

APPENDIX III

TAXATION AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE

TAXATION OF SECURITY HOLDERS

Income tax and capital gains tax of holders of the H shares are subject to the laws and practices of the PRC and of jurisdictions in which holders of the H shares are resident or otherwise subject to tax. The following summary of certain relevant taxation provisions is based on current laws and practices, and has not taken into account the expected change or amendment to the relevant laws or policies and does not constitute any opinion or advice. The discussion does not deal with all possible tax consequences relating to an investment in the H shares, nor does it take into account the specific circumstances of any particular investor, some of which may be subject to special regulation. Accordingly, you should consult your own tax advisor regarding the tax consequences of an investment in the H shares. The discussion is based upon laws and relevant interpretations in effect as of the Latest Practicable Date, all of which are subject to change or adjustment and may have retrospective effect.

This discussion does not address any aspects of PRC taxation other than income tax, capital gains tax and profits tax, sales tax, value-added tax, stamp duty and estate duty. Prospective investors are urged to consult their financial advisors regarding the PRC and other tax consequences of owning and disposing of the H shares.

TAXATION IN CHINESE MAINLAND

Tax on Dividends

Individual Investors

According to the Individual Income Tax Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國個人所得稅法》), or the Individual Income Tax Law, amended by the SCNPC on August 31, 2018 and effective on January 1, 2019, and the Implementation Rules of the Individual Income Tax Law of the People’s Republic of China (《中華人民共和國個人所得稅法實施條例》) amended by the State Council on December 18, 2018 and effective on January 1, 2019, dividends paid by PRC companies to individual investors are ordinarily subject to a withholding income tax levied at a flat rate of 20%. Meanwhile, according to the Notice on Issues Concerning Differentiated Individual Income Tax Policies on Dividends and Bonus of Listed Companies (《關於上市公司股息紅利差別化個人所得稅政策有關問題的通知》) issued by the Ministry of Finance, the State Administration of Taxation and the CSRC on September 7, 2015 and effective on September 8, 2015, where an individual holds the shares of a listed company obtained from the public offering for more than one year and transfers the stock of the listed company on the stock market, the dividend and bonus income shall be temporarily exempted from individual income tax. Where an individual acquires shares of a listed company from the public offering and transfers the stock of the listed company on the stock market, if the holding period is within one month (inclusive), the dividend and bonus income shall be included in the taxable income in full; if the holding period is more than one month but less than one year (inclusive), the dividend and bonus income shall be included in the taxable income at the rate of 50%; the aforesaid income shall be subject to individual income tax at a uniform rate of 20%.

Pursuant to the Arrangement between the Chinese Mainland 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》), or the Arrangement for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income, executed on August 21, 2006, the PRC government may impose tax on dividends paid by a PRC company to a Hong Kong resident (including natural person and legal entity), but such tax shall not exceed 10% of the total amount of dividends payable. If a Hong Kong resident directly holds 25% or more of the equity interests in a PRC company and the Hong Kong resident is the beneficial owner of the dividends and meets other conditions, such tax shall not exceed 5% of the total amount of dividends payable by the PRC company. The Fifth Protocol to the Arrangement between the Chinese Mainland 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 (《國家稅務總局關於<

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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)), or the Fifth Protocol, issued by the State Administration of Taxation and effective on December 6, 2019 provides that such provisions shall not apply to arrangements or transactions made for one of the primary purposes of obtaining such tax benefits.

Enterprise Investors

Pursuant to the Enterprise Income Tax Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國企業所得稅法》), or the EIT Law, amended by the SCNPC and effective on December 29, 2018, and the Implementation Rules of 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》), or the Implementation Rules of the EIT Law, amended by the State Council and effective on January 20, 2025, a non-resident enterprise is subject to a 10% enterprise income tax on PRC-sourced income, including dividends paid by a PRC resident enterprise that issues and lists shares in Hong Kong, if such non-resident enterprise does not have an establishment or place of business in the PRC or has an establishment or place of business in the PRC but the PRC-sourced income is not actually connected with such establishment or place of business in the PRC. The aforesaid income tax payable by non-resident enterprises shall be withheld at source, and the payer shall be the withholding agent, and the tax shall be withheld by the withholding agent from the payment or due payment every time it is paid or due. Such tax may be reduced or exempted pursuant to an applicable treaty for the avoidance of double taxation.

