

APPENDIX III

TAXATION AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE

PRC TAXATION

Taxation of Security Holders

The taxation of income and capital gains of holders of H Shares is subject to the laws and practices of the PRC and of jurisdictions in which holders of H Shares are resident or otherwise subject to tax. The following summary of certain relevant taxation provisions is based on current effective laws and practices, and no predictions are made about changes or adjustments to relevant laws or policies, and no comments or suggestions will be made accordingly. The discussion has no intention to cover all possible tax consequences resulting from the investment in H Shares, nor does it take the specific circumstances of any particular investor into account, some of which may be subject to special regulations. Accordingly, you should consult your own tax advisor regarding the tax consequences of an investment in H Shares. The discussion is based upon laws and relevant interpretations in effect as of the date of this document, which is subject to change or adjustment and may have retrospective effect. No issues on PRC or Hong Kong taxation other than income tax, capital appreciation and profit tax, business tax/appreciation tax, stamp duty and estate duty were referred in the discussion. Prospective investors are urged to consult their financial advisor regarding the PRC and other tax consequences of owning and disposing of H Shares.

The PRC Taxation

Taxation on dividends

Individual investors

Pursuant to the Individual Income Tax Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國個人所得稅法》), which was last amended on August 31, 2018 by the SCNPC and came into effect on January 1, 2019, and the Regulations on Implementation of the Individual Income Tax Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國個人所得稅法實施條例》), which was last amended on December 18, 2018 by the State Council and came into effect on January 1, 2019 (hereinafter collectively referred to as the “IIT Law”), dividends distributed by PRC enterprises are subject to individual income tax levied at a flat rate of 20%. For a foreign individual who is not a resident of the PRC, the receipt of dividends from an enterprise in the PRC is normally subject to individual income tax of 20% unless specifically exempted by the tax authority of the State Council or reduced by relevant tax treaty.

Pursuant to the Circular on Certain Issues Concerning the Policies of Individual Income Tax (《關於個人所得稅若干政策問題的通知》) promulgated by the MOF and the State Administration of Taxation of the PRC (the “SAT”) on May 13, 1994, overseas individuals are exempted from the individual income tax for dividends or bonuses received from foreign-invested enterprises.

Enterprise investors

According to the EIT Law, which was latest amended by the SCNPC and implemented on December 29, 2018, and the Implementation Rules for the Enterprise Income Tax Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國企業所得稅法實施條例》) enacted on December 6, 2007 by the State Council and became effective on January 1, 2008, and amended on April 23, 2019 (hereinafter collectively referred to as the “EIT Law”), the rate of corporate income tax shall be 25%. A non-resident enterprise is generally subject to a 10% enterprise income tax on PRC-sourced income (including dividends received from a PRC resident enterprise that issues shares in Hong Kong), if it does not have an establishment or premise in the PRC or has an establishment or premise in the PRC but its PRC-sourced income has no real connection with such establishment or premise. The aforesaid income tax payable for non-resident enterprises is deducted at source, where the payer of the income is required to withhold the income tax from the amount to be paid to the non-resident enterprise.

APPENDIX III

TAXATION AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE

The Notice on the Issues Concerning Withholding the Enterprise Income Tax on the Dividends Paid by Chinese Resident Enterprises to H-Share Holders Which Are Overseas Non-resident Enterprises (《關於中國居民企業向境外H股非居民企業股東派發股息代扣代繳企業所得稅有關問題的通知》), which was issued and implemented by the SAT on November 6, 2008, further clarifies that a PRC-resident enterprise must withhold enterprise income tax at a rate of 10% on the dividends of 2008 and onwards that it distributes to overseas non-resident enterprise shareholders of H Shares. In addition, the Response to Questions on Levying Enterprise Income Tax on Dividends Derived by Non-resident Enterprise from Holding Stock such as B Shares (Guo Shui Han [2009] No. 394) (《關於非居民企業取得B股等股票股息徵收企業所得稅問題的批覆》(財稅函[2009]394號)), which was issued by the SAT and came into effect on July 24, 2009, further provides that any PRC-resident enterprise whose shares are listed on overseas stock exchanges must withhold and remit enterprise income tax at a rate of 10% on dividends of 2008 and onwards that it distributes to non-resident enterprises. Such tax rates may be further modified pursuant to the tax treaty or agreement that China has entered into with a relevant country or region, where applicable.

