



**Dr. Fernando Chui**

Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture  
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# Opening Speech

Macao's Eurasian architectural heritage is a precious testament to its history and adds significance to those who wish to learn about, study, promote and construct Macao. The Macao Special Administrative Region Government is actively involved in repairing and protecting Macao's Cultural Heritage, including requesting inclusion on UNESCO's World Heritage List, with the great support of the State Administrative of Cultural Heritage. Various activities have been introduced with a view to publicising heritage conservation and making Macao's population more aware of this issue, and we are now seeing the initial results. Heritage is also being used to promote Macao's rich and diverse culture to attract more tourists and foster development in the tourism sector. Having drawn on successful experiences of heritage conservation in other countries, this will be a good reference for us to revise the legislation on heritage conservation.

In accordance with the policy of the Macao Special Administrative Region in which tourism and gambling underpin economic development, there will be increased efforts to preserve Macao's precious cultural heritage. There will be ongoing work to inventory, classify and utilise heritage items in close connection with the city's long-term planning goals. There will also be an in-depth study of Macao's cultural heritage and environment to co-ordinate social and economic development, and, over time, to establish workable concepts, laws and systems. This international conference on "The Conservation of Urban Heritage: Macao Vision" provides an opportunity to take advantage of the experience and learning of experts involved in heritage conservation across the world. I am sure it will contribute to enhancing the quality of heritage conservation and the management of Macao's cultural heritage.

There are challenges in preserving our cultural heritage and modernising our city, namely how to encounter a mutually beneficial balance between the two. In this respect, I offer special thanks to Dr. Daniel Tse, Chairman of the Macao University Council, who has chaired the Academic Committee of the Confer-



ence, guiding it in the meticulous, strategic organisation of this event. I would also like to thank the conservationists and academics who have travelled from far away to participate in the conference.

I hope that during the conference you will explore the preservation of Macao's Cultural Heritage and unreservedly offer different points of view and strategies to us. We are open to learning from you, and willing to study and master what we have learned so that Macao's Cultural Heritage can be preserved in an appropriate manner.

I wish you all a successful conference.

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