



## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

### To the Holders of Share Stapled Units of HK Electric Investments and HK Electric Investments Limited

(HK Electric Investments is a trust constituted under the laws of Hong Kong; HK Electric Investments Limited is incorporated in the Cayman Islands with limited liability)

#### Opinion

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of HK Electric Investments (the "Trust"), HK Electric Investments Limited (the "Company") and its subsidiaries (together the "Trust Group") and of the Company and its subsidiaries (the "Group") set out on pages 67 to 126 (together referred to as the "consolidated financial statements of the Trust and of the Company"). As explained in note 2 to the consolidated financial statements of the Trust and of the Company, the consolidated financial statements of the Trust and of the Company together comprise the consolidated statement of financial position of the Trust Group and of the Group as at 31 December 2016, the consolidated statement of profit or loss, the consolidated statement of comprehensive income, the consolidated statement of changes in equity and the consolidated cash flow statement of the Trust Group and of the Group for the year then ended and notes to the consolidated financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements of the Trust and of the Company give a true and fair view of the consolidated financial position of the Trust Group and of the Group as at 31 December 2016 and of the Trust Group's and the Group's consolidated financial performance and consolidated cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards ("HKFRSs") issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("HKICPA") and have been properly prepared in compliance with the disclosure requirements of the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance.

#### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Hong Kong Standards on Auditing ("HKSAs") issued by the HKICPA. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the consolidated financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Trust Group and of the Group in accordance with the HKICPA's *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* ("the Code") together with any ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the consolidated financial statements of the Trust and of the Company in the Cayman Islands, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### Key audit matters

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgement, were of most significance in our audit of the consolidated financial statements of the Trust and of the Company of the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of our audit of the consolidated financial statements of the Trust and of the Company as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, and we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters.

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### Existence and accuracy of property, plant and equipment

Refer to note 15 to the consolidated financial statements of the Trust and of the Company and the accounting policies 3(e), (f) and (g)(ii).

#### The key audit matter

A wholly owned subsidiary of the Company, The Hongkong Electric Company, Limited ("HK Electric"), is engaged in the generation, transmission and distribution of electricity in Hong Kong (the "Hong Kong electricity business"), which requires substantial capital investment in property, plant and equipment.

The Scheme of Control Agreement entered into by HK Electric and The Government of the HKSAR provides for HK Electric to earn a permitted return calculated based on 9.99% of average net fixed assets, except for renewable energy fixed assets for which the permitted return is 11.00%. The Development Plan under the Scheme of Control Agreement governs HK Electric's capital expenditure on the Hong Kong electricity business over the Scheme of Control Agreement period.

HK Electric's property, plant and equipment is specialised in nature and certain items are self-constructed. The cost of self-constructed property, plant and equipment comprises, inter alia, the costs of materials and direct labour, overheads capitalised and borrowing costs. The Directors have implemented internal controls over the capitalisation of costs in property, plant and equipment.

We identified assessing the existence and accuracy of property, plant and equipment as a key audit matter because property, plant and equipment is the most significant asset of the Trust Group and the Group and is critical to the operations of Hong Kong electricity business and because, due to the terms and conditions of the Scheme of Control Agreement, property, plant and equipment is a key focus of management and the users of the consolidated financial statements of the Trust and of the Company.

#### How the matter was addressed in our audit

Our audit procedures to assess the existence and accuracy of property, plant and equipment included the following:

- obtaining an understanding of and assessing the design, implementation and operating effectiveness of key internal controls over the existence and accuracy of property, plant and equipment;
- assessing the Trust Group's and the Group's capitalisation policy for expenditure relating to property, plant and equipment with reference to the requirements of the prevailing accounting standards;
- selecting a sample items of property, plant and equipment acquired and capitalised during the year ended 31 December 2016 and inspecting relevant underlying documentation to assess whether these items met the criteria for capitalisation with reference to the requirements of the prevailing accounting standards and to evaluate the date on which costs were capitalised;
- assessing whether the additions to property, plant and equipment for the year ended 31 December 2016 were consistent with the Development Plan agreed between HK Electric and The Government of HKSAR which governs the level of capital expenditure over a period of time;
- forming an expectation of the value of costs capitalised for the current year based on the prior year's capitalisation ratio and the level of capital work undertaken during the current year, comparing our expectation with the actual costs capitalised for the current year and discussing with management the nature of and reasons for any significant variances; and
- physically inspecting a sample of additions to property, plant and equipment during the current year.

