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## CLEAR MEDIA LIMITED



(Incorporated in Bermuda with limited liability)
(Stock Code: 100)

## INTERIM RESULTS ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

- The Group's total turnover increased by 4.5% to HK\$855.8 million.
- EBITDA increased by 8.9% to HK\$343.4 million.
- EBIT increased by 9.7% to HK\$165.9 million.
- Net profit<sup>1</sup> increased by 11.3% to HK\$100.9 million.
- Basic earnings per share increased by 10.8% to HK18.73 cents.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Net profit attributable to shareholders of the Company

<sup>\*</sup> For identification purposes only

The Board of Directors (the "Board") of Clear Media Limited ("Clear Media" or the "Company") and its subsidiaries (Clear Media and its subsidiaries are hereafter collectively referred to as the "Group") are pleased to announce that the unaudited interim results of the Group for the six months ended 30 June 2015, together with the comparative figures for the corresponding period in the previous financial year, are as follows:

## CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS

		For the six months ended 30 June		
	Notes	2015 (Unaudited) <i>HK\$</i> '000	2014 (Unaudited) <i>HK</i> \$'000	
Revenue	3	855,794	819,249	
Cost of sales	5	(507,353)	(496,961)	
Gross profit		348,441	322,288	
Other income	3	7,156	8,730	
Selling and distribution expenses		(90,148)	(86,806)	
Administrative expenses		(90,908)	(79,466)	
Other expenses		(1,520)	(4,870)	
Finance costs	4	(801)	(2,179)	
PROFIT BEFORE TAX	5	172,220	157,697	
Income tax expenses	6	(48,617)	(48,906)	
PROFIT FOR THE PERIOD		123,603	108,791	
ATTRIBUTABLE TO:				
Owners of the parent		100,929	90,645	
Non-controlling interests		22,674	18,146	
		123,603	108,791	
EARNINGS PER SHARE ATTRIBUTABLE TO ORDINARY EQUITY HOLDERS OF THE PARENT	•			
Basic	7	HK 18.73 cents	HK 16.90 cents	
Diluted	7	HK 18.66 cents	HK 16.79 cents	

## CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

	For the six months ended 30 June		
	2015	2014	
	(Unaudited) <i>HK\$</i> '000	(Unaudited) HK\$'000	
PROFIT FOR THE PERIOD	123,603	108,791	
Other comprehensive loss to be reclassified to profit or loss in subsequent periods:			
Exchange differences on translation of foreign operations Income tax effect	(16,806)	(67,236)	
Other comprehensive loss for the period, net of tax	(16,806)	(67,236)	
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD	106,797	41,555	
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME ATTRIBUTABLE TO:			
Owners of the parent	84,136	22,167	
Non-controlling interests	22,661	19,388	
	106,797	41,555	

# **CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION** *As at 30 June 2015*

	Notes	30 June 2015 (Unaudited) <i>HK\$</i> '000	31 December 2014 (Audited) <i>HK\$'000</i>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS Property, plant and equipment Concession rights Long-term prepayments, deposits and other receivables	9 10 11	48,262 1,938,030 96,736	26,488 1,867,726 94,176
Total non-current assets		2,083,028	1,988,390
CURRENT ASSETS Trade receivables Prepayments, deposits and other receivables Due from a related party Pledged deposits and restricted cash Cash and cash equivalents  Total current assets	12 13 14 15 15	706,123 154,602 166,961 1,600 520,540 1,549,826	631,882 115,463 88,575 1,597 1,049,604 1,887,121
CURRENT LIABILITIES Other payables and accruals Deferred income Tax payable		712,728 3,060 91,768	731,143 5,087 36,412
Total current liabilities		807,556	772,642
NET CURRENT ASSETS		742,270	1,114,479
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILTIES		2,825,298	3,102,869
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES Deferred tax liabilities		99,199	105,241
Total non-current liabilities		99,199	105,241
Net assets		2,726,099	2,997,628
EQUITY Equity attributable to owners of the parent Issued capital Retained earnings Other components of equity Proposed final dividend Proposed special dividend	16 8	54,170 1,148,166 1,425,393	53,740 1,050,291 1,430,653 80,610 300,943
Non-controlling interests		2,627,729 98,370	2,916,237 81,391
Total equity		2,726,099	2,997,628

## CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

Attributa	ble to	owners	of t	he parent
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				Attitivutavi	e to owners of	tille parelli					
	Issued capital HK\$'000	Share premium account HK\$'000	Share option reserve HK\$'000	Contributed surplus HK\$'000	Foreign currency translation reserve HK\$'000	Retained earnings HK\$'000	Proposed dividend HK\$'000	Proposed special dividend HK\$'000	<b>Total</b> <i>HK</i> \$'000	Non- controlling interests HK\$'000	Total equity HK\$'000
As at 1 January 2014	53,646	825,752	8,608	191,188	733,901	933,318	80,469	-	2,826,882	57,842	2,884,724
Profit for the period Other comprehensive	-	-	-	-	-	90,645	-	-	90,645	18,146	108,791
income/(loss)					(68,478)				(68,478)	1,242	(67,236)
Total comprehensive income/(loss) for the period Final 2013 dividend	-	-	-	-	(68,478)	90,645	-	_	22,167	19,388	41,555
declared	_	_	_	_	_	_	(80,469)	_	(80,469)	_	(80,469)
Share options exercised	19	782	(282)	-	-	-	_	-	519	-	519
Equity-settled share option arrangements At 30 June 2014	-	-	470	_	-	-	-	-	470	-	470
(unaudited)	53,665	826,534	8,796	191,188	665,423	1,023,963			2,769,569	77,230	2,846,799
As at 1 January 2015	53,740	829,617	7,685	(67,153)	660,504	1,050,291	80,610	300,943	2,916,237	81,391	2,997,628
Profit for the period	-	-	_	-	-	100,929	-	-	100,929	22,674	123,603
Other comprehensive loss					(16,793)				(16,793)	(13)	(16,806)
Total comprehensive income/(loss)											
for the period	420	- 17,689	- (6 275)	-	(16,793)	100,929	-	-	84,136	22,661	106,797
Share options exercised Equity-settled share	430	17,089	(6,375)	-	-	-	-	-	11,744	-	11,744
option arrangements Dividends payable to	-	-	219	-	-	-	-	-	219	-	219
a non-controlling shareholder Final 2014 dividend	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(5,682)	(5,682)
declared	_	_	_	_	_	(645)	(80,610)	_	(81,255)	_	(81,255)
Special dividend declared						(2,409)		(300,943)	(303,352)		(303,352)
At 30 June 2015 (unaudited)	54,170	847,306	1,529	(67,153)	643,711	1,148,166			2,627,729	98,370	2,726,099

## CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

		For the six months ended 30 June		
		2015 (Unaudited)	2014 (Unaudited)	
		HK\$'000	(Restated) <i>HK\$'000</i>	
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING				
ACTIVITIES				
Profit before tax		172,220	157,697	
Adjustments for:	_	1 000	2.022	
Write-down of concession rights	5 5	1,088	2,932	
Loss on disposal of concession rights	3	417	1,707	
Impairment losses of trade receivables recognised	5	7,496		
Loss/(gain) on disposal of items of property,	3	7,490	_	
plant and equipment	5	15	(81)	
Depreciation of items of property,	3	10	(01)	
plant and equipment	5	5,179	4,929	
Recognition of a prepaid lease payment		1,398	1,266	
Amortisation of concession rights	5	172,311	159,295	
Foreign exchange losses, net	5	553	1,351	
Other finance costs		248	822	
Cash-settled share-based payments	5 5	6,278	3,800	
Equity-settled share option expense		219	470	
Interest income	3	(7,156)	(8,730)	
		360,266	325,458	
Increase in long-term prepayments, deposits				
and other receivables		(3,938)	(2,486)	
Increase in trade receivables		(81,579)	(86,331)	
(Increase)/decrease in prepayments, deposits		(40.254)	<b>5.5</b> 6	
and other receivables (Increase)/decrease in amounts due from		(40,351)	7,756	
a related party		(78,364)	9,268	
Increase in other payables and accruals		3,025	13,848	
(Decrease)/increase in deferred income		(2,028)	575	
Cash generated from operations		157,031	268,088	
Income taxes paid		(16,644)	(34,632)	
Net cash flows from operating activities		140,387	233,456	

	chucu 50	June
	2015	2014
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)
	,	(Restated)
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of items of property, plant and equipment,		
excluding construction in progress	(24,489)	(5,380)
Proceeds from disposal of items of property,	(= 1, 10)	(0,000)
plant and equipment	4	81
Proceeds from disposal of concession rights	68	105
Purchase of concession rights	(271,133)	(185,396)
Interest received	(271,133) 294	, , , ,
	294	8,015
Decrease in pledged deposits		29,263
Net cash flows used in investing activities	(295,256)	(153,312)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Proceeds from exercise of share options	11,744	519
Dividends paid to shareholders	(384,607)	_
Net cash flows (used in)/from financing activities	(372,863)	519
NET (DECREASE)/INCREASE IN CASH AND		
CASH EQUIVALENTS	(527,732)	80,663
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	1,049,604	892,822
Effect of foreign exchange rate changes, net	(1,332)	(20,180)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF PERIOD	520,540	052 205
OF I ERIOD	520,540	953,305
ANALYSIS OF BALANCES OF CASH AND		
CASH EQUIVALENTS		
Cash and bank balances	520,540	953,305

## NOTES TO THE INTERIM CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

30 June 2015

#### 1. BASIS OF PREPARATION AND ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### **Basis of preparation**

The interim condensed consolidated financial statements for the six months ended 30 June 2015 have been prepared in accordance with Hong Kong Accounting Standard ("HKAS") 34 Interim Financial Reporting issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("HKICPA").

The interim condensed consolidated financial statements do not include all the information and disclosures required in the annual financial statements, and should be read in conjunction with the Group's annual financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2014.

#### Impact of new and revised Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards

The accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the interim condensed consolidated financial statements are consistent with those followed in the preparation of the Group's annual financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2014, except for the adoption of the new or revised standards, interpretation and amendments as of 1 January 2015, noted below:

Amendments to HKAS 19

Annual Improvements 2010-2012 Cycle
Annual Improvements 2011-2013 Cycle
Amendments to a number of HKFRSs
Amendments to a number of HKFRSs

The adoption of the above new or revised standards, interpretation and amendments has had no material financial effect on the accounting policies of the Group and the methods of computation in the interim condensed consolidated financial statements.

The Group has not early adopted any other standard, interpretation or amendment that has been issued but is not yet effective.

#### 2. SEGMENT INFORMATION

Outdoor advertising business is the only major reportable operating segment of the Group which comprises the display of advertisements on street furniture. Accordingly, no further business segment information is provided.

In determining the Group's geographical segments, revenues and results are attributed to the segments based on the location of the customers, and assets are attributable to the segments based on the location of the assets. As the Group's major operations and markets are all located in the PRC, no further geographical segment information is provided.

