

Macau | City lost past leading position of environmental policies - Environmental expert

The Macau SAR lost its position as a frontrunner in environmental policies but still has the "resources, people and necessity" to start implementing better eco-policies, the President of the Macau Association of Environmental Protection Industry António Trindade told MNA



Macau (MNA) – The President of the Macau Association of Environmental Protection Industry, António Trindade, told Macau News Agency (MNA) that the city lost its past position as a leading example of environmental practices.

"Macau used to be an example in environmental infrastructure some 15 years ago. It's one of the reasons why we have this conference [Macau International Environmental Co-operation Forum and Exhibition (MIECF)]. Nowadays it is not anymore, we're not even close. There's nothing in Macau that doesn't exist or is better than in other places like in Mainland China," Mr. Trindade said.

The CEO of CESL Asia and one of the founders of MIECF in 2008 told MNA the city is now a much different place than it was ten years ago, with "more tourists and resorts," but with environmental policies having not been developed as well as they could.

Nevertheless, Mr. Trindade says he can see some changes occurring with the problems raised after the passage of Typhoon Hato last year having exposed the fragilities of "one of the richest territories in the world."

"When you see a room at MIECF like this completely full of people from outside of Macau, with interests in the city as meeting point for knowledge, this creates natural effects in the environment. It leads to changes to improve the situation, in drinkable water security issues, energy to keep lights on and air conditioning working, and the capacity to treat the water we consume and re-use it, such as with waste," he added.

The businessman stated that since the MSAR has very little resources of its own, more focus should be placed on new technological solutions for old problems, which can be solved by implementing "more and better" old solutions.

"We need to find better solutions and make use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)," he suggested. "If we are putting so many cameras everywhere they can serve more purposes such as improving the quality of life and check if traffic is excessive or garbage is piling. Knowledge is available and we can use it if we are willing to."

Mr. Trindade concluded that the city has already the "resources, people and necessity" for implementing better environmental policies.

[Edited by Sheyla Zandonai]