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Subject: Clean Harbour

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In terms of feedback I really don't understand why there should be any question that Stage Two should go ahead... It should have been done years ago!

In my experience Hong Kong people always pride themselves on their personal cleanliness. Why would they want to live in a sewer?

I just put together a few bits and pieces that I found on the Internet.. It is obviously a huge issue worldwide. How nice would it be if Hong Kong could lead the way in this respect!

Travel information Hong Kong
http://www.hotels-in-hongkong.net/hong-kong-travel-guide/ecology_environment.html

Let's hold Tung to his word!
Hong Kong leader pledges to tackle pollution
<http://www.planetark.org/dailynewsstory.cfm?newsid=4044>

Waterborne Diseases

Most of these municipal pollutants contribute to the increase in disease transmissions of water borne diseases. Waterborne diseases are commonly contracted when bathing in fecal- and urine-polluted streams and canals or can be transmitted by the bite of an insect vector that breeds in polluted waters.

Concerning the health factors of the society, we must take into consideration the number of innocent people that are affected by the polluted waters. These health factors include the affects on humans due to the toxins and hazardous pollutants in the water system. Many waterborne diseases such as cholera and typhoid have affected China for the past several years through groundwater contamination. These epidemics have lead to either hospitalization or even death (Cholera Epidemics in Shanghai & Hong Kong, n/d).

These have included algae blooms and eutrophication in lagoons, dying reefs, contaminated drinking water wells and outbreaks of gastro-intestinal disease and cholera. The causes of this pollution include overflowing latrines and privies, water seal toilets, septic systems, sewage treatment plants as well as the complete lack of sanitation facilities in some places.

Globally, sewage is a major component of marine pollution from land-based activities, which account for roughly three-fourths of all pollutants entering the world's oceans. Land-based sources of marine pollution are contributing to an alarming decline in the health of the world's marine

ecosystems and their ability to provide for human needs. Sewage along with other forms of pollution from land-based activities is blamed for the decline and collapse of fisheries and tourism, and represent a severe threat to public health in various regions around the world.

Do you eat fish?

Red tides and other harmful alga brought on by eutrophication also contribute to the loss of fisheries. The link between the incidence of red tides and increased nutrients found in sewage has been well studied in Japan's Seto Inland Sea. From 1965 to 1976 the number of red tides went up from 44 to 326 per year, paralleling an increase in nitrogen and phosphate loadings. After new regulations reduced the nutrient loadings, the number of red tides began to decrease with 100 reported in 1992. In Tolo Harbour, Hong Kong an 8-fold increase in red tides between 1976 and 1986 was accompanied by a 2.5 fold increase in nutrient loadings.

However, increasing population and a wide variety of human activities have caused a global crisis in the oceans. Pollution, habitat destruction, and depletion of marine life worldwide are sapping the ability of the marine environment to sustain human needs. While direct destruction of habitat and overfishing are fairly easy to see, pollution threats are often harder to recognize and understand. A growing combination of new synthetic toxic chemicals, excess levels of nutrients and other natural pollutants are severely undermining the health of the marine environment. The exact impacts of any of these pollutants alone and in combination are extremely complex and difficult to decipher. There is, however, a growing list of undeniable symptoms including the closure of fisheries, food chain contamination, disease and mass mortalities of marine mammals and other species, the transmission of human disease, coral reef destruction and losses of biological diversity.

<http://darwin.bio.uci.edu/~sustain/suscoasts/krismin.html>

<http://www.uvm.edu/~rlachape/dev-pacis.html>

Citizen's Guide to Environmental Terminology

<http://www.agnr.umd.edu/MCE/Publications/Publication.cfm?ID=148>

<http://www.epa.gov/OGWDW/Pubs/gloss2.html>

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