#### 3. REVENUE AND OTHER INCOME

	For the six months ended 30 June		
	2015	2014	
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	
Revenue	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	
Rental from outdoor advertising spaces	855,794	819,249	
Other income Interest income	7,156	8,730	

#### 4. FINANCE COSTS

For the six months
ended 30 June
2015 2014
(Unaudited) (Unaudited)
HK\$'000 HK\$'000

Other finance costs **801** 2,179

#### 5. PROFIT BEFORE TAX

The Group's profit before tax is arrived at after charging/(crediting):

	For the six months		
	ended 30	) June	
	2015	2014	
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	
Cost of services provided	143,814	145,943	
Operating lease rentals on bus shelters	188,768	191,723	
Cost of services in a bus shelter joint-operation arrangement*	2,460	_	
Amortisation of concession rights	172,311	159,295	
Cost of sales	507,353	496,961	
Impairment provision against trade receivables	7,496	_	
Auditors' remuneration	1,507	1,351	
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	5,179	4,929	
Write-down of concession rights	1,088	2,932	
Loss on disposal of concession rights	417	1,707	
Loss/(gain) on disposal of items of property, plant and equipment	15	(81)	
Operating lease rentals on buildings	13,804	13,074	
Employee benefits expense (including directors' and chief executive's remuneration):			
Wages and salaries	89,104	95,212	
Cash-settled share-based payments	6,278	3,800	
Equity-settled share option expenses	219	470	
Pension scheme contributions	9,833	8,484	
	105,434	107,966	
Foreign exchange losses, net	553	1,351	
Interest income	(7,156)	(8,730)	

<sup>\*</sup> The Group operated certain bus shelters jointly with an independent third party under a profit sharing arrangement. The Group has the primary responsibility for providing services to the customers and acts as a principal in the arrangement. The Group recognised revenue on a gross basis. The cost of services represented the costs paid by the Group under this arrangement.

#### 6. TAX

	For the six months ended 30 June		
	2015	2014	
	(Unaudited) (Una		
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	
Current – Hong Kong profits tax	_	_	
Current – PRC corporate income tax	54,659	53,833	
Deferred tax	(6,042)	(4,927)	
Total tax charge for the period	48,617	48,906	

Hong Kong profits tax has not been provided as the Group has no assessable profits arising in Hong Kong during the period (six months ended 30 June 2014: Nil). Taxes on profits assessable in the PRC have been calculated at the prevailing tax rates, based on existing legislation, interpretations and practices in respect thereof.

According to the Enterprise Income Tax Law of the PRC effective on 1 January 2008, Hainan White Horse Advertising Media Investment Company Limited (the "WHA Joint Venture"), a subsidiary of the Company established in the Hainan Special Economic Zone of the PRC, was subject to a corporate income tax of 25% (2014: 25%) for the head office and its branches on its assessable profits arising in the PRC for the year 2015.

In accordance with the Enterprise Income Tax Law of the PRC effective on 1 January 2008, a 10% (or a lower rate if there is a tax treaty between Mainland China and the jurisdiction of the foreign investors) withholding tax is levied on dividends declared to foreign investors from the foreign investment enterprises established in Mainland China. The requirement is effective from 1 January 2008 and applies to earnings after 31 December 2007. The Group is therefore liable for withholding taxes on dividends distributed by WHA Joint Venture, a subsidiary of the Company established in the Hainan Special Economic Zone of the PRC, in respect of earnings generated from 1 January 2008. As at 30 June 2015, the Group recognized a deferred tax liability of HK\$23,924,000 (31 December 2014: HK\$23,128,000) in respect of the withholding tax on future dividend distribution by WHA Joint Venture.

#### 7. EARNINGS PER SHARE

The calculation of the basic earnings per share for the period is based on the profit attributable to ordinary equity holders of the parent of HK\$100,929,000 (six months ended 30 June 2014: HK\$90,645,000) and the weighted average number of 538,928,080 (six months ended 30 June 2014: 536,500,489) ordinary shares in issue during the period.

The calculation of the diluted earnings per share for the period is based on the profit attributable to ordinary equity holders of the parent of HK\$100,929,000 (six months ended 30 June 2014: HK\$90,645,000). The weighted average number of ordinary shares used in the calculation is the 538,928,080 (six months ended 30 June 2014: 536,500,489) ordinary shares in issue during the period, as used in the basic earnings per share calculation; and the weighted average of 1,900,301 (six months ended 30 June 2014: 3,249,414) ordinary shares assumed to have been issued at no consideration on the deemed exercise of all share options during the period.

#### 8. DIVIDEND

The Board of Directors resolved not to pay any interim dividend to shareholders in respect of the six months ended 30 June 2015 (six months ended 30 June 2014: Nil).

#### 9. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

During the six months ended 30 June 2015, the Group acquired property, plant and equipment at a cost of HK\$2,738,000 (six months ended 30 June 2014: HK\$5,380,000), and incurred construction in progress at a cost of HK\$25,239,000 (six months ended 30 June 2014: HK\$31,608,000).

Property, plant and equipment with a net book value of HK\$19,000 were disposed of by the Group during the six months ended 30 June 2015 (six months ended 30 June 2014: Nil), resulting in a net loss on disposal of HK\$15,000 (six months ended 30 June 2014: gain on disposal of HK\$81,000).

#### 10. CONCESSION RIGHTS

During the six months ended 30 June 2015, the Group had an addition of concession rights at a cost of HK\$242,908,000 (six months ended 30 June 2014: HK\$234,750,000), including concession rights transferred from construction in progress of HK\$987,000 (six months ended 30 June 2014: HK\$28,289,000).

Concession rights with a net book value of HK\$1,573,000 were disposed of/written down by the Group during the six months ended 30 June 2015 (six months ended 30 June 2014: HK\$4,744,000), resulting in a net loss on disposal of HK\$1,505,000 (six months ended 30 June 2014: HK\$4,639,000).