Pursuant to the Arrangement between the mainland China and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income (《內地和香港特別行政區關於對所得避免雙重徵稅和防止偷漏稅的安排》) (the “Arrangement”), which was signed between the SAT and the Hong Kong Government on August 21, 2006, the PRC Government may levy taxes on the dividends paid by a PRC company to Hong Kong residents (including resident individual and resident entities) in an amount not exceeding 10% of the total dividends payable by the PRC company unless a Hong Kong resident directly holds 25% or more of the equity interest in the PRC company, then such tax shall not exceed 5% of the total dividends payable by the PRC company. The Fifth Protocol to the Arrangement between the mainland China and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income (《<內地和香港特別行政區關於對所得避免雙重徵稅和防止偷漏稅的安排>第五議定書》), which came into effect on December 6, 2019, adds a criteria for the qualification of entitlement to enjoy treaty benefits. Although there may be other provisions under the Arrangement, the treaty benefits under the criteria shall not be granted in the circumstance where relevant gains, after taking into account all relevant facts and conditions, are reasonably deemed to be one of the main purposes for the arrangement or transactions which will bring any direct or indirect benefits under this Arrangement, except when the grant of benefits under such circumstance is consistent with relevant objective and goal under the Arrangement. The application of the dividend clause of tax agreements is subject to the requirements of PRC tax law and regulation, such as the Notice of the SAT on the Issues Concerning the Application of the Dividend Clauses of Tax Agreements (《國家稅務總局關於執行稅收協定股息條款有關問題的通知》).

Tax Treaties

Non-resident investors residing in jurisdictions which have entered into treaties or adjustments for the avoidance of double taxation with the PRC might be entitled to a reduction of the Chinese enterprise income tax imposed on the dividends received from PRC companies. The PRC currently has entered into Avoidance of Double Taxation Treaties or Arrangements with a number of countries and regions including Hong Kong, Macau, Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Singapore, the United Kingdom and the United States. Non-PRC resident enterprises entitled to preferential tax rates in accordance with the relevant taxation treaties or arrangements are required to apply to the PRC tax authorities for a refund of the enterprise income tax in excess of the agreed tax rate, and the refund application is subject to approval by the PRC tax authorities.

APPENDIX III

TAXATION AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE

Taxation on Share Transfer

VAT and Local Additional Tax

According to the Interim Regulations of the PRC on Value-Added Tax (《中華人民共和國增值稅暫行條例》) which was promulgated by the State Council on December 13, 1993, and amended on November 10, 2008, February 6, 2016 and November 19, 2017, and the Detailed Rules for the Implementation of the Provisional Regulations of the PRC on Value-added Tax (《中華人民共和國增值稅暫行條例實施細則》) which was promulgated by the MOF on December 25, 1993 and subsequently amended on December 15, 2008 and October 28, 2011, all enterprises and individuals that engage in the sale of goods, the provision of processing, repair and replacement services, sales of service, intangible assets and real estate and the importation of goods within the territory of the PRC shall pay value-added tax (the “VAT”) at the rate of 0%, 6%, 11% and 17% for the different goods it sells and different services it provides, except when specified otherwise.