Pursuant to 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》) issued by the State Administration of Taxation and effective on November 6, 2008, a PRC resident enterprise is required to withhold enterprise income tax at a rate of 10% on dividends paid to non-PRC resident enterprise holders of H Shares which are derived out of profit generated since 2008. The Reply on the Collection of Enterprise Income Tax on Dividends Received by Non-resident Enterprises from Holding B Shares and Other Shares (《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》) promulgated by the State Administration of Taxation and effective July 24, 2009 further provides that PRC-resident enterprises listed on Chinese and overseas stock exchanges by issuing stocks (including A shares, B shares and overseas shares) must withhold enterprise income tax at a flat rate of 10% on dividends of 2008 and onwards that it distributes to non-resident enterprise shareholders. Such tax rates may be further modified pursuant to the tax treaty or agreement that China has concluded with a relevant jurisdiction, where applicable.

According to the Arrangement for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income, the PRC government may impose tax on dividends paid by a PRC company to a Hong Kong resident (including natural person and legal entity), but such tax shall not exceed 10% of the total dividends payable by the PRC company. If a Hong Kong resident directly holds 25% or more of equity interest in a PRC company and the Hong Kong resident is the beneficial owner of the dividends and meets other conditions, such tax shall not exceed 5% of the total dividends payable by the PRC company. The Fifth Protocol provides that such provisions shall not apply to arrangements or transactions made for one of the primary purposes of obtaining such tax benefits.

Pursuant to applicable regulations, we intend to withhold tax at a rate of 10% from dividends paid to non-PRC resident enterprise holders of our H Shares (including HKSCC Nominees). Non-PRC resident enterprises that are entitled to be taxed at a reduced rate under an applicable income tax treaty will be required to apply to the PRC tax authorities for a refund of any amount withheld in excess of the applicable treaty rate, and payment of such refund will be subject to the PRC tax authorities' approval.

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Tax on Share Transfer

Value-Added Tax on Share Transfer

Pursuant to the Notice of Ministry of Finance and State Administration of Taxation on Fully Implementing the Pilot Reform for the Transition from Business Tax to Value-added Tax (《財政部、國家稅務總局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. Circular 36 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 Notice of Ministry of Finance and State Administration of Taxation on Several Tax Exemption Policies for Business Tax on Sale and Purchase of Financial Commodities by Individuals (《財政部、國家稅務總局關於個人金融商品買賣等營業稅若干免稅政策的通知》) effective on January 1, 2009.

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 the PRC, 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.

Income Tax on Share Transfer

Individual Investors

Under the Individual Income Tax Law and its implementation rules, individuals are subject to individual income tax at a rate of 20% on gains realised on the sale of equity interests in PRC resident enterprises. Pursuant to the Circular on Continuing the Temporary Exemption of Individual Income Tax on Gains from Share Transfers by Individuals (《關於個人轉讓股票所得繼續暫免徵收個人所得稅的通知》), which was promulgated by the MOF and the State Administration of Taxation and became effective on March 30, 1998, from 1 January 1997, income of individuals from the transfer of shares in listed companies continues to be temporarily exempted from individual income tax. The State Administration of Taxation does not specify whether to continue to exempt individuals from personal income tax on the income from the transfer of shares in a listed company in the newly revised EIT Law and Implementation Rules of the EIT Law.

