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## City lacks leadership to solve environmental issues

By **Nelson Moura** - March 28, 2019



Macau (MNA) – António Trindade, one of the founders of the Macao International Environmental Co-operation Forum and Exhibition (MIECF), told MNA on Thursday that there is “lack of leadership and will” on the part of the Macau SAR Government and public service companies to solve the city’s environmental issues, especially in regard to sewage and waste matters.

“We’ve known what is wrong for a long time, but it is always communicated to us with a positive spin. It is said that fish have died because of the lack of oxygen in the water when a report emerges stating that there has been a sewer discharge, turning it into an isolated incident when, in truth, this happens daily,” said the President of the CESL Asia, Investments & Services Ltd.



The CESL Asia President said after the opening of this year's edition of MIECF that Mainland China is currently the world leader in environmentally friendly and sustainable policies, having installed more than double the renewable energies in place worldwide, a feat it achieved through "resolute leadership" from its government.

According to Mr. Trindade, the MSAR Government should "give more value to integrity" and "will" to solve environmental problems instead of "looking to unrelated issues" due to "parallel interests".

"How is it possible for someone to justify that for the last ten to 20 years almost three to four metre high of untreated raw sewage is annually [discharged onto the city's territorial waters]?" Mr. Trindade stated.

According to him, the authorities had stated that they will come up with solutions in four or five years, while building a water treatment facility takes about seven to ten years.

"To develop this facility, sewage needs to be built and complex solutions need to be found to match different challenges. But who takes the responsibility? [...] It's not complicated, but it needs to be done, not hindering it from happening," he added.

The businessman stated that he "hoped" that whoever is called to solve the issues in the office of the new Chief Executive, to be appointed later this year, has a clear long-term plan to solve the water sewage issue, and to actually enforce it.

The CESL Asia President also evaluated the ways MIECF has changed after 12 editions, saying that it had become the "largest event of its kind" not just in Macau, but also in Hong Kong and even Mainland China.

"It has relevance in different levels, for industry, regulators, technology, science. It is a little of everything going around the world in terms of knowledge and government regulations, with a large focus on China, which notably is nowadays one of the greatest world contributors for sustainable development," he said.