#### 11. LONG-TERM PREPAYMENTS, DEPOSITS AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

Long-term prepayments amounting to RMB45,809,000 (equivalent to HK\$57,262,000) (31 December 2014: RMB45,809,000 (equivalent to HK\$57,247,000)) have been placed with certain independent third parties in connection with the extension and renewal of certain of the Group's bus shelter concession rights in the PRC.

Long-term prepayment as at 30 June 2015 also included a deposit amounting to RMB3,150,000 (equivalent to HK\$3,937,000) (31 December 2014: RMB Nil) made to an independent third party for the purchase of bus shelters.

The balance as at 30 June 2015 also included a non-current portion of a prepaid bus shelter lease payment amounting to HK\$9,454,000 (31 December 2014: HK\$10,712,000) and a long-term rental deposit of HK\$23,561,000 (31 December 2014: HK\$23,555,000).

#### 12. TRADE RECEIVABLES

The Group's trading terms with its customers are mainly on credit, except for new customers, where advanced payments are normally required. The credit period is generally 90 days extending up to 180 days for major customers. Overdue balances are reviewed regularly by senior management. The Group's trade receivables relate to a diversity of numerous customers and are non-interest-bearing.

An aging analysis of the trade receivables as at the end of the reporting period, based on the revenue recognition date, is as follows:

	Group		
	30 June	31 December	
	2015	2014	
	(Unaudited)	(Audited)	
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	
Current to 90 days	356,226	293,759	
91 days to 180 days	183,894	263,559	
Over 180 days	193,000	95,782	
	733,120	653,100	
Less: Provision for impairment of trade receivables	(26,997)	(21,218)	
Total trade receivables, net	706,123	631,882	

The movements in provision for impairment of trade receivables are as follows:

	For the six months ended 30 June		
	2015	2014	
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	
At 1 January	21,218	23,783	
Impairment losses provided	7,496	_	
Amount written off as uncollectible	(1,717)	(3,296)	
At 30 June	26,997	20,487	

The above provision for impairment of trade receivables is a provision to cover balances for which the Group may not be able to recover full amounts from the customers. The Group does not hold any collateral or other credit enhancements over these balances.

The aging analysis of the trade receivables that are not considered to be impaired is as follows:

	30 June	31 December
	2015	2014
	(Unaudited)	(Audited)
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
Neither past due nor impaired	540,120	554,873
Less than 3 months past due	133,269	68,368
Over 3 months past due	32,734	8,641
	706,123	631,882

Receivables that were neither past due nor impaired relate to a diversity of customers for whom there was no recent history of default.

Receivables that were past due but not impaired relate to a number of independent customers that have a good track record with the Group. Based on past experience, the directors of the Company are of the opinion that no provision for impairment is necessary in respect of these balances as there has not been a significant change in credit quality and the balances are still considered fully recoverable.

#### 13. PREPAYMENTS, DEPOSITS AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

The balance of prepayments, deposits and other receivables as at 30 June 2015 included a receivable from Hainan White Horse Advertising Co., Ltd. ("Hainan White Horse"), the non-controlling shareholder of WHA Joint Venture, amounting to HK\$85,881,000 (31 December 2014: HK\$66,487,000), which is unsecured, interest-free and has no fixed terms of repayment.

#### 14. DUE FROM A RELATED PARTY

An aging analysis of the amounts due from Guangdong White Horse Advertising Company Limited ("GWH") as at the end of the reporting period, based on revenue recognition date, is as follows:

	30 June	31 December
	2015	2014
	(Unaudited)	(Audited)
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
Current to 90 days	91,179	76,793
91 days to 180 days	68,383	10,980
Over 180 days	7,399	802
	166,961	88,575

The balance with GWH is unsecured, interest-free and is repayable on demand.

## 15. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, PLEDGED DEPOSITS AND RESTRICTED CASH

As at 30 June 2015, the Group's cash and bank balances, pledged deposits and restricted cash denominated in Renminbi ("RMB") and in Hong Kong dollars ("HK\$") amounted to HK\$352,496,000 (31 December 2014: HK\$796,233,000) and HK\$169,644,000 (31 December 2014: HK\$254,968,000), respectively. The RMB is not freely convertible into other currencies, however, under Mainland China's Foreign Exchange Control Regulations and Administration of Settlement, Sale and Payment of Foreign Exchange Regulations, the Group is permitted to exchange RMB for other currencies through banks authorised to conduct foreign exchange business.

All of the Group's bank balances and pledged deposits are placed with registered banking institutions in the PRC and Hong Kong. The Group's policy is to spread bank balance (including pledged deposits) among various creditworthy banks with no recent history of default. As at 30 June 2015, except for the Shanghai Pudong Development Bank which held 26% of the Group's total bank balance, the Group maintained less than 20% of the Group's total bank balances in each of the other banks.

As at 30 June 2015, a bank balance of RMB1,280,000 (equivalent to approximately HK\$1,600,000) was frozen by one of the financial institutions which has commenced legal proceedings against the Company's subsidiary as disclosed in the "Contingent Liabilities" section of the interim results announcement. The directors of the Company are of the view that the dispute will not have any material impact on the condensed consolidated financial statements of the Group.

#### 16. ISSUED CAPITAL

	30 June 2015 (Unaudited) <i>HK\$</i> '000	31 December 2014 (Audited) HK\$'000
Shares Authorised: 1,000,000,000 ordinary shares of HK\$0.10 each	100,000	100,000
Issued and fully paid: 541,700,500 ordinary shares of HK\$0.10 each (31 December 2014: 537,398,500)	54,170	53,740

During the period, the increase in share capital represented the subscription rights attaching to 4,302,000 share options exercised at the subscription price of HK\$2.73 per share, resulting in the issue of 4,302,000 shares of HK\$0.1 each for a total cash consideration, before expenses, of HK\$11,744,000. An amount of HK\$6,375,000 was transferred from the share option reserve to the share premium account upon the exercise of the share options.

