

## Macau Post victim of phishing

Macau Post has reiterated a warning to the public to pay attention to an email, written in English with an indication of the EMS Logo, soliciting recipients to disclose their address. The email continues to circulate and the postal service have clarified they didn't send it to their customers. Given the attached file "ems.zip" contains a computer virus, the public is advised not to download it. A resident complained about a fraudulent (phishing) email received by a citizen on March 27.

## CCAC to reinforce cooperation with Beijing



Macau's Commissioner Against Corruption, Cheong Weng Chon, led a delegation to Beijing between March 30 and 31, exchanging views with relevant national authorities concerning anti-corruption and clear governance. The Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) delegation visited the deputy director of the State Council's Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office, Feng Wei, the Prosecutor General of the country's Supreme People's Procuratorate, Cao Jianming, as well as the Minister of Supervision, Huang Shuxian. In the meeting, Feng Wei said that Macau and the mainland have good cooperation in the field of anti-corruption; he hopes the CCAC can strengthen links with related bodies and deepen their cooperation. The Prosecutor General and the Minister both stressed in meetings that they hope the CCAC and mainland authorities might cooperate in combating duty crimes [abuse-of-power crimes], tracking fugitives and recovering illicit money. Cheong Weng Chon responded by pledging the CCAC's cooperation to "prevent Macau from becoming a transit point or a destination for corrupt officials and illicit money."

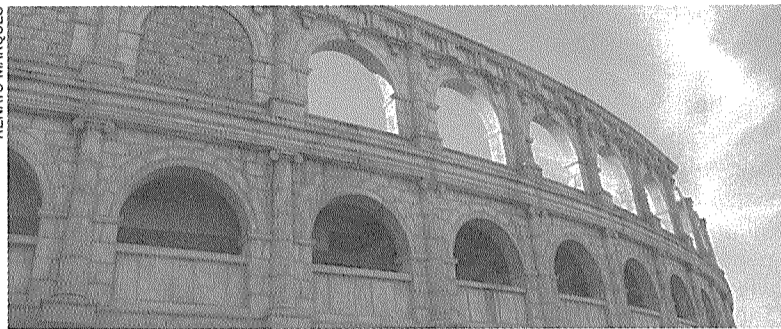
# DSSOPT considers increasing height limit at Fisherman's Wharf

**T**HE Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT) is considering increasing the upper limit of building height at the Fisherman's Wharf in its second draft plan, lifting restrictions that might lead to a higher density of buildings.

The new draft relaxed the area's planning conditions, with the height limit lifted from 60 meters to 90 meters, and the maximum plot ratio increased from 1.7 to 2.6; whilst the maximum building coverage has been increased from 42% to 55%.

Over the last two weeks, the bureau have held a period for public notice and consultation on the new planning conditions, scheduled to end today. Some critics have publicly opposed the plan, claiming that the relaxation is unjustified, detrimental to public interest, and that it will affect the city's environment and coastal landscape.

The plot is seen as a buffer zone surrounding the heritage Guia Light House, where currently the tallest building is 48 meters high. Last August, in its initial draft plan, the bureau raised the height limit



The Fisherman's Wharf

to 60 meters. Public opinion argues that there's no reason to raise the limit again.

David Chow, who owns Fisherman's Wharf as a subsidiary of his Macau Legend Development, explained that the high tower project is to develop non-gaming elements in accordance with the governmental policy; moreover, the lifted height limit is backed by the chief executive's instruction issued in 2008.

That instruction was enforced in an attempt to quell public outcry while allowing the construction of a high tower that would block the view of Guia Lighthouse, as indicated by scholar and civil activist Agnes Lam. "That was an act of expediency, and after that there were

no more [heritage] conservation plans. The government shouldn't approve another [90-meter high tower] based on such a remedial

document that was issued to remedy a previous wrong decision," she responded.

