

APPENDIX III

TAXATION AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE

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 residents 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 [REDACTED] in H Shares, nor does it take the specific circumstances of any particular [REDACTED] into account, some of which may be subject to special provisions. Accordingly, you should consult your own tax advisor regarding the tax consequences of an [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED] are urged to consult their financial advisors regarding the PRC, Hong Kong and other tax consequences of owning and disposing of H Shares.

The PRC Taxation

Taxation on Dividends

Individual [REDACTED]

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 most recently amended on August 31, 2018 and the Implementation Provisions 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 most recently amended on December 18, 2018 (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 Issues Concerning Taxation and Administration of Individual Income Tax After the Repeal of the Document Guo Shui Fa [1993] No. 045 (《關於國稅發[1993]045號文件廢止後有關個人所得稅徵管問題的通知》) issued by the STA on June 28, 2011, for a domestic non-foreign invested enterprise who has been issuing shares in Hong Kong, its foreign individual shareholders may enjoy the relevant preferential tax treatment according to the taxation agreement between the PRC and the country where they reside and the taxation arrangement between the PRC and Hong Kong (or Macau). When domestic non-foreign invested enterprises, which issue stocks in Hong Kong, pay dividends and bonus, in general, it will withhold 10% of the dividends and profits as individual income tax and no applications are needed. Where the individuals who receive the dividends are residents of countries where the agreed tax rate is lower than 10%, the withholding agent shall, according to regulations provisions, handle the applications for relevant preferential treatments and refund the extra tax upon the approval of competent tax authorities. Where the individuals are residents of countries where the agreed tax rate is higher than 10% but lower than 20%, the withholding agent shall withhold the individual income tax according to the agreed actual tax rate when paying the dividends and bonuses and no applications are needed in such cases. Where the dividend receiving individuals are residents of countries which have not established tax treaties with China or other circumstances exist, the withholding agent shall withhold the individual income tax based on the rate of 20% when paying dividends and bonuses.

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Enterprise [REDACTED]

In accordance with Enterprise Income Tax Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國企業所得稅法》) (the “**EIT Law**”) and the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law on Enterprise Income Tax of the PRC (《中華人民共和國企業所得稅法實施條例》), the rate of enterprise income tax shall be 25%. A non-resident enterprise is generally subject to a 10% corporate 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 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.

The Circular of the State Administration of Tax on Issues Relating to the Withholding and Remitting of Corporate Income Tax by PRC Resident Enterprises on Dividends Distributed to Overseas Non-Resident Enterprise Shareholders of H Shares (《國家稅務總局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 clarified that a PRC-resident enterprise must withhold corporate 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.

Pursuant to the Arrangement between the Mainland of PRC and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region on the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion (《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 on August 21, 2006 and came into effect on August 12, 2006, the Chinese Government may levy taxes on the dividends paid by a Chinese company to Hong Kong residents (including natural persons and legal entities) in an amount not exceeding 10% of the total dividends payable by the Chinese company unless a Hong Kong resident directly holds 25% or more of the equity interest in a Chinese company, then such tax shall not exceed 5% of the total dividends payable by the Chinese company. The Fifth Protocol of the Arrangement between the Mainland of PRC and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region on the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion (《<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 State Administration of Taxation 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議股息條款有關問題的通知》).

Tax Treaties

Non-resident [REDACTED] 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 corporate 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 Chinese tax authorities for a refund of the corporate income tax in excess of the agreed tax rate, and the refund application is subject to approval by the Chinese tax authorities.

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Taxation on Share Transfer

VAT and Local Additional Tax

According to the VAT Law, 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 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.

According to the Value-added Tax Notice, 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. Subsequently, the MOF, the STA and the General Administration of Customs of the PRC jointly issued the Announcement on Relevant Policies for Deepening Value-Added Tax Reform to further adjust the VAT rates of 16% and 10% applicable to the taxpayers who have VAT taxable sales activities or imported goods to 13% and 9%, respectively.