## Assessment of potential impairment of goodwill relating to the Hong Kong electricity business

Refer to note 16 to the consolidated financial statements of the Trust and of the Company and the accounting policies 3(d) and (g)(ii).

### The key audit matter

The Company acquired the Hong Kong electricity business operated by HK Electric from Power Assets Holdings Limited in 2014. The goodwill arising on this acquisition amounted to HK\$33.6 billion.

Management assessed goodwill for potential impairment as at 30 November 2016 by comparing the carrying amount of the cash-generating unit to which goodwill has been allocated with the recoverable amount determined by assessing the value-in-use (“VIU”) by preparing a discounted cash flow forecast. Preparing a discounted cash flow forecast involves the exercise of significant management judgement, in particular in forecasting revenue growth and operating profit and in determining an appropriate discount rate.

We identified the assessment of potential impairment of goodwill relating to the Hong Kong electricity business as a key audit matter because the carrying value of the goodwill is material to the consolidated financial statements of the Trust and of the Company and also because management’s assessment of the value of the future cash flows expected to be derived from the Hong Kong electricity business involves certain critical judgements in respect of the assumptions made which are inherently uncertain and could be subject to management bias.

### How the matter was addressed in our audit

Our audit procedures to assess potential impairment of goodwill relating to the Hong Kong electricity business included the following:

- evaluating management’s cash flow forecast by comparing the assumptions adopted by management with our understanding of the Hong Kong electricity business and by comparing key assumptions and estimates with relevant underlying documentation, which included comparing future revenue growth and operating profit with the Development Plan agreed between HK Electric and The Government of HKSAR and comparing components of the discount rate with market data and industry reports;
- evaluating management’s rationale for adopting cash flow projections over a period greater than five years with reference to the guidance in the prevailing accounting standards;
- engaging our internal valuation specialists to assess whether the discount rate applied in the cash flow forecast was within the range adopted by other companies in the same industry;
- performing sensitivity analyses on the discount rate and terminal growth rate applied and the assumptions for revenue adopted by management in the cash flow forecast to assess the impact of changes in these key assumption on the conclusion reached in management’s impairment assessment and considering whether there were any indicators of management bias in the assumption adopted; and
- comparing the actual results for the current year with management’s forecasts for the previous year in order to assess the historical accuracy of the management’s forecasting process.

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### Fuel Clause Recovery Account

Refer to note 22 to the consolidated financial statements of the Trust and of the Company and the accounting policy 3(p)(ii).

#### The key audit matter

Under the Scheme of Control Agreement, any difference between the standard cost of fuel, as agreed with The Government of the HKSAR, and the actual cost of fuel consumed is transferred to the Fuel Clause Recovery Account as Fuel Costs Account Adjustments.

Fuel Clause Charges (or Rebates) are charged (or given) to electricity customers by adding to (or deducting from) the Basic Tariff to produce a Net Tariff payable by customers and are credited (or debited) to the Fuel Clause Recovery Account.

The balance of the Fuel Clause Recovery Account at the end of the reporting period represents the difference between Fuel Clause Charges (or Rebates) and Fuel Cost Account Adjustments during the year, together with any balance brought forward from the prior year and interest thereon based on prevailing market interest rates.

We identified the Fuel Clause Recovery Account as a key audit matter because it is a specific item in the Scheme of Control Agreement and is a key factor in the calculation of Fuel Clause Charges (or Rebates) which affect the Net Tariff payable by electricity customers and because the balance of the Fuel Clause Recovery Account is material as at 31 December 2016.

