

Catarina Pinto

AS the 2014 Macau International Environmental Cooperation Forum and Exhibition (MIECF) kicked off today, the chief executive officer of CESL Asia told the Times that while working on environmental matters, the company is committed “to doing more with less” and truly investing in the further training of its personnel.

In his opinion, Macau’s casino resorts should deepen their cooperation with other industries in order to become more energy efficient. He also said that Macau could be a pioneer on reusable water projects.

Macau Daily Times – What are the crucial projects that CESL Asia is working on at the moment?

António Trindade – We are very much immersed in this Macau Wastewater Treatment Plant, its expansion and the upgrading of the plant. We are engaged in the finalization of our new company business, which focuses on investing in new energy, but those investments are mainly being done in Portugal. We are also investing in reorganizing the company and training our people to even higher capabilities, coming up with new ways of doing what will be required in the future.

MDT – Within the context of the MIECF, what is CESL Asia doing in terms of environmental cooperation?

AT – We’ve partnered with TongFang [a Beijing-based environment company] and they will be here throughout the fair. One way to address that issue is by working on bringing technologies to address the effects that – naturally – economic development causes in the environment.

We are further developing our expertise and our people-skills. We want to do more, causing less environmental impact. In a place where everyone is saying that we do not have enough people, this might actually be an opportunity to do more with less.

MDT – But if new developments multiply in Macau, won’t companies such as CESL Asia need more staff?

AT – We will hire more people if we can have them. There’s always a limit. So now we need to try to do more with the people we have already. There is a debate going on regarding the lack of resources, water and energy. It’s a fact, but it’s also a fact that we can grow with what we have. This will need investment in training, personnel develop-



INTERVIEW WITH ANTÓNIO TRINDADE, CEO OF CESL ASIA

“Macau could be a pioneer on reusable water projects”

ment, and leadership skills. After the solar energy project, our main investment is training personnel.

MDT – Last year, on the occasion of CESL Asia’s 25th anniversary, you talked about reusable water projects. How is that development progressing?

AT – The reusable water project [at the wastewater treatment plant] is now in its final design stage. Hopefully, we’ll be able to have more projects involving reusable water in the future, because recycling water projects can not only be undertaken in wastewater treatment plants but also in other places that need it, such as these casino resorts, for instance.

This is very important for Macau because we do not have water. I think Macau can be a pioneer in this. Let’s imagine if China then follows on this principle of recycling water; we will have the ability to share our experience and provide our expertise, just like we did with the incineration plant, when many peo-

ple from China came to learn from Macau.

MDT – Why aren’t these reusable projects more common in Macau?

AT – Because the gaming industry takes a lot of resources from the rest of the population. The point is that non-gaming entities can provide services to the casino industry. Some of these big resorts do not have their own laundry services, for instance. There are one or two companies in Macau working on that and this is a good principle: a non-gaming company is doing something with the casino industry, for the benefit of all. Because, instead of having five or ten laundries, with so many machines consuming electricity and so many people, suddenly you have two or three – it’s a more efficient way of doing things.

But in some matters, the government has to push for it. They need to arbitrate on this.

The government has already announced higher electricity charges for big consumers, like the casino resorts. So this

is an opportunity for the casino industry to do things differently and I hope this is an opportunity for the diversification of the economy.

This fair, for instance, combines the gaming industry and outside operators, which are not related to the casinos.

MDT – Is the gaming industry aware of its role in protecting the environment?

AT – I think they are doing a very good job. You can see how much Macau has changed in such a short period of time. The challenges are great. I am sure that if things are done in an orderly fashion, there is a way to diversify the economy that will benefit the gaming industry. This has to be done for their benefit, as they are Macau’s main industry.

They will be the engine behind diversification, because all the people visiting Macau come mainly to gamble. However, they also consume water, they eat in restaurants, they shop in retail stores. We need to focus on strengthening our cooperation with the casino industry.

Companies unrelated to gaming can be a support, as they can be the only way to have access to the expertise that you need to solve certain problems; gaming operators are not the world’s experts on laundry or energy management. In Singapore, energy is not produced by the casino resorts; it’s provided by energy centers, which saves a lot of space, resources, energy, and greenhouse gas emissions.

MDT – What will CESL Asia focus its participation on during this year’s MIECF?

AT – We will focus on all these issues, in combining our services with those of our clients, such as casinos. This fair is about combining policy, industry, technology, academics, and the users. This event is all about clients and service suppliers. You see that some of the casino operators also have a booth here, because they understand that this is important and that some of these companies can use this opportunity to add value to their developments.