#### 17. SHARE OPTION SCHEMES

On 10 June 2015, 5,000,000 share options were granted by the Company. The new options are valid for a period of seven years, commencing on 10 June 2015. One-third of the options granted to each of the grantees will vest in the third, forth and fifth anniversary of 11 June 2015, respectively.

The fair value of the share options granted on 10 June 2015 was HK\$15,320,459 (HK\$3.06 each), of which the Group recognised a share option expense of HK\$219,000 during the period ended 30 June 2015.

The fair value of equity-settled share options granted during the period was estimated as at the date of grant, using the Black-Scholes model, taking into account the terms and conditions upon which the options were granted. The following table lists the inputs to the model used:

1.58%
36.00%
1.41%
7 years
HK\$9.54
HK\$9.49

The expected volatility reflects the assumption that the historical volatility is indicative of future trends, which may also not necessarily be the actual outcome.

## MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

## **Industry Overview**

Trading conditions were challenging during the first half of the year. Revenue in May and June was adversely affected by last-minute cancellations resulting in revenue growth slightly below our internal targets for the first half.

Given the continued uncertainty in market conditions for the remainder of the year we have focused on reducing costs to mitigate any risk to our profit targets for the second half of the year.

We continued to take advantage of the attractive asset prices available in the market and to invest in our core business. Our capital expenditure increased by 3.1%. This allowed us to increase our market share in a number of key cities and positions the company well for further growth.

#### **Operation Overview**

Bus Shelter Advertising Business

As of 30 June 2015, Clear Media operates the most extensive standardized bus shelter advertising network in Mainland China, with a total of more than 44,000 panels (1H2014: 41,000) covering 27 cities. Our bus shelter advertising revenue, net of value added tax, increased by 4.5% to HK\$855.8 million.

The average selling price before value added tax ("ASP") decreased by 3.1% during the first half of 2015. The average number of bus shelter panels increased by 7.4%. The overall occupancy rate decreased marginally to 59.2% (1H2014: 59.5%).

#### Key Cities

For the six months ended 30 June 2015, the revenue before value added tax ("Gross Revenue") from Beijing, Guangzhou and Shanghai slightly increased by 0.6% to HK\$489.7 million (1H2014: HK\$486.8 million). Among the three key cities, the revenue performance was led by Beijing, followed by Guangzhou, then Shanghai.

#### Beijing

The Gross Revenue from Beijing increased by 3.3% to HK\$225.1 million (1H2014: HK\$217.9 million) as the average number of bus shelter panels increased by 3.5%, the occupancy rate increased to 66.2% (1H2014: 65.9%) and the ASP decreased by 0.7%.

#### Guangzhou

The Gross Revenue from Guangzhou increased by 2.1% to HK\$160.4 million (1H2014: HK\$157.1 million) due to the 3.5% increase in the average number of bus shelter panels and the increase in occupancy rate to 64.5% (1H2014: 58.2%). The ASP decreased by 11.0%.

## Shanghai

The Gross Revenue from Shanghai decreased by 6.7% to HK\$104.3 million (1H2014: HK\$111.8 million) due to the 3.6% decrease in ASP and the decrease in occupancy rate to 45.3% (1H2014: 50.3%). The average number of bus shelter panels increased by 7.6%.

#### Mid-Tier Cities

The Gross Revenue from all mid-tier cities increased by 7.5% to HK\$410.0 million (1H2014: HK\$381.4 million) for the six months ended 30 June 2015. ASP slightly decreased by 0.6% and the average number of bus shelter panels increased by 9.5%. The occupancy rate decreased to 58.9% (1H2014: 59.6%).

Among the mid-tier cities where we operate, Foshan, Nanchang, Wuxi, Nanjing, Jinan, Hangzhou, Shenyang, Zhengzhou, Xi'an, Wuhan and Chengdu performed well with double digit increase in revenue.

#### Digital

In the second half of 2014, we have added 209 digital panels in Nanjing. Sales generated from the new digital operation amounted to HK\$7.0 million for the six months ended 30 June 2015.

#### FINANCIAL REVIEW

#### **Turnover**

The Group's total turnover increased by 4.5% to HK\$855.8 million during the first half of 2015.

## **Other Income**

Other income decreased from HK\$8.7 million in the prior period to HK\$7.2 million mainly due to lower bank fixed deposits interest income.

#### **Expenses**

During the six months ended 30 June 2015, the Group's total direct operating costs, including rental, electricity and maintenance costs, and sales, cultural and other levies, slightly decreased by 0.8% to HK\$335.0 million (1H2014: HK\$337.7 million).

Despite the 7.4% increase in average inventory size, direct rental costs decreased by 0.8% during the current six-month period. This was due mainly to the reversal of certain rent provision made in the normal course of business which was subject to negotiate on an ongoing basis with the relevant authority. The reversal has resulted in HK\$19.8 million of provision being released in the current period. Electricity increased by 10.8% mainly driven by the increase in number of bus shelter panels and the newly commenced digital operation. Cleaning and maintenance costs decreased by 7.9% mainly due to cost control and adjustment of the cleaning and maintenance expenses subsidized by the Hainan White Horse Advertising Co.,

Ltd., (the "Hainan White Horse") the non-controlling shareholder of Hainan White Horse Advertising Media Investment Company Limited (the "WHA Joint Venture"). This cleaning and maintenance subsidy arrangement was made since 2001 as part of the pre-listing reorganisation exercise and is based on a certain percentage of the cleaning and maintenance cost. The ratio is negotiated on a yearly basis, with an aim to match the subsidy payable by Hainan White Horse to the cleaning and maintenance entity against the dividend attributable to this non-controlling shareholder.