Enterprise Investors

Under the EIT Law and its implementation rules, a non-PRC resident enterprise is subject to enterprise income tax at the rate of 10% with respect to PRC-sourced income, including gains derived from the disposal of shares in a PRC resident enterprise, if it does not have an establishment or premises in the PRC or has an establishment or premises in the PRC but the PRC-sourced income is not actually connected with such establishment or premises in the PRC. The aforementioned income tax payable by non-PRC resident enterprises is subject to source withholding, and the payer is the withholding agent. The tax shall be withheld by the withholding agent from the payment or due payment every time it is paid or due. Such tax may be reduced or exempted under applicable tax treaties or arrangements.

Stamp Duty

According to the Stamp Duty Law of the People’s Republic of China (《中華人民共和國印花稅法》), which was promulgated on June 10, 2021 and came into effect on July 1, 2022, the disposal of H Shares by non-Chinese mainland investors outside of the Chinese mainland is not subject to the requirements of the Stamp Duty Law of the People’s Republic of China.

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Estate duty

According to PRC law, no estate duty is currently levied in Chinese mainland.

MAJOR TAXATION OF OUR COMPANY IN THE PRC

Enterprise Income Tax

According to the Enterprise Income Tax Law of the People’s Republic of China (《中華人民共和國企業所得稅法》), enterprises and other income-generating organizations (hereinafter collectively referred to as “enterprises”) within the territory of the People’s Republic of China are the taxpayers of enterprise income tax and shall pay enterprise income tax in accordance with the provisions of the EIT Law. The Enterprise Income Tax rate is 25%. The high-tech enterprises that need full support from the PRC’s government will enjoy a reduced tax rate of 15% for enterprise income tax.

Enterprises are classified into resident enterprises and non-resident enterprises. A non-resident enterprise that does not have an establishment or place of business in the PRC, or has an establishment or place of business in the PRC but the income has no actual connection to such establishment or place of business, shall pay enterprise income tax on its income within the PRC and withhold at source, where the payer is the withholding agent. The tax shall be withheld by the withholding agent from the payment or due payment every time it is paid or due. Meanwhile, any gains realised on the transfer of shares by such investors are subject to enterprise income tax and shall be withheld at source if such gains are regarded as income derived from the transfer of property within the PRC.

Value-added tax

Pursuant to the Provisional Regulations on Value-added Tax of the PRC (《中華人民共和國增值稅暫行條例》) amended by the State Council and became effective on November 19, 2017 and the Detailed Rules for the Implementation of the Provisional Regulations on Value-added Tax of the PRC (《中華人民共和國增值稅暫行條例實施細則》) amended by the MOF on October 28, 2011 and effective on November 1, 2011, all entities and individuals in the PRC engaging in the sale of goods, the provision of processing, repairs and replacement services, and the importation of goods are required to pay value-added tax. For taxpayers selling or importing goods, the general tax rate shall be 17% unless otherwise specified in the aforesaid regulations. According to the Notice on the Adjustment to VAT Rates (《關於調整增值稅稅率的通知》), promulgated by the MOF and the State Administration of Taxation on April 4, 2018, and effective on May 1, 2018, the VAT rates of 17% and 11% applicable to the taxpayers who have VAT taxable sales activities or imported goods are adjusted to 16% and 10%, respectively.

According to the Announcement on Relevant Policies for Deepening Value-Added Tax Reform (《關於深化增值稅改革有關政策的公告》), promulgated by the MOF, the State Administration of Taxation and the General Administration of Customs on March 20, 2019 and effective on April 1, 2019, the VAT rates of 16% and 10% applicable to the taxpayers who have VAT taxable sales activities or imported goods are adjusted to 13% and 9%, respectively.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATION IN THE PRC

The lawful currency of the PRC is the Renminbi. The SAFE, authorised by the PBOC, is empowered with the functions of administering all matters relating to foreign exchange, including the enforcement of foreign exchange regulations.

