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CLP Volunteers and Hong Chi Association Children's Solar-Powered Lanterns to Light Up Hong Kong's 'Greenest' Ever Mid-Autumn Festival

While Chinese children have long celebrated Mid-autumn festival with colourful lanterns, recent years have seen battery-powered lamps take the place of traditional candles. This year, CLP volunteers have teamed up with the intellectually challenged children from Hong Chi Association (HCA) to add a 'Greener' dimension to this centuries-old celebration. The leading light at the upcoming festival will be a series of solar-powered lanterns that are sure to excite and delight all who attend.

In sharing its festive joy, CLP distributed 30 non-traditional, eco-friendly, solar-powered lanterns its Volunteers had made with HCA children at Pinehill Village in Tai Po to deprived family children in the community. Mini solar panels exposing under the sun for about 8 hours will generate solar energy stored in the battery to light up the lanterns for 1.5 hours. In doing so, over 100 CLP volunteers grabbed the opportunity to explain to the children with intellectual disabilities that energy is not easy to generate and should not be wasted.

Speaking at today's solar-powered lantern launch, Ms. Quince Chong, CLP Power's Chief Corporate Development Officer, said: "This initiative is a fun and inspirational way of raising 'Green' awareness amongst local youngsters. In working together with the boys and girls of HCA, our Volunteers have used mini-solar panels to produce environmentally-friendly lanterns. The ultimate aim is a culturally-relevant 'Green' experience that reinforces everyone's understanding of Renewable Energy (RE) future."

A jumbo-size eco-friendly lantern measuring 1.4m tall and 1.6m across later lit up in Pinehill Village. It signified the official launch of the energy-efficient solar-powered outdoor lighting system CLP has tailored to help HCA cut energy consumption by better utilising RE.

Eleven solar-powered outdoor lighting poles were installed jointly by CLP Volunteers and HCA children to illuminate the lawns of Hong Chi Children Home, which serves as a training hostel for

32 children aged from 6 to 18 with mild grade intellectual disabilities. This was yet another ‘Green’ experience with RE for the children, following the installation of the Solar Thermal Heat Pump, which CLP had funded Hong Chi Children Home to set up for a reliable and eco-friendly supply of hot shower water that helped achieve an 80% savings in energy consumption and a reduction of around 2000 kg CO2 emission per year. Now the children found the hostel not just a ‘home sweet home’, but also a place full of lively learning opportunities. Meanwhile, CLP Volunteers also gave a series of five interactive game based ‘Green’ talks on energy saving tips to some 300 HCA trainees, their family members and staff.

“Hong Chi believes that like everyone else, our children have a share in the responsibility for making our environment a better place to live. For years, we have engaged them in organic farming and glass recycling, among many other green initiatives. With CLP Volunteers’ help this time, our children got to learn about RE and energy conservation through the use of solar-powered lanterns and solar-powered outdoor lighting poles. It was just easy and fun! We are eager to see more collaborations with CLP in which our children can enjoy and learn from similar ‘Green gadgets’”, said Mr. Aldan Kwok, HCA General Secretary.

CLP and HCA have long been partners in a pioneering GREEN^{PLUS} Programme, via which the power company tailors energy saving solutions for small- to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and non-profit making organisations. CLP’s partnership with HCA began in 2007 when CLP donated funds and technical support enabling HCA to install solar panels on its training hotel’s rooftop and enjoy RE-sourced hot bathing water in the hotel’s serviced apartments.

About CLP Power Hong Kong Limited

CLP Power Hong Kong Limited (“CLP Power”) is the Hong Kong utility subsidiary wholly owned by CLP Holdings Limited, a company listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange and one of the largest investor-owned power businesses in Asia. CLP Power operates a vertically integrated electricity supply business in Hong Kong, and provides a highly reliable supply of electricity and excellent customer services to 5.7 million people in its supply area.

About Hong Chi Association

Founded in 1965, Hong Chi Association (formerly the Hong Kong Association for the Mentally Handicapped) is a non-profit organisation dedicated solely to serving people with intellectual disabilities and their families in Hong Kong. It operates 80 service units, providing “through-train” services including special education, vocational training and rehabilitation services for 7,000 people of all ages and all grades of intellectual disabilities.

Photo captions:

Photo 1



(Photo 1) CLP volunteers brought new green element to Hong Chi children this Mid-Autumn Festival. A jumbo-sized, eco-friendly lantern lit up in Pinehill Village, signifying the official launch of the solar-powered outdoor lighting system for Hong Chi Children Home.

Ms Quince Chong (middle), Chief Corporate Development Officer of CLP Power Hong Kong; Mr LM Chow (third from right), Director, Marketing and Customer Services of CLP Power Hong Kong; Mr Aldan Kwok (first from right), General Secretary of Hong Chi Association; Mr Justin To (fourth from left), Assistant District Officer (Tai Po) of Home Affairs Department; Mr Man Chen-fai (third from left), MH, Vice Chairman of Tai Po District Council jointly officiated the lighting ceremony.

Photo 2



(Photo 2) CLP volunteers and Hong Chi Children sang a song together to celebrate a joyful Mid-Autumn Festival, while some children played musical instruments.

Photo 3 to 6



(Photo 3 to 6) Ms Quince Chong, Mr LM Chow of CLP and Mr Aldan Kwok of Hong Chi, together with CLP volunteers and Hong Chi children jointly produced the solar-powered lanterns, to be distributed to deprived family children in Tai Kok Tsui district, as festive gift to share the joy and green concept.

Photo 7



(Photo 7) Officiating guests visited the solar-powered outdoor lighting system in Hong Chi Children Home with CLP volunteer and Hong Chi children, who joined hands to install this energy saving system.

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