During the six months ended 30 June 2015, sales, cultural and other levies increased by 6.6%, due to the increase of total revenue.

Total selling, general and administrative expenses, excluding depreciation and amortisation, increased by 9.0% to HK\$175.9 million for the six months ended 30 June 2015 (1H2014: HK\$161.3 million), mainly due to higher impairment losses of trade receivable, legal expenses and travelling and meeting costs.

#### **EBITDA**

The Group's earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation ("EBITDA") increased by 8.9% to HK\$343.4 million (1H2014: HK\$315.4 million). EBITDA margin increased to 40.1% (1H2014: 38.5%).

#### **EBIT**

The Group's earnings before interest and tax ("EBIT") increased by 9.7% to HK\$165.9 million for the current six-month period from HK\$151.1 million in the same period last year, following the higher EBITDA and lower level of amortization expenses increment as certain concession rights have been fully amortized during the period.

#### **Finance Costs**

During the period under review, the Group carried no debt, hence the finance costs incurred were minimal at HK\$0.8 million (1H2014: HK\$2.2 million).

#### **Taxation**

According to the PRC Enterprise Income Tax Law effective 1 January 2008, the WHA Joint Venture, an indirect majority-owned subsidiary of the Company established in the Hainan Special Economic Zone of the PRC, was subject to a corporate income tax of 25% (2014: 25%) on its assessable profits arising in the PRC for the year 2015.

Further, a 10% (or a lower rate if there is a tax treaty between Mainland China and the jurisdiction of the foreign investors) withholding tax is levied on dividends declared to foreign investors from the foreign investment enterprises established in Mainland China. The requirement is effective from 1 January 2008 and applies to earnings after 31 December 2007. The Group is therefore liable for withholding taxes on dividends distributed by the WHA Joint Venture, a subsidiary of the Company established in the Hainan Special Economic Zone of the PRC.

During the period, taxes provided for by the Group decreased to HK\$48.6 million for the six months ended 30 June 2015 from HK\$48.9 million for the same period last year mainly due to lower dividend withholding tax accrued for the period, partially offset by higher taxable profit of the period. As at 30 June 2015, the Group recognized a deferred tax liability of HK\$23.9 million (31 December 2014: HK\$23.1 million) in respect of the withholding tax on future dividend distribution by WHA Joint Venture.

#### **Net Profit**

Net profit increased by 11.3% to HK\$100.9 million (1H2014: HK\$90.6 million) for the six months ended 30 June 2015, while the net profit margin increased to 11.8% (1H2014: 11.1%).

#### Cashflow

Net cash flows from operating activities for the current period decreased to HK\$140.4 million (1H2014: HK\$233.5 million), mainly due to the increase in accounts receivable balances following slower payment from some of the major customers, including Guangdong White Horse Advertising Company Limited ("GWH") and the effect of working capital changes, partially offset by the higher operating profit for the period.

Net cash flows used in investing activities during the six months ended 30 June 2015 increased to HK\$295.3 million (1H2014: HK\$153.3 million) mainly due to the payment for 2014 capital expenditure projects and investment in certain bus shelter acquisitions in the first half of 2015.

Net cash flow used in financing activities amounted to HK\$372.9 million for the period ended 30 June 2015. This was mainly due to the payment of 2014 final and special dividends to the shareholders of the Group during the period.

Free cash flow, defined as EBITDA (before losses on disposal and write off of concession rights and other assets and equity-settled share option expenses) less cash outflow on capital expenditure, less income tax and net interest expense, decreased to HK\$7.2 million for the current six-month period, compared to HK\$87.6 million in the same period last year. The decrease was mainly due to higher level of capital expenditure than prior period, partially compensated by a higher EBITDA generated in the current period.

#### Trade Receivables

The Group's accounts receivable balance due from third parties increased by 11.7% to HK\$706.1 million as at 30 June 2015 from HK\$631.9 million as at 31 December 2014. The increase was mainly from the outstanding balances in over 180 days category which increased by HK\$97.2 million due to slower repayment from certain major customers. The outstanding balances in the current to 90 days category increased by HK\$62.5 million following the higher sales during the current period. None of the accounts receivable was due from connected persons, as defined under the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited (the "Listing Rules"). Accounts receivable from GWH are disclosed separately and discussed below.

The Group's trading terms with its customers are mainly on credit, except for new customers where payment in advance is normally required. The credit period is generally 90 days, extending up to 180 days for major customers. The Group maintains control over its outstanding receivables. Overdue balances are reviewed regularly and processes are in place to ensure balances are collected. The accounts receivable relates to a large number of different customers

Due to slower settlement from certain major customers, the average accounts receivable outstanding days, on a time-weighted basis, increased to 128 days for the current six-month period from 97 days for the same period last year. As at 30 June 2015, the provision for impairment of accounts receivables increased to HK\$27.0 million from HK\$21.2 million as at 31 December 2014. Collection in July 2015 were significantly ahead of July last year. Based on the customers' credential, past payment history and settlement subsequent to the period end, management is of the view that the provision level is adequate as of 30 June 2015. We will continue to closely monitor the accounts receivable balance and ensure the level of provision is appropriate and prudent.

#### **Due from Related Party**

As at 30 June 2015, the amount due from GWH increased to HK\$167.0 million from HK\$88.6 million as at 31 December 2014 mainly due to slower payment from customers represented by GWH during the current period. Main bulk of the increase was in the 90 to 180 days category and average balance due from GWH outstanding days, on a time-weighted basis, increased to 106 days for the current six-month period from 99 days for the same period last year. We will continue to work closely with GWH to expedite collection in the second half of the year.