Pursuant to the Regulations of the People’s Republic of China on Foreign Exchange Control (《中華人民共和國外匯管理條例》) amended by the State Council and became effective on August 5, 2008, all international payments and transfers are classified into current account items and capital account items. The PRC does not impose restrictions on international payments and transfers under current account items. Foreign exchange income from the current account of PRC enterprises may be retained or sold to financial institutions engaged in the settlement and sale of foreign exchange in accordance

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with relevant provisions of the State. The retention or sale of foreign exchange receipts under capital accounts to financial institutions engaging in the settlement and sale of foreign exchange shall be subject to the approval of foreign exchange administrative authorities, unless otherwise stipulated by the State.

Pursuant to the Regulations for the Administration of Settlement, Sale and Payment of Foreign Exchange (《結匯、售匯及付匯管理規定》) promulgated by the PBOC on June 20, 1996 and became effective on July 1, 1996, the remaining restrictions on convertibility of foreign exchange in respect of current account items are abolished while the existing restrictions on foreign exchange transactions in respect of capital account items are retained.

According to relevant laws and regulations of the PRC, PRC enterprises (including foreign-invested enterprises) which require foreign exchange for transactions relating to current account items may, without the approval of SAFE, effect payment from their foreign exchange accounts at the designated foreign exchange banks, on the strength of valid receipts and proof of transactions. Foreign-invested enterprises that need to distribute profits to their shareholders in foreign exchange and Chinese enterprises that need to pay fixed dividends in foreign exchange in accordance with the requirements shall pay from their foreign exchange account or pay at the designated foreign exchange bank by a resolution of the board of directors on the distribution of profits.

According to the Decision of the State Council on Canceling and Adjusting a Group of Administrative Approval Items and Other Matters (《國務院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 effective on October 23, 2014, the administrative approval of the SAFE and its branches on matters concerning the repatriation and settlement of foreign exchange of overseas-raised funds through overseas listing has been canceled. According to the Circular of the SAFE on Relevant Issues Concerning the Foreign Exchange Administration of Overseas Listing (《國家外匯管理局關於境外上市外匯管理有關問題的通知》) promulgated by the SAFE and became effective on December 26, 2014, the relevant provisions on foreign exchange administration of domestic joint stock companies (hereinafter referred to as “domestic companies”) listed overseas are as follows:

- (i) The SAFE and its branches and the Foreign Exchange Management Department, or the Foreign Exchange Bureau, supervise, manage and inspect the business registration, account opening and use, cross-border income and expenditure, and capital exchange involved in the overseas listing of domestic companies.
- (ii) A domestic company shall, within 15 working days after the completion of the overseas listing and issuance, register the overseas listing with the Foreign Exchange Bureau at the place where it is registered with the relevant material.
- (iii) After the overseas listing of a domestic company, its domestic shareholders who intend to increase or reduce their shareholding in an overseas listed company according to relevant regulations shall register the overseas shareholding with the local foreign exchange bureau at the place where the domestic shareholders are located within 20 working days prior to the proposed increase or reduction of shareholding with relevant materials.
- (iv) A domestic company (other than banking financial institutions) shall, by virtue of its registration certificate for overseas listing business, open a “special foreign exchange account for overseas listing of domestic companies” with a domestic bank for its initial offering (or additional offering) and repurchase business to handle the remittance and transfer of funds for the relevant business.

According to the Notice of the State Administration of Foreign Exchange on Further Simplifying and Improving Policies for the Foreign Exchange Administration of Direct Investment (《國家外匯管理局關於進一步簡化和改進直接投資外匯管理政策的通知》), which was issued on February 13, 2015 and

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came into effect on June 1, 2015, the SAFE canceled the confirmation of foreign exchange registration under domestic direct investment and overseas direct investment. Instead, banks shall directly examine and handle foreign exchange registration under domestic direct investment and foreign exchange registration under overseas direct investment, and the SAFE and its branch offices shall indirectly regulate the foreign exchange registration of direct investment through banks.

According to the Notice of the State Administration of Foreign Exchange of the PRC on Revolutionising 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》) issued and implemented by the SAFE 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 the capital account of domestic institutions is 100%, subject to adjustment by the SAFE in due time in accordance with international revenue and expenditure situations.