#### How the matter was addressed in our audit

Our audit procedures to assess the balance of the Fuel Clause Recovery Account included the following:

- engaging our internal Information Risk Management specialists to assess the design, implementation and operating effectiveness of the information technology automated controls that govern the interface between the Trust Group's and the Group's meter reading system which records units of electricity sold and the Trust Group's and the Group's accounting system;
- forming an expectation of the amount of Fuel Clause Charges to electricity customers based on the units of electricity sold during the reporting period and comparing our expectation with the actual Fuel Clause Charges recorded by the Trust Group and the Group;
- evaluating the actual cost of fuel for the year ended 31 December 2016 by inspecting supplier invoices, on a sample basis;
- evaluating the accrued charges for unbilled fuel costs at 31 December 2016 by inspecting, on a sample basis, the amounts settled subsequent to 31 December 2016 and relevant underlying documentation; and
- recalculating of the balance of the Fuel Clause Recovery Account as at 31 December 2016 taking into account the balance brought forward at the start of the financial year, Fuel Clause Charges, Fuel Costs Account Adjustments and interest.

### Information other than the consolidated financial statements and auditor's report thereon

The Directors of HK Electric Investments Manager Limited (the "Trustee-Manager", in its capacity as the trustee-manager of the Trust) and the Directors of the Company are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises all the information included in the annual report, other than the consolidated financial statements of the Trust and of the Company and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the consolidated financial statements of the Trust and of the Company does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the consolidated financial statements of the Trust and of the Company, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the consolidated financial statements of the Trust and of the Company or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

## Responsibilities of the Directors for the consolidated financial statements

The Directors of the Trustee-Manager and the Directors of the Company are responsible for the preparation of the consolidated financial statements of the Trust and of the Company that give a true and fair view in accordance with HKFRSs issued by the HKICPA and the disclosure requirements of the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance and for such internal control as the Directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of consolidated financial statements of the Trust and of the Company that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the consolidated financial statements of the Trust and of the Company, the Directors are responsible for assessing the Trust Group's and the Group's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Directors either intend to liquidate the Trust Group and the Group or to cease operations or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Directors are assisted by the Audit Committees of the Trustee-Manager and of the Company in discharging their responsibilities for overseeing the Trust Group's and the Group's financial reporting process.

## Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the consolidated financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements of the Trust and of the Company as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. This report is made solely to you, as a body, and for no other purpose. We do not assume responsibility towards or accept liability to any other person for the contents of this report.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with HKSA's will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these consolidated financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with HKSA's, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements of the Trust and of the Company, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Trust Group's and the Group's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Trust Group's and the Group's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the consolidated financial statements of the Trust and of the Company or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Trust Group and the Group to cease to continue as a going concern.

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- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the consolidated financial statements of the Trust and of the Company, including the disclosures, and whether the consolidated financial statements of the Trust and of the Company represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the Trust Group and the Group to express an opinion on the consolidated financial statements of the Trust and of the Company. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the group audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.

We communicate with the Audit Committees of the Trustee-Manager and of the Company regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide the Audit Committees of the Trustee-Manager and of the Company with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence and communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence and, where applicable, related safeguards.

From the matters communicated with the Audit Committees of the Trustee-Manager and of the Company, we determine those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the consolidated financial statements of the Trust and of the Company of the current period and are therefore the key audit matters. We describe these matters in our auditor's report unless law or regulation precludes public disclosure about the matter or when, in extremely rare circumstances, we determine that a matter should not be communicated in our report because the adverse consequences of doing so would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest benefits of such communication.

The engagement partner on the audit resulting in this independent auditor's report is Yip Ka Ming, Alice.

### **KPMG**

Certified Public Accountants  
8th Floor, Prince's Building  
10 Chater Road  
Central, Hong Kong

21 March 2017