## Prepayments, Deposits and Other Receivables

The Group's total prepayments, deposits and other receivables as at 30 June 2015 increased to HK\$154.6 million from HK\$115.5 million as at 31 December 2014.

The balance as at 30 June 2015 included a receivable from Hainan White Horse Advertising Co., Ltd. ("Hainan White Horse"), the non-controlling shareholder of the WHA Joint Venture, amounting to HK\$85.9 million (31 December 2014: HK\$66.5 million), which are unsecured, interest-free and have no fixed terms of repayment.

The increase in prepayments, deposits and other receivables was mainly due to the increase of bus shelter rental prepayments and the receivable from Hainan White Horse during the period.

## Long-term Prepayments, Deposits and Other Receivables

The Group's total long-term prepayments, deposits and other receivables as at 30 June 2015 increased to HK\$96.7 million from HK\$94.2 million as at 31 December 2014.

The increase in long-term prepayments, deposits and other receivables was mainly due to a deposit amounting to HK\$3.9 million made to an independent third party for the purchase of bus shelters during the period.

## Other Payables and Accruals

The Group's total payables and accruals as at 30 June 2015 were HK\$712.7 million, compared to HK\$731.1 million as at 31 December 2014. The decrease was mainly due to the decrease in capital expenditure payables and bus shelter rental payables. It would be inappropriate to give the turnover days against sales figures as the payable is more closely related to capital expenditure incurred for the acquisition of bus shelter concession rights.

#### **Assets and Liabilities**

As at 30 June 2015, the Group's total assets amounted to HK\$3,632.9 million, a 6.3% decrease from HK\$3,875.5 million, as at 31 December 2014. The Group's total liabilities increased to HK\$906.8 million as at 30 June 2015 from HK\$877.9 million as at 31 December 2014. Net assets as at 30 June 2015 decreased by 9.1% to HK\$2,726.1 million from HK\$2,997.6 million as at 31 December 2014. This was mainly due to the 2014 final and special dividends paid to the shareholders of the Group, partially offset by the retention of the net profit earned in the six months ended 30 June 2015. Net current assets decreased from HK\$1,114.5 million as at 31 December 2014, to HK\$742.3 million as at 30 June 2015.

As at 30 June 2015, the Group's total cash and cash equivalents amounted to HK\$520.5 million (31 December 2014: HK\$1,049.6 million).

## Share Capital and Shareholders' Equity

Total issued and fully paid share capital increased to HK\$54.2 million as at 30 June 2015 from HK\$53.7 million as at 31 December 2014. Total shareholders' equity for the Group as at 30 June 2015 decrease by 9.1%, to HK\$2,726.1 million, from HK\$2,997.6 million as at 31 December 2014. The Group's reserves as at 30 June 2015 amounted to HK\$2,573.6 million, a 10.1% decrease over the corresponding balance of HK\$2,862.5 million as at 31 December 2014. This was mainly due to the 2014 final and special dividends paid to the shareholders of the Group, partially offset by the retention of the net profit earned in the six months ended 30 June 2015. The Group undertook no share repurchases during the period.

## **Exposure to Foreign Exchange Risk**

The Group's only investment in China remains its operating vehicle, the WHA Joint Venture, which solely conducts business within the PRC. WHA Joint Venture's operations, the bulk of its turnover, capital investment and expenses is denominated in RMB. As at the date of this announcement, the Group has not experienced any difficulties in obtaining government approval for its necessary foreign exchange purchases. During the period under review, the Group did not issue any financial instruments for hedging purposes.

The average exchange rate of the RMB has depreciated by 0.61% against the Hong Kong Dollar during the six months ended 30 June 2015 as compared with the same period last year. The Group's turnover and costs are largely denominated in RMB, which will largely offset each other. However, as the Group's net profit is reported in Hong Kong Dollars, the depreciation of RMB will have a negative impact on the Group's net profit.

The majority of our operating assets are located in the PRC and is denominated in RMB. The operating assets are translated to Hong Kong Dollars at the 30 June 2015 spot rate. The spot rate of RMB as of 30 June 2015 has slightly appreciated against the Hong Kong Dollars by 0.02% as compared with the spot rate as at 31 December 2014.

## Liquidity, Financial Resources, Borrowing and Gearing

The Group finances its operations and investment activities mainly with internally generated cash flow.

As at 30 June 2015, the Group's total cash and cash equivalents amounted to HK\$520.5 million (HK\$1,049.6 million as at 31 December 2014). The Group had no short-term or long-term debt outstanding as at 30 June 2015 (31 December 2014: Nil).

The Group's current policy is to maintain a low level of gearing. This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis. We plan to invest in and expand our bus shelter network, and explore investment opportunities with the aim to increase return to shareholders.

## **Capital Expenditure**

For the six months ended 30 June 2015, the Group invested HK\$245.4 million in the construction of new bus shelters and the acquisition of concession rights, and HK\$24.5 million on fixed assets, compared to HK\$238.1 million and HK\$5.4 million, respectively, for the same period last year. The Group has completed certain bus shelter acquisition projects in the first half of 2015 which has resulted in higher level of capital expenditure in the first half of 2015.

## **Material Acquisitions and Disposals**

There were no other material acquisitions or disposals of any subsidiaries, associates or joint ventures of the Group during the six months ended 30 June 2015.

## **Employment, Training and Development**

As at 30 June 2015, the Group had a total of 582 employees, an increase of 6.4% over the same period in 2014. Total wages and salaries decreased by 6.4% mainly due to wage freeze and lower staff bonus expenses.