Pursuant to the Notice on Fully Implementing the Pilot Reform for the Transition from Business Tax to VAT (《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 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, it is still uncertain whether the non-Chinese resident enterprises are required to pay the PRC VAT for the disposal of H shares in practice.

At the same time, VAT payers are also required to pay urban maintenance and construction tax, education surtax and local education surcharge (hereinafter collectively referred to as “**Local Additional Tax**”), which shall be usually subject to 12% of the value-added tax, business tax and consumption tax actually paid (if any).

Income tax

Individual [REDACTED]

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》) issued by the Ministry of Finance and the SAT on March 30, 1998, from January 1, 1997, income of individuals from transfer of the shares of [REDACTED] enterprises continues to be exempted from individual income tax. The SAT has not expressly stated whether it will continue to exempt tax on income of individuals from transfer of the shares of [REDACTED] enterprises in the latest amended Individual Income Tax Law.

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However, the Ministry of Finance, SAT and China Securities Regulatory Commission jointly issued the Circular on Related Issues on 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 promulgated on December 31, 2009 and came into effect since January 1, 2010, which states that individuals' income from the transfer of [REDACTED] shares obtained from the [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] companies and transfer market on the Shanghai Stock Exchange and the Shenzhen Stock Exchange shall continue to be exempted from individual income tax, except for the relevant shares which are subject to sales restriction (as defined in the Supplementary Notice on Issues Concerning the Levy of Individual Income Tax on Individuals' Income from the Transfer of Restricted Stocks 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》) jointly issued and implemented by such departments on November 10, 2010). As of the Latest Practicable Date, no aforesaid provisions have expressly provided that individual income tax shall be levied from non-Chinese resident individuals on the transfer of shares in PRC resident enterprises [REDACTED] on overseas stock exchanges.

Enterprise [REDACTED]

In accordance with the EIT Law, a non-resident enterprise is generally subject to corporate 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.

Stamp Duty

Pursuant to the Stamp Duty Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國印花稅法》), which was issued on June 10, 2021 and came into effect on July 1, 2022, PRC stamp duty only applies to specific taxable document executed or received within the PRC, having legally binding force in the PRC and protected under the PRC laws, thus the requirements of the stamp duty imposed on the transfer of shares of PRC [REDACTED] companies shall not apply to the acquisition and disposal of H Shares by non-PRC [REDACTED] outside of the PRC.

Estate Duty

As of the date of this Document, no estate duty has been levied in the PRC under the PRC laws.

Hong Kong Taxation

Tax on Dividends

Under the current practice of the Inland Revenue Department of Hong Kong, no tax is payable in Hong Kong in respect of dividends paid by our Company.

Capital Gains and Profit Tax

No tax is imposed in Hong Kong in respect of capital gains from the sale of H Shares. However, [REDACTED] gains from the sale of the H Shares by persons carrying on a [REDACTED], profession or business in Hong Kong, where such gains are derived from or arise in Hong Kong from such [REDACTED], profession or business will be subject to Hong Kong profits tax, which is currently imposed at the maximum rate of 16.5% on corporations and at the maximum rate of 15% on unincorporated businesses. The gains of certain categories of taxpayers (for example, financial institutions, insurance companies and securities dealers) are likely to be regarded as deriving [REDACTED] gains rather than capital gains unless these taxpayers can prove

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that the investment securities are held for long-term investment purposes. [REDACTED] gains from sales of H Shares effected on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange will be considered to be derived from or arise in Hong Kong. Liability for Hong Kong profits tax would thus arise in respect of [REDACTED] gains from sales of H Shares effected on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange realized by persons carrying on a business of [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] in securities in Hong Kong.

