Brown root rot disease hits Guia Hill

Monica Leong

About a dozen trees have to be cut down each year due to brown root rot disease, which can mostly be found in trees on Guia Hill, Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) administration committee member Leong Kun Fong said yesterday.

Leong told reporters on the sidelines of attending CESL Asia's anniversary function at the Macau Science Centre that since there is no cure to the disease, the bureau has been researching ways to prevent the situation from getting worse.

"[The research] is still in the early stages," Leong said, pointing out that the bureau has been using chemicals as a way to control the situation, "but because there is no effective treatment of the disease, we're not optimistic."

"We hope that people won't misunderstand us for cutting down the trees when they can see that their leaves are still green," Leong said.

"In fact, these trees have been infected in different ways. If you can see lots of fungi growing around them, it means that the wood has begun to rot, which means the tree has been infected quite seriously."

According to Leong, most of the infected trees are found on Guia Hill and some in Taipa and Coloane.

"There are many areas on Guia Hill where many of the trees have the disease. Some along the roads in Taipa have the diseases as well, and there are some in the hills in Coloane, but they are not as seriously infected as the ones on Guia Hill," Leong said.

Leong said that to prevent other nearby trees from catching the disease, the bureau has treated the trees with chemicals, such as fungicides to control the fungus that causes the disease.

According to Leong, about 10 trees need to be felled every year.

Around six trees have been cut down so far this year because of the disease.

Leong said that it would take at least a year to clean and disinfect the soil where the infected trees grew before new trees can be planted there. ■

IACM administration committee member Leong Kun Fong speaks to reporters about the city's sick trees at the Macau Science Centre yesterday.

Photo: Monica Leong

CESL Asia to focus on water recycling business

Monica Leong

The development of water recycling solutions to the city's hotels and public housing estates is one of the environmental projects that CESL Asia will be focusing on in the next few years, the group's chief executive officer Antonio Trindade said yesterday.

The company held a cocktail reception to mark its 25th anniversary at the Macau Science Centre yesterday. Its businesses range from consultancy services to facilitating technical and energy management operations as well as environmental solutions.

"Water recycling is very important for Macau because Macau has no water so most of the water we're using in Macau comes from the mainland, but the mainland needs water too," Tindade told reporters on the sidelines of the function.

According to Trindade, the amount of freshwater needed for Macau would be reduced by 50 to 60 percent if the city adopts a water reuse programme.

Trindade pointed out that the company is developing a water recycling system and the quality of water generated from the system was expected to reach government standards by the end of 2016.

Former Macau chief executive Edmund Ho Hau Wah attended the function. Ho is now a vice-chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC). ■

CESL Asia CEO Antonio Trindade speaks to reporters on the sidelines of the company's 25th anniversary celebration at the Macau Science Centre yesterday.

Photo: Monica Leong

Firms to offer 30 internships for students during Christmas recess

Tony Wong

The Tertiary Education Services Office (GAES) and the Macau Wai, at the GAES office in Zape.

Wong said that the programme, which is in its third edition, aimed to internship for three weeks without pay.

Wong said that in some previous cases, the employers praised their in-