As a matter of policy, employees are remunerated based on their performance, experience and the prevailing industry practices, and compensation policies and packages are reviewed on a regular basis. Bonuses are linked to the performance of both the Group and the individual as recognition of value creation. Share options are also granted to senior management in an effort to align their individual interests with the Group's interests. Training courses and conferences aimed at improving team members' knowledge and skills were organized throughout the period.

## **Charges on Group Assets**

As at 30 June 2015, a bank balance of RMB1.3 million (equivalent to approximately HK\$1.6 million) was frozen by one of the financial institutions which has commend legal proceedings against the Company's subsidiary. The directors of the Company are of the view that the dispute will not have any material impact on the condensed consolidated financial statements of the Group.

## **Capital Commitments**

As at 30 June 2015, the Group had capital commitments contracted but not provided for in relation to the construction of bus shelters amounting to HK\$12.3 million (31 December 2014: HK\$0.6 million).

## **Contingent Liabilities**

A supplier of the Group in China (the "Supplier") has factored its accounts receivable allegedly due from the Group (the "Accounts Receivable") under certain supply contracts (the "Purported Supply Contracts") to certain financial institutions in China. Whilst the Purported Supply Contracts were allegedly entered into with a subsidiary of the Company, the Group has confirmed that none of them is an authentic supply contract to which it is a party. When the Accounts Receivable remained unpaid, the financial institutions commenced legal proceedings against, among others, the Company's subsidiary to recover an aggregate amount of approximately RMB115 million. As of the date of this report, the trial dates for these legal proceedings had yet to be fixed. As the Group confirmed that it had not entered into any of the Purported Supply Contracts, the Group treated the Purported Supply Contracts as being contractual fraud and reported the cases to the competent police authority. The directors, taking into account the advices from the Group's legal counsel, believe that the Group has a valid defence in law to the allegations against it and, accordingly, have not provided for any potential claim arising from the litigations, other than the related legal and other costs.

#### **OUTLOOK**

Management does not expect a significant change in the operating environment during the remainder of 2015. General market uncertainty is likely to keep trading conditions tight with pressure on pricing. However, we believe the strength and depth of our sales teams and our unrivaled display networks will continue to drive revenue growth in the second half of the year.

Asset prices continue to be at the most attractive level in years. We will continue to take advantage of these market conditions while they persist. We have also gained valuable market knowledge by operating our digital panels in Nanjing and are exploring opportunities to broaden our digital offering during the remainder of the year.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

## **Corporate Governance**

The Board is committed to the principles of corporate governance for a transparent, responsible and value-driven management that is focused on enhancing shareholders' value. In order to reinforce independence, accountability and responsibility, the role of Clear Media's Chairman is separate from that of Clear Media's Chief Executive Officer. The Board has established an Audit Committee, a Remuneration Committee, a Nomination Committee, a Capital Expenditure Committee, a Cash Committee and a Directors' Securities Dealing Committee with defined terms of reference.

Corporate governance practices adopted by the Group during the period from 1 January 2015 to 30 June 2015 are in line with the code provisions set out in the Corporate Governance Code and Corporate Governance Report as set out in Appendix 14 to the Listing Rules.

None of the directors of the Company is aware of any information that would reasonably indicate that Clear Media is not, or was not for any part of the period from 1 January 2015 to 30 June 2015, in compliance with the code provisions set out in the Corporate Governance Code and Corporate Governance Report in Appendix 14 to the Listing Rules.

## Compliance with the Model Code of Appendix 10 of the Listing Rules

The directors of the Company confirm that the Model Code for Securities Transactions by Directors of Listed Issuers as set out in Appendix 10 of the Listing Rules has been adopted, and all Directors, following specific enquiry by Clear Media, have confirmed their compliance during the six months period under review.

#### **Audit Committee**

The Audit Committee is comprised of a majority of independent non-executive Directors with substantial expertise in finance as well as relevant market experience. The Audit Committee has reviewed the accounting policies and practices adopted by the Group as well as the unaudited interim condensed financial statements for the six months period ended 30 June 2015. The Committee has also discussed with the external auditors their work in relation to the interim review. As part of discharging its responsibilities, the Committee has also met with the internal auditor and monitored his work on internal controls, risk management and financial reporting matters during the period.

## Purchase, Sale and Redemption of the Company's Listed Securities

Neither Clear Media nor any of its subsidiaries has purchased, sold or redeemed any of Clear Media's securities during the interim period.

#### **Investor Relations and Communications**

The Group has maintained communication with investors and analysts through regular meetings, investment conferences and electronic newsletters. The Group also maintains investor relations websites at www.clear-media.net and www.irasia.com/listco/hk/clearmedia to disseminate information to investors and shareholders on a timely basis.

By order of the Board
Clear Media Limited
Jeffrey Yip
Company Secretary

Hong Kong, 11 August 2015

This announcement can also be accessed through our internet sites at www.clear-media.net, www.irasia.com/listco/hk/clearmedia and the designated issuer website of the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited at www.hkexnews.hk. The 2015 interim report of the Company containing information required by Appendix 16 to the Listing Rules will be dispatched to the shareholders of the Company and will be published on the above websites in due course.

As at the date of this announcement, the Directors of the Company are:

Executive Directors:

Mr. Mark Thewlis

Mr. Han Zi Jing

Mr. Teo Hong Kiong

Mr. Zhang Huai Jun

*Non-executive Directors:* 

Mr. William Eccleshare

Mr. Peter Cosgrove

Mr. Zhu Jia

Mr. Cormac O'Shea

*Independent Non-executive Directors:* 

Mr. Desmond Murray

Mr. Wang Shou Zhi

Ms. Leonie Ki Man Fung

Mr. Thomas Manning

Alternate Director:

Mr. Zou Nan Feng (alternate to

Mr. Zhang Huai Jun)