

\$18m to fight stench

By Vivian Tse

THE notorious stench of the Kai Tak nullah will be tackled in an \$18 million study of the Kowloon area sewerage system.

The Environmental Protection Department yesterday signed an agreement for the 21-month consultancy study which also will assess the volume of sewage generated within Tsim Sha Tsui, Hung Hom, To Kwa Wan, Kowloon City and Wong Tai Sin.

The study is expected to produce recommendations to remedy the problem of the nullah which has long been a dumping ground for

untreated sewage and rubbish generated in To Kwa Wan.

Oxygen is injected into the nullah to reduce the smell.

Meanwhile, plans are also in hand to discharge treated effluent from Sha Tin and Tai Po sewage treatment works to help flush the nullah.

Assistant director of environmental protection, Michael Stokoe, said the two measures were incidental to ultimate resolution of the problem.

"The smell control for the nullah is a temporary measure and the purpose for the effluent exportation is to reduce the

nutrient levels in Tolo Harbour," he said.

"With improvement works to be done after this consultancy study, we are optimistic that the problem in the Kai Tak nullah will be completely solved in a few years."

Expedient connections to stormwater drains by factories, and by intensive commercial and catering activities are known to have been made on a large scale.

An EDP spokesman yesterday said: "The problems are particularly bad in Hung Hom Bay and Kowloon due to geographic and hydraulic constraints."