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## \$12b plan to stem tide of pollution

By JACQUELINE LEE

HONGKONG would need to spend \$12 billion in the next 12 years on sewage treatment and disposal works to stem growing water pollution in the territory, the Director of the Environmental Protection Department said yesterday.

Dr Stuart Reed said the projects involved the construction of sewers to collect waste water, treatment plants and outfalls.

Options under consideration included treating sewage more thoroughly for disposal in shore waters or pumping sewage through very long submarine outfalls into offshore waters.

The department had identified the need for a series of projects which would cost about \$1 billion a year for 10 or 12 years, he said.

"We have yet to find out whether the community is willing to spend that amount of money.

"It's certainly a lot. It's the sort of money that many other places in the world, for example Cairo, Shanghai and Taipei are spending," Dr Reed said, noting that billions of dollars had been spent on supplying the population with clean water.

Dr Reed said the recent red tide in Tolo Harbour stemmed mainly from pollution by sewage from the rapidly rising population in the new towns of Sha Tin and Tai Po.