



Mr. Edmund Ho

His Excellency the Chief Executive of the Macao Special Administrative Region

Message

“The Conservation of Urban Heritage: Macao Vision” International Conference is a wonderful opportunity to explore ways to protect Macao’s cultural heritage and further urban development. The seminar will become a reference for Macao’s long-term planning and a marker for urban construction.

Macao’s return to Chinese sovereignty constituted a new page in its history. The Macao Special Administrative Region pursues the “One Country Two Systems” policy diligently to modernise its economy, and strives to preserve and develop its culture. This includes the preservation and appropriate utilisation of cultural heritage in Macao’s plan for sustainable social development. Last year, “The Historic Monuments of Macao” bid was placed top of China’s tentative World Heritage application list for 2003. This great honour given to Macao by the motherland is also an opportunity and a challenge. How can we foster Macao’s cultural image? How can we manage and utilise our cultural heritage in a scientific, rational way? Now, as Macao is seeking to become a modern tourist and gambling city in the Asia-Pacific region, how should we co-ordinate urban development and heritage conservation to their mutual benefit? All of these issues are important topics that the Macao Special Administrative Region must address.

On behalf of the Macao Special Administrative Region, I would like to offer a warm welcome to all the experts and academics participating in this conference. Thank you for bringing your knowledge and for having agreed to share your experiences with us. I believe that this conference will serve to broaden the vision of various sectors in the Macao Special Administrative Region, and will serve as a deep source of inspiration concerning all these topics.

Finally, I wish you all a successful conference.

Chief Executive of the Macao Special Administrative Region