyzen Hospitality Group will continue to promote sustainable practices in the hospitality industry and contribute to a more sustainable future."

The event was made possible with the support from a number of co-organizers: Macau Dragon Voyage Sport Association, Shenmo Star River Public Welfare Alliance, Concordia School for Special Education and The Society of Food and Environmental Health (Macao).

Artyzen Grand Lapa Macau and Macau IC2 remain dedicated to their mission of promoting sustainable practices and environmental protection policies in the region. The success of the World Earth Day event is a testament to their commitment and their partnership with the Social Welfare Bureau, Education and Youth Development Bureau, and numerous other partners and organizations (see officiating guest list attached), With over 200 guests of honor, students and parents, as well as members of audience participating, the event shone a spotlight on sustainable practices and environmental protection policies not just in Macau but also in the Greater Bay Area and beyond.

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### **Photos Download**

Please click the link to download high-resolution photos.

<https://tinyurl.com/4kkyejyx>

Photos	Caption
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1		Group Photo of all officiating guests with Mr. Leung and Mr. Verschuren.
2		All guests of honor and participants photographed at the Grand Staircase of the Lobby of Artyzen Grand Lapa Macau.
3		Simulated Tree-Planting by (Left to Right) <b>Area Vice President, Macau Operations of Artyzen Hospitality Group and General Manager of Artyzen Grand Lapa Macau</b> Mr. Rutger Verschuren; <b>President of Macau IC2 Association</b> , Mr. Antonio Leung; and Founder of Shenmo Star River Public Welfare Alliance, Ms. Emily Ye.
4		World Earth Day 2024 had a fun fashion show that featured clothing pieces made with recycled materials.



5		Students and parents at Macau IC2 Association performed “You Raise Me Up” at the event, while translating the lyrics into sign language.
6		World Earth Day 2024 is successfully hosted at Artyzen Grand Lapa Macau.

### **Officiating Guest List**

#	Organization and Title	Name
1	Macao SAR Representative, National People’s Congress	Mr. Lao Ngai Leong
2	3 <sup>rd</sup> -level Researcher, Department of Social Affairs, Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Macao Special Administrative Region	Mr. Chen Jian
3	Centre for Psycho-pedagogical Support and Special Education, Education and Youth Development Bureau, Macao SAR	Ms. Wong Sut Hong
4	Functional Head, Rehabilitation Case Service Unit, Social Welfare Bureau, Macao SAR	Mr. Lao Kit Man, Anson
5	Legislator, Legislative Assembly, Macao SAR	Ms. Carmen Lo
6	President, Macao Wisdom Humanities Encourage Political Association	Mr. Ung Choi Kun



7	Member of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference of Guangxi Yulin; Chief Coach of Pickleball for Macau IC2 Association	Mr. Lenlison Lo
8	Vice President, Charity Fund from the Readers of Macao Daily News	Mr. Hoi Kin Cheong
9	Area Vice President – Macau Operations, Artyzen Hospitality Group and General Manager – Artyzen Grand Lapa Macau	Mr. Rutger Verschuren
10	Principal of Shenmo Star River Public Welfare Alliance	Ms. Emily Ye
11	Principal of Concordia School for Special Education	Ms. Lam Kim U
12	Executive Director, Macau Dragon Voyage Sport Association	Mr. Ken Cheung
13	Managing Director, Seng Pan Coffee Roaster Co. Ltd.; Honorary President, Macau IC2 Association	Ms. Jessica Tong
14	Honorary President, Macao Coffee and Tea Association	Mr. Sam Ng
15	Chairperson, The Society of Food and Environmental Health (Macao)	Ms. Ruby O
16	Director, Macau Business Magazine and Macau News Agency	Mr. José Carlos Matias
17	President, Association of Parents of People with Intellectual Disabilities of Macau	Mr. Chang Tak Toi
18	President, Macau IC2 Association	Mr. Antonio Luis Leong
19	Executive Director, Macau IC2 Association	Ms. Ng Man Po

For media inquiries or more information about Artyzen Grand Lapa Macau's sustainability initiatives, please contact:

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### **Sustainable practice advocated by Artyzen Grand Lapa Macau**

Commitment to sustainability is evident in every last detail at Artyzen Grand Lapa Macau. The hotel strives to reduce energy consumption, improve waste management and minimize food wastage, while also promoting low-carbon living. Since the hotel's renovation in 2018, Artyzen Grand Lapa Macau has minimized the use of plastic bottles for its bathroom amenities and guest supplies. In additionally, biodegradable straws have been implemented for beverages, and plastic packaging has been banned for takeaways. The hotel is also a pioneer in equipping itself with its Nordaq water bottling facility and introducing this premium water brand, which is used by many of the world's top hotels, chefs and sommeliers.



In order to promote a culture of environmental sustainability, the hotel actively participated in local major green activities, from Green Weeks to Earth Hours; red-packet recycling to Mooncake box collection; The “No Shark Fin - Artyzen Group Policy” was implemented, and sustainable seafood is now served in all restaurants. To promote an inspiring future, the hotel recently launched its Green Menu for a sustainable and responsible lifestyle. The hotel is awarded the Silver Award of the Macau Green Hotel Awards by Macau Environment Protection Bureau.

### **Brief Introduction of Macau IC2 (The main organizer of World Earth Day)**

Macau IC2 has been established by a group of people with autism and intellectual disabilities and it is still the only Macau government registered “non-profit organization” managed by people with disabilities since August 2016. The Abbreviation “IC2” stands for I CAN TOO, which means “I can do it, too”. IC2 believes in equality and that every human being is as important. All humans should be able to speak for themselves, share their thoughts, make friends, exchange information, promote and advocate the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and arouse social awareness. IC2 has found its way from managing a cafe via Catering Training Project to contributing to the society, i.e. Prepare free handmade sandwiches and visit to the caring elderly homes. From train-the-trainer program, they have begun to transform from “seeking other to help them” to “reaching out to help others”. Up to March 2024, they have 169 members and they don’t actively promote themselves but the people from the same background would find them from word-of-mouth. They also reach out to help those people with disabilities in the mountainous part of China who has limited knowledge about Autism and intellectual disabilities. All small steps have been accumulating experience along the way and enhancing the quality of life of Macau IC2 members.