Pursuant to the Notice on Fully Implementing the Pilot Reform for the Transition from Business Tax to Value-added Tax (《關於全面推開營業稅改徵增值稅試點的通知》) (the “Circular 36”), which was implemented on May 1, 2016, entities and individuals engaged in the services sale in the PRC are subject to VAT and “engaged in the services sale in the PRC” means that the seller or buyer of the taxable services is located in the PRC. It also provides that transfer of financial products, including transfer of the ownership of marketable securities, shall be subject to VAT at 6% on the taxable revenue (which is the balance of sales price upon deduction of purchase price), for a general or a foreign VAT taxpayer. However, individuals who transfer financial products are exempt from VAT, which is also provided in the third appendix of the Provisions on the Transitional Policies Concerning the Pilot Scheme on Levying Value-added Tax in Place of Business Tax (《營業稅改徵增值稅試點過渡政策的規定》). According to these regulations, if the holder is a non-resident individual, the PRC VAT is exempted from the sale or disposal of H shares; if the holder is a non-resident enterprise and the H-share buyer is an individual or entity located outside China, the holder is not necessarily required to pay the PRC VAT, but if the H-share buyer is an individual or entity located in China, the holder may be required to pay the PRC VAT. However, there may be changes in whether the non-Chinese resident enterprises are required to pay the PRC VAT for the disposal of H shares in practice.

According to the Notice on Adjusting Value-Added Tax Rates (《關於調整增值稅稅率的通知》) issued by the MOF and the State Administration of Taxation on April 4, 2018, which took effect on May 1, 2018, for taxpayers engaged in VAT taxable sales activities or importing goods, the original applicable tax rates of 17% and 11% were adjusted to 16% and 10%, respectively.

According to the Announcement on Policies Related to Deepening VAT Reform (《關於深化增值稅改革有關政策的公告》) issued on March 20, 2019, which took effect on April 1, 2019, for VAT taxable sales activities or importing goods, the original applicable tax rates of 16% and 10% were adjusted to 13% and 9%, respectively.

In addition, on December 25, 2024, the SCNPC promulgated the Value-Added Tax Law of the People’s Republic of China (《中華人民共和國增值稅法》), which will come into effect on January 1, 2026.

Income Tax

Individual investor

According to the IIT Law gains on the transfer of equity interests in the PRC resident enterprises are subject to individual income tax at a rate of 20%. Pursuant to the Circular on Declaring that Individual Income Tax Continues to be Exempted over Income of Individuals from the Transfer of Shares (《關於個人轉讓股票所得繼續暫免徵收個人所得稅的通知》) promulgated by the MOF and the SAT and became effective on March 30, 1998, since January 1, 1997, the individual income tax levied on the individual income from transfer of stocks of listed companies will continue to be temporarily exempted. In the newly revised IIT Law of the PRC, the SAT did not clearly stipulate whether to continue to exempt individuals from tax on the income from transfer of stocks of listed companies.

APPENDIX III

TAXATION AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE

On December 31, 2009, the MOF, SAT and CSRC jointly issued the Notice on Related Issues Concerning Levying Individual Income Tax over the Income Received by Individuals from the Transfer of Listed Shares Subject to Sales Limitation (《關於個人轉讓上市公司限售股所得徵收個人所得稅有關問題的通知》), which came into effect on the same day, which stipulates that income derived by individuals from transfer of shares of listed companies issued to the public by the listed companies and transfer of shares of listed companies obtained from the market at the Shanghai Stock Exchange and Shenzhen Stock Exchange shall continue to be exempted from individual income tax, provided that it excludes the relevant restricted shares as defined in the Supplementary Notice Concerning the Levy of Individual Income Tax on Incomes from the Transfer of Restricted Shares of Listed Companies (《關於個人轉讓上市公司限售股所得徵收個人所得稅有關問題的補充通知》) which was jointly issued and implemented by MOF, SAT and CSRC on November 10, 2010. On December 27, 2024, the MOF, the SAT and the CSRC jointly issued the Announcement on the Further Improvement of the Administration of Individual Income Tax on the Transfer of Restricted Shares of Listed Companies by Individuals (《關於進一步完善個人轉讓上市公司限售股所得個人所得稅有關徵管服務事項的公告》), which was effective on the date of issuance, and any inconsistency with this announcement shall be in accordance with this announcement. As of the Latest Practicable Date, the aforementioned provisions did not specify whether to impose the individual income tax on the income from the transfer of shares of PRC-resident enterprise listed on overseas stock exchanges by non-PRC resident individuals.