The scholar further argued that social protests might occur if the government forces the passing of the plan. Lawmaker Ng Kwok Cheong also warned of a tendency for developers to seek the breaking of restrictions and to simplify procedures, since no more low-premium land plots can be approved. "It's positive that the officials are under a lot of pressure from developers, and the pressure will increase more and more," he said. BY

### BUREAU RESPONDS TO CONTROVERSY

**THE DSSOPT** has responded to the controversy aroused by the increase in building height limits at Fisherman's Wharf yesterday, stating that all the buildings in the plot must strictly abide by the height limits stipulated in the No. 83/2008 CE instruction, and meet the requirement on the street shallow rule in Urban Architecture General Rules. The bureau stressed that the CE's instruction was issued with the purpose of balancing the

area's development and heritage conservation; and it has restricted the heights of new buildings in an area of 2.8 square kilometers surrounding the Guia Light House. "During the public notice period of the planning condition draft, different opinions and suggestions were drawn in society, that precisely reflects the Urban Planning Law's principles of transparency, facilitating public participation and openness," it added.

## Animal rights advocates demand Canidrome closure

**A**NIMAL rights advocates have urged the government to shut down Macau's dog racing stadium after the current concession contract expires this year. The Macau Society for the Protection of Animals (Anima) stressed that the "low profitable" operations at the Canidrome cause pain and injury to the greyhounds and around thirty are euthanized every month.

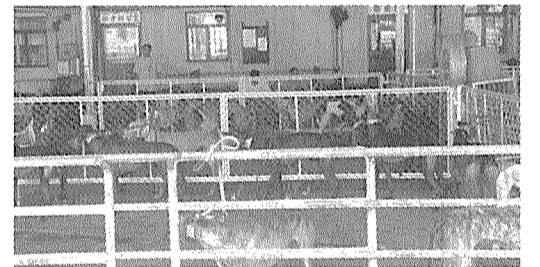
The Canidrome is managed by greyhound racing company Macau (Yat Yuen) Canidrome Co Ltd, and controlled by Stanley Ho's Sociedade de Turismo e Diversões de Macau SA (STDM). Last Saturday, Anima began a petition calling on the Chief Executive to terminate the contract for Yat Yuen Canidrome and finally call off the gambling-related sport.

"A quick glance at the Canidrome's website will give you regular updates on the type of injuries suffered by their dogs because of racing - crucial information for gamblers to decide

which dog to bet on or not. They are sadly euthanized at an average rate of 30 per month, even at the young age of two or three years old after they are found to be not 'profitable,'" Anima reports.

Besides criticizing the exploitation of those greyhounds imported from Australia, the group also stressed that the program constitutes only an insignificant portion of Macau's gaming revenue, and perpetuates gambling in a densely populated peninsula area. Instead, the group suggests freeing up the land for public housing or a "well-needed" public central park.

The dog-racing track at the Yat Yuen Canidrome was first opened in 1931 and, after 25 years of closure, reopened in 1963. Last week, the Canidrome's deputy president, Angela Leong, called on the government to keep the stadium, since "it is a collective memory of Macau residents and has important historic and tourism value" to the city.



"We cannot forget the history that in those days the Canidrome fostered the entire development of Macau's economy. In its promotional videos, the Macau Government Tourist Office mentions dog racing (...). This activity has actually history," she told the media.

In response, Anima's president Albano Martins refuted that, "only if it is historical value for her, because it's not for the community that lives there and it's not for sure for the animals. We are living in the 21st century, we are not in the middle ages."

### EDUCATION

## IPM music program accredited by Taiwanese council

**T**HE Bachelor of Arts program in Music offered by the Macao Polytechnic Institute (IPM) has been accredited by the Higher Education Evaluation & Accreditation Council of Taiwan (HEEACT), IPM announced in a press release.

According to IPM, the validation of the program serves to confirm its quality and provides significant recognition for its achievements

in areas such as provision of education resources, support for teaching and learning, international exchange and cooperation, and quality assurance and enhancement.

IPM began preparing to have the program validated in 2006 and invited HEEACT to conduct a validation exercise in 2014. In addition to reviewing the program's self-evaluation report, the valida-

tion panel also traveled to Macau last November for a three-day visit, during which time it evaluated the teaching and learning facilities, and met with management, faculty, staff and students of the program.

"The validation panel noted that the program reflects the merits of multicultural integration, [and] conscientiously safeguards its educational quality (...)," IPM said.

IPM said that it has also been subject to a successful institutional review in 2013 by the UK Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education. Since 2011, several of IPM's degree programs have been validated or recognized by academic accreditation agencies or other professional bodies, such as the Computing, Accounting, E-Commerce and Public Administration programs.