Stamp Duty

Hong Kong stamp duty, currently charged at the ad valorem rate of 0.1% on the higher of the consideration for or the market value of the H Shares, will be payable by the purchaser on every purchase and by the seller on every sale of Hong Kong securities, including H Shares (in other words, a total of 0.2% is currently payable on a typical sale and purchase transaction involving H Shares). In addition, a fixed stamp duty of HK\$5.00 is currently payable on any instrument of transfer of H Shares. Where one of the parties of the transfer is a resident outside Hong Kong and does not pay the ad valorem duty due by it, the duty not paid will be assessed on the instrument of transfer (if any) and will be payable by the transferee. If no stamp duty is paid on or before the due date, a penalty of up to ten times the duty payable may be imposed.

Estate Duty

The Revenue (Abolition of Estate Duty) Ordinance 2005 came into effect on February 11, 2006 in Hong Kong, pursuant to which no Hong Kong estate duty is payable, and no estate duty clearance papers are needed for an application of a grant of representation in respect of holders of H Shares whose deaths occur on or after February 11, 2006.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

The lawful currency of the PRC is RMB, which is currently subject to foreign exchange control and cannot be freely converted into foreign currency. The SAFE, with the authorization of the PBOC, is empowered with the functions of administering all matters relating to foreign exchange, including the enforcement of foreign exchange control regulations.

The Foreign Exchange Administration Regulations 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 August 5, 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 control 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 imposing existing restrictions on foreign exchange transactions under capital account items.

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According to the Announcement on Improving the Reform of the RMB Exchange Rate Formation Mechanism (《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 RMB exchange rate was no longer pegged to the U.S. dollar. PBOC would publish the closing price of the exchange rate of the RMB against trading currencies such as 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 RMB 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.

According to the Decisions on Matters including Canceling and Adjusting a Batch of Administrative Approval Items (《國務院關於取消和調整一批行政審批項目等事項的決定》) which was promulgated by the State Council on October 23, 2014, it decided to cancel the approval requirement of the SAFE and its branches for the remittance and settlement of the [REDACTED] raised from the overseas [REDACTED] of the foreign shares into RMB domestic accounts.

According to the Notice on Relevant Issue Concerning the Administration of Foreign Exchange for Overseas Listing (《關於境外上市外匯管理有關問題的通知》) issued by the SAFE and implemented on December 26, 2014, a domestic company shall, within 15 business days from the date of the end of its overseas [REDACTED] issuance, register the overseas [REDACTED] with the local branch office of state administration of foreign exchange at the place of its establishment; the [REDACTED] from an overseas [REDACTED] of a domestic company may be remitted to the domestic account or deposited in an overseas account, but the use of the [REDACTED] shall be consistent with the content of the document and other disclosure documents.

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 by the SAFE on February 13, 2015, came into effect 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. SAFE and its branch offices shall indirectly regulate the foreign exchange registration of direct investment through banks.

According to the SAFE Circular 19, foreign-invested enterprises could settle their foreign exchange capital on a discretionary basis according to the actual needs of their business operations. Whilst, foreign-invested enterprises are prohibited to use the foreign exchange capital settled in RMB (a) for any expenditures beyond the business scope of the foreign-invested enterprises or forbidden by laws and regulations; (b) for direct or indirect securities investment; (c) to provide entrusted loans (unless permitted in the business scope), repay loans between enterprises (including advances by third parties) or repay RMB bank loans that have been on lent to a third party; and (d) to purchase real estates not for self-use purposes (save for real estate enterprises).

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According to the SAFE Circular 16, 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 [REDACTED]) 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 adjust of the SAFE in due time in accordance with international revenue and expenditure situations.

According to the SAFE Circular 28 which was promulgated on October 23, 2019 and amended by the SAFE Circular on Further Promoting and reforming Cross-border Trade and Investment Facilitation (《國家外匯管理局關於進一步深化改革促進跨境貿易投資便利化的通知》) promulgated on December 4, 2023, foreign-invested enterprises engaged in non-investment business are permitted to settle foreign exchange capital in RMB and make domestic equity investments with such RMB funds according to law on the condition that the current Special Administrative Measures for Access of Foreign Investment (Negative List) are not violated and the relevant domestic investment projects are genuine and in compliance with laws.