CLP has a strong commitment to provide customers with reliable and clean energy. Whilst in generation we are adopting a cleaner fuel mix to combat climate change, will there be any advanced technology deployments in our transmission and distribution network to achieve this objective?

We serve our customers with electricity supply of world-class reliability. We achieve this through the application of proven technologies. For example, our "Enhanced Automatic Power Restoration Systems for 11kV Overhead Lines" automate the restoration of electricity supply through intelligent switches and advanced controllers when our overhead lines are affected by external interferences. This has greatly improved the reliability of our systems.

In the area of clean energy, we continue to support electric vehicles (EV) and renewable energy development in Hong Kong. We have expanded our EV charging infrastructure, with more than 140 charging points across our service areas. We have also streamlined the application process to encourage connection of renewable systems to our power grid.
Mainland China

With economic growth slowing down in Mainland China, would management consider a change in investment strategy in the area?

CLP has been investing in the electricity industry in Mainland China for decades. We are used to dealing with business cycles and our investment decisions are based on long-term trends and fundamentals. We follow a prudent investment strategy in which we invest selectively and focus on areas with strong growth momentum. Our priorities in renewables and the cleanest coal technology also allow us to ride on the support of corresponding government policies. I am confident this strategy will pay off and continue to serve us well in the future.

CLP has developed a sizable wholly-owned wind farm portfolio over the last several years, which is a remarkable achievement. Would CLP share with us its plan to grow the wind portfolio further?

CLP is one of the largest external investors in wind energy in Mainland China. We will focus on the expansion of existing wind projects and explore new opportunities on selective basis. The use of advanced technologies will enhance the measurement of wind speed especially for complicated terrain. We will also adopt newer and proven wind turbine technologies that are optimal for use in areas with lower wind speed to enhance yields.
Questions and answers from the meeting:

Does CLP have plans to sell electricity to customers in Mainland China?

In support of the Chinese Government’s latest reforms to introduce market elements to the electricity industry, CLP participated in some direct sales schemes with large customers in the past year. We will continue to explore such market opportunities with an aim to increase power generation and earnings. We will also closely monitor opportunities in the retail sector as the Government takes steps to open up the retail market.
India

With the changing dynamics of corporate social responsibility (CSR) in India, does CLP plan to include community investment in its business measurement matrix? What role can CLP play in promoting CSR in the country?

We at CLP have been committed to growing our business in a socially-responsible manner. We believe in being an active participant in the social and economic development of the communities in which we operate and becoming involved much before it was mandated by the Government. Our approach to CSR is also to inculcate the understanding of social responsibility among our employees so that it becomes an integral part of our business culture and philosophy. In terms of a more specific approach towards CSR, we will continue to focus on the development of communities around our assets especially in the three specific areas of education and training, sustainable infrastructures for communities and healthcare and sanitation.

With the changing dynamics in CSR, we plan to remain agile and explore new models to develop and deploy programmes. We aim to ensure that every programme is carefully crafted after acquiring an in-depth understanding of the socio-cultural nuances and gaps that hinder economic upliftment.

Mr Bankim Sheth
Trustee
SEWA Rural

Rajiv Mishra
Managing Director – India
Australia

What do you think about the power demand and supply situation in Australia? How will it affect the areas in which EnergyAustralia is involved?

Despite improvement, the wholesale electricity market remains significantly oversupplied with prices well below the level required to provide adequate long-term returns on generation investments. That has been reflected in the announcements of plans to shut down power stations, particularly in southern states, following EnergyAustralia’s closure of the Wallerawang Power Station in New South Wales. Such closures will help balance supply and demand but the momentum has been slower than expected.

Mr Evan Li
Director, Regional Head of Power, Utilities, Renewables and Environment (PURE), Asia-Pacific Global Research
The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited

Catherine Tanna
Managing Director – EnergyAustralia
Within the Hong Kong community, CLP has been known as one of the most proactive companies on climate change. In December 2015, the Paris Agreement was signed by 195 nations at COP21. What implications does this have for CLP’s business? What impact will this have on the business sector in general?

The Paris Agreement provides the policy signals needed to encourage the large amounts of investment required for long-term low carbon infrastructure development. Policy certainty or predictability is the key to unlocking financing from not just owners or shareholders, but also lenders.

The Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs), submitted by most of the countries before COP21 outlining their climate change-related plans and goals, are indicative of these countries’ development plans. They provide some insights into the potential business opportunities as well as risks that may arise from emerging policies and regulations.

CLP welcomes the Paris Agreement and the INDCs as they provide a good foundation for the development of robust and appropriate national policies and regulations to deliver on the INDCs. We believe that they can be successfully delivered through the concerted efforts and extensive engagement between local governments, communities and the business sector.
We are encouraged by the results of COP21 in Paris which marked a milestone in the global efforts to curb climate change. China has set ambitious goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. Its establishment of a national carbon trading scheme in 2017 is one of the market-based tools designed to give further impetus to China’s drive to transition to a low carbon economy.

Details of the national scheme have not been released but a key objective is expected to be emissions reductions through energy efficiency. In Hong Kong, we have taken various initiatives to reduce emissions. We are proactively optimising our fuel mix to use cleaner fuels in power generation and we have launched promotional public energy saving campaigns and rolled out a range of tools and solutions to help our customers to conserve energy. We will keep monitoring the development of carbon pricing and trading issues and assess the potential implications to our business. We welcome further discussions on how to curb emissions and mitigate the impact of climate change, and support the community’s aspirations of cleaner energy whilst balancing the interests of our key stakeholders.