Enterprise investors

In accordance with the EIT Law, a non-resident enterprise is generally subject to enterprise income tax at the rate of a 10% on PRC-sourced income, including gains derived from the disposal of equity interests in a PRC resident enterprise, if it does not have an establishment or premise in the PRC or has an establishment or premise in the PRC but its PRC-sourced income has no real connection with such establishment or premise. Such income tax payable for non-resident enterprises are deducted at source, where the payer of the income is required to withhold the income tax from the amount to be paid to the non-resident enterprise. Such tax may be reduced or exempted pursuant to relevant tax treaties or agreements on avoidance of double taxation.

Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect Taxation Policy and Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect Taxation Policy

On October 31, 2014 and November 5, 2016, the MOF, SAT and CSRC jointly issued the Circular on the Relevant Taxation Policies regarding the Pilot Inter-connected Mechanism for Trading on the Shanghai Stock Market and the Hong Kong Stock Market (《關於滬港股票市場交易互聯互通機制試點有關稅收政策的通知》) and the Circular on the Relevant Taxation Policies regarding the Pilot Inter-connected Mechanism for Trading on the Shenzhen Stock Market and the Hong Kong Stock Market (《關於深港股票市場交易互聯互通機制試點有關稅收政策的通知》), pursuant to which, the income from transfer differences and dividend and bonus income derived by PRC enterprise investors from investing in stocks listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange through Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect or Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect shall be included in their total income and subject to EIT in accordance with the law. In particular, the dividend and bonus income derived by PRC resident enterprises which hold H shares for at least 12 consecutive months shall be exempted from EIT according to law. H-share companies do not withhold tax on dividends and bonus income of PRC enterprise investors, and the tax payable shall be declared and paid by enterprises.

For dividends and bonuses received by PRC individual investors investing in H shares listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange through Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect and Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect, H-share companies shall submit an application to China Securities Depository and Clearing Corporation Limited (the “CSDC”), which shall provide H-share companies with a register of PRC individual investors. H-share companies shall withhold individual income tax at a rate of 20%. Individual investors who have paid withholding tax outside the PRC may apply for tax credits at the competent tax authorities of the CSDC with valid tax deduction certificates. Individual income tax is levied on dividend and bonus income derived by PRC security investment funds from investing in stocks listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange through Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect and Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect in accordance with the above provisions.

APPENDIX III

TAXATION AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE

On August 21, 2023, the MOF, the SAT and the CSRC jointly issued the Announcement on the Continuation of Implementation of Individual Income Tax Policies Relating to Shanghai- Hong Kong Stock Connect and Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect and Mutual Recognition of Funds between mainland China and Hong Kong (《關於延續實施滬港、深港股票市場交易互聯互通機制和內地與香港基金互認有關個人所得稅政策的公告》), which stipulates that for PRC individual investors, the transfer difference income derived from investing in stocks listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange through Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect and Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect and the trading of Hong Kong fund units through mutual recognition of funds will continue to be exempt from individual income tax on a temporary basis until December 31, 2027.

Stamp Duty

According to the Stamp Tax Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國印花稅法》) promulgated by the SCNPC on June 10, 2021 and came into effect on July 1, 2022, the PRC stamp duty is applicable to the entities and individuals that conclude taxable vouchers or conduct securities trading within the territory of the PRC, and the entities and individuals outside the territory of the PRC that conclude taxable vouchers that are used inside China. Therefore, the purchase and disposal of H shares by non-PRC investors outside of the PRC does not apply to the relevant provisions of the Stamp Duty Law of the PRC.

Estate Duty

As of the Latest Practicable Date, no estate duty was levied within the PRC.

PRC FOREIGN EXCHANGE

The lawful currency of the PRC is Renminbi. The SAFE, with the authorization of the People's Bank of China (the "PBOC"), is empowered with the functions of administering all matters relating to foreign exchange, including the enforcement of foreign exchange control regulations.

The Regulations on Foreign Exchange Control of the PRC (《中華人民共和國外匯管理條例》), which was issued by the State Council on January 29, 1996, implemented on April 1, 1996 and latest amended on 5 August, 2008, classifies all international payments and transfers into current items and capital items. Current items are subject to the reasonable examination of the veracity of transaction documents and the consistency of the transaction documents and the foreign exchange receipts and payments by financial institutions engaging in conversion and sale of foreign currencies and supervision and inspection by the foreign exchange control authorities. For capital items, overseas organizations and overseas individuals making direct investments in China shall, upon approval by the relevant authorities in charge, process registration formalities with the foreign exchange control authorities. Foreign exchange income received overseas can be repatriated or deposited overseas, and foreign exchange and foreign exchange settlement funds under the capital account are required to be used only for purposes as approved by the competent authorities and foreign exchange administrative authorities. In the event that international revenues and expenditure occur or may occur a material imbalance, or the national economy encounters or may encounter a severe crisis, the State may adopt necessary safeguard and regulatory measures on international revenues and expenditure.

The Regulations for the Administration of Settlement, Sale and Payment of Foreign Exchange (《結匯、售匯及付匯管理規定》), which was promulgated by the PBOC on June 20, 1996 and implemented on July 1, 1996, removes other restrictions on convertibility of foreign exchange under current items, while regulates foreign exchange transactions under capital account items.

According to the Announcement on Improving the Reform of the Renminbi (《關於完善人民幣匯率形成機制改革的公告》), which was issued by the PBOC and implemented on July 21, 2005, the PRC has started to implement a managed floating exchange rate system in which the exchange rate would be determined based on market supply and demand and adjusted with reference to a basket of currencies since July 21, 2005. Therefore, the Renminbi exchange rate was no longer pegged to the U.S. dollar. PBOC would publish the closing price of the exchange rate of the Renminbi against trading currencies such as

APPENDIX III

TAXATION AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE

the U.S. dollar in the interbank foreign exchange market after the closing of the market on each working day, as the central parity of the currency against Renminbi transactions on the following working day. According to the relevant laws and regulations in the PRC, PRC enterprises (including foreign investment enterprises) which need foreign exchange for current item transactions may, without the approval of the foreign exchange administrative authorities, effect payment through foreign exchange accounts opened at the designated foreign exchange bank, on the strength of valid transaction receipts and proof. Foreign investment enterprises which need foreign exchange for the distribution of profits to their shareholders and PRC enterprises which, in accordance with regulations, are required to pay dividends to their shareholders in foreign exchange (such as our Company) may, on the strength of resolutions of the board of directors or the shareholders’ meeting on the distribution of profits, effect payment from foreign exchange accounts at the designated foreign exchange bank, or effect exchange and payment at the designated foreign exchange bank.

The Decisions on Matters including Canceling and Adjusting a Batch of Administrative Approval Items (《關於取消和調整一批行政審批項目等事項的決定》) promulgated by the State Council and came into effect on October 23, 2014 provide to cancel the approval requirement of the SAFE and its branches for the remittance and settlement of the proceeds raised from the overseas listing of the foreign shares into RMB domestic accounts.

According to the Notice of the State Administration of Foreign Exchange on Issues Relating to Foreign Exchange Administration of Overseas Listing (《關於境外上市外匯管理有關問題的通知》) promulgated by the SAFE and effective on December 26, 2014, the State Administration of Foreign Exchange of the PRC (中華人民共和國國家外匯管理局) (the “SAFE”) and its branches, along with local foreign exchange bureaus, supervise activities related to business registration, account management, cross-border transactions, and fund transfers for domestic companies seeking overseas listings. Domestic companies must complete overseas listing registration with their local foreign exchange administration within 15 working days after the conclusion of the listing issuance. In addition, domestic shareholders intending to increase or reduce their holdings in overseas-listed companies must submit the required documentation to the local foreign exchange authority for registration of changes at least 20 working days prior to the proposed increase or reduction. In addition, domestic companies (excluding banking financial institutions) shall open dedicated foreign exchange accounts with domestic banks to handle foreign exchange conversion and fund transfers related to their initial public offerings, additional share issuances, and share repurchase transactions.

According to the Notice on Further Simplifying and Improving Policies for the Foreign Exchange Administration of Direct Investment (《關於進一步簡化和改進直接投資外匯管理政策的通知》) promulgated by the SAFE on February 13, 2015 and became effective on June 1, 2015, and partially repealed on December 30, 2019, the confirmation of foreign exchange registration under domestic direct investment and the confirmation of foreign exchange registration under overseas direct investment shall be directly examined and handled by banks. The SAFE and its branch offices shall indirectly regulate the foreign exchange registration of direct investment through banks.

According to the Notice of the SAFE of the PRC on Revolutionizing and Regulating Capital Account Settlement Management Policies (《國家外匯管理局關於改革和規範資本項目結匯管理政策的通知》) which was promulgated by the SAFE and implemented on June 9, 2016, foreign currency earnings in capital account that relevant policies of willingness exchange settlement have been clearly implemented on (including the recalling of raised capital by overseas listing) may undertake foreign exchange settlement in the banks according to actual business needs of the domestic institutions. The tentative percentage of foreign exchange settlement for foreign currency earnings in capital account of domestic institutions is 100%, subject to adjustment of the SAFE in due time in accordance with international revenue and expenditure situations.

On January 26, 2017, Notice on Further Promoting the Reform of Foreign Exchange Administration and Improving the Examination of Authenticity and Compliance (《關於進一步推進外匯管理改革完善真實合規性審核的通知》) was issued by the SAFE to further expand the scope of settlement for domestic foreign exchange loans, allow settlement for domestic foreign exchange loans with export background

APPENDIX III

TAXATION AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE

under goods trading, allow repatriation of funds under domestic guaranteed foreign loans for domestic utilization, allow settlement for domestic foreign exchange accounts of foreign institutions operating in the Free Trade Pilot Zones, and adopt the model of full-coverage RMB and foreign currency overseas lending management, where a domestic institution engages in overseas lending, the sum of its outstanding overseas lending in RMB and outstanding overseas lending in foreign currencies shall not exceed 30% of its owner’s equity in the audited financial statements of the preceding year.

On October 23, 2019, the SAFE issued the Notice of the State Administration of Foreign Exchange on Further Facilitating Cross-Board Trade and Investment (《國家外匯管理局關於進一步促進跨境貿易投資便利化的通知》), which was amended with immediate effect on December 4, 2023. The notice canceled restrictions on domestic equity investments made with capital funds by non-investing foreign-funded enterprises. In addition, restrictions on the use of funds for foreign exchange settlement of domestic accounts for the realization of assets have been removed and restrictions on the use and foreign exchange settlement of foreign investors’ security deposits have been relaxed. Eligible enterprises in the pilot area are also allowed to use revenues under capital accounts, such as capital funds, foreign debts and overseas listing revenues for domestic payments without providing materials to the bank in advance for authenticity verification on an item-by-item basis, while the use of funds should be true, in compliance with applicable rules and conforming to the current capital revenue management regulations.

According to the Notice on Optimising Administration of Foreign Exchange to Support the Development of Foreign-related Business (《國家外匯管理局關於優化外匯管理支持涉外業務發展的通知》) issued by the SAFE and became effective on April 10, 2020, eligible enterprises are allowed to make domestic payments by using their capital, foreign credits and the income under capital accounts of overseas listing, without providing materials to the bank in advance for authenticity verification on an item-by-item basis, provided that their utilised capital shall be authentic and in line with provisions, and conform to the prevailing administrative regulations related to the use of income under capital accounts. The concerned bank shall manage and control the relevant business risks under the principle of prudent business development and conduct spot checks afterwards in accordance with the relevant requirements. Local foreign exchange authorities shall strengthen monitoring and analysis and interim and ex-post supervision.