

# Right time to talk about cultural heritage preservation: scholar

Leong Lok Ian

Macau Association for the Education of History Chairman Johnny Lam Fat Lam said yesterday that after two incidents in the last eight days it is now the right time to get the public and the government to think about how best to preserve the city's cultural heritage sites.

Lam made the remarks during a group interview at his office at the Macau Polytechnic Institute's (IPM) Adult Education Centre. Lam is an associate professor at the institute.

Two UNESCO World Heritage-listed sites were damaged in separate incidents over the past week.

The first one was last Thursday, in which a wall of a building under redevelopment collapsed onto the listed Lou Kau Mansion in Travessa da Se. The site remains closed to the public until the authorities finish an evaluation of damage. Less than a week later, on Wednesday



Macau Association for the Education of History Chairman Johnny Lam Fat lam speaking to reporters during a group interview at his office yesterday.

Photo: Leong Lok Ian

morning, a fire broke out at the Cheng Kok Sim Lam Pavilion at A-Ma temple.

Lam, a member of the government-appointed Cultural Heritage Council, said the two incidents had

revealed an underlying problem of Macau's cultural heritage protection measures, which is rarely talked about: How to best preserve the city's historic sites.

Speaking of the government's

temple preservation measures, Lam said most of the responsibilities lay with the respective temple's own management committee, the government only providing guidelines and regular checkups of the temples.

Lam said after having meetings with several of these committees, he found many of them to have personal ties with the temples they maintain. He said while that was a good thing as it makes the running of a temple less business-like, many of the committees lacked the up-to-date knowledge on temple maintenance, and it just wasn't enough to rely on government-issued guidelines as such.

In comparison, Lam said Hong

Kong's temples are managed and maintained by the government, which holds public tenders regularly for developers to bid on the maintenance projects on the properties.

Lam said that while Hong Kong's measures were more effective in maintaining temples, it lacked the personal touch of each temple. He added that the public shouldn't just consider the financial factors when deciding how best to preserve a historic site.

Lam also said that the government and residents must learn from the Lou Kau Mansion incident, namely to think about cultural heritage preservation in terms of the areas surrounding the building or site, and not just the property alone. ■

## Govt probes deaths of 2 stray cats

Staff reporter

The Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) is trying to determine the causes of two cats' deaths upon a resident's request, government broadcaster TDM said yesterday, adding that both felines were possibly poisoned in a park.

According to a news report on the online activist media outlet *Macau Concealers*, the resident, surnamed Ng, had fed the two stray cats, namely Kam Mui and Pak Pak at least twice a day for years at Montanha Russa park.

*Macau Concealers* is an offshoot of the grassroots New Macau Association (NMA).

Kam Mui is Cantonese for "Golden Girl" while Pak Pak means "White White".

Ng told the media outlet that she had found the dead cats lying in a playground in the park yesterday morning, adding that they were bleeding from every orifice in their heads with no apparent injuries.

The woman said she suspected that the felines had eaten poisoned cat food, pointing out that a man standing nearby was "laughing crazily" when she found the dead cats, according to the report. Ng also said another stray cat, called Mou Pai, (Cantonese for "knockoff"), died in the park in a similar fashion on Sunday. ■



The photos sent by a resident surnamed Ng to The Macau Post Daily yesterday show Pak Pak (up) and Kam Mui lying dead in Montanha Russa Park earlier in the day.



A picture of 94-year-old casino mogul Stanley Ho Hung Sun is shown on a big screen at the Grand Lisboa ballroom on Sunday with a brief recording in which Ho wishes all the guests at SJM's Chinese New Year Gala Dinner a prosperous Year of the Monkey as his number-four wife Angela Leong On Kei (behind the lectern) looks on. Leong, the company's managing director, later also addressed the function, which was attended by Chief Executive Fernando Chui Sai On and his wife Winnie Fok Wai Fun as well as dozens of senior government and judicial officials, lawmakers, community leaders and media representatives. Leong, a member of the local legislature, said that even though 2015 was "a challenging year for the gaming industry," she vowed to "continue to strive for excellence in the year ahead." SJM Chairman Ambrose So Shu Fai said in his speech that "we can expect the coming year to be characterised by volatility." However, he was quick to add that "SJM faces the coming year with confidence."

Text: Staff Reporter. Photo: long Tat Choi

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### Macau Weather

**HUMID. CLOUDY. A FEW LIGHT RAIN PATCHES. MIST AND FOG. FORCE 3 TO 4 SOUTHERLY WINDS. RELATIVE HUMIDITY WILL RANGE BETWEEN 85% AND 99%. MAXIMUM UV INDEX IS EXPECTED TO BE 2, WHICH IS CLASSIFIED AS LOW.**



17°C~20°C

Source: SMG

### LEGITIMATE OFF SHORE TRUSTS CAN NOW BE SET UP